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 Parish

Twentieth-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lying at the rich man’s door was a poor man named Lazarus.
Luke 16:20

September 25, 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
“[K]eep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – 1 Timothy 6:14

**Mass 🌕 for the Week.**

Saturday, September 24 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Sandra Leonard DeVivo – 10th Anniversary**  
(Family)

Sunday, September 25 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Joseph Leonardo**  
(Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, September 25 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Velma Peila**  
(Joe & Jean Martoccì)

Monday, September 26 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Cecil Railton**  
(The Mondo Family)

Tuesday, September 27 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Adrienne Brumbaum**  
(Elmer & Omerine Gendreau)

Wednesday, September 28 – 7:30 a.m.  
**James Sheehan – 11th Anniversary**  
(Wife & Family)

Thursday, September 29 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Georgette Miller**  
(Marion Sullivan)

Saturday, October 1 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Robert Boardman, Sr. – 4th Anniversary**  
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, October 2 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Michael & Mary Dellaripa (Son Philip)**  
**Francis Dellarippa (Brother Philip)**

Sunday, October 2 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Stephen Tamiso (Dave & Chickie Amberg)**

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## PARISH SUPPORT

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Collection Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>$5,265*</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>$5,156**</td>
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*Includes $568 received through our Online Giving program and $530 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes $743 received through our Online Giving program and $240 from mail-in offerings.

Parish School Collection: $1,384***

***Includes $220 received through our Online Giving program and $40 from mail-in offerings.

Louisiana Flood Collection: $1,009

Thank you for your support of our parish and school family and of Catholic Charities USA who are providing assistance to the victims of the flood.

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## HOPES COLLECTION

This Weekend – September 24/25

The annual HOPES Collection benefits the Catholic elementary schools of the Archdiocese by providing schools with individual HOPES Grants supporting the funding of safe Catholic school environments, the expansion of innovative educational technology, and the marketing of their Catholic schools as centers of excellence. This collection also supports the broad-based marketing and promotion of Catholic schools. Please help us provide a culture of faith and academic excellence to elementary school students by giving to the 2016 Catholic elementary school HOPES Collection through this weekend’s second collection.

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford create an environment where all students Believe, Learn and Excel in every aspect of their young lives.

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## 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

**James Cyr**  
(Emmanuel & Norma Nadeau)
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
On Saturday, October 1 at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot near the parish school, Father John will offer the traditional St. Francis blessing of the animals – rain or shine. Bring your beloved pet for a blessing and meet Father John’s cat Bridget. In the spirit of St. Francis and to help our less fortunate furry friends, we will be accepting donations for Protectors of Animals, a no-kill animal rescue and shelter located here in East Hartford. Their full wish list can be found on their website: www.poainc.org (How to Help tab).

PC MEETING TO BE RESCHEDULED
The Parish Council meeting originally scheduled for this Monday, September 26 is being rescheduled. The new date is to be determined. Please watch the bulletin for the new date.

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 Chancel Choir rehearses in the church on Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. and we sing as a group at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays. 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 PARISH GREETERS
Evening of Prayer and Reflection
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 this Monday, September 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. Our current greeters and all those who wish to learn more about the Greeters Ministry are invited. For more information, please contact Anne Marie Volowski, Coordinator of Parish Greeters at 860-568-1303 or at annemarievolowski@yahoo.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Did you know…
- The portrait of Mother Teresa displayed on the façade of St. Peter’s Basilica at her Vatican canonization on Sunday, September 4, was commissioned by the Knights of Columbus.
- The Knights hosted Mercy Centre, the international English-language catechetical and youth festival site at the Tauron Arena Kraków, July 26-31, offering pilgrims an inspirational program of events as part of their World Youth Day 2016 experience in Kraków, Poland.
- The Knights of Columbus will donate $50,000 to the Holy Father to help provide relief for children affected by last week’s deadly earthquake northeast of Rome.

If you’d like to be a part of an international organization of more than 1.9 million Catholic men who Change Lives and Save Lives, we’d like to meet you and invite you to join us.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB
Monday ~ October 3 ~ 1:00 p.m.
We are pleased to have Rafael Rodriguez Cruz at our next meeting. Mr. Cruz is available at the Raymond Library once a week to provide legal aid for simple matters free of charge for our Seniors. He will let us know what kind of services he offers, and will answer your general questions. 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.

CT CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE
The 9th Annual CT Catholic Men’s Conference is being held on Saturday, October 22 at Goodwin College in East Hartford. Doors open at 8:00 a.m., Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. celebrated by Archbishop Blair. Dynamic Speakers. Tickets for sale online and at the door. Ticket price $40, includes box lunch. To purchase ticket online visit www.ctcatholicmen.org.
CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY
Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Hartford is a two-year program of preparation. High school students and their parents are invited to the opening Evening of Retreat on Sunday, October 2 in the church hall from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Bring a Bible! Registration will take place that evening, although you may pay the $25 program fee ahead of time using the online giving link on the parish website. (Go to stchris-eh.org, click the Online Giving icon, then select either Create New Account of Quick Give.) Students in their first or second year of preparation must attend this Evening of Retreat.

Students who have completed their two years and all other requirements will be confirmed at the Cathedral of St. Joseph by Archbishop Blair on Tuesday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. These students must attend a retreat on Friday, November 4 OR Sunday, November 6.

Wednesday Night Program
High School students are invited to join us Wednesday nights in the parish center (ring the doorbell to the left of the side door) from 7 - 9 p.m. for pizza, deep discussions, laughter, and prayer!

For more information about our Confirmation or Youth Ministry programs, please contact Kristi Gillespie at stchrisym@gmail.com.

BIRTHRIGHT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering the alternative to abortion - LIFE! Our guiding principle: It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. Birthright has served the greater Hartford area since 1972. We help any pregnant girl or woman who calls us. We offer free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. If you would like to help, please call 860-290-8800. Training is provided. Our office is located in East Hartford.

LIVING GOD’S WORD
Jesus became poor so that we might be rich in the grace and wisdom of the Lord. We can pray and meditate on the responsorial psalm for this week: “Blessed is he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free” (Psalm 146:7).

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Throughout his letters St. Paul gives more than hints as to what we should be doing to seek holiness and to live lives that stress Christian virtues. In fact, his comments are often direct and to the point. The excerpt from Paul’s First Letter to Timothy, our Second Reading for today, contains one of those passages, which though brief, is the formula for seeking holiness and living lives of stewardship.

Paul says to Timothy, and thus to us, “…pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith.” Of course, we are aware that in spite of its simplicity, this is a group of instructions that can be very difficult to really live out. Yet, that is exactly our calling. It all begins with pursuing “righteousness.” We tend to think of the meaning of that as being “goodness,” as in “pursuing” being a good person, but its real roots are deeper than that.

Based upon the original Greek a more accurate translation might be “pursuing justice.” More accurately the translation would be “pursuing justice as Jesus defines it.” That is really our charge — to seek lives of stewardship and discipleship in response to the Lord’s call to us.

ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE
The 17th Annual Respect Life Conference will be held on Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Holy Angels Parish Center, 585 Main Street in South Meriden, CT. Registration Fee is $25 and includes Hospitality, Exhibits, Workshops, Lunch and Respect Life Mass. For more information, see flyers posted at side entrances of the church or visit HolyAngelsChurch.org or call 203-235-3822. Attendees must register in advance.

NEWMAN SOCIETY AT MCC
Are you, or do you know, a student who is attending Manchester Community College (MCC) this fall? The Newman Society at MCC (the club for Catholic students) is excited to begin an active semester this fall and is looking for more members. Throughout the year the club engages in social service activities (including those for the homeless and the elderly), offers students an opportunity to mature in their faith and prayer life, and provides fellowship for all its members. Please email faculty advisor James Gentile at jgentile@manchestercc.edu for more information.
### LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14</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, October 2, 2016 – Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
The “truth” is that even though the Mustard Seed looks so tiny and powerless, compare that seed with the effect its planting will bring after a few years! Faith is like that: it may seem powerless, but it will produce incredible results when we live that faith and share that faith. Change is always possible, because God’s dynamic Spirit dwells within us. Simply do your daily Christian duties, including sharing your faith, and let Him take care of the growth.

### 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**
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**
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

**Sunday Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

What is Lectio Divina?

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