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

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StChristopherChurchEH

July 31, 2016 – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Take care to guard against greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions. Luke 12:15

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 devoNtions
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 Welch, Principal
Audrey Cesana, Secretary
www.saintchristopherschool.org
860-568-4100

Religious Education
Maria Sousa 860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com
**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
*July 31, 2016*

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.”

– Psalm 90:12

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**Mass for the Intentions of the Week**

Saturday, July 30 – 4:00 p.m.
**Jose Figueiredo**
(Wife Maria)

Sunday, July 31 – 8:00 a.m.
**Frank Szalay – 1st Anniversary**
(Family)

Sunday, July 31 – 10:30 a.m.
**Jude Pomerleau – 11th Anniversary**
(Family)

Monday, August 1 – 7:30 a.m.
**Jimmy Shepley**
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Family)

Tuesday, August 2 – 7:30 a.m.
**Walter Moriarty**
(St. Christopher’s Adult Social Club)

Wednesday, August 3 – 7:30 a.m.
**Andrew Gingras**
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Thursday, August 4 – 7:30 a.m.
**Dinis Leonardo** (Wife & Family)

Saturday, August 6 – 4:00 p.m.
**Catherine A. Sullivan**
(Daughter Marion)

Sunday, August 7 – 8:00 a.m.
**Rena Cote**
(Brother-in-Law & Sister-in-Law
Gerald & Rolande Chasse)

Sunday, August 7 – 10:30 a.m.
**George Schock** (Wife & Family)

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**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected (July 24): $ 5,697*

*Includes $608 received through our Online Giving program and $745 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

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**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

In the Parable of the Rich Fool, Jesus said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.” (Lk 12:15). Most of the Parables shared by the Lord in Holy Scripture address the issue of possessions and how we treat them, how we use them as a measurement of success. Consistently those who write about the challenges we face in living lives of stewardship point to this same problem. Jesus certainly understood it.

Christ was living in a society that was very different from that we experience today, but that basic difficulty existed then, as it does now. The problem is not that possessions exist, but that they can become the dominant motivation in our lives and how we live them.

The Lord cautions us, as He does in the Parable of the Rich Fool from today’s Gospel, that storing up treasure and possessions means that we may be wealthy in the eyes of society, but not in “what matters to God.” This is one of our ongoing stumbling blocks to being stewards living a Christian life. We, as Christian stewards, believe that at the end of our lives, God will ask an accounting of how we used our God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure to further His kingdom. If the Lord called us today, how would we answer? – www.catholicsteward.com

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**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**

Sandra Leonard DeVivo
In Remembrance of Her Birthday
(Family)
SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
Catholic education is a freedom and a privilege. Our parish school has developed a strong academic program for students in Pre K-3 and 4 through 8th grade. Teachers at Saint Christopher School challenge all students and see measurable growth in both classroom work and standardized test scores. Students develop confidence and maturity as they prepare to face life’s next challenge, whether it is moving up to Kindergarten or moving on to high school.

Saint Christopher School is grateful to not only be able to pray and worship the Lord, but also to be able to perform acts of service that impact both the local and global community. The students’ pride in their accomplishments provide the impetus to continue to serve others in various ways throughout their lives. The Saint Christopher School community displays a prayerful life through both words and actions. Kindness generates kindness. Respect generates respect. These are words we live by. Please visit us to see faith and learning in action!

To obtain more information about Saint Christopher School please call the school office at 860-568-4100 or visit: www.saintchristopherschool.org

WORLD YOUTH DAY UPDATE
Our pilgrims, Ginamarie and Joseph Garabedian, have been keeping busy and having a great time in Krakow! On Thursday, they, along with an estimated 2-3 million pilgrims from around the world, welcomed the Holy Father to the city and took part with him in Stations of the Cross. On Saturday the 30th, they will camp out under the stars in preparation for Mass with Pope Francis on Sunday morning! It is at this final Mass on the 31st that Pope Francis will announce when and where the next World Youth Day will be! For more detailed day-to-day blog posts, pictures, and videos, please visit our pilgrims’ website (noted below). There is also a contact section on the website if you wish to send them a note via e-mail. Please continue to pray for their safe travels, and know that they are praying for their parish family as well.

stchrischurch.wix.com/wyd2016
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, mergings 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 ongoing “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/

SIX FLAGS
CATHOLIC YOUTH & FAMILY DAY
Six Flags New England in Agawam, MA is hosting a Catholic Youth & Family Day on Tuesday, Aug. 16. $42.24 per person (kids 2 yrs & under are free). Package includes entry into early morning Mass at 9:30 a.m. officiated by the Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield, MA, free parking, all-day admission to Six Flags and Hurricane Harbor Water Park and All-You-Can-Eat Buffet served from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance and payment must be received at least 7 days prior to event date. Tickets can be purchased either online at sixflags.com/newengland (enter code: Catholicday16) or by mailing in an order form which can be obtained by contacting the parish office at 860-568-5240.

YOUTH MINISTRY
The FLAME program for high school youths meets again this Wednesday, August 3 from 8 - 10 p.m. Meet behind the school, and bring a chair if you can! No need to RSVP, just show up! For information on other programs, please e-mail stchrisym@gmail.com.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for modern, healthy, scientifically accurate, natural, and reliable methods of family planning. An introductory NFP session will be held on Saturday, August 20 from 10:00 - 12:00 noon at St. Joseph Church, 149 Goodwin Street in Bristol. This session is open to anyone interested in understanding more about NFP. Free. Registration required. Call the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life at 860-242-5573 ext. 2683 or e-mail Martha.Pezo-Marin@aohct.org.

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE - A Quality Tag Sale
St. Bridget Church, 80 Main Street in Manchester is holding their annual Unique Boutique on the following dates and times:

Thursday, August 25: 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
$10.00 admission ~ Includes wine/cheese/shopping

Friday, August 26: 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
$1.00 admission

Saturday, August 27: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Free admission
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, August 7, 2016 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s readings deal with hope and responsibility. We have learned from the past experiences of faithful people that God keeps his promise that all will be well in the future. Future reward depends on how we have met our present responsibilities. Like the stewards in the parable we have been given responsibilities, a job to do. As stewards of the Lord Jesus we have the responsibility to do the Lord’s work: to heal, to comfort, to reconcile, and to build up the kingdom of God while striving to make this world a little more like what our Creator had in mind.

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
Kristina Gillespie
860-895-8692
E-mail: stchrisym@gmail.com

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

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

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 ~ 860-568-1772

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS
Stephen Roczynski ~ 860-250-0640