St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
860-568-5240 (Phone) • 860-568-0673 (Fax)
E-mail: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.stchris-eh.org

Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor
E-mail: pastorstchris@hotmail.com

Mr. Philip J. Gosselin, Deacon
E-mail: imgoose@comcast.net

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: 8:00, 10:30 a.m.
Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS
Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration • Scriptural Rosary • Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal • Benediction

FUNERALS
We will help you plan the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one after arrangements have been made with a funeral home.

BAPTMISM
By appointment; please call the parish office to schedule.

MARRIAGE
Please contact the parish office at least six months in advance of your intended wedding date.

OFFICE MANAGER
Bonnie Szalay 860-568-5240

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
Mrs. Kathleen Madej, Principal
Audrey Cesana, Secretary
www.saintchristopherschool.org 860-568-4100

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Maria Sousa 860-895-8692 stchrisre@gmail.com
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 12, 2016

“I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.”
– Galatians 2:20

Mass for the Week

Saturday, June 11 – 4:00 p.m.
Joe & Ann Amrich
(The Tebecio Family)

Sunday, June 12 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo
(Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, June 12 – 10:30 a.m.
Michael Fastiggi – 8th Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Monday, June 13 – 7:30 a.m.
Joan Brow
(The Mondo Famil)

Tuesday, June 14 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado
(Wife Maria)

Wednesday, June 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff & Debbie Fallacaro
(Family)

Thursday, June 16 – 7:30 a.m.
Sister Mary Brendan
(Niece)

Saturday, June 18 – 4:00 p.m.
Joseph & Eva Bergeron
(daughter Irene Crowley)

Sunday, June 19 – 8:00 a.m.
Adrien, Rena, Jim and Louise Cyr
(Paul & Angie Parent)

Sunday, June 19 – 10:30 a.m.
Mr. Daniel F. Colbert
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (June 5): $ 5,589*
*Includes $1,118 received through our Online Giving program and $400 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT
The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend supports our parish school. Thank you!

CRS COLLECTION
Thank you for your generous support of the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Through your generous donations, which totaled $1,306, families will be reunited, valuable life skills will be taught to those seeking a better life, and many will have vital humanitarian needs met. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief to learn how your donations make a difference and help Jesus in disguise.

ONLINE GIVING PROGRAM
As you can see under Parish Support, many of our parish families are taking advantage of our Online Giving Program. We extend our appreciation to them and invite you to join them by signing up for online giving today.

Online Giving is all about convenience for you and consistency for the parish. It’s safe and secure and helps you stay on track with stewardship even when you are unable to attend Mass, especially during these summer months when you travel out of town.

Visit www.stchris-eh.org and click on the bright blue box marked “Online Giving” and then the link at the top of the page marked “Create New Account.” Our parish staff will happily answer any questions you have; for assistance call 860-568-5240.

SANCTUARY LAMP
The lamp beside our church tabernacle reminds us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

❖ The candle in our church burns this week

In Loving Memory of the
Deceased Members of the Sullivan Family
(Marion Sullivan)
NOTHING RHYMES WITH ORANGE...
This past weekend St. Christopher Parish rhymed with orange! I am so grateful for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support from the St. Christopher community. I am so glad that the Holy Spirit guided the Archbishop to assign me to be a deacon at my beloved parish of over 25 years. I love you guys and ask for your prayers. Thank you for the beautiful reception after the 10:30 Mass. Words cannot fully express all that I experienced last weekend, but I hope you know how much you all mean to me. Peace and blessings,

– Deacon Phil

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER MEETING
We are pleased to announce that our parishioner Diane Warner has offered to help coordinate the volunteer efforts for our Food Bank. She has organized a meeting this Monday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. in our church hall. Current volunteers and those who wish to learn more about the volunteer opportunities at our Food Bank are encouraged to attend. St. Christopher shares the responsibilities of the Food Bank with South Congregational Church. We oversee the Food Bank during odd months, while South Congregational oversees it during even months.

I MISSED A HOMEFRONT THANK YOU
A sign of age no doubt, but I failed to recognize Lou Priest for coming early one Saturday morning to our HomeFront recipient’s home to load a number of old and broken television sets onto his truck which he brought to our local landfill. These items could not be thrown into the dumpster on HomeFront day and Lou’s willingness to assist with disposing of these items that were cluttering the home was greatly appreciated. Thank you Lou! Peace,

– Phil Gosselin
Volunteer Coordinator

SKILLIN’ AND CHILLIN’ SUMMER PROGRAM
Mercy High School in Middletown is offering programs and clinics for girls rising to grades 5 – 9. All programs are being held in July: Higher Achievement Program, Theatre Arts Program, Soccer Clinic and Basketball Clinic. Please visit www.mercyhigh.com for specific program information and online registration or call 860-346-6659 and request a brochure be sent to you.

SUMMER VACATION BIBLE CAMP
Mon., June 20 – Fri., June 24
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
This year’s theme is Barnyard Roundup where kids will learn that Jesus loves them, always and forever, no matter what. Registrations are now being accepted for students entering grades K-12 this fall. Forms can be found at the entrances to the church and on our website at www.stchris-eh.org/vbc.php. Students entering grades K-6 register as campers; students entering grades 7-8 register as assistant crew leaders; and students entering grades 9-12 register as crew leaders/station volunteers. Registration forms are due by June 12. (Registration forms will be accepted after June 12 but will be charged a $10 late fee.)

A BIRTHRIGHT THANK YOU
Thank you for a great response to Birthright of Greater Hartford’s Baby Bottle Fundraiser! Birthright has served pregnant women in crisis in the Hartford area since 1972. Thousands of expectant mothers have received the help they need to bring their babies into the world! We are very grateful for your support. It makes this life saving work possible. In 2014, 251 women called who were either pregnant or thought they might be. We provided free pregnancy tests for 84 and friendship counseling for 202. 29% of callers were considering abortion. Of those who were pregnant that we worked with, 68% gave birth to their children. 65 babies were born with the loving support of Birthright.

– Mary McNamara
President (and volunteer since 1983)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
At the close of today’s Gospel reading from Luke is a telling statement: “many…who provided for them out of their resources.” This is an indication that Jesus and His Apostles were reliant upon others for support and sustenance. We, too, need other people; we need their prayers; we need their love. The Lord understood this, and He tries to make it clear to us that we are no different. First of all, we are dependent upon the Lord. We need His love, His support, and His strength. We also need others. That is in part what stewardship is all about. We share our gifts, and when they are combined with the gifts of others, our community, our church, our parish is so much more effective. We need one another; however, we must also remember that they need us as well.
NEW PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
2016/2017 School Year
St. Christopher School is pleased to announce that Mrs. Kathleen Welch will be our new principal for the 2016/2017 school year. Mrs. Welch is currently a middle school teacher at Southington Catholic School and was named Connecticut History Teacher of the Year in May of 2014. She is a graduate of Mercy High School, went on to study classical languages at McGill University and received her degree in general studies from UCONN. She has a master’s degree in religious studies and has experience as a visiting committee member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). She began her teaching career at John Paul II School in New Britain as the art teacher for Pre-K-8th grade and in 2010 became one of their middle school teachers. She is the mother of four children and understands the value of Catholic education, both as a teacher and as a parent.

St. Christopher School, the only Catholic school in East Hartford, is very excited about her experience and enthusiasm for Catholic education and her focus on community service. We believe her vision for the school will help us fulfill our mission to prepare students, with the support of their families, to live as Christ-bearers through the daily interaction of faith, service, and academic excellence, and through the development of their God-given talents. We are now accepting registrations for the 2016-2017 school year. For additional information, please contact the school office at 860-568-4100 (summer hours: Tues., Wed. and Thurs. from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) or you may visit: www.saintchristopherschool.org.

SUMMER REMINDERS
We wish all of the students and staff of St. Christopher School and the public schools a very safe, happy and fun-filled summer. Families, please remember your Sunday obligation to attend Mass. For a list of churches and Mass times in a place you may be going away to on a weekend for vacation, check the website masstimes.org. Please note: worship times are maintained by the individual churches, so it is recommended that you call the church directly to verify their schedule of Masses.

This weekend Richard and Hazel Brimley and Vincent and Shirley Mondo are each celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. We join with their family and friends in offering our sincere congratulations, along with our prayers for God’s blessing on them and their loved ones.

This weekend Henry and Ann Marie Langenfeld celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married here at St. Christopher’s by our founding pastor, Rev. Henry J. Murphy. We join with their family and friends in offering our sincere congratulations, along with our prayers for God’s blessing on them and their loved ones.

VOCATION DISCERNMENT NIGHT
Have you figured out yet what you want to be when you “grow up”? More importantly, have you figured out why? We invite you to join us for an informational gathering where there will be a short talk with practical suggestions for “discerning” the call that God has in store for you, some time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a chance to hear the story of the vocation journey from a few of our seminarians, and we will play a round of “Stump the Seminarian” giving you the chance to bring your questions to them. There’s even free pizza, so why not swing by? To reserve your spot, please call 860-761-7457 or use the form at www.hartfordpriest.com.

RELIGIOUS ED POSITION AVAILABLE
St. Paul Church in Glastonbury and St. Augustine Church in South Glastonbury seek a part-time Coordinator for Religious Education (CRE). The primary responsibility of the CRE is to coordinate the parish faith formation program for children to adolescents, as well as to identify, train, supervise, and evaluate catechists. The successful candidate for the position will be knowledgeable about the Catholic Faith, Liturgy, teachings, and social justice doctrine of the Church; have the ability to evaluate age appropriate curriculum, programs, and experiences for faith formation classes; have experience in religious education/faith formation; have excellent computer and communication skills; and, possess good personal organizational skills. The CRE is expected to have a minimum of three years of teaching experience and one year of administrative experience. Please send a resume with salary requirements to kdidominzio@stpaulglastonbury.org.
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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What is Lectio Divina?
While reading sacred scripture, read the words with a love and sense of discovery until something seems to strike home. Sit with the passage as one would with a good friend-not just thinking or analyzing, but instead remaining in a quiet, listening spirit, so the word can nurture and challenge you.

Call to Prayer: "Let us take a moment in the midst of all our activity to prepare ourselves for prayer."

The Word of God: Choose one of next Sunday's readings. One person reads the scripture aloud as others are attentive to a word, phrase, or theme that is meaningful to them. Allow for a minute of silent reflection. Have another person read the same scripture a second time.

Faith Sharing: Begin with an open ended question such as "What strikes you from this reading?" and/or you can use the "Reflection Question" found below. Allow time for reflection & sharing.

Closing Prayer: At the end of the faith sharing, invite participants to pray aloud for any particular petitions or praises they may have. Feel free to close with: The Lord's Prayer or spontaneous prayers or a faith-based song.

Reflection for Next Sunday, June 19, 2016 – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

If we want to share in Christ's victory, then we must also take up our cross and follow him where he leads us. What is the “cross” that I must take up? When my will crosses with God’s will, then his will must be done. To know Jesus Christ is to know the power of his death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith to know Jesus personally, power to live the gospel faithfully, and courage to witness to others the joy and truth of the gospel. Who do you say that Jesus is?

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES
Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Richard “Mac” McCarthy

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Lori Brunette ~ 860-655-9367

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
Michael Munley ~ 860-683-8594

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT
Elizabeth Rowe ~ 203-685-0645
lawlizard80@yahoo.com

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY
Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY
Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930
toobusyus@gmail.com

“...but not too busy to take your prayer requests!”

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION
Kristina Gillespie
860-895-8692
E-mail: stchrisym@gmail.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
Mary Priest ~ 860-569-0087

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY
Jean Nowik-Martocci ~ 860-568-8873

PARISH/SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT
Dianne Rumsey

CHURCH CUSTODIAN
Roger Dube

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE
Roger Dionne

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Robert H. De Fiore
203-630-9295/Roberta9700@yahoo.com

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY
Phil Gosselin ~ 860-568-5001

FOOD BANK MINISTRY
Diane Warner ~ 860-202-8462

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4
Scott Gay, Grand Knight ~ 860-906-2618

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772

GREETERS’ MINISTRY
Anne Marie Volowski ~ 860-568-1303

BUILDING & GROUNDS
Stephen Roczynski ~ 860-250-0640