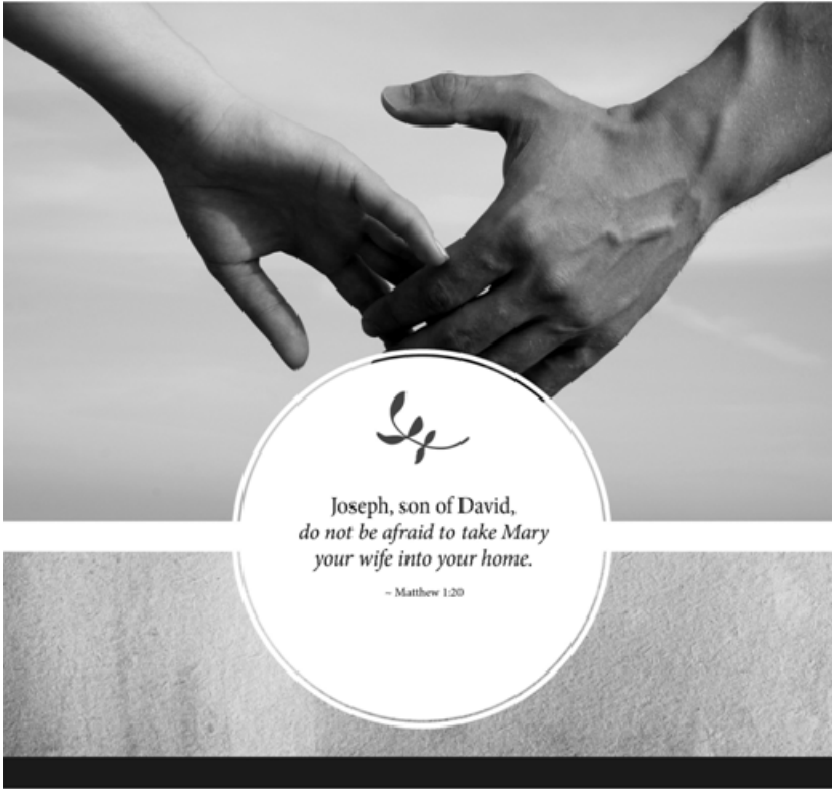


Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 18, 2016



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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](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.stchris-eh.org](http://www.stchris-eh.org)



Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor  
E-mail: [pastorstchris@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorstchris@hotmail.com)

Mr. Philip J. Gosselin, Deacon  
E-mail: [imgoose@comcast.net](mailto: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



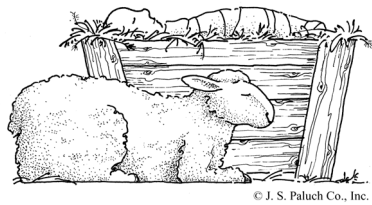
## ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Welch, Principal  
Audrey Cesana, Secretary  
[www.saintchristopherschool.org](http://www.saintchristopherschool.org)  
860-568-4100



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Maria Sousa 860-895-8692  
[stchrisre@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisre@gmail.com)



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**Fourth Sunday  
of  
Advent  
December 18, 2016**

*“They shall name him Emmanuel, which means  
“God is with us.” – Matthew 1:23*

*Mass*  *for the  
Intentions* *Week*

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*)

Monday, December 19 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Frank Wroniak** (*Grandparents*)

Tuesday, December 20 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Mark Tardiff & Debbie Fallacaro**  
(*Family*)

Wednesday, December 21 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Margaret Gallo** (*Mike & Maria Gallo*)

Thursday, December 22 – 7:30 a.m.  
**Adrienne Brumbaum**  
(*Elmer & Omerine Gendreau*)

Saturday, December 24 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Robert Boardman, Sr.** (*Wife Helen*)  
**John & Margaret Grogan** (*Daughter Helen*)  
**Mike Grogan** (*Sister Helen*)

Saturday, December 24 – 10:00 p.m.  
**Fred Schifer**  
**In Remembrance of His Birthday  
and Merry Christmas**  
(*Wife & Family*)

Sunday, December 25 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Adrien, Rena, Jim and Louise Cyr**  
(*Paul & Angie Parent*)

Sunday, December 25 – 10:30 a.m.  
**For the People of the Parish**

**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected (December 4): \$ 5,128\*  
Immaculate Conception: \$ 980  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$ 1,764

\*Includes \$688 received through our Online Giving program and \$410 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family and of the Retirement Fund for Religious.

**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. Thank you!

**Parish Appeal Statistics**  
(as of December 14)

Total # of Parish Families: 1,005  
Total # of Participating Families: 177  
% of Participation: 17.6%  
Appeal Goal: \$50,000  
Total Amount Pledged: \$38,200  
Total Amount Received: \$36,775  
Average Gift Amount: 215.82

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FR. JOHN!**

We extend our warmest congratulations to Fr. John as he celebrates his 30th year of Ordination this coming week. Fr. John was ordained on December 20, 1986 by Archbishop John F. Whealon at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. We pray that the Lord grants him many more happy, healthy and grace filled years.

**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  
Maurice “Moe” Harden**  
(*Wife Mary & Family*)

### 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:

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

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

**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! E-mail [welchk@saintchristopherschool.org](mailto:welchk@saintchristopherschool.org) or call the school office at 860-568-4100 for more information.

### GIFT CARDS

#### Available this Weekend

#### after the 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses

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. 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](mailto:simpsonania@sbcglobal.net). You can see the large selection of the gift cards available by visiting [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com).

### 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."

### HELP US DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

We will be decorating our church this Friday, December 23 at 2:00 p.m. We invite any adult who wishes to help us decorate to join us. Many hands will make light work, so we hope you can help us prepare our church for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.



## CHRISTMAS MASS AND CONFESSION SCHEDULE



### Christmas Eve – December 24

**4:00 p.m.**

(Family Choir Prelude Program begins at 3:45 pm)

**10:00 p.m.**

(Chancel Choir's Prelude Program begins at 9:40 pm)

### Christmas Day – December 25

**8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

### Confessions

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

## COAT, GLOVE AND SOCK DRIVE

The students in our religious education program wish to thank those of you who have already supported their coat, glove and sock drive. The items that have been collected so far have been delivered to the East Hartford Shelter. 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!

## 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 Claire Stetson made this very request and \$45 has already been donated to the parish in Claire's memory. May she rest in God's eternal embrace.

## STREET PARKING

We were reminded this week that parking on either side of the street in front of our church is not allowed on Sunday mornings between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. We encourage you not to park in the street during these hours as you will be subject to a parking fine as the East Hartford Police will be taking notice. We also wish to remind you that the driveway between the church and the rectory is not for parking as it must remain open for emergency vehicles.

## MEN'S RETREAT

Men from our parish and from around the Archdiocese are joining Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection to explore the simple and transformative message at the heart of Jesus' teaching. Discover how simplicity can shine a light on what is truly essential and important in our lives. Be renewed and inspired by the paradox of simplicity and the gift of faith. The retreat includes home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time and workshops. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday January 13 at 6:00 p.m. and concludes on Sunday, January 15 with a brunch at noon. Deacon Phil has attended several of these retreats and would be happy to share his experience with you. You can see him after Mass or reach him at 860-568-5001 or at [imgoose@comcast.net](mailto:imgoose@comcast.net). For more information about the retreat and to register, please visit the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford at [holyfamilyretreat.org](http://holyfamilyretreat.org) or contact Deacon Phil.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Christopher Council #4 will not hold their member Pot-Luck Supper on the third Tuesday this month. Instead we will join the parish/school community for a pot-luck supper in the school gym this weekend.

Members who have not taken the higher degrees should plan to take the 2nd & 3rd degrees on Sunday, January 29 at St. Mark's community center in West Hartford. For more information contact the Grand Knight.

The Knights will be sponsoring a Basketball Free Throw Tournament in January for boys and girls ages 9 to 14. A Substance Abuse Poster Contest will be held during the coming month for the same age group. Applications will be available through members of the council.

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 info.

**OFFERTORY GIFTS** - We invite you to participate in our weekend liturgies by bringing up the gifts of bread and wine to be offered. If you're interested, please take the wooden fish from the gift table before the start of Mass.

## LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday The Nativity of the Lord
Isaiah 7: 10-14	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a	Isaiah 7: 10-14	Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3: 14-18a	1 Samuel 1: 24-28	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-34	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Isaiah 52: 7-10
Psalm 24: 1-6	Psalm 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17	Psalm 24: 1-4ab, 5-6	Psalm 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21	1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8abcd	Psalm 25: 4-5ab, 8-10, 14	Psalm 89: 2-5, 27, 29	Psalm 98: 1-6
Romans 1: 1-7							Hebrews 1: 1-6
Matthew 1: 18-24	Luke 1: 5-25	Luke 1: 26-38	Luke 1: 39-45	Luke 1: 46-56	Luke 1: 57-66	Luke 1: 67-79	John 1: 1-18

### 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."

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www.paulistpress.com*

**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 25, 2016 – The Nativity of the Lord

Not all of us will have a "Merry Christmas" this year in the usual sense. Sickness, disability, unemployment, family troubles, loneliness – these may dull the edge of our own holiday joy. Christmas trials can actually be beneficial in bringing us closer still to the chill poverty of the stable where Christ was born. Then we can pray with deep personal feeling the prayer of Midnight Mass: "May we share His life completely by living as He has taught!"

## 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