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

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-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 16, 2016

“I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; whence shall help come to me? My help is from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”

– Psalm 121:1-2

Mass for the Week

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)

Monday, October 17 – 7:30 a.m.
Frank Wroniak
(Grandparents)

Tuesday, October 18 – 7:30 a.m.
John Olinatz – 18th Anniversary
(Children)

Wednesday, October 19 – 7:30 a.m.
Elaine Carey
(Angela & Mary Olson)

Thursday, October 20 – 7:30 a.m.
Vincent Mondo, Jr.
(Wife Shirley & Family)

Saturday, October 22 – 4:00 p.m.
Eddy Lapid (Family)

Sunday, October 23 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, October 23 – 10:30 a.m.
Mary Moren and Alice & Fred Rockwood
(Mr. & Mrs. Peter Samiotos)
(Mr. & Mrs. Peter Anselmo)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (October 9): $ 4,723*
Parish School Collection: $ 1,271**

*Includes $628 received through our Online Giving program and $225 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $115 received through our Online Giving program and $21 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
You might say our message from today’s readings has everything to do with prayer. Could Jesus put it more clearly than He does at the beginning of the Gospel from Luke? “Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.”

We may recall that St. Paul told us we needed to “pray constantly.” Prayer should be at the very core of our faith lives, and it is the beginning point of living lives of stewardship. Jesus probably did not mean that we should always be on our knees with our eyes closed in prayer, but He did expect us to always be in what one might call the “spirit of prayer.”

We may, as the Lord says, sometimes “lose heart” in prayer, because it is difficult for us to perceive the answer or the response to our prayers. Too often we use prayer as a last resort instead of a first resource.

A healthy, consistent, and regular prayer life is in many ways the secret to a successful faith life. St. John Chrysostom said, “Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, and a protection against sadness.”

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
Darlene Anne (Griffin) Clark
5th Anniversary
(Family)
MONTHLY CHILDREN’S LITURGY
Our first Children’s Liturgy of this new school year will take place next Sunday, October 23 at our 10:30 a.m. Mass. Students in grades K, 1 and 8 will participate in special service roles during this Mass.

All adults and children in grade 2 and above are invited to participate in our family choir. Younger children are invited to participate, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If interested in participating, please contact Maria Sousa at 860-895-8692 or by email at stchrisre@gmail.com so we will have an adequate number of music materials on hand. A rehearsal of this family choir will take place this Wednesday evening, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center Chapel. All are welcome to “Sing a joyful song unto the Lord!”

Father John will be away Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this coming week to attend the 30-year reunion of his seminary class in Baltimore. Guest priests will be celebrating our daily Masses while he is away.

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.

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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
by Bud Ozar
The widow in today’s gospel is praised for her perseverance. In our homes perseverance is a critical ingredient to resolving differences and teaching lessons and skills to children. Perseverance is always an act of faith in the goodness of the other person.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INVITATION
St. Christopher Council #4 invites the parish men and their families to attend an information presentation as to why you should consider joining the Order. The meeting will be held this Tuesday, October 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The presentation is expected to last an hour. There will be pizza and refreshments available so please call ahead so insure sufficient food is available.

For those parishioners who are already members in other councils, you are welcome to come and learn how this council is planning to “build up the family which is the domestic church.”

Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 to indicate how many people will attend.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday. We, along with Catholics throughout the world, are called to offer our prayers and generous financial support through the Propagation of the Faith, for the worldwide mission of Jesus.

Your gift on World Mission Sunday helps people in remote villages, towns and cities through the witness and work of missionaries and local priests; helps children, the elderly, refugees, the sick, and orphans through the service of religious sisters and brothers; brings the Gospel to the poorest of our human family; and helps catechists proclaim the message of hope and peace that only Christ can give. Please offer prayer for the work of the Church today in the Missions and provide financial support through next weekend’s second collection.

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. Dynamic Speakers. Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. celebrated by Archbishop Blair. Tickets for sale online and at the door. Ticket price $40, includes box lunch. Tickets online at www.ctcatholicmen.org.

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

Adrianna Jane Fairbanks
PARISH SCHOOL NEWS
The Middle School religion classes at Saint Christopher School organize monthly school wide dress down days to benefit various causes and needs. The most recent one raised over $400 to benefit Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. The students purchased items such as pencils, stickers and small stuffed animals and are creating Halloween bags for the pediatric patients. These will be delivered by the end of the month. Kindness begins with me.

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 at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org or at 860-568-4100.

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.

PARISH PICTORIAL
The parish pictorial booklets that were put together earlier this year in recognition of our parish’s 50th anniversary have arrived. Each family who participated in this program is eligible to receive a free pictorial booklet. If your family participated, please stop by the church hall this weekend after any Mass to pick up your copy. For those who are unable to pick up their copy this weekend, arrangements can be made to pick it up at a later time by calling Denise Rioux at 860-568-5450 or at 860-995-0522.

PASTA DINNER
A Saint Christopher Community Event
A pasta dinner will be held on Saturday, October 29 at 5:15 p.m. in our school gym. Tickets will be available for purchase after all Masses this weekend and next weekend, or you may submit your reservation using the flyer inserted into this weekend’s bulletin. Please see the flyer for more details about this event.

GIFT CARD SALES
Gift cards will be sold after all Masses next weekend, October 22/23. These cards not only make wonderful gifts, they are also good for your everyday use. For every gift card that you purchase at face value, a rebate is given to our parish school. For example, when you purchase either a Shop Rite or a Stop & Shop gift card, the school receives a 4% rebate on each card sold. A large selection of gift cards to grocery stores, restaurants, etc. will be available. Please plan to stop by to learn more about this easy way of supporting our parish school.

A SPECIAL JUBILEE OF MERCY INVITATION TO THE CATHEDRAL
Please plan to celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Saturday, October 29, when a special event will be held for parishioners in the Manchester Deanery of the Archdiocese. The deanery consists of all parishes in the towns of East Hartford, Glastonbury, Marlborough and South Windsor.

The day will start at 10:00 a.m. with tours of the Cathedral and an opportunity to walk through the Holy Door (before it closes on November 13.) From 11:00 a.m. until noon several priests will be on hand to hear confessions while a communal Rosary is prayed. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 noon with special guest Father Richard Gibbons, rector of the world-famous Shrine of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland, delivering the homily.

This day will afford participants an extraordinary opportunity to receive a Plenary Indulgence. Pope Francis has explained the requirements for receiving it: “I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God’s mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral….It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.”
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."

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, October 23, 2016 – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the parable of The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God’s grace to work in us.

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 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

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 MAINTENACE
Roger Dionne

BUILDING & GROUNDS
Stephen Roczynski ~ 860-250-0640
PASTA DINNER
ST. CHRISTOPHER
Parish and School Community

Don't want to cook? Bring the Family and Join Us.
Have a great dinner on **October 29th at 5:00 PM**.
Great Food—Great Company—Great Fun
50/50 Drawing and Gift Item Drawings.
($1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for $5.00 and 25 tickets for $20.00)

**Dinner Menu**

Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Desserts, Cold Beverages, Coffee and Tea.
There will be Gluten Free and Vegetarian options available.

**Dinner Ticket Pricing**
- Adults — $10.00
- Seniors — $8.00
- Children (5-12) — $5.00
- Maximum Family — $25.00

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**FAMILY TICKET RECEIPT**

Please bring this receipt with you for proof of ticket purchases.

**FAMILY TICKET (S)**

Name: ______________________________

# of Adults: _________ # of Children: _________
Payment Enclosed: $ ____________
[Adults $10 | Seniors $8 | Children (5-12) $5 | Max Family $25]