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 Parish

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

“Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.”
Luke 10:40

July 17, 2016, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 17, 2016

“It is [Christ] whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”

– Colossians 1:28b

Mass for the Week

Saturday, July 16 – 4:00 p.m.
Ray & Millie Stanizzi
(Family)

Sunday, July 17 – 8:00 a.m.
Alexina Ahlers
(Family)

Al Yorio – 4th Anniversary
(Wife Betty)

Monday, July 18 – 7:30 a.m.
Antonio Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Tuesday, July 19 – 7:30 a.m.
Frank Wroniak
(Grandparents)

Wednesday, July 20 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz
(Family)

Thursday, July 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Saturday, July 23 – 4:00 p.m.
Mary & Alfred Fontaine
Thomas Cantone III
(Family)

Sunday, July 24 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, July 24 – 10:30 a.m.
Mrs. Mary T. Colbert (Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (July 10): $ 4,749*
Parish School Collection: $ 1,279**
*Includes $678 received through our Online Giving program and $675 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $180 received through our Online Giving program and $5 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Most of us are familiar with what we call the Four Pillars of Stewardship: Prayer, Hospitality, Formation, and Service. These four ways of looking at what it means to be a disciple and a steward invite each of us to witness, experience, and live the stewardship way of life. Stewardship is how we respond to our Baptismal call to discipleship.

Today’s Gospel Reading from Luke is all about one of these Pillars of Stewardship – hospitality, two kinds of hospitality actually. There is the hospitality of Martha, the one who makes sure the Lord and His followers are welcomed, comforted, and provided with all the elements of good service. The point of this Gospel in no way diminishes Martha’s efforts to be the perfect hostess. But Jesus wants Martha (and us) to know that the other side of hospitality, welcoming Jesus and His teachings into our life, is just as important, if not more so.

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.” Like Martha we may focus on others and provide the hospitality to which we are called as Disciples of Christ, a hospitality we need to offer as part of our parish lives. On the other hand, we also need to be like Mary; there are times when we need to “sit at Jesus’ feet.” We need to serve others, but we need to recognize the importance of having a continued focus on Jesus as well. If we do not have that, like Martha, we will become frustrated and dissatisfied.

We can pray that we find that balance between serving the Lord in our brothers and sisters and spending time in the presence of the Lord, both as members of the community of believers and as individuals whom Jesus loves very much.
STEWARDS FOR TOMORROW – PASTORAL PLANNING UPDATE

The first round of pastoral planning meetings among priests in the seventeen deaneries of the Archdiocese is complete. The outcomes from these meetings are draft recommendations for restructuring each deanery through a comprehensive design of our parishes and schools. Priests also took time to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their recommendations in preparation for sharing their results with select members of their respective congregations. Pastors have been asked to choose 4-6 people in their parish(es) to provide input and consultation in this phase as we move forward. Those chosen may meet at a parish level with their pastors and at some point, in a large-group session with other parish representatives from the deanery to review the draft recommendations and then determine what they feel are the strengths and benefits of the initial plan, as well as the weaknesses and concerns that they see. All of this information from the priests and parishioners will then be synthesized and developed into a First Draft Model for Parishes and Schools of the Archdiocese, for review by the Office for Pastoral Planning. Subsequently, priests and parishioners will continue to consult, meet, review and refine restructuring recommendations throughout the remainder of 2016.

Please be assured that whatever rumors you might have heard, no decisions regarding parish and school comprehensive design (openings, closings, mergers or new construction) have been made, nor will they be made, until after many rounds and levels of consultation, and indeed not before the 1st quarter of 2017 at the very earliest.

For on-going “Stewards for Tomorrow” pastoral planning progress, please consult the Office of Pastoral Planning page on our Archdiocesan website:

http://archdioceseofhartford.org/office-of-pastoral-planning/

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Now is a great time to visit St. Christopher School to see if it’s a right fit for your child! 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 saintchristopperschool.org. (Office hours during the summer are Tuesday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon each day.)

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! If you would like to be notified about activities for this group, please send an e-mail to stchrisym@gmail.com

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

All couples celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th and any other special wedding anniversaries this year are invited to a special Mass that will be celebrated at St. Joseph’s Cathedral on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Archbishop Blair will be the main celebrant. Mass will include the renewal of vows and will be followed by a simple reception and photo opportunity with Archbishop Blair. Family and friends encouraged to attend. A personalized anniversary certificate will be sent at a later date. Please call the parish office to respond to this invitation.
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 later 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 to download the order form or you may call the parish office at 860-568-5240 for assistance.

TONS OF BARGAINS!
The 22nd Annual Tabor House GIANT Tag Sale is being held at the KOEPEL COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTER at Trinity College, 175 New Britain Avenue (corner of Broad Street) in Hartford on the following dates and times:

Thursday, 7/28: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. - $10 admission
   (opening reception and shopping)
Friday, 7/29: 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m. $1.00 admission
Saturday, 7/30: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free admission

Free off-street parking. All proceeds benefit the Tabor House AIDS residences in Hartford.

Tag sale donations are being accepted and can be dropped off on site on the following dates and times:
Monday - Wednesday, 7/25 - 7/27
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

No books, clothes or televisions, please. Please contact dtdyson@comcast.net if you have any questions.

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. 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: GRADES K-8
Now is the time to register your child for Religious Education classes beginning this fall. Our First Communion program is a two-year program beginning in 1st Grade. To register, please contact Maria Sousa at 860-895-8692.

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.

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 if no answer.)

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!
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<td>Psalm 15:</td>
<td>Psalm 50: 5-6, 8-9</td>
<td>Psalm 85: 2-8</td>
<td>Psalm 71: 1-4a, 5-6ab, 15-17</td>
<td>Psalm 26: 6-7ab, 8-11</td>
<td>Psalm 63: 2-6, 8-9</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."

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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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 24, 2016 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lord teaches His disciples to pray. He teaches them the Our Father — the prayer with which we are all very familiar. Often times we’re so used to praying it that we don’t really think of what petitions we are really asking the Father. John Paul II once said, “Everything that can and must be said to the Father is contained in those seven requests which we all know by heart.” When next you pray the Our Father, pay close attention to what you are praying.

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
toobusysue@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
Roberta 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