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

Prayerfully Remembering 9-11

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 11, 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-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 11, 2016

“A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.”

– Psalm 51:12

Mass for the Week

Saturday, September 10 – 4:00 p.m.
John & Moira Traynor
(The Traynor Family)

Sunday, September 11 – 8:00 a.m.
Deacon Phil Gosselin
Prayers & Blessings on His Diaconate Ministry
(The Cadwallader Family)

Sunday, September 11 – 10:30 a.m.
Carlos Paldino – 4th Anniversary
(Wife, Children & Grandchildren)

Monday, September 12 – 7:30 a.m.
Jerry Millstein
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Wife & Family)

Tuesday, September 13 – 7:30 a.m.
Anna & Dominick Cervini
(Barbara & Valentine Povinelli)

Wednesday, September 14 – 7:30 a.m.
Frank Wroniak (Grandparents)

Thursday, September 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado (Wife Maria)

Saturday, September 17 – 4:00 p.m.
Jose Figueiredo (Wife Maria)

Sunday, September 18 – 8:00 a.m.
Adrien, Rena, Jim and Louise Cyr
(Paul & Angie Parent)

Sunday, September 18 – 10:30 a.m.
Clifford Vaillancourt – 10th Anniversary
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (September 4): $ 6,524*
*Includes $1,213 received through our Online Giving program and $384 from mail-in offerings.
Thank you for your support of our parish family.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
In the First Reading from the Book of Exodus, God speaks to Moses. In the midst of revealing to Moses what the Israelites have done and how they have violated His trust in them, the Lord says, “I see how stiff-necked this people is.” Farmers at that time used the term “stiff-necked” to describe an ox or horse which did not respond to directions. When an animal like that would not move and resisted direction, the animal tended to stiffen and freeze, thus the term “stiff-necked” for one who is stubborn and uncooperative.

God may consider us to be stiff-necked at times, might He not? In spite of the Lord’s appeals to us to trust Him and to follow Him, we sometimes stiffen and resist. Usually we do that because following the Lord may prove uncomfortable for us. God’s terms for us and His expectations of us may sometimes seem unreasonable and even impossible.

Yet, that is the challenge of living stewardship as a way of life. It is not always easy, and it may put us in positions where we feel uncomfortable and even vulnerable. Moses pleads the case for his people to God and the Lord responds to Moses’ plea, his prayer, and Scripture tells us “So the Lord relented in the punishment.” We do need to trust the Lord, and we do need to pray to Him, as He will respond with love and mercy.

– www.catholicsteward.com/blog

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

촛 The candle in our church burns this week

In Loving Memory of
Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)
PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT
The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend supports our parish school. Thank you!

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!
Help us to plan accordingly by letting us know you’re coming. Please send the following information to stchrisdvargas@usfoods.com
# of Hamburgers    # of Hotdogs

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.

LOUISIANA FLOOD SPECIAL COLLECTION
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for an emergency collection to be taken up at parishes throughout the United States next weekend, September 17/18 to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted Catholic dioceses. Join the Church in being a visible witness to the healing presence of Jesus alive in the world through this special collection.

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 this weekend 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 this 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.

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.

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 this Monday, September 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.
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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: GRADES K-8
Religious Education classes for students entering Grades K-8 will begin next 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.

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS
Saint Christopher School opened its doors for the 2016-2017 school year on August 30th. Students in Grades K-8 come together each morning as a community to begin the day in prayer. Classes have visited God’s house, completed “All About Me” projects and presented their favorite part of the story from their summer reading. Students in the PreK program are enjoying making new friends. They also have a new PreK library with lots of good stories to choose from. Thank you to the church community for your continued prayerful support!

FALL HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATION
The Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford invites everyone to come and pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood in our Archdiocese at four special Holy Hours this fall, celebrated by Fr. Jeff Gubbiotti, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese. Each Holy Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a light “coffee-and” reception so we have a chance to meet one another. Please join us!

The Holy Hour being held nearest to us is:
Thursday, October 13 ~ 7:00 p.m.
St. James Church
896 Main Street in Manchester

Please see the posters at the side entrances of our church for information about the other three Holy Hours being held. Consider joining the St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society. Information can be found at www.hartfordpriest.com or by contacting the parish office.

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 on Friday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. In this live, one-woman performance, you will learn, in an entertaining way, how Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, an ordinary girl, became an extraordinary soul and a doctor of the Catholic Church. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 12 & under. For tickets and additional information, contact St. Mary’s Parish Office at 860-342-2328 ~ st.mary.rectory@sbcglobal.net ~ www.stmaryportlandct.org.
**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

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<td>Psalm 51: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19</td>
<td>Psalm 40: 7-10, 17</td>
<td>Psalm 100: 1-5</td>
<td>Psalm 78: 1bc-2, 34-38</td>
<td>Psalm 118: 1b-2, 16ab-17, 28</td>
<td>Psalm 17: 1bcd, 6-8b, 15</td>
<td>Psalm 56: 10c-14</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 18, 2016 – Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
It is certainly no accident that Jesus chose a shrewd, even dishonest figure as a main character for today’s Gospel – The Parable of the Dishonest Steward; for it provides a nice motivating contrast: if such a man is so enterprising in purely world matters, should not we Christians be even more enterprising or dedicated to values and matters of the Kingdom of God? Yes, of course!

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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
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