Jesus said to his disciples: “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”

Luke 12:49

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

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook
StChristopherChurchEH
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 14, 2016

“[Jesus] endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.”

– Psalm 33:20

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (August 7): $ 5,447*
*Includes $848 received through our Online Giving program and $410 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!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
We are most grateful when family members request that donations may be made to St. Christopher Church or School in memory of their loved one. Most recently the family of Virginia Zack made this very request and $45.00 has already been donated in Virginia’s memory. May she rest in God’s eternal embrace.

THE SOLEMNITY OF
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
This solemnity is not observed as a holy day of obligation this year due to it falling on a Monday. We will celebrate The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at our 7:30 a.m. Mass this Monday, August 15.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
“…while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:2)

Setting priorities is the key to balancing everyday demands made on us with the limited amounts of time, talent, and treasure we possess. When we accept Jesus as our priority, we do not squander our gifts.

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 Garvey Family
(Marion Sullivan)
A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN
Please, if at all possible, do not wait until a person is near death before requesting the Sacrament of the Sick. While the Sacrament may include prayers for the Last Rites when such prayers are called for, the Sacrament may be given to a person at any stage of illness including those who are not terminal. It may also be given to someone who is elderly or about to enter surgery. The shortage of priests is making it difficult to request the Sacrament on short notice.

MARIAN GARDEN
Now is the Time to Order Your Brick!
Sometime within the next couple of weeks, we will be turning over to the engravers another batch of orders to be engraved and incorporated into the Garden.

If you have been considering ordering a brick or slab in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or in recognition of some special event, please act today so your order can be included with this next batch.

For all the details, please take one of the full-color brochures available at all the church entrances, visit stchris-eh.org/mariangarden.php to download the order form or you may call the parish office at 860-568-5240 for assistance.

FOOD BANK MEETING
A meeting for all Food Bank volunteers is being held this 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.

2017 MASS INTENTIONS
This is a friendly reminder that we are accepting Mass Intentions for 2017. If you would like to secure a Mass for a particular date in 2017, we encourage you to call or stop by the parish office as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as Masses are filling up quickly. Please note that our weekend Masses are completely booked for the remainder of this year and there are only 18 weekday Masses still available between now and the end of the year. If you’d like to book one of these available Masses, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB
Monday ~ August 15
5:00 p.m. ~ Church Hall
It’s time for our annual member picnic. If you have not yet been called about what you will be bringing, please contact Joan or Frank right away. There will be hamburgers and hot dogs and lots of side dishes. This will be followed by make-your-own sundaes. Lots of time for socializing. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dues of $10 for the 2016 calendar year were due at the first of the year. If you have not yet paid your dues, please see Regina and Ray Schultz at the Membership Table…and if you know someone who might be interested in joining the club, bring them along to a future meeting to see if we are a good fit for them. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229 or Nedra Gallo at 860-432-1793.

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.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: GRADES K-8
Religious Education classes for students entering Grades K-8 will begin on Sunday, September 18. Please help us to prepare by registering your child as soon as possible. Our First Communion program is a two-year program beginning in 1st Grade. To register your child, please contact Maria Sousa at 860-895-8692 or at stchrisre@gmail.com.

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’”
— Matthew 19:14

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE
Registration Deadline - August 15
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.

HAPINESS
Happiness is a by-product of living the right kind of life. True happiness comes as a result of living in all respects the way you believe God wants you to live, with regard to yourself and to other people. The only way to be truly happy is to try to do God’s will.

CANDLE STATION
Our candle station has been a fixture in our church for nearly five years. This candle station was purchased and generously donated by our former parishioner Jeanne Sciarra to whom we are most grateful.

Lighting a candle is a prayer: when we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them and for others, for the sad, the sick, and the suffering, and prayers of thankfulness too. We invite you to avail yourself of this spiritual opportunity.

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

MAYOR’S CLEANUP DAY
Saturday ~ September 10 ~ 9:00 a.m.
The Mayor’s Cleanup Day is an annual tradition that consists of community volunteers completing a “bridge-to-bridge” cleanup of Main Street and the gateways of East Hartford. The cleanup includes weeding, cleaning and removing debris all along Main Street from Main and Pitkin up through Main and Burnside. While town employees work throughout the year to keep East Hartford maintained and orderly, residents are encouraged to join together for the benefit of our community.

Volunteers will meet on Saturday, September 10 on the Town Green at 9:00 a.m. and a celebratory lunch will be provided at 12:00 noon for all registered volunteers. Community service hours could be completed during this time and certificates of participation will be provided upon request.

Those who are interested in volunteering are asked to register by September 7 by calling 860-291-7200, e-mailing jcarrero@easthartfordct.gov or by visiting www.easthartfordct.gov/mayors-office.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
The St. Margaret Mary Church’s Bereavement Care Ministry in South Windsor is offering a ten-week, spiritual-based program that provides support for those suffering the loss of a loved one. Trained facilitators guide and encourage participants to share with others their experience of loss as they move through their journey from grief to healing. This “New Day” program begins on Thursday, Sept. 1, and will be held in the Rectory, 80 Hayes Road in South Windsor from 2:00-3:30 p.m. To register, please call Lisa Grivers at 860-528-4845 or Kathy Sullivan at 860-644-5388.
**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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.

---

**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
dlauralaz80@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: stchrismym@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**
Bob Falkevitz, 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