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

ONE OF THE LEPERS,
REALIZING HE HAD BEEN HEALED,
RETURNED, GLORIFYING GOD
IN A LOUD VOICE.
LUKE 17:15

October 9, 2016 • Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Like us on
StChristopherChurchEH
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 9, 2016

“If we have died with [Christ Jesus] we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him.” – 2 Timothy 2:11-12a

**Mass for the Week**

Saturday, October 8 – 4:00 p.m.
**Robert Martin – 1st Anniversary**
(Mom & Family)

Sunday, October 9 – 8:00 a.m.
**Jenny Contos**
(Michael & Maria Gallo)

Sunday, October 9 – 10:30 a.m.
**Helen & John Katin**
(Katin & Brewer Families)

Monday, October 10 – 7:30 a.m.
**Fernand Turmel – 11th Anniversary**
(Wife & Family)

Tuesday, October 11 – 7:30 a.m.
**Adrienne Brumbaum**
(Elmer & Omerine Gendreau)

Wednesday, October 12 – 7:30 a.m.
**Dinis Leonardo**
(Wife & Family)

Thursday, October 13 – 7:30 a.m.
**Manuel Machado**
(Wife Maria)

Saturday, October 15 – 4:00 p.m.
**Alice “Mémé” Goslin – 2nd Anniversary**
(Family)

Sunday, October 16 – 8:00 a.m.
**Carmen C. Zocco** (Wife & Family)
**Steven R. Zocco** (Mother & Family)

Sunday, October 16 – 10:30 a.m.
**Darlene Anne (Griffin) Clark**
5th Anniversary (Family)

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**PARISH SUPPORT**
What We Collected (October 2): $ 6,781*
*Includes $1,313 received through our Online Giving program and $690 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

**PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT**
The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend supports our parish school. Thank you!

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**
Our Gospel Reading from St. Luke relates to how Jesus healed 10 lepers. However, only one realized the full sense of his healing and he returned to say “Thank you.” To that gesture Jesus responds to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” This is another case where something may have been lost in our translation. The last line in its original Greek might also be translated “Your faith has made you whole,” or “Your faith has made you well.” In any case, the point is the importance of gratitude to God. How often have we pointed out that stewardship is a response in gratitude to God’s blessings? That ongoing and consistent feeling of thanks is so important.

Jesus healed 10, but only one was really completely healed. The other nine were healed physically, but only the one who felt the gratitude was healed both physically and spiritually. In that sense he was truly “made whole” and “saved.” That is the same salvation that we seek, and the key to it would seem to be that deep sense of thanksgiving as part of our lives and how we live them. A good steward receives God’s gifts gratefully. We must not get so busy that we forget to thank God for all the blessings in our lives.

– www.catholicsteward.com/blog

**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
**Mark Tardiff & Debbie Fallacaro**
(Family)
OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS
This Weekend After All Masses
Bethlehem Wood Carving is visiting our parish this weekend on behalf of the Christian families of the Holy Land. For centuries, the Christians of Bethlehem have earned their living by carving olive wood religious art to sell. We invite you to stop by the parish hall after all Masses this weekend to see for yourself how beautiful these wood carvings are and to support their efforts.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
The Vocation Office of the Archdiocese invites everyone to come to a special Holy Hour and pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood in our Archdiocese. The Holy Hour will be held on Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint James Church, 896 Main Street in Manchester. The Holy Hour will be celebrated by Fr. Jeff Gubbiotti, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese. A “coffee-and” reception will follow in the hall.

THE GUILD OF ST. AGNES
The Guild of St. Agnes is now sponsoring its 2016 membership drive. It is an independent, non-profit corporation that emphasizes respect for life. If you are interested in becoming a sponsoring member, please contact our parishioner Marion Sullivan at 860-568-4533.

THANK YOU!
On Sunday, Sept. 18 we held the St. Christopher Community Fair. Many members of our parish and school community worked very hard to create this fun and successful event. The weather held out for a nice Sunday afternoon where the company was delightful, the food was exceptional, and where the games, balloon artist and face painting were a big hit with the children! We are already looking forward to next year’s event! Thank you to all who helped make this event possible and thank you to all who attended. Please keep an eye out for our next Parish Community event. It’s already in the works!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
We are most grateful when family members request that donations may be made to St. Christopher Church or School in memory of their loved one. Most recently three families have made this very request. Donations totaling $1,280 have been made in memory of John Leonard; $95 has been donated in memory of Peter Gero; and $770 has been donated in memory of Lucille Laing. Lucille’s family has asked that donations made in her memory be used to support our Marian Garden. We extend our thanks and appreciation to these families and may their loved ones, John, Peter and Lucille, rest in God’s eternal embrace.

CROP HUNGER WALK
A Crop Hunger Walk will be held in our community on Sunday, October 23. The approximate 6-mile walk to help end poverty and hunger one step at a time begins at 12:00 noon at South Congregational Church. St. Christopher’s will be a host station for those walkers who may need a light refreshment or use of our facilities as they walk by. If you are interested in walking, please contact the parish office for pledge materials.

BOTTLES, CANS AND SCRAP METAL
Our parish school will be holding a Bottle, Can and Scrap Metal drive on Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Come and support the students at St. Chris by donating your refundable bottles and cans as well as getting rid of your scrap metal. If you don’t have any of these items to donate, stop by anyway to support the Apple Cider/Baked Goods stand. Donations of baked goods are being accepted and can be brought to the stand that morning.

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.
PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Saint Christopher School celebrated two of our selfless volunteers, Karen Santacross and Ania Simpson, at the recent Archdiocesan HOPES dinner. These two women have dedicated so much time, talent and treasure to the school community. Their hope is that more people will say “yes” to giving time to the school.

Saint Christopher School is in need of an Advancement Director. The right person for this position is interested in promoting Catholic education in East Hartford. This is a part-time position with very flexible hours. The school’s annual appeal is one of the main responsibilities. Interested parties should contact Kathleen Welch:

860-568-4100
welchk@saintchristopherschool.org

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

In Case You Missed it...

Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Hartford is a two-year program of preparation. High school students and their parents who did not attend the opening retreat held on October 2 should plan to come to the church hall on Sunday, October 16 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Bring a Bible! Registration will take place that morning, 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 who have not yet registered must attend on October 16.

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. Please remember to sign up!

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 front 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.

FOOD BANK NEWS

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and those who have donated to our Food Bank. Your continued generosity is so greatly appreciated by me and the families for which we provide assistance.

It is hard to believe but we are already starting to get ready for the Holiday Season. We have put in our order with FoodShare for our Thanksgiving turkeys, but if you have any turkeys and/or other meat items that you would like to donate, let me know. We also provide Holiday baskets for several of our own parish families, so whatever donations we get we can use for these families too. I have been going online to the FoodShare website to get whatever I can that is either free or at a minimal cost. However, there are still items that I must buy that FoodShare does not supply. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted for this purpose and can be placed in the collection basket in an envelope marked Food Bank.

While food makes up the majority of our donations, there are other items that families need as well. Some suggestions are personal items like toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving supplies, body wash, shampoo and conditioner. (Sample sized items are great!) Also donations of laundry pods, toilet paper and paper towels would be appreciated.

Food items that we are continually in need of are macaroni and cheese, pudding mixes, Jiffy mixes, meals in a can (ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs, etc.), tuna fish, baked beans, cereal and hearty soups for the winter months. We’d also like to give out Pop-Tarts for the children and granola bars. Canned beverages and small cans of coffee are other suggestions. These are only suggestions and you may donate what every you would like. We only ask that you please make sure that the items have not expired. Non-perishable food items can be left in the church near our candle station.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering for our Food Bank, please contact me at 860-202-8462 or by e-mail at dwarner376@gmail.com.

Thank you,

– Diane Warner, Food Bank Coordinator
### 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."

**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.

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**Reflection for Next Sunday, October 16, 2016 – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

One measure of the depth of our faith is our constancy in prayer, because prayer is a battle of faith and the triumph of perseverance. Do we pray in all circumstances—not just the bad, but also the good? Humility is the foundation of prayer, as we realize our total dependence on God for everything we need.

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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