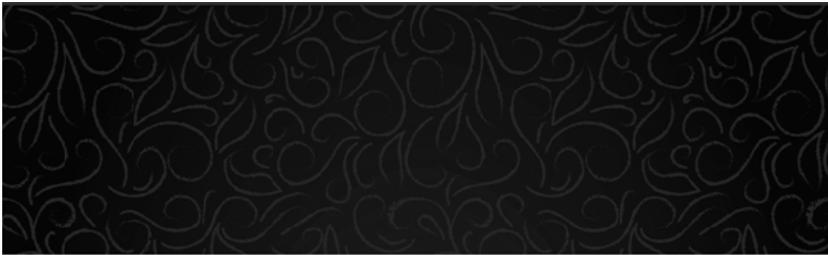


December 4, 2016 ~ Second Sunday of Advent



On that day, a shoot shall sprout
from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots
a bud shall blossom.

— Isaiah 11:1

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St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
860-568-5240 (Phone) • 860-568-0673 (Fax)
E-mail: stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net
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Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor
E-mail: pastorstchris@hotmail.com

Mr. Philip J. Gosselin, Deacon
E-mail: imgoose@comcast.net



StChristopherChurchEH

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



Second Sunday
of
Advent
December 4, 2016

“The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.”

– Isaiah 11:9



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*)

Monday, December 5 – 7:30 a.m.
Bill & Kay McCarthy (*Marion Sullivan*)

Tuesday, December 6 – 7:30 a.m.
Rose Rogosky Pendley – 21st Anniversary
and William L. Pendley
(*Niece Carolyn Kronen*)

Wednesday, December 7 – 7:30 a.m.
Lucille Laing (*Prayer Shawl Ministry*)

Thursday, December 8 – 7:30 a.m.
John & Louise Olinatz (*Children*)

Thursday, December 8 – 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Joseph Dilion

Thursday, December 8 – 5:30 p.m.
Monsignor Charles W. Daly

Saturday, December 10 – 4:00 p.m.
Dinis Leonardo (*Wife & Family*)

Sunday, December 11 – 8:00 a.m.
Felicia Chesery – 19th Anniversary
(*Daughter Madeline & Sam Cassarino*)

Sunday, December 11 – 10:30 a.m.
Helen & John Katin
(*The Katin & Brewer Families*)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (November 27): \$ 6,495*

*Includes \$1,271 received through our Online Giving program and \$968 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT

The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend supports our parish school. Thank you!

ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Our Annual Parish Appeal is underway! We thank those of you who have already responded to this year’s appeal and encourage those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider doing so. A gift in any amount will help us to reach our goal. Reminder letters will be going out this week to everyone who has not yet responded. If you did not receive the original mailing, you may pick up an Appeal packet at the main entrance of the church.

Parish Appeal Statistics (as of November 30)

Total # of Parish Families: 1,005

Total # of Participating Families: 147

% of Participation: 14.6%

Appeal Goal: \$50,000

Total Amount Pledged: \$34,050

Total Amount Received: \$32,425

Average Gift Amount: \$231.63

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

We must be good stewards of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

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

**The People of the
Saint Christopher Parish & School Community**

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Thursday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses on Thursday, December 8, will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

HEARTS AND HANDS TREE

It's time for our annual opportunity to help those in need. Take a heart or hand off of the tree in our sanctuary and purchase the item noted. Please place your gift, unwrapped, under the tree by December 11. The people at Synergy and Birthright are so in need of our love and support and a few needy families in the community will also benefit from the generosity of the Saint Christopher Community. We extend our appreciation to D'Esopo's Funeral Chapel in East Hartford for donating the tree for this program.

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.

A VERY GENEROUS GIFT

We wish to thank a dedicated, devoted and generous parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous, for recently donating a total of \$20,000 to support the needs of both our parish and parish school. We thank this parishioner and offer our prayers of gratitude for their thoughtfulness in helping to ensure the financial stability of our faith community.

CRIB OF PRAYER INTENTIONS

As Father John mentioned in his homily last weekend, during this Advent season, an empty crib has been placed in front of the church near the Advent wreath. Next to the crib is a basket filled with paper "straw." You are invited to write down on each paper something you are praying for during this Advent season. Then place the paper in the crib so that, by the time Christmas arrives, Jesus will be cradled by your prayers. What a beautiful way this is to prepare for the coming of Jesus "through whom comes everything that is good."

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We are 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 the family of Joe Kronen made this very request and \$680 has already been donated to the parish in Joe's memory. May he rest in God's eternal embrace.

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Members Christmas Party

Monday ~ December 5 ~ Lunch at 12 NOON

Members of our Social Club will be enjoying a wonderful meal catered by Casa Mia, followed by a sing-a-long and lots of fun. 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. Don't forget to bring your toy for the toy collection. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

Augie & Ray's at 314 Main Street in East Hartford is hosting a Christmas Tree Fundraiser to benefit St. Christopher School. Trees are being sold for \$30, \$40 and \$50. Our parish school will receive \$2 for every tree sold. As you make your purchase of a tree, mention that you are a member of the St. Christopher community and receive a \$5 gift certificate to Augie & Ray's. Free delivery to your home is available upon request. Please consider supporting their efforts.

HOMEFRONT

The HomeFront program provides free home repair to low-income homeowners. If you know any homeowners who could benefit from free repair assistance this spring, please let them know that help is available. Call 1-800-887-HOPE (4673) or visit homefrontprogram.org to obtain an application. The application deadline is December 13, 2016. All requests for help will remain confidential.

✠ IN MEMORIUM ✠

Please pray for these parishioners who have gone to eternal life during the month of November.

**Phillip Delaripa • James Grogan • Robert Judd
Joseph Kronen • Patricia Markey
Claire Stetson • William Wade**

*"If Christ is my life, then death is my gain."
- Philippians 1:21*

OPEN HOUSE

Saint Christopher School will host an Open House this 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.

FAMILY CHOIR

The next rehearsal of our Family Choir 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.

THE GUILD OF ST. AGNES

The Guild of St. Agnes wishes to thank you for your support during their membership drive. As we remember you and yours in prayer and at our monthly Mass, may the Lord bless you.

– Marion Sullivan
Parish Representative

ST. CHRIS COMMUNITY POTLUCK

You and your family are invited to a Pot Luck Celebration of Christmas on **Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m.** in our school's gym. We worship and work together throughout the year, so let us now celebrate the joys of Christmas together as a family – with friendship, food and holiday cheer. We will have crafts and games for the children. Please bring a main dish and/or a dessert to share. Hot and cold drinks will be provided. We will also be accepting free will offerings to benefit our parish's Food Bank. Let's help support them so they can continue to do their acts of kindness for our friends and neighbors in need. Please help spread the word. All are welcome! Help us to be prepared by letting us know you're coming. Please RSVP to Marie via e-mail: garabedian@comcast.net or call the parish office at 860-568-5240.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday ~ December 4

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

St. Christopher School Gymnasium

Tickets available at the door.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY!

Steve Cadwallader and Deacon Phil will be co-facilitating an Adult Bible Study group beginning Wednesday, January 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in our chapel. The group will meet every other Wednesday. Our study will begin with the Gospel of Mark. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Did you know, this year, the Knights...

- Have donated more than 72 million hours towards charitable activities.
- Have donated more than \$174 million to charity.
- Are now almost 2 million members throughout the world.

This week we are pitching in to help with the Breakfast with Santa at the school.

This coming month we will be collecting items for newborn babies that will be presented at a Baby Shower at St. Mary Church, New Haven for the Archdiocese Homes for Unwed Mothers.

There is still time for you and your family to make a difference and join the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 for more information.

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, please contact Lori Brunette at 860-655-9367. All money is due by 1/5/17.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Friday	Saturday	Sunday Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11: 1-10	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Isaiah 40: 25-31	Genesis 3: 9-15, 20	Isaiah 48: 17-19	Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11	Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10
Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Psalm 85: 9ab, 10-14	Psalm 96: 1-3, 10ac, 11-13	Psalm 103: 1-4, 8, 10	Psalm 98: 1-4	Psalm 1: 1-4, 6	Psalm 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19	Psalm 146: 6-10
Romans 15: 4-9				Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12			James 5: 7-10
Matthew 3: 1-12	Luke 5: 17-26	Matthew 18: 12-14	Matthew 11: 28-30	Luke 1: 26-38	Matthew 11: 16-19	Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13	Matthew 11: 2-11

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, December 11, 2016 – Third Sunday of Advent

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing!

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