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

The Epiphany of the Lord ~ January 8, 2017

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

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
– Matthew 2:11b
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2017

“They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” – Matthew 2:11b

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 1): $ 5,628*
Solemnity of Mary: $ 1,410
What We Collected (December 25): $ 12,561**

*Includes $1,233 received through our Online Giving program and $280 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes $703 received through our Online Giving program, $250 from mail-in offerings and one family’s donation in the amount of $2,500.

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!

TAX STATEMENTS
We are happy to provide tax statements to our parishioners who request one. If you regularly use your envelopes to make your offerings to our parish and wish to receive a tax statement, please contact the parish office by phone or e-mail.

SNOW STORMS AND DAILY MASS
Daily Mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m. regardless of any overnight or early morning snow storms this winter. However, those who attend daily Mass are urged to use prudence and caution in deciding whether or not to attend.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
We remember the three wise men from the East who come to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts we bring — our time, service, and some share of what we earn for the work we do — are especially precious in His sight.

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 Peace on Earth
and Goodwill Toward Men
IN GRATITUDE
As we reach the end of the Christmas season, I want to thank all of those who helped to make it a beautiful celebration of the birth of our Lord. I am grateful to those who participated in our Giving Tree Program. Special thanks to those who decorated our church so beautifully, to those in our Music Ministry who gladdened our hearts with joyful sound, to those who enriched our worship as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Ushers and Greeters. Truly the child Jesus was given honor and praise by our parish family of Saint Christopher’s. May God bless you in this new year.

– Father John

MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTRY
Please congratulate again the St. Christopher Chancel Choir For their annual Christmas prelude concert, and yet another glorious success. Please allow me to correct an inadvertent oversight in our Christmas program. Julie Munley was the soloist in Child of Light.

I offer my sincerest admiration and unceasing applause for their good cheer, hard work dedication, and love of God. It is an honor and a privilege to direct them. I always thank them and ask them to be acknowledged with these notices, but my words are never adequate to express the scope of my regard. For all that they give to me and the Parish, I am so glad to see in them the many well-documented benefits, cognitive and other, of formal music education. I know everyone is blessed by hearing them preach and teach the word through their singing, but my wish is for everyone to appreciate how they continue to advance in reading and following their music as well as harmonizing and blending as a cohesive group, which means in the context the music, they are learning to relate to each other. Each time you hear them, they are able to present music of increasing complexity and difficulty. They have sung in this last year from every style and period of music as well as in multiple languages. You have heard Baroque and Romantic classical, contemporary, traditional, spirituals, gospels, canons, and even some examples of early music. You also hear how they continue to learn and improve the technique of their singing, demonstrated by their wonderful group sound along with each member performing in 2016 as an unamplified soloist during our Easter and Christmas programs. There are many times when they have sung and sounded as well as any professional ensemble. As a professional musician and teacher, I understand in detail what all of this means and how much work and dedication it takes to achieve it. I am far better with music than with words, but I hope by at least trying to share a few more of the latter with you than I usually would, that you can share more fully in that understanding and appreciation with me of these wonderful individuals. They are made all the more wonderful because they truly do it all for the glory of God. Hats off to all of them, always!

– Roberta H. De Fiore, Director of Music

MEN’S RETREAT - LAST CHANCE
Join men from our parish and from around the Archdiocese at the Holy Family Men’s Retreat next weekend, January 13-15. The retreat includes home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, uplifting music, free time and workshops. For more information or to register, please visit holyfamilyretreat.org or you may contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net for assistance.

FAMILY CHOIR REHEARSAL
The next rehearsal of the Family Choir will be held in our chapel this Wednesday, Jan. 11 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 January 22 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education, at 860-895-8692.

PAINTING OF OUR CHURCH
We’re sure you’ve noticed that the sanctuary in our church has been repainted. It’s the first step in an ongoing effort to repaint the entire church. If you would like to help move this project forward to the next step, then please consider donating to a fund we’ve set aside only for this purpose. Your contribution may be inserted in an envelope marked “Paint Fund” and can be placed either in the collection basket or sent through the mail. To make it even more convenient for you, special envelopes have been made up for you to use that can be found near the bulletins. **We’re off to a good start as $1,555 has already been donated.** We are grateful to those who have donated to this fund, which includes one family who made a donation of $1,000.

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**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. Please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477 for more information.

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOOD BANK**
I would like to thank everyone who volunteered at our food bank in 2016 and those who volunteered their time at Thanksgiving and Christmas to pack and/or deliver.

We packed approximately 10-11 baskets for our church families for each holiday and we packed 43 baskets at Thanksgiving and 53 at Christmas for families in our community.

This year we were able to give our church families a chicken and a ham for Christmas and New Year’s Day! We especially tried to buy some extra goodies for the children.

I also cannot forget those of you who each week so generously donate food and/or make monetary donations. We are so fortunate to have such a loving and caring parish. You should all feel truly proud knowing we can provide food for those in need and also that we are able to provide a little extra for the families with children.

Even though this holiday season has ended, we will be looking forward to Easter in a few months. This will really be for our church families only. It is my understanding we do not do food baskets through the town as we do over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. If you know anyone who will be in need of a basket at Easter, let me or Bonnie know.

If anyone in our parish family has a situation that comes up – illness, unemployment, etc. and they are in need of food on a short-term basis, please do not hesitate to contact me or Bonnie and we will do our best to help. If someone is in need on a regular basis, they should contact Danny Rosario at East Hartford Social Services 860-291-7226 to see if they qualify for a once-a-month pick up.

Thank you again and may God bless each of you with a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2017!

– Diane Warner, Food Bank Coordinator

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**ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL**
(as of January 4)
Total # of Parish Families: 1,005
Total # of Participating Families: 218
% of Participation: 21.69%
Appeal Goal: $50,000
Total Amount Pledged: $48,965
Total Amount Received: $48,165
Average Gift Amount: $224.61

**PAINT NITE “FUN”draiser**
Registration Deadline w/Payment
Extended to Tuesday, January 10
Our Parish Council will be hosting a Paint Nite “Fun”draiser this 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. You will take home a beautiful 16” x 20” canvas painting of a colorful dragonfly that you created. To reserve your seat and join the more than 30 people who have already registered, please contact Lori Brunette at 860-655-9367.

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**SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL HOSTING OPEN HOUSES** - Our parish school will be hosting two Open Houses this month: Wednesday, January 11 and Tuesday, January 31 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. each evening. We offer more than 50 years of Catholic education excellence! Looking for a full or part-time program for your 3 or 4 year old? Thinking about Kindergarten for your child? Maybe your older child needs a new option for learning? Come see what we’re about! Visit our PreK 3 & 4 through grade 8 classes. See why our graduates are so successful in high school and beyond. Please join us!! Help us to spread the word. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Welch at 860-568-4100 or welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13</td>
<td>Psalm 29: 1-4, 3, 9-10</td>
<td>Psalm 8: 2ab, 5, 6-9</td>
<td>Psalm 105: 1-4, 6-9</td>
<td>Psalm 95: 6-11</td>
<td>Psalm 78: 3, 4bc, 6c-8</td>
<td>Psalm 19: 8-10, 15</td>
<td>Psalm 40: 2, 4, 7-10</td>
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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.

Reflection for Next Sunday, January 15, 2017 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
John the Baptist’s sense of purpose is clearly identified in the Gospel: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John’s witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

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
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
Robert 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