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

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

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.
— Isaiah 35:1-2

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 11, 2016
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016

“Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.” – Isaiah 35:10a

Mass & Intents for the Week

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)

Monday, December 12 – 7:30 a.m.
Angele Lynch
(Friends)

Tuesday, December 13 – 7:30 a.m.
Charles George Verotsky – 18th Anniversary
and Mary Rogosky Verotsky
(Daughter Carolyn Kronen)

Wednesday, December 14 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Thursday, December 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado
(Wife Maria)

Saturday, December 17 – 4:00 p.m.
Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)

Sunday, December 18 – 8:00 a.m.
Ken Harrison, Jr.
(Family)

Sunday, December 18 – 10:30 a.m.
John Stebbins
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (December 4): $ 6,402*
Parish School Collection: $ 1,466**
*Includes $1,238 received through our Online Giving program and $1,050 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $175 received through our Online Giving program and $124 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our Saint Christopher Community.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today’s second collection.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Stewardship is, of course, based upon an “attitude of gratitude” and this Third Sunday of Advent (a.k.a. Gaudete Sunday) is a day to focus on the joy that results from that gratitude. Father Henri Nouwen was a well known Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. In describing the significance of this particular day, Father Nouwen clarified the difference between joy and happiness. He said, “While happiness is dependent upon external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that we are unconditionally loved by God and nothing – not sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take that love away. Joy can be present in the midst of sadness.”

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 Memory of
Laurette & Jean-Luc Belanger
(Julienne DeBlois)
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**
You are encouraged to take advantage of the gift of God’s loving forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation as you prepare to celebrate the birth of his mercy in the Christ child. Here is the schedule of when you can avail yourself of this opportunity before Christmas:

- **Saturday, December 17:** 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
- **Monday, December 19:** 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 21:** 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 24:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY**
Our monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grade 6. Everyone is invited!

**FAMILY CHOIR**
The next rehearsal of our Family Choir will be held in our chapel this 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 next Sunday, 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.

**GIFT CARDS**
Are there friends and family on your gift list who would appreciate receiving a gift card? Our parish school can help you purchase what you need. There are hundreds of gift cards available that you can purchase at face value. For every card you purchase, our parish school receives a cash rebate. Gift cards will be available for purchase next weekend after the 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses For more information or to pre-order your gift cards, please contact our school’s TCP coordinator, Ania Simpson at 860-966-9825 or at simpsonania@sbcglobal.net. You can see the large selection of the gift cards available by visiting shopwithscrip.com.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** meets this Monday, December 12 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in our church hall. All are invited. For more information, please contact Santa Vallone at 860-569-1772.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.
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.

ADVENT DISCERNMENT NIGHT
All young men aged 16-35 who are interested in learning more about the priesthood are invited to an informational gathering on Tuesday, December 20 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. There will be a short talk with practical suggestions for discerning the call that God has in store for you, some time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and a chance to hear the story of the vocation journey from a few of our seminarians. There’ll even be free pizza! To reserve a spot, please call or e-mail the Vocation Office by Dec. 16. 860-761-7457 or vocations@aohct.org. More information can be found at hartfordpriest.com.

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. Thank you!

ST. MARY’S ADORATION CHAPEL
Imagine spending a quiet hour with Jesus in a safe, comfortable location. We are blessed to have right here in East Hartford one of only 13 perpetual Adoration Chapels in the state. St. Mary’s Adoration Chapel, located at 15 Maplewood Avenue, is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Can you commit one hour a week to spend time with the Lord to sit and relax in the Presence of God and away from the struggles of the world? Please call St. Mary’s parish office at 860-289-7916 for the entrance code.

CRIB OF PRAYER INTENTIONS
As Father John mentioned in his homily on the First Sunday of Advent, 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.”

LETTER TO PARISHIONERS
Dear Parishioners of Saint Christopher Church,

For the last two years I have been discerning a vocation as a religious order priest with the Society of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles (M.S.A. for short). On Friday, January 6, 2017, four days after my 40th birthday, I will enter Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, CT. as a M.S.A. postulant. God willing, with a lot of prayer, study, and hard work, in six years I will be ordained a Roman Catholic priest as a member of the M.S.A. First and foremost, I need the prayers of everyone in this awesome community. You can learn more about the M.S.A. on their website, our charism, vocation, mission, and find a link about me at https://msausa.net/supporting-msa-vocations-friends-of-jesus and find out how you can assist me on my seminary journey.

The four years I spent as a teacher and parishioner at “Saint Chris’” were some of the best times of my life. We were so privileged to worship, pray, work, laugh and cry, and celebrate together. Each of you, your personal example of faith, hope, and love in the midst of “the stuff of life” is a genuine inspiration. Let us continue to pray for one another, and continue sharing the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with a world in desperate need of the truth proclaimed in love. You can always contact me at valentedm@hotmail.com and say hello via email. God bless all of you and thank you!

– Dan Valente

FOOD BANK - Packing & Delivery Help Needed. Volunteers who can help pack the Christmas baskets are asked to be at South Congregational Church on Forbes St. on Thursday, Dec. 15 by 9:00 a.m. Volunteers who can help with delivery are asked to be at South Congregational Church on Sunday, Dec. 18 by 10:00 a.m.
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab</td>
<td>Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13</td>
<td>Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25</td>
<td>Isaiah 54:1-10</td>
<td>Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8</td>
<td>Genesis 49:2, 8-10</td>
<td>Isaiah 7:10-14</td>
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<td>Psalm 146:6-10</td>
<td>Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23</td>
<td>Psalm 85:9ab, 10-14</td>
<td>Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b</td>
<td>Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 7-8</td>
<td>Psalm 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17</td>
<td>Psalm 24:1-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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James 5:7-10


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

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, December 18, 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

In the Gospel according to Matthew, we read that Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God’s plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

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

What is Lectio Divina?

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Monday

Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab

Tuesday

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13

Wednesday

Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25

Thursday

Isaiah 54:1-10

Friday

Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8

Saturday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10

Sunday

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Psalm 146:6-10

Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23

Psalm 85:9ab, 10-14

Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 7-8

Psalm 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17

Psalm 24:1-6

Psalm 3:11

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Luke 1:39-47

Matthew 21:28-32

Luke 7:18b-23

Luke 7:24-30

John 5:33-36

Matthew 1:1-17

Matthew 1:18-24

Parish Contact: "Let us take a moment in the midst of all our activity to prepare ourselves for prayer."

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