Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 7, 2016

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS

THERE ALSO WILL BE YOUR HEART

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Maria Sousa 860-895-8692 stchrisre@gmail.com
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 7, 2016

“Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield.”

– Psalm 33:20

Mass for the Intentions of the Week

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)

Monday, August 8 – 7:30 a.m.
Virginia Zack  
(St. Christopher’s Adult Social Club)

Tuesday, August 9 – 7:30 a.m.
Frank Wroniak  
(Grandparents)

Wednesday, August 10 – 7:30 a.m.
Stephen Tamiso  
(St. Christopher’s Adult Social Club)

Thursday, August 11 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz  
(Family)

Saturday, August 13 – 4:00 p.m.
Adrienne Brumbaum  
(Elmer & Omerine Gendreau)

Sunday, August 14 – 8:00 a.m.
Nellie Aukstolis (Ernie & Toni Mintel)

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
Debbie Fallacarro  
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (July 31): $5,254*

*Includes $943 received through our Online Giving program and $480 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

THANK YOU!

Last weekend we welcomed to our parish Brother Marco Monti who spoke at all our Masses on behalf of PIME Missionaries. Your generous financial support, which totaled $1,100, will help his organization proclaim the Good News among non-Christians in 17 countries worldwide. Please keep Brother Marco and all missionaries throughout the world in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

At the close of today’s Gospel Reading from St. Luke, Jesus makes a statement that will echo forever to those who seek to practice stewardship: “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.” Jesus is speaking of His expectations of us and His faith in us.

We often speak about how important faith in the Lord is, but we also need to understand that He has a strong element of faith and trust in us as well. It may not seem fair that expectations are connected to the gifts we have received, but that is in fact reality. A popular stewardship saying is “not equal giving, but equal sacrifice.”

God’s expectations of us are tied to how we use our gifts. If we receive more, we need to share more and give more of our time, our talent, and our treasure.

– www.catholicsteward.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.

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**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.

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**ALTAR COMMITTEE MINISTRY**

We are blessed to have a group of parishioners who meet on Friday mornings to prepare our church for our weekend liturgies. They change the candles in the sanctuary and keep the candlesticks polished, change the altar cloth when necessary, launder and press the liturgical linens, tidy up the pew pockets, clean the liturgical vessels and holy water dishes, care for the plants and flowers and vacuum and dust. They are also instrumental in helping to prepare and care for the decorations during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

This ministry is currently comprised of the following parishioners: Hazel Brimley, Rose Chitwood, Mary Ann Muscillo, Al and Beverly Plefka, Silvia Rosas and Ann Traynor. We offer them our thanks and appreciation for the hard work they do week after week.

For many years this ministry was led by our parishioner Martha Shea who had to retire this year. We are most grateful to Martha for her many years of dedicated service to this ministry and offer her our prayers of good wishes.

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**WELCOME HOME WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS!**

Ginamarie and Joseph Garabedian flew from Poland into JFK airport on Tuesday, August 2 and made it home safe and sound! They would like to thank everyone who made this wonderful trip possible for them through their prayers and support of their fundraising efforts. If you haven’t yet had a chance to visit their website to see their blog posts from their trip, visit it today to see what they were up to! stchrischurch.wix.com/wyd2016.

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Pilgrims Ginamarie and Joseph Garabedian at the final WYD Mass wearing their prayer shawls that were presented to them by our Prayer Shawl Ministry prior to their trip.
**YOUTH MINISTRY**

The FLAME program for high school youths meets again this Wednesday, August 10 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.

Our Youth Ministry is trying to put together a group to attend the Catholic Youth and Family Day at Six Flags. If you’re interested in attending with this group, please contact Kristi Gillespie at stchrisym@gmail.com by August 8.

**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 for assistance.

**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

**FOOD BANK MEETING**

A meeting for all Food Bank volunteers is being held on Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. in our church hall to discuss coverage of the Food Bank during the month of September. This meeting is also open to any one who wishes to become involved. For more information about our Food Bank, please contact our parishioner Diane Warner at 860-202-8462.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE**

The Catholic Biblical School, offered by the Archdiocese of Hartford, provides an opportunity for adults to come to know, love, and live scripture through an in-depth Bible study from a Catholic perspective. Classes will begin in mid-September and applications are due by August 15. The tuition cost is very affordable. Please contact Barbara Jean Daly Horell at 860-242-5573 for more information or to make an appointment. Deacon Phil is our parish contact and he can be reached at 860-568-5001 if you would like talk to him about the Catholic Biblical School experience. You may also visit www.orehartford.org for more information.

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ August 12, 2016
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Please call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.

**VOCATION REFLECTIONS**

The Lord will come when we least expect him. Is he knocking now, asking you to serve as a priest, brother or sister? If so, please contact Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese at 860-242-5573 or at vocations@aohct.org. You may also visit www.hartfordpriest.com where you can take a discernment test as well as read through the responses of frequently asked questions.
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 14, 2016 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
If we have our personal relationship with Jesus in order, then we do not have to worry at all about the time that is surely coming when The Gate will be closed forever. We will be on the inside, not the outside; we will have reached our goal of becoming fully human. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee of that, provided we permit him to help us grow in our daily relationship with Jesus our Savior.

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES
Marie Gallo-Garabedian  
Richard “Mac” McCarthy

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Lori Brunette ~ 860-655-9367  
lab-1963@sbcglobal.net

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  
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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY  
AND CONFIRMATION
Kristina Gillespie  
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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