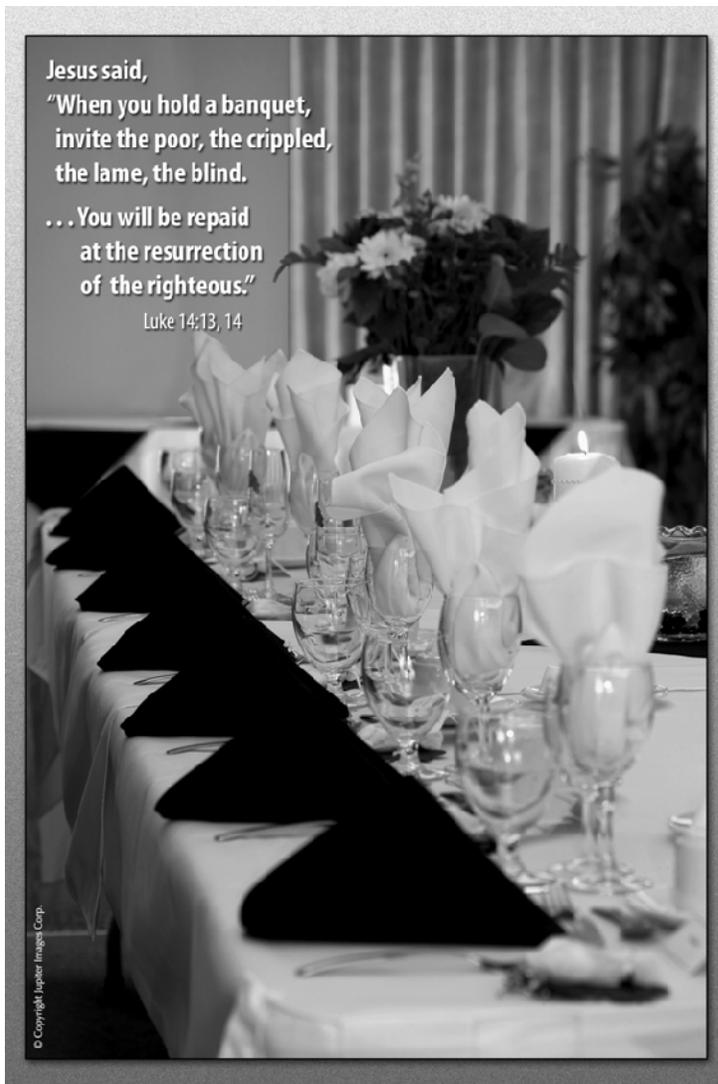


Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 28, 2016



St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
860-568-5240 (Phone) • 860-568-0673 (Fax)
E-mail: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net
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Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor
E-mail: pastorstchris@hotmail.com

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



StChristopherChurchEH

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-second Sunday
in
Ordinary Time
August 28, 2016**

“You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God.”

– Hebrews 12:22a

Mass  *for the
Intentions* *Week*

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)

Monday, August 29 – 7:30 a.m.

Virginia Zack
(Her Friends Alma Dulude, Lucy Laing,
Helen LeBlanc, Jeanne Sciarra, Jane Stebbins)

Tuesday, August 30 – 7:30 a.m.

Joan E. Conti
(Dick & Lorraine Moynihan)

Wednesday, August 31 – 7:30 a.m.

Joseph Bene
(Ed & Cynthia Messikian)

Thursday, September 1 – 7:30 a.m.

Diane Olinatz
(Family)

Saturday, September 3 – 4:00 p.m.

Edward “Ted” Cowing
(Wife Mary Ann)

Sunday, September 4 – 8:00 a.m.

Bruce Daugherty
(The Szalay Family)

Sunday, September 4 – 10:30 a.m.

Nancy Aniston (Howard & Barb Wilmes)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (August 21): \$ 5,599*

*Includes \$583 received through our Online Giving program and \$695 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The First Reading in today’s Holy Scripture is from the Old Testament Book of Sirach. At times this Bible book has also been called the Wisdom of Sirach. Similar to Proverbs, Sirach is a series of teachings recorded between 200 and 175 BC.

The first verse of this reading captures one of the key elements of stewardship. It says, “My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.” The word “humility” literally means “of the earth” or in a phrase which might mean more to us “down to earth.” The good steward realizes that he or she receives everything from a loving and generous God. That can be a humbling recognition.

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less,” is how the eminent author and theologian C.S. Lewis put it. We are important in the eyes of God. Jesus emptied Himself in our behalf. He was humility incarnate. Washing the feet of His Apostles, He comes to us at every Mass in common bread and wine.

If we practice and pursue stewardship as a way of life, we choose to let others be more important; we are not controlling; we support others in silent ways. Are you willing to let God take charge of your life? Being a steward means that. That is the message from Sirach, and it is a message given us by Jesus over and over.

– www.catholicsteward.com

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
Reverend James H. Smith**
(His Sisters)

SCHOOL NEWS

Saint Christopher School is anticipating an excellent start to the new school year! The PreK program is booming with new classroom space and a new reading series, *Superkids*, has been brought into the Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms.

Hoping for the students to experience the outdoor beauty of God's creation, we are asking the community for donations of plants for a small garden and some wood chips for ground cover. If you are able to help us out, please call the school at 860-568-4100. Peace and Thank you!

PRAYER FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

This coming week marks the beginning of a new school year for many young people. We offer up this prayer for these young people and for their teachers and staff.

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

OFFERTORY GIFTS

We invite you to participate in our weekend liturgies by bringing up the gifts of bread and wine to be offered. If you're interested, please take the wooden fish from the gift table before the start of Mass.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Father John quoted in his homily last weekend words of wisdom that reportedly were written on the wall of Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta, India, and are widely attributed to her. Several of you requested a copy of these words, so we are happy to make them available to you here.

People are often unreasonable, irrational,
and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish,
ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful
friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere,
people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating,
others could destroy overnight.

Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,
some may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

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. Returning families are asked to complete a new registration each year. Our First Communion program is a two-year program beginning in 1st Grade. To register your child, please contact our Religious Education Coordinator Maria Sousa at 860-895-8692 or at stchrisre@gmail.com.

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Pastoral Planning Process study of parishes and schools in the archdiocese continues. Pastors have been consulted as well as those in positions of leadership in each parish, including ours. No official conclusions have been reached at this time. In the meantime, I think it's important that everyone have a clear understanding of the demographical changes that have made such a study necessary.

Below is the reprint of an article which does an excellent job of explaining how things have changed in the past ten, twenty and fifty years both in the archdiocese and in our part of the country. It's almost the reverse of the times in which I grew up (in the 50's and 60's), when growth was the by-word. We are living in different times and the church has to adjust its resources accordingly.

– Yours in Christ, I am, *Father John Gwozdz*

From Maintenance to Mission: A Snapshot of the Church Today

CARA (The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) is one of the most well-respected polling organizations in the U.S. Catholic Church. Regularly, it conducts surveys and interviews to assess the state of the Church, solely based on research data. Last week it released one of its periodic surveys. It is worth examining some of its findings in light of the efforts of pastoral planning under way in the Archdiocese of Hartford. To begin with, here are a few “snapshots.” After each entry, you might ask yourself, “What are we doing or what can we do in response?”

- There is a decline in infant baptisms in the U.S. Church, but there is an increase in children being baptized after their first birthday, and also in teenagers being baptized.
- Millennial generation Catholics (those born roughly between 1980 and 2000), are less likely than older Catholics to have received Confirmation.
- Across the board, Mass attendance holds steady at approximately 23 percent of self-identified Catholics attending Mass at least once a week. Nearly 80 percent of Catholics attend either once a month, a few times a year or even less often.
- A majority of self-identified Catholics do not belong to any parish; they float from parish to parish according to Mass times, family schedules, etc. (The financial impact on parishes because of this trend is only now beginning to be examined. Increasingly,

parishes in the South and West are using on-site debit card readers, ATMs, etc. to get contributions from irregular and unaffiliated Mass attendees.)

- Across generations (pre-Baby Boomers, Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, etc.), prayer is in decline. Overall, only 40 percent of Catholics say they pray every day.
- Nearly 20 percent of Catholics do not believe the Bible is the inspired or actual word of God.
- Millennials are more likely than older Catholics to have doubts that God even exists; only 64 percent say they believe in God with doubt.
- As a whole, U.S. adult Catholics rarely go to confession; this statistic has not changed in the last decade. More than 4 in 10 don't go to confession with any regularity. Nearly 3 in 10 goes at least once a year.
- The population center of the Catholic Church has shifted from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and West. Millennials make up 26 percent of the population. Pre-Vatican II Catholics (i.e., those born before 1959, when Pope St. John XXIII called for the council) make up less than 20 percent of the adult population.

Again: “What are we doing or what can we do in response?”

(Reprinted with permission from the author, Fr. Tim S. Hickey.)

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 our weekdays Masses are close to being booked.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29	1 Corinthians 2: 1-5	1 Corinthians 2: 10b-16	1 Corinthians 3: 1-9	1 Corinthians 3: 18-23	1 Corinthians 4: 1-5	1 Corinthians 4: 6b-15	Wisdom 9: 13-18b
Psalm 68: 4-7, 10-11	Psalm 119: 97-102	Psalm 145: 8-14	Psalm 33: 12-15, 20-21	Psalm 24: 1bc-4ab, 5-6	Psalm 37: 3-6, 27-28, 39-40	Psalm 145: 17-21	Psalm 90: 3-6, 12-17
Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24a							Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14: 1, 7-14	Mark 6: 17-29	Luke 4: 31-37	Luke 4: 38-44	Luke 5: 1-11	Luke 5: 33-39	Luke 6: 1-5	Luke 14: 25-33

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, September 4, 2016 – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us that our bond with Him takes absolute precedence over all other bonds, familial or social. Love of riches or their selfish use is absolutely incompatible with being a disciple of Jesus. Your attitude toward your possessions – all of which you hold in stewardship for God – shows where your heart is in relation to true discipleship. Take a journey through Romans 12:9-21 if you have doubts about how those of us seeking the kingdom of God need to live.

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES

Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Richard "Mac" McCarthy

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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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
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
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