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

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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
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 30, 2016

“The LORD lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.”
– Psalm 145:14

Mass 🌞 for the Week

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)

Monday, October 31 – 7:30 a.m.
John Leonard (Brian & Teresa Thibodeau)

Tuesday, November 1 – 7:30 a.m.
Shirley Call (Marion Sullivan)

Tuesday, November 1 – 9:00 a.m.
Earl Champion
(Kaylah, Elijah & Alaynah Rodriguez)

Tuesday, November 1 – 5:30 p.m.
Delfino Barone – 1st Anniversary
(Daughter Lisa Jacobs & Family)

Wednesday, November 2 – 7:30 a.m.
All the Faithful Departed

Thursday, November 3 – 7:30 a.m.
John & Louise Olinatz
(Children)

Saturday, November 5 – 4:00 p.m.
Deceased Members of the Miano Family
(The Miano Family)

Sunday, November 6 – 8:00 a.m.
Flora Ramirez (Oreste & Dorothea Rodegher)

Sunday, November 6 – 10:30 a.m.
All the Faithful Departed of Our Parish
(November 1, 2015 – October 31, 2016)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (October 23): $ 4,728*
World Mission Sunday Collection: $ 1,469

*Includes $583 received through our Online Giving program and $130 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family and the World Mission Sunday collection.

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 this weekend to support the relief efforts.

ALL SAINTS’ DAY
Tuesday ~ November 1
All Saints’ Day is a feast day that honors all Saints, both known and unknown, and is a holy day of obligation. Masses on Tues., November 1, will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL
Our Annual Parish Appeal is underway! Letters were sent out this past week to all parish families on record. If you did not yet receive one, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240. As you know, the money raised by this appeal is very important to the financial health of our parish family. To keep costs down, the mailing is managed by parish volunteers; for them we are most grateful. Please pray for the success of this important effort.

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 the Deceased Members of the Harden & Trevison Families
(Family)
ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS
The All Souls Memorial Mass in memory of our beloved departed will take place at the 10:30 a.m. Mass next 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 November 1. 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

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 860-995-0522 to make arrangements to get your copy.

PARISH COLLECTORS
Our parish is in need of men and women who are willing to take up the weekly collection during our 10:30 a.m. Mass. If you are interested in serving your parish in this way, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240. Thank you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Congratulations to Tom Hurley, Sean Priest and Pablo Torres for joining our St. Christopher Council #4.

Congratulations to Steve, Nancy, Lindsay and Joshua Cadwallader for being our September Family of the Month. We will present the award at our November fraternal dinner.

The November business meeting will be held, Thursday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall following the Msgr. Thomas Drennan Fourth Degree Assembly meeting. All members are requested to be present to vote on important issues.

The membership and their families will hold their Family Pot-luck Dinner on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The main course will be Rueben Casserole with members bringing side dishes and desserts.

There is still time to receive information and consider joining the largest Catholic lay organization in the world.

Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 for more information.

COLLECTION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES
The Archdiocese for Military Services (AMS) is like no other diocese or non-profit organization. The AMS provides the same pastoral care and services as any other Catholic diocese, to Catholics serving in the United States Armed Forces, those enrolled in US Military Academies, undergoing treatment in any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in the US, Puerto Rico and Guam and goes beyond the US borders and the families of these populations. In 2013 we participated in the Collection for the AMS (a triennial collection) and raised $966. The next collection will take place next weekend November 5/6. To learn more about the mission and ministry of AMS, please see the insert in this weekend’s bulletin or visit www.milarch.org.

We recognize this collection comes at a time when other special collections are taking place (i.e. archdiocesan, relief funds, parish school). All we ask is that you do the best you can. We are grateful for the sacrifices you make to support these special collections.
PARISH SCHOOL NEWS
Saint Christopher School completed its ten-year Accreditation visit last week. A visiting committee was at the school for four days and was quite pleased with the entire program: the facility, the faculty and the students. Our students showed themselves to be warm and friendly and left a very good impression on our guests.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
This past week the daughter of Joanne Tirinzonie presented us with a check for $1,000. Joanne was a long-time parishioner who passed away in August. We are most grateful to Joanne for this generous gift and for remembering her parish family in her will. May she rest in God’s eternal embrace.

We are also 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 $1,510 have been made in memory of John Leonard; $95 has been donated in memory of Peter Gero; and $1,120 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.

FOOD BANK RECEIVES FUNDING
Earlier this month Archbishop Blair presented the St. Christopher/South Congregational Food Bank with a check in the amount of $1,250 funded in part through the Archdiocese of Hartford through the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal Vicariate Outreach Program. This funding will help our Food Bank continue its mission of helping those in need in our community. We are grateful to Archbishop Blair and to those of you who support the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal for helping make this donation to our Food Bank possible.

LIVING GOD’S WORD
Pray that you may know the God of whom Wisdom speaks today; a God who has mercy on all, who loves all things that are, who is a lover of souls, who has placed the divine imperishable spirit in us, and who patiently waits for us to believe.

FAMILY CHOIR
We are grateful to the adults and children who participated in the family choir at last Sunday’s Children’s Liturgy. Our next Children’s Liturgy is scheduled for Sunday, November 13 at 10:30 a.m. Any adult or child who is interested in singing in the family choir at this next Children’s Liturgy is invited to a rehearsal on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7:00 p.m. in our chapel. For more information, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education, at 860-895-8692.

MEN’S RETREAT WEEKEND
An ACTS retreat is a three-day, three-night Catholic lay retreat presented by men who have attended prior ACTS retreats, under the guidance of a Catholic Guide. Retreat activities focus on Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. The goals are to renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your faith and its application in your daily life and to create lasting and supporting friendships. If you are interested in attending this retreat being held November 3-6, please contact Jeff Duigou, Retreat Director, at 860-559-8658 or take an ACTS brochure which can be found at all our church entrances.

EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
East Catholic in Manchester will be holding an open house on Thursday, November 3 at 6:45 p.m. The entrance exam for eighth graders will be given on Saturday, November 12 at 8:00 a.m. Pre-registration for the exam is advised but not required. Visit echs.com or call their Admissions office at 860-649-5336, x-6456 for more information.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB MEETING
Monday ~ November 14 ~ 1:00 p.m.
The next meeting of the Social Club will be held on the second Monday of November due to elections. Prior to our playing Bingo, we will hold the election of officers. In addition, we are asking that if you are planning to attend our Christmas Party in December, please plan to pay the $10.00 fee at the November meeting so we can give a count to the caterer. Also, if you need a special meal, such as gluten-free, please let Joan know at that time. 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.
### 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, November 6, 2016 – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The big question that we are left with after reading the Gospel from Luke is what will it all be like? Jesus gives no details.

We live in hope and die in hope. We are to be alive forever in the love of God. God keeps love safe. When life ceases, love stays. God is God of life, the Gospel says; “to him all are alive,” even the dead.
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved a special triennial collection for the AMS in November 2012. The first National Collection for the AMS was timed to coincide with Veterans Day November 2013 and raised more than $8,239,000. The second National Collection for the AMS will be taken in dioceses and parishes across the country in 2016, for most at Masses the weekend of 5-6 November, or as otherwise determined by an individual diocese or parish.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) was established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 to provide the Catholic Church’s full range of pastoral ministries to those in the United States Armed Forces. The mission of the Archdiocese is to “serve those who serve” by providing the same pastoral care and services as any other Catholic diocese to Catholics serving in the United States Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, undergoing treatment at any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs’ Medical Centers in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Guam, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. Programs and services vital to the unique mission and ministry of the Archdiocese include Vocations, Evangelization and Catechesis, Sacramental Records, Tribunal, and Veterans Affairs.

The AMS Office of Vocations informs and supports men exploring a priestly vocation and provides opportunities for vocation awareness and discernment with a focus on the military chaplaincy. The AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program is a partnership with local dioceses and religious communities around the country. Currently, the AMS partners with 23 dioceses across the U.S. with 28 co-sponsored seminarians studying in 16 seminaries. As many as 20 additional candidates are in-processing for 2016 and, since the fall 2014, 113 candidates have been on one or more of the AMS discernment retreats and expressed interest in the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program and military chaplaincy. Once a seminarian is in the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, the AMS covers half of the costs to his home diocese for priestly formation.

In 2016, three priestly ordinations and one transitional diaconate ordination are expected. Twelve priests are currently serving as priests in their home dioceses before they will begin ministry as active duty military chaplains. In 2015, three new co-sponsored priests joined a branch of the military. The Nation and the Church continue to depend on this generation of future priests to relieve a chronic shortage of Catholic chaplains in the military. At the same time AMS vocations programs have surfaced numerous other vocations to the priesthood and religious life who do not intend to serve as chaplains!

The AMS receives no funding from the military or the government in support of the aforementioned programs and relies solely on private donors. The AMS annual operating budget is over $6.8 million, which includes the cost of maintaining an archive of more than 3 million sacramental records, a tribunal to adjudicate marriage annulments and other issues of canon law, and a religious education and faith-formation program. Additionally, the AMS average annual share of expenses for the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program is more than $2.8 million over the next five years. The AMS average annual cost per seminarian is $18,000.

While the Government is reducing the size of the Armed Forces, the world situation, as we have repeatedly and dramatically witnessed both at home and abroad, continues to make the need for a strong military more evident. It is imperative that the Catholic faithful who defend our religious freedom do not have to sacrifice theirs.

To learn more about the mission and ministry of the AMS, please visit www.milarch.org/nationalcollection.com.