Jesus said to them, “I tell you, the tax collector went home justified, not the Pharisee; for whoever exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:14
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 23, 2016

“The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest until it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds.”
– Sirach 35:17-18a

**Mass for the Intentions for the Week**

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 Samiotis)
(Mr. & Mrs. Peter Anselmo)

Monday, October 24 – 7:30 a.m.
May Slattery
(Sister, Emilie Camarco and Brother, David Cormier)

Tuesday, October 25 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Wednesday, October 26 – 7:30 a.m.
John McCarthy
(The Traynor Family)

Thursday, October 27 – 7:30 a.m.
Mr. & Mrs. Jean Hebert
(Solange & Gilles Hebert)

Saturday, October 29 – 4:00 p.m.
Jose Figueiredo (Wife Maria)

Sunday, October 30 – 8:00 a.m.
Madeline LoPrete (Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Sunday, October 30 – 10:30 a.m.
Lucy Laing
(Alma Dulude, Helen LeBlanc, Jean Lombard, Jane Stebbins, Jeanne Sciarra, Anita Thibodeau)

**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected (October 16): $ 5,618*
*Includes $653 received through our Online Giving program and $281 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

This Sunday is World Mission Sunday. We, along with Catholics throughout the world, are called to offer our prayers and financial support through the Propagation of the Faith, for the worldwide mission of Jesus. Your gift made through today’s second collection helps people in remote villages, towns and cities through the witness and work of missionaries, local priests and religious sisters and brothers.

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

Avery Ann Armstrong
Morgan Elizabeth Armstrong

**HURRICANE MATTHEW RELIEF**

Earlier this month Hurricane Matthew devastated significant parts of the Southeast coast of the US and some countries in the Caribbean, especially Haiti. Agencies such as Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services have already begun to assist. The road to restoration will be long and additional support will be needed. To respond to this call, we will take up a special collection next weekend, October 29/30 to support the relief efforts. We recognize this collection comes at a time when other special collections are taking place (i.e. archdiocesan, parish school). All we ask is that you do the best you can. We are grateful for the sacrifices you make to support these collections.

**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

Rena Cyr
(Emmanuel & Norma Cyr)
PASTA DINNER
A Saint Christopher Community Event

A pasta dinner will be held next Saturday, October 29 at 5:15 p.m. in our school gym. Tickets will be available for purchase after all Masses this weekend. $10.00 for adults, $8.00 for seniors, $5.00 for children ages 5-12. Maximum amount for family is $25.00. Gluten free and vegetarian options available. 50/50 drawing and gift item drawings. Please plan to join us!

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

The All Souls Memorial Mass in memory of our beloved departed will take place at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, November 6. A candlelight service within the Mass will commemorate each of the deceased. We invite parishioners who have lost a family member or close friend this past year, even though they were not buried from St. Christopher’s, to join us for this liturgy and to bring with you that morning a photo of your loved one with a name card to be placed on our Memory Board. Please arrive early so your picture can be placed on the board before Mass begins. If you lost a loved one this past year who was not buried from our parish and you’d like his/her name to be included in the program, please call the parish office by October 31. Please note that this Mass is likely to be a bit longer than a regular Sunday Mass to allow for all those who wish to come forward to light a candle.

A reception will be held in our church hall following this Mass on November 6. We kindly request donations of baked goods and finger foods that can be served at this reception. All donations may be left in the church hall prior to the start of Mass. We thank you for your support!

– Eugenia Nowik-Martocci, Consolation Minister

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Thanks to all who attended the Harvest Dinner last Saturday. A special thanks to Scott Gay and his team for providing a great Fall dinner.

Our information meeting was also a great success and those who attended enjoyed one of GK Bob’s sumptuous berry pies. For those of you who were not able to attend the information presentation, there is still time to receive the information and consider joining the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452.

A Note from Father John…

Sometimes I get asked about what makes a person suitable to be a sponsor a.k.a. godparent for baptism. Certainly it’s a great honor to be asked to sponsor a child for baptism, but it’s an honor because it’s a great responsibility.

Three sacraments open the door to a person’s full entry into faith in Jesus through his Church. The first is baptism. It places a person at the threshold of the Church, so to speak, the acceptance of Jesus and his Church into a person’s life. A person continues his walk with Jesus into the Church through Holy Communion by being nourished by the very life of Jesus each week. And finally, a person completes his walk with Jesus into his Church by confirming his faith through the sacrament by that name, by being sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, by being given the seven tools that are essential to live the way of Jesus.

During the baptismal rite, sponsors are asked “Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?” Now, obviously, to do that, a sponsor has to be someone who has fully embraced Jesus and his Church.

By knowing all of this first, it is easy to understand the conditions that make a person eligible to be a sponsor: 1) to be a fully initiated Catholic through the sacraments of baptism, holy communion, and confirmation, 2) to be at least 16 years old, 3) to be a practicing Catholic by, among other things, worshipping God with others through regular attendance at Mass, 4) if married, then to be in a marriage recognized as valid by the Church.

A non-Catholic Christian cannot be a sponsor but can be admitted as a Christian witness to the baptism with the Catholic sponsor. A baptized Catholic who has not completed his initiation cannot be a sponsor or a witness and should pursue his full entry into the Church. Again, the honor of being a sponsor comes from the responsibility that is entrusted to that sponsor by the parents.

I hope this helps you to understand the logic behind what makes a sponsor eligible and clears up any misunderstanding one might have.
GIFT CARD SALES
After All Masses this Weekend
These cards not only make wonderful gifts, they are also great 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. is 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.”

PARISH PICTORIAL
The parish pictorial booklets that were published 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 contact Denise Rioux at 860-568-5450 or at 860-995-0522 to make arrangements to get your copy.

ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR POSITION
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 860-568-4100 or at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

THANK YOU, ROBERTA
As we approach a third Advent season as a Chancel Choir, we wanted to take time to show our gratitude for our Choir and Music Director, Roberta De Fiore.

Thank you for believing in a small but devoted group of singers who wanted to continue to praise the Lord with song.

Thank you for giving your time and resources to introduce us to all the beautiful and meaningful ways God’s word can be expressed.

Thank you for giving your expertise in voice training to help each of us control and maintain our vocal output to produce a powerful, dynamic performance.

Thank you for helping us realize how intricate and multidimensional music performance can be.

Thank you for coming out from Meriden, with your mom (our Mamma), to be there for productive and helpful voice training and practice.

Thank you for your personal and professional attention to each of us, understanding that we all have busy lives outside the Church.

Thank you for letting us get to know Lady (your beloved dog), and for letting us have fun and learn from music.

Thank you for helping us reflect upon the meaning of the words we sing each week.

We look forward to a joyous holiday season, and we look forward to praising the Lord with you.

– The Chancel Choir
**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 2:2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks
Used with permission of Paulist Press
www.paulistpress.com

**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 30, 2016 – Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**
It didn’t take much for Zacchaeus to readily agree to live his life a different way; to change course; and to make a clean break with his past and to begin again. It was the obvious choice, especially when confronted with so much love. His change of heart resulted in a change of life. The Lord is always ready to make his home with us. Do you make room for him in your heart and in your home?

---

**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
toobusy8@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