Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 4, 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
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. Teresa of Calcutta
Canonized September 4, 2016

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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.”

– Psalm 90:14

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (August 28): $4,796*

*Includes $553 received through our Online Giving program and $40 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

LIVING GOD’S WORD

“Renounce your possessions,” the Gospel insists (Luke 14:33). We can’t say that we always have. Rather, it seems that we’ve often done more accumulating than renouncing. And yet each accumulation may have made room for one more way of being made new as the disciples we are called to become.

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 are encouraged to attend. A personalized anniversary certificate will be sent at a later date. Please call the parish office to respond to this invitation. **Note: Registrations must be made by September 8 if you wish to have your names included in the printed program.**

Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

- Makayla Perez
- Nya Ada Perez

SANCTUARY LAMP

The lamp beside our church tabernacle reminds us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

 הראש النجمي

In Gratitude for the Contributions & Achievements of American Workers
WELCOME HOME WYD PILGRIMS!
Our World Youth Day pilgrims arrived back home on August 2 from their trip to Krakow, Poland. They would like to thank everyone who supported their fundraising efforts and prayed for their safe travels. Please join them for a reception after all Masses next weekend, September 10 and 11, to hear about their trip. There will be refreshments, a slideshow of their pictures, and as a small token of their gratitude, they will distribute prayer cards they brought to Poland and had blessed by Pope Francis at the final Mass.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS
JOIN US! Do you want to be part of a joyful small Christian community? Do you love music? Do you want to praise God in song? Are you both teachable and a team player? Do you want to have input into the workings of the music ministry?

The first Chancel Choir rehearsal for the new season is Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. We begin singing at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, Sept. 25. All are welcome! Bring a friend with you. No experience necessary, only a love for music, the desire to praise God through singing, a willingness to learn, and a “team player” mentality. For more information, please contact Roberta De Fiore at 203-630-9295 or at Roberta9700@yahoo.com.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB
The Adult Social Club will not be meeting in September. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 3 at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall. 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.

PRAYER SHawl MINISTRY
Since 2003 our Prayer Shawl Ministry has been creating shawls to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, bring hope to those in despair, and welcome those who are baptized. We welcome anyone who would like to join our parish ministry of prayer, service and love. We gather in the church hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Our starting date is Sept. 12, but feel free to jump in at any time. Bring a friend. We have plenty of yarn and needles for those who wish to learn. If you would like to know more or would like to receive a shawl, please contact Santa Vallone at 860-569-1772.

SCHOOL MASS
The first Mass of this new school year will be celebrated with the students and staff of our parish school this Tuesday, September 6, at 9:00 a.m. All are invited.

ST. CHRISTOPHER COMMUNITY FAIR
Join us for a fun-filled afternoon!
Sunday ~ September 18
11:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Rain or Shine
Fun for all ages with games, face painting, bounce house and more!
Tickets will be sold for food, beverages and games.
Bring the whole family!

SCHOOL NEWS
Saint Christopher School has had a good 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!

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.

INF MEMORIUM
Please pray for these parishioners who have gone to eternal life during the month of August.

Joan Conti • Marie Dumais • JoAnn LaTorre
Thomas Piazza • Joanne Tirinzonie

“If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

Friday ~ September 9

The Archdiocese of Hartford is uniting with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Archdioceses and Dioceses across the U.S. in a “National Day of Prayer for Peace in our Communities.” It will be held on Friday, Sept. 9, the feast of St. Peter Claver. We’re all being encouraged to observe this day through prayer. Prayers may be offered at Mass, during Eucharistic adoration, at schools and in homes.

An Hour of Prayer will be held on Friday, Sept. 9 at St. Patrick–St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street in Hartford from 5 to 6 p.m. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair will preside. Other religious leaders from Greater Hartford will take part. All are welcome. Free parking is available across the street from the parish. Stop by after work, on your way home, and stay for an hour…stay for as long as you can!

According to Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, “Let us remember that Jesus says, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’ (Mt 5:9). This is as necessary as it is challenging at a time of global and domestic unrest, in a world fraught with aggression, terrorism and mistrust. If we are to find peace, healing and hope, we must stand together and in the conviction that ultimately a loving God rules the world, not man, his selfish passions nor personal agendas.”

ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH GREETERS

As autumn begins and we find ourselves rested from the summer months and anxious to give of our time and talent, have you considered the ministry of being a Parish Greeter? If so, please plan to join us on Monday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall when we will welcome back our current greeters, welcome in new greeters and provide information to those who wish to learn more about this ministry. The scheduling of greeters for September through May will also be discussed at this gathering.

On the following Monday, September 26, at 7:00 pm in the church hall an Evening of Prayer and Reflection: The Season of Autumn and Being a Parish Greeter, based on 1 Timothy 6:11-16 and the Apostle Paul, will be held for all current and new greeters. For more information, please contact Anne Marie Volowski, Coordinator of Parish Greeters at annemarievolowski@yahoo.com or at 860-568-1303.

MARIAN GARDEN UPDATE

Phase 2 construction of our Marian Garden has begun with plans to complete this fall. As you may have noticed, our electrical contractor, Amped Up Electric, has begun running power to the site which will enable us to light the Mary statue and memorial pedestal. Our landscape contractor and builder, Peter’s Landscaping, will soon begin production engraving the granite slabs, benches and bricks so they will be ready for placement during this phase of construction.

If you would like to have your family, loved one or friends listed as a permanent part of our St. Christopher Marian Garden, please fill out an order form and return it to the parish or school office by Sunday, September 18 to ensure that your order will be incorporated into the Garden during this phase of construction. (Forms are available at all the church entrances and can be downloaded from our website at: stchris-eh.org/mariangarden.php.) Private tours are available by appointment where an expert can answer your questions. If interested, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240.

We thank those of you who have already placed an order and look forward to the ongoing development of this sacred place in the St. Christopher community. All proceeds from the Marian Garden support the continued viability of our St. Christopher campus, both parish and school. Commemorative Brick orders are classified as charitable donations by the IRS and are deductible in the calendar year in which they are bought.

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.

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ September 16
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.
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<td>Philemon</td>
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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, September 11, 2016 – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Repeatedly we hear of the joy in heaven over sinners who repent, those who respond to Jesus' invitation and way into the kingdom. God is faithful in his covenant love, and it is this constancy that gave Moses and now gives us the courage to repent and seek forgiveness. It's through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that one hears and knows that they are forgiven. Is it time for you to avail yourself of this Sacrament, especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy?

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
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E-mail: stchrisym@gmail.com
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
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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
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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

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Join us for a fun filled afternoon

Sunday September 18, 2016
After 10:30 Mass from 11:30AM – 3:00PM

Rain or Shine
Fun for all ages with games, face painting, Bounce house and more.
Tickets will be sold for food, beverages and games.

Bring the whole Family
We would like to make sure we have enough food for everyone.
Would you take a moment to let us know if your family will attend?

# of Hamburger ________
# of Hot Dogs ________

RSVP: stchrisdvargas@usfoods.com
or put this portion of the flyer into the collection basket next weekend, September 10/11. Thank you!