St. Christopher Parish

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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
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 21, 2016

“Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.”
– Hebrews 12:12-13

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (August 14): $ 5,151*
Parish School Support: $ 1,464**

*Includes $548 received through our Online Giving program and $480 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $215 received through our Online Giving program and $96 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

Mass for the Week

Saturday, August 20 – 4:00 p.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, August 21 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo
(Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, August 21 – 10:30 a.m.
Henry Adamcewicz
(Godchild John Nowik)

Monday, August 22 – 7:30 a.m.
Ethel B. Hart – 13th Anniversary
and Harold L. Hart
(Carolyn & Joe Kronen)

Tuesday, August 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Tina Dudek
(Jean Walker)

Wednesday, August 24 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado
(Wife Maria)

Thursday, August 25 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Rego Cabral
(Maria Leonardo)

Saturday, August 27 – 4:00 p.m.
Jose Figueiredo – 9th Anniversary
(Wife Maria)

Sunday, August 28 – 8:00 a.m.
Adrien, Rena, Jim and Louise Cyr
(Paul & Angie Parent)

Sunday, August 28 – 10:30 a.m.
Bernard J. Casey (The Casey Children)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
“For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last” (Luke 13:30). With these words Jesus makes it clear to us that there are no lines, no privileges in heaven.

Today’s Gospel from the Book of Luke, in fact all of our readings for today, have to do with salvation. It is difficult to be faithful and Catholic without thinking about heaven on occasion, and the Lord and St. Paul often in his letters, remind us over and over that we are to be striving for that — that our thoughts should be as much on the next life as on this one. Yet when we hear the Gospel that the first will be last and the last will be first, we may think there is some lack of justice there.

Jesus does not state this as a definite. He actually is telling us that the first may be last and the last may be first. The truth is that it really is not important. Our faith, the Lord, our sense of stewardship repeatedly remind us that what we think is important on earth may not be important in heaven at all. There is a Greek proverb that says, “Being first is good, but being last is perfect.” We are all called to discipleship and we need to answer that call. Responding before someone else does not make us better, but responding is very important.

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
Jose Figueiredo - 9th Anniversary
(Wife Maria)
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

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE REIGN OF GOD
A threefold message is developed in today’s readings. First, everyone is called to proclaim God’s glory and receive salvation. Second, salvation is not for the unprepared. Like a loving parent, God gently corrects and disciplines those who have been called. Often, suffering may be part of the formation process. We learn to accept it as Jesus once accepted his cross. Third, some people who are treated with contempt and disdain by the self-righteous actually do have a place in God’s kingdom.

MARIAN GARDEN
Now is the Time to Order Your Brick!
Sometime during these coming days, 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.

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 15 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.

CALLING ALL CT YOUNG ADULTS
Join us on Saturday, August 27 from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Bishop’s Hall at the Cathedral of St Joseph, 136 Farmington Ave in Hartford. Come to meet other young adults in their 20s and 30s from across the state who are seeking to be transformed by encountering Jesus Christ more intimately. There’ll be FREE GOOD FOOD, fellowship, a short talk, prayer, a holy hour and music. Text Matt at 860-977-6149 to RSVP and get on our e-mail list for updates on future events. Let us know if you have any dietary restrictions! Bring a friend and we hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE
Thérèse: The Story of a Soul, the moving, live production performed by actress Audrey Ahern and directed by Patti Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at St. Mary Church in Portland, CT on Friday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. More info can be found on the bulletin boards at the side entrances to the church.
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Employment Opportunities
The Little Sisters of the Poor have announced a couple of employment opportunities at their St. Joseph Residence. They are:

Part-time 3rd Shift C.N.A.
Position on Residential Care Unit
(including every other weekend)

Per Diem C.N.A.
Position on Skilled and/or Residential Care Unit

Applicants may apply at St. Joseph’s Residence, 1365 Enfield Street in Enfield. For more information call Emy Halai at 860-265-1844.

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.

VOICATIONS REFLECTION
The Lord is calling people from the east and west and north and south as priests and deacons, sisters and brothers. Are you one of them? If you think you are, visit www.hartfordpriest.com to take the “Discernment Test.” You may also contact Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti, Director of Vocations at Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary at 860-242-5573 or by e-mail at vocations@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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS
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.

The “New Day” program is also being offered at St. Bridget Church in Manchester on Tuesday evenings beginning September 20 from 6:30 – 8 pm in the St. Bridget Parish Office, 80 Main St., Manchester. For further information or to register for the program, please call Mary at 860-646-3848.

2016 BLUE MASS
Join Archbishop Blair to Honor First Responders at the 2016 Blue Mass on Sunday, September 11 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 11:00 a.m. Police, Fire, Emergency Responders, the Department of Corrections and other organizations who are in the service of protecting the public’s well-being will participate in an opening procession on Farmington Avenue in Hartford on September 11. It will lead into the Cathedral where Archbishop Blair will celebrate the Sunday Liturgy. While this annual event will once again honor the courage, generosity, personal sacrifice and life-saving competencies of first-responders, it will also be an occasion to reflect prayerfully on our unity as “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
### 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."

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, August 28, 2016 – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The exercise of humility towards our neighbor is not a reverence of that nature, but to the gifts of God within that nature” (Archbishop Ullathorne on Humility). Our actions that matter are those that are self-giving, rather than self-promoting. Pope John Paul II taught us that each of us needs to promote the dignity of every human being, especially the disadvantaged (CCC #1929, 1932); we are equal with our brothers and sisters in the eyes of God, not above them.

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### 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
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
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**PRO-LIFE MINISTRY**
Phil Gosselin ~ 860-568-5001

**FOOD BANK MINISTRY**
Diane Warner ~ 860-202-8462

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
St. Christopher Council #4
Bob Falkevitz, Grand Knight ~ 860-568-5452

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**
Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772

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

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**
Stephen Roczynski ~ 860-250-0640