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

StChristopherChurchEH

- Isaiah 2:4

First Sunday of Advent ~ November 27, 2016

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
First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2016

“You . . . must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

– Matthew 24:44

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 26 – 4:00 p.m.
Paul Crowley – 11th Anniversary
(Wife Irene)

Sunday, November 27 – 8:00 a.m.
Adrien, Rena, Jim and Louise Cyr
(Paul & Angie Parent)

Sunday, November 27 – 10:30 a.m.
Lucille Serruto – 8th Anniversary
(Husband & Family)

Monday, November 28 – 7:30 a.m.
Piedade Martins
(Family)

Tuesday, November 29 – 7:30 a.m.
Angéle Lynch
(Mr. & Mrs. Gilles Paquette and Mrs. Raymonde Lamy)

Wednesday, November 30 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Lopes
Maria Ascencão
Joao De Deus
(Family)

Thursday, December 1 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz
(Family)

Saturday, December 3 – 4:00 p.m.
Ray & Betty Hutt (The Hutt & Pines Families)

Sunday, December 4 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, December 4 – 10:30 a.m.
Antonio & Mariana Bairos
In Remembrance of Their Birthdays
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (November 20): $ 5,484*
Catholic Campaign for Human Development: $ 1,327

*Includes $668 received through our Online Giving program and $635 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Our Annual Parish Appeal is underway! We thank all of you who have already responded to this year’s appeal. Reminder letters will be going out in the coming week to everyone who has not yet responded. If you did not receive the original mailing, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 or you may pick up an Appeal packet, which includes Father John’s letter, at the main entrance of the church. As you know, the money raised by this appeal is very important to the financial health of our parish family and will help us make some necessary improvements to our church. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Most of us are quite familiar with Jesus’ comments about faith, hope, and love. As we enter the Advent season, it is a time for us to emphasize all three, but today’s readings in particular speak of hope. Many people in our world, perhaps even here in our parish and community, seem to have a feeling of hopelessness. We should not be among them; worldly thinking produces hopelessness, but our hope is found in Jesus Christ who has redeemed us and paid for all our sins on the Cross. Peace produces hope and hope produces peace. Be hopeful this Advent season and you will find peace.

–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
Louise Cyr
(Emmanuel & Norma Nadeau)
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 provide items of warmth to our brothers and sisters this coming winter. Your support of our students’ efforts is much appreciated.

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ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING
We are looking for individuals and families who would be interested in coming forth at the beginning of Mass to light the candles of our Advent Wreath during this Advent season. If you are interested in participating, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 or stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net.

PARISH COLLECTORS
Our parish is in need of men and women who are willing to help 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!

TIME OF PREPARATION
“This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.”
– John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN
Please, if at all possible, do not wait until a person is near death before requesting the Sacrament of the Sick. While the Sacrament may include prayers for the Last Rites when such prayers are called for, the Sacrament may be given to a person at any stage of illness including those who are not terminal. It may also be given to someone who is elderly or about to enter surgery. The shortage of priests is making it difficult to request the Sacrament on short notice.

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ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB
Members Christmas Party
Monday ~ December 4 ~ Lunch at 12 NOON
If you are a Social Club member planning to attend, but you have not yet signed up for the Christmas Party, please contact Joan or Frank at the number below as soon as possible. The meal is catered and we would like a head count as soon as possible. Cost is $10 for members. Please try to arrive at 11:30 a.m. This will give us time for last-minute payments, 50/50 raffle, and the business meeting. Meal can then be served at noon. We will be having a wonderful meal catered by Casa Mia, followed by a sing-a-long and lots of fun. Don’t forget to bring your toy for the toy collection.
All you snowbirds are encouraged to pay your $20 dues for 2017 before you fly away to warmer climates. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

HOLIDAY SUPPORT PROGRAM
The D’Esopo Funeral Chapels of East Hartford and Wethersfield are hosting their 27th Annual Holiday Support Program and Service of Remembrance on Sunday, December 4 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Wethersfield Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street in Wethersfield. Please RSVP to Janet at 860-257-7635 or Janet@desopo.com.
OPEN HOUSE
Saint Christopher School will host an Open House on Tuesday, December 6, from 5-7 pm. Bring your 3 or 4 year old to see our beautiful Preschool and to meet our dynamic staff. Children can make a Christmas ornament to take home! Families who are exploring other options for their child in Grades K-8 are encouraged to visit and see what we have to offer in an environment of academic excellence and faith-based service to others. Save the date and join us! Questions? Contact Mrs. Welch at 860-568-4100 or welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
We welcome Albert Serruto and Edmund Thurz as new members of the St. Christopher Council. There is still time to receive information and consider joining the largest Catholic lay organization in the world.

The local council and assembly will meet this Thursday, December 1, in the church hall for their business meetings at the following times:

- 6:30 PM – Assembly meeting
- 7:30 PM – Council meeting

The council has purchased a new Catholic Information Services series of booklets that focus on family formation and spiritual life called Building the Domestic Church. We will be putting together a program for families with these booklets.

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
We extend our appreciation to the members of our Prayer Shawl Ministry for their generous gift of time and talent to prepare over 100 pocket prayer shawls that were handed out to those who attended our All Souls Mass of Remembrance earlier this month. We’re sure these pocket prayer shawls brought much comfort to everyone who received one.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers in the church hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. We meet again this Monday, November 28 but feel free to jump in at any time. Bring a friend. We have plenty of yarn and needles for those who wish to learn. If you would like to know more or would like to receive a shawl, please contact Santa Vallone at 860-569-1772.

BE PREPARED
Be prepared. It’s that simple. As this Advent season opens before us, the Lord Jesus summons us to stand ready for his coming. At this time of year much of our attention is focused on being prepared for the details that accompany the holiday season. We purchase gifts; we decorate our homes, inside and out; we prepare foods that we eat only during the holidays; we write and send Christmas cards; we attend holiday concerts; we prepare either to welcome family and friends into our homes or arrange for visits to their homes. We really can’t escape the details that make up the season. Perhaps this Advent is a time to attend to all those details with a different spin. As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas, why not be deliberate about acknowledging the presence of the Lord as we go about these tasks? The Lord often comes to us in wonderfully surprising ways. Let us be prepared.

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Blood Drive

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ December 2, 2016
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Podcast and Pizza every Wednesday in the parish center from 7-9 pm. Join us for pizza and great discussion! Please come to the side door by the playground and ring the doorbell!! If possible, RSVP to stchrisym@gmail.com.


PAINT NITE “FUN”DRAISER
Our Parish Council will be hosting a Paint Nite “Fun”draiser on Friday, January 13 from 6 - 9 p.m. in our parish hall. (Snow date is January 20.) An instructor from the Camp Simon Art Center will guide both beginners and advanced painters to create your own unique artwork. Plan to come to relax, find your inspiration and channel your inner artist. Adults only (21+). BYOB. Cost is $40 per person and includes all materials. To reserve your seat, contact Lori Brunette at 860-655-9367. All money is due by 1/5/17.

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# 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, December 4, 2016 – Second Sunday of Advent**

John the Baptist preaches in the Gospel, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” God has provided a sacramental way for us to repent and to receive his mercy. However, an “unused” Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is like a Christmas present that for many people sits “unopened” on the shelf. Take advantage of the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent season.

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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
Come join us for great food, great friends and pictures with Santa.

Many things to enjoy and entertain you this day.

Arts & Crafts | Drawings | 50/50 Drawing | Letters to Santa | Christmas Express

Thank you for your participation and hope to see many families there. We need volunteers for set up the day before and the day of. We ask that you contact Danielle Vargas to volunteer.

Adults $7.00  
Seniors $5.00  
Children 5-12 $4.00  
Under 5—Free  
Family $20.00

Volunteers and Questions please contact:
Event Chair - Danielle Vargas
Call or text [T] 860.235.5421  [E] stchrisdvg@gmail.com