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
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 6, 2016

“My steps have been steadfast in your paths, my feet have not faltered. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God.” – Psalm 17:5-6a

Mass for the Intentions of the Week:
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)

Monday, November 7 – 7:30 a.m.
Mary & Adrien Brault
(Jean Walker)

Tuesday, November 8 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Wednesday, November 9 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado
(Wife & Family)

Thursday, November 10 – 7:30 a.m.
Frank Wroniak
(Grandparents)

Saturday, November 12 – 4:00 p.m.
Laurent Hebert – 1st Anniversary
(Friend)

Sunday, November 13 – 8:00 a.m.
Edmond Guerin
(The Guerin Family)

Sunday, November 13 – 10:30 a.m.
Louis Sciarrino, Jr. – 11th Anniversary
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (October 30): $ 6,114*
Hurricane Matthew Relief Fund: $ 842

*Includes $1,018 received through our Online Giving program and $390 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family and the Hurricane Matthew Relief Fund collection.

COLLECTION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES
This weekend we join Catholic churches throughout the country by taking up this triennial collection to benefit The Archdiocese for Military Services, USA (AMS). This collection will help the AMS to provide pastoral service and ministry to Catholic families in the U.S. Military and patients in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers throughout the country. We recognize this collection comes at a time when other special collections are taking place (i.e. archdiocesan, relief funds, parish school, Annual Appeal). All we ask is that you do the best you can. We are grateful for the sacrifices you make to support these special collections.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
A phrase that may ring familiarly to us is, “Our hope is in the Lord.” Trust and the hope which results from that trust are at the heart of lives of stewardship. It is the “living God,” His covenant with us and His promise to us of everlasting life which allows us to trust Him and to have that hope which strengthens that trust. Having hope in the Lord is what can give our lives meaning. At the World Youth Day in 2002, St. Pope John Paul II opened his message to the young people gathered by saying, “Trust Christ because Christ trusts you.” Our trust in the Lord provides us hope. His trust in us fortifies us to be good stewards. –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 for
All the Faithful Departed
(November 1, 2015 – October 31, 2016)
PASTORAL PLANNING PRAYER CARDS
The Archdiocesan Office of Pastoral Planning has provided all churches in the Archdiocese with a supply of prayer cards. We encourage you to take a card home with you and recite the prayer often. These cards can be found at all entrances of our church. More information and updates about the Pastoral Planning process can be found online by visiting www.stewardsfortomorrow.org.

COAT, GLOVE AND SOCK DRIVE
The students in our religious education program are sponsoring a coat, glove and sock drive to benefit those in our community who are less fortunate. A collection box has been placed in the church hall to accept donations of new or gently used coats, gloves and socks. Your donations will help us to be able to provide items of warmth to our brothers and sisters this coming winter. Your support of our students’ efforts is much appreciated.

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!

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.

A Note from Father John…
Please know that work on replacing the church roof will begin this Monday, November 7. A dumpster will be located in the parking lot at the back of the church. As you know from the Annual Appeal letter I sent to you, most of the money to pay for this project will be taken from a fund we held in reserve for such a project. The remainder, approximately $15,000, will be taken from your contributions to this year’s Appeal. Your generosity will insure that our church building will be in top condition for many years to come.

We are only a week in to our Annual Appeal and I am encouraged by the number of families who have already responded. If you did not receive my letter of appeal, please contact the parish office or take an Appeal packet that’s available at the church’s main entrance.

Please be aware that all money raised by the Annual Appeal will be used exclusively for the needs of our parish.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE
Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Savannah Smiles; what’s your favorite? Whichever one you love you don’t have to wait until March to enjoy them because for a limited time you can get Girl Scout cookies in November! Daisy/Brownie Troop 10862 can supply you will all your favorites! They will be selling Girl Scout cookies after all Masses next weekend, November 12 & 13. Boxes are $5 each. Your purchase helps the troop earn money toward troop events this year and Girl Scout summer camp while they strengthen their customer service and money management skills!

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK
November 6 - 12
National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education. Please take a moment this week to ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. The St. John Vianney Vocation Prayer Society has a Prayer for Vocations available at hartfordpriest.com.

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

Liam Michael Mola
CHILDREN’S LITURGY
Our monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, November 13 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grade 7. Everyone is invited and donations of baked goods are always appreciated.

FAMILY CHOIR
The rehearsal date noted in last weekend’s bulletin was incorrect and we apologize for the error. The rehearsal for next Sunday’s Children’s Liturgy was held this past Wednesday, November 2. The next rehearsal will be held in our chapel on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. for any adult or child who is interested in singing in the family choir at the Children’s Liturgy being celebrated on December 18 at 10:30 a.m. or at the 4:00 p.m. Mass being celebrated on Christmas Eve. For more information, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education, at 860-895-8692.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is a marriage enrichment program where married couples have the opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication and where they can look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. The next weekend Encounter weekend is being held November 18-20 at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Manchester, CT. For more information and to register, please visit www.wwmect.org.

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
The Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell is hosting a Virtual Open House this Thursday, November 10 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on their Facebook page. Holy Apostles College is nationally and internationally renowned for its fidelity, excellence and affordability. To learn more about their programs which may be taken 100% on campus or 100% online, visit their website at www.holyapostles.edu.

ST. CHRISTOPHER’S PRE-K PROGRAM
Has your child achieved potty training? Congratulations! Now is the time to consider a small preschool program for 3 year olds. Both full-day and half-day options are available. This safe, nurturing environment is so inviting. The 3 year olds can make friends and experience so many new things! Come visit and see what we’re all about! Call 860-568-4100 or email welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

COUNTERS’ MINISTRY
Now is the time to begin preparing next year’s weekly schedule. If you are a current member of this ministry and are not able to continue next year, please let us know. If you are interested in joining this ministry and would like to be included on next year’s schedule, please let us know that as well. You may contact Bonnie in the parish office or Tom Hurley, Scheduling Chairman, at 860-568-6263 before December 10. The current schedule takes us through the end of January 2017. The new schedule will start February 5, only three months away.

Our Lead Counters are scheduled every seven weeks. The Team Counters are scheduled an average of once every couple of months. Counters meet every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend on your scheduled day, other members are always willing to cover or to swap with you.

This ministry is a great way to serve your parish while giving you the opportunity to meet and mingle with your fellow parishioners. It is a friendly and outgoing group. All are welcome to join us.

We are thankful to our current members for their service to this ministry and look forward to welcoming new members!

† IN MEMORIUM †
Please pray for these parishioners who have gone to eternal life during the month of October.

William Bonetti
Clement Dulude • Rena Fortin

“If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21
**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

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<td>Psalm 37: 3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29</td>
<td>Psalm 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9</td>
<td>Psalm 146: 7-10</td>
<td>Psalm 119: 1-2, 10-11, 17-18</td>
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**What is Lectio Divina?**

While reading sacred scripture, read the words with a loving 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, November 13, 2016 – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

This can indeed be a “scary” gospel if we don’t listen to it carefully. But to focus on the “bad news” would be to miss the “Good News.” Jesus promises to give you wisdom in all situations. In other words, he will arm you with the truth.

No matter what happens, even death, if you cling to the truth then you have the best gift of all: the very wisdom of Jesus! Knowing you have Jesus on your side gives one the hope that one needs in any unpleasant situation. That is Good News!

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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
toobusy sue@gmail.com
  - “…but not too busy to take your prayer requests!”

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**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
November 1, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Election Day approaches, various claims are made about the religious and moral aspects of voting. It seems that every four years the same questions arise with an increasing amount of tension and discord, mirroring the growing polarization of the country at large. Let me offer, as simply as I can, some fundamental Church teaching that I hope will be of help to you as a practicing Catholic in making your political choices.

I believe that the Catholic people do not expect the clergy to engage in partisan politics or tell them for whom to vote. The Church cannot attach herself to any party, candidate or political system. The Church has experienced both the favor and the displeasure of every kind of political system in the last 2000 years. Jesus said: “My kingdom is not of this world.”

That does not mean, however, that as believers we can be indifferent to the well-being of the country in which we live. Issues of good and evil, right and wrong, engage us not only individually but corporately as a nation. This necessarily involves political life and the political choices we make. Having a conscience applies not just to my individual actions, but also to my exercise of responsibility for the common good. I bear a share of moral responsibility for what happens as a result of my political choices.

I urge everyone to learn more about the social doctrine of the Church. That doctrine addresses political, economic, ethical and cultural questions as these relate to our participation in social life, to the role of authority, the importance of the common good, natural law, social justice and human solidarity. As the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults points out: “All of the Church’s social teaching is rooted in the fundamental principle of the sacredness of human life and the fundamental dignity of every single individual.”

When it comes to specific issues regarding good and evil, right and wrong, there can be a legitimate difference of opinion—morally and politically—about how to remedy an evil or accomplish something good. In this very contentious and troubling election year the U.S. Bishops have offered the following moral guidance in their teaching document Faithful Citizenship:

34. Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods. A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining
marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, if the voter’s intent is to support that position. In such cases, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate’s opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity.

35. There may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate’s unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons. Voting in this way would be permissible only for truly grave moral reasons, not to advance narrow interests or partisan preferences or to ignore a fundamental moral evil.

36. When all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. The voter may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or, after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods.

37. In making these decisions, it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions. These decisions should take into account a candidate’s commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue. In the end, this is a decision to be made by each Catholic guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.

It seems to me that an objective way to evaluate our choices from a moral point of view is to take a look at the platforms of the political parties, keeping in mind that not every candidate subscribes to everything in his or her party’s platform. We must ask ourselves not only whether these platforms promote what we think is good, but in what ways, if any, do they condone or promote things which are intrinsically evil. This question is incumbent upon us as persons responsible to God and neighbor.

My purpose in writing this letter is not to tell you for whom to vote, but rather to clarify what the moral teaching of the Church is for voters anywhere in the world, and to explain the distinction of moral categories that apply in making an informed judgment of conscience.

We have an obligation to be good citizens by registering and voting, and also by praying now and on Election Day that whatever the outcome, God will bring forth good for our country. I ask that every parish consider devoting all or part of Tuesday, November 8, to public prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for this intention.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford