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

St. Christopher Church EH

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.

BAPTISM
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
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 10, 2016

“Christ Jesus . . . is the head of the body, the church.”

– Colossians 1:15, 18

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (July 3): $ 5,606*

*Includes $1,188 received through our Online Giving program and $500 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!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
“Go and do likewise.” Can there be a more simple instruction from our Lord and Savior Jesus? With these words, He closes the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which is at the heart of our Gospel reading for today. That parable was inspired by the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

A simplified answer to the question “Who is my neighbor?” might be “Your neighbor is anyone you see or know who is in need.” It is much more than the person who lives in your neighborhood, or someone you may know at church or at the office. Equally telling is the response the questioner gave to Jesus when the Lord asked, after sharing the parable, “Which was the neighbor to the robber’s victim?” to which the lawyer responded, “The one who treated him with mercy.”

Is it any wonder that Pope Francis has declared this a Year of Mercy? What he expects of us is what Jesus expects from us. The Holy Father says, “Let us become agents of Christ’s mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation, and make justice and peace flourish.” That is a call to stewardship.

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
John St. Onge
( Wife Simone & Family)

In Remembrance of His Birthday
( Wife Simone & Family)
WELCOME MRS. KATHLEEN WELCH!
This past week we welcomed Mrs. Kathleen Welch as the new principal of our parish school. Mrs. Welch is settling in nicely and is busy learning all she can about the St. Christopher community. We look forward to working with her and getting to know her better. Mrs. Welch replaces Mrs. Kathleen Madej who retired at the end of June after many years of dedicated service. Our prayers and good wishes are with Mrs. Madej as she begins this new phase in her life.

Please invite your family and friends to check out the amazing things our school is doing to see if it is the right choice for them! Registrations are now open for Pre-K to Grade 8 for the 2016-2017 school year. **We offer full-time and part-time Pre-K programs as well as after-school care.** For more information, please call the school office at 860-568-4100 or visit [saintchristoperschool.org](http://saintchristoperschool.org). *(Office hours during the summer are Tues. - Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon each day.)*

TIME OFF FOR FATHER JOHN
This coming week, Father John’s sister and family will be visiting from Ohio, so Father will be taking time off during the week to be with them. Monsignor Albert will be celebrating our daily Mass Monday through Thursday. We are grateful to Msgr. Albert for his willingness to be here with us.

MARIAN GARDEN
We are still accepting orders for our Marian Garden. We have many orders for granite slabs and bricks that will be incorporated into the Garden this summer. Now is a great time to submit your order. For more information about the options available, please visit [stchris-eh.org/mariangarden.php](http://stchris-eh.org/mariangarden.php) to download the order form or you may call the parish office at 860-568-5240 for assistance.

BIRTHRIGHT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering the alternative to abortion – LIFE! They help any pregnant girl or woman who calls them. They offer free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling and practical support. If you would like to volunteer, please call 860-290-8800. Training is provided. Their office is located at 914 Main Street in East Hartford.

ANOTHER VBC THANK YOU
We extend our thanks and appreciation to the folks at Home Depot who generously donated a supply of paint sticks that our campers used to make a Vacation Bible Camp craft project.

WORLD YOUTH DAY
During the 10:30 a.m. Mass this weekend, Father John will bless our World Youth Day pilgrims, Ginamarie and Joseph Garabedian. Father will also present each of them with a prayer shawl compliments of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. These shawls will allow them to feel embraced with the prayers and good wishes of us all as they travel to and from Krakow, Poland in a couple of weeks.

During these past two years, Ginamarie and Joseph have held several fundraisers to help them finance this trip to celebrate their Catholic faith with Pope Francis and hundreds of thousands of other young people from around the world. Through your generosity and support of these fundraisers, they were able to raise a total of $6,282! Ginamarie and Joseph are so grateful for your kindness and generosity.

They will depart from the United States on Friday, July 22. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. They invite you to follow them during their pilgrimage by visiting their blog where they will keep you updated on what’s happening.


LIVING GOD’S WORD
The good Samaritan doesn’t ask the victim, “Can you pay me back?” Like Christ, the Samaritan reveals the “image of the invisible God” by treating the suffering person with compassionate mercy and healing his wounds, not counting the cost.

FOOD BANK NEWS
As you food shop for yourselves during these summer months, please consider purchasing an item or two to donate to our Food Bank. Donations of non-perishable items such as peanut butter, jelly, pasta, sauce, corn muffin mix, tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, canned soup and vegetables helps us to keep our less fortunate brothers and sisters well fed and our shelves stocked this summer. Donations can be left in the area near our candle station. Thank you!
**NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD**

**Free Summer Meals for Kids and Teens**
Meals are being served Monday - Friday, rain or shine, at a number of sites throughout East Hartford. All children age 18 and under are welcome at every site. This program is federally funded through the USDA. No registration required and no ID required. More information can be found on the posted flyers at the side entrances of our church or by calling 211 or by visiting www.CTSummerMeals.org.

**Free Food for East Hartford Residents 60+**
The Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides free food, once a month, to help improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age who meet the Family Income guidelines. To see if you or someone you know qualifies, please contact New Covenant United Methodist Church at 860-528-2228. (Leave a message in Voice Mail Box #4 with your name and phone number of no answer.)

**WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?**
As Christians we rejoice with faith in the resurrection. Yet we also know the passage from life to death can be stressful on those who survive us.

You can ease some of that stress by acting now to put your estate plan in order. By creating a legal will or living trust, you can provide your next of kin with a peace of mind, knowing that you have already determined how your estate will be distributed and who will care for minor children. They will still grieve, but they won’t face the daunting task of making decisions that you could have made.

A will also provides an excellent opportunity to remember St. Christopher Parish. A gift to the church through your will serves as a testament to your heirs of your faith in God and the resurrection. It provides you with one last opportunity to exemplify what it means to be a good steward, providing for others as God has provided for you during your lifetime. What a blessing you can be to future generations!

Drawing up a will is a simple process, but make sure it is done right. By using expert advisors, such as attorneys and financial planners, your wishes can be honored after you are gone.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Keeping Busy This Summer!**

**FLAME**
"Be who you are meant to be, and you will set the world on fire!" – St. Catherine of Siena
High School youth are invited to join us every Wednesday evening from 8-10 pm for a campfire, games, conversation, food, and prayer! Meet behind the school, and bring a chair if you can! No need to RSVP, just show up! Questions? Get them answered by emailing stchrisym@gmail.com

**F.A.I.T.H. Team**
Fun Activities Inspired by Truth and Holiness for 7th and 8th graders! If you would like to be notified about F.A.I.T.H. Team activities, please send an e-mail to stchrisym@gmail.com

**The Six**
Come and be part of this new group for sixth graders! Saturday, July 9...at 6 pm! Meet in the parish center (attached to the side of St. Christopher School, upstairs) RSVP to stchrisym@gmail.com. Pizza will be served!!

**Mercy Movies**
High School students are invited to join us for our summer outdoor movie series, beginning on July 10 at 8 pm, behind the church hall. We’ll be screening great movies under the stars, and watching them through the eyes of faith. RSVP to stchrisym@gmail.com

**BENEFIT DINNER**
A dinner to benefit Christian refugees in the Middle East is being held on Tuesday, July 26 from 6-9 p.m. at St. Thomas Seminary, 467 Bloomfield Avenue in Bloomfield. Keynote speaker Gabriel Said Reynolds, PhD. Professor of Islamic Studies and Theology at The University of Notre Dame, will discuss Militants, Extremism, and the Christian Genocide in the Middle East. He has appeared on major television networks and The New York Times, and written extensively on the Quran. “The Qur’an in Conversation with the Bible” is his latest book. Dinner will be authentic Middle Eastern cuisine. Tickets are $50. All proceeds go to the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. Archbishop Leonard Blair will be in attendance. Please contact Lazarus Donabedian at 860-966-7226 or Laz@sipusa.com.
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<td>Deuteronomy 30: 10-14</td>
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<td>Isaiah 26: 7-9, 12, 16-19</td>
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<td>Micah 2: 1-5</td>
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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, July 17, 2016 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Faith comes from hearing; but that faith cannot grow unless we enter the Lord’s presence and let him teach us every single day. Dear Lord, I so often get like Martha, anxious and distracted over many things, trying to deal with many different demands on my time and attention. I don’t always get a clear view of priorities. Let me hear your word speak to me so that I may know what your agenda is for me right now. Like Samuel let me respond, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

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
toobusy sue@gmail.com

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

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E-mail: stchrisym@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
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PRO-LIFE MINISTRY
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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 ~ 860-568-1772

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS
Stephen Roczynski ~ 860-250-0640

PARISH/SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT
Dianne Rumsey

CHURCH CUSTODIAN
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