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

St. Christopher Church EH

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ January 15, 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
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 15, 2017

“I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

– Isaiah 49:6b

Mass Intents for the Week

Saturday, January 14 – 4:00 p.m.
Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Sunday, January 15 – 8:00 a.m.
Bruce Daugherty
(Tony & Maria Sousa)

Sunday, January 15 – 10:30 a.m.
John Chenette
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Monday, January 16 – 7:30 a.m.
Theresa A. Hoffman
(Ken and Louellen Johnson)

Tuesday, January 17 – 7:30 a.m.
John & Louise Olinatz
(Children)

Wednesday, January 18 – 7:30 a.m.
Emma & Vincent Mondo
Consuelo Railton
(The Mondo Family)

Thursday, January 19 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado (Wife Maria)

Saturday, January 21 – 4:00 p.m.
Velma Castonguay
(Sister Omerine & Elmer Gendreau)

Sunday, January 22 – 8:00 a.m.
Mr. & Mrs. Carmelo Gallo
(Mike & Maria Gallo)

Sunday, January 22 – 10:30 a.m.
Alice Baron – 16th Anniversary
(Daughter Lisa Jacobs & Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 8): $3,953*
(Weekend of Winter Storm Breanna)

Parish School Collection: $1,335**

*Includes $683 received through our Online Giving program and $225 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes $215 received through our Online Giving program and $241 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION
Next weekend we will take up the annual High School Collection which supports the Catholic high schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Your donation will assist them as they foster educational excellence and prepare young people to become productive citizens and church leaders. Your gift is an investment that will continue to pay dividends.

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.

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
Debbie Fallacaro
(Family)
ADULT BIBLE STUDY!
Steve Cadwallader and Deacon Phil will be co-facilitating an Adult Bible Study group beginning this 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.

SHUTTER ANGEL
We wish to thank a special “Shutter Angel” (who wishes to remain anonymous) for donating and installing new shutters on a window at the west side entrance of our church. We appreciate that they noticed that these shutters were in need of repair and that they offered their help. We appreciate their kindness!

THE MARY FOUNDATION ROSARY
Available at all entrances of our church is a supply of CDs that were donated by a parishioner of St. Mary’s Church in East Hartford. This Rosary CD is easy to pray with every day and a perfect tool for learning the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet; pleasant voices, perfect pacing, and no distracting music. Please feel free to take a copy for yourself and for anyone else you think would enjoy using it.

A NEW CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT
Beginning this month, the Catholic Transcript newspaper will be transformed into a full-color magazine, which will be sent for free to more than 192,000 Catholic households in Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield counties. The new publication will dynamically advance the tradition of a beloved, respected, award-winning newspaper with roots dating back to 1829.

In magazine format, the Catholic Transcript will continue to be the communications centerpiece of Catholic news and information for our archdiocesan family of faith. Its visibility and relevance will be greatly enhanced thanks to its digital presence, social media interconnectivity, evangelizing content, and distribution of 10 times a year to more than double the number of Catholic households than in the recent past. The Catholic Transcript’s transformation is in direct response to the Office of Pastoral Planning’s Your Voice Counts survey.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
Our monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, January 22 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grade 2. Everyone is invited and donations of baked goods are always appreciated.

PAINTING OF OUR CHURCH
The painting of our church sanctuary was 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 $1,675 has already been donated. We are grateful to those of you who made a donation to this fund.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4 membership and their families will hold their Family Pot-luck Dinner Tuesday, January 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the church hall. The entrées will be lasagna casseroles with members bringing side dishes and desserts. The council will be presenting Altar Server Awards to all Altar Servers in attendance, and their families are invited to participate in the supper as well. The Family of the Month Awards will also be presented for December and January. All parish Knight families are invited to attend. Please contact the Grand Knight to contribute.

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.

A Substance Abuse Poster Contest will be held during the coming month for boys and girls ages 9 to 14. 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 more information.
“SAVE THE STORKS” COFFEEHOUSE  
Sunday, January 22 ~ 7:00-8:30 pm ~ Church Hall

Join us for music, fellowship and food at the Save the Storks Coffeehouse! Saint Christopher’s Youth Ministry is joining youth programs and churches all over the US who are hosting events to benefit Save the Storks, an organization which partners with pregnancy resource centers and gives abortion-vulnerable women a choice that will change their lives forever. They have funded roughly 40 bus projects (20 on the road and 20 in production), gained over 165,000 supporters, and saved over 1,000 babies. The bus projects are mobile pregnancy crisis centers that go out to where the women are who need help.

Admission is a suggested donation of $5, but we will accept any offer! This event is open to all ages. In addition to audience members, we are also looking for donations of baked goods and MUSICIANS! Would you be willing to strum your guitar or play your drum, or your flute, or cello, or sousaphone or perhaps the piano we have in the church hall? If you’d like to sign up as a musician to help women in crisis and make us all smile, please contact Kristi Gillespie at stchrisym@gmail.com.

2017 CALENDARS

We are most grateful to the Newkirk & Whitney and Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Homes for supplying us with calendars for 2017. They can be found at the entrances to the church.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL HOSTING OPEN HOUSE

Our parish school will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, January 31 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. 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.

ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL  
(as of January 11)

As you will notice, we are less than $1,000 away from reaching our Appeal goal. Your support in any amount will help us reach our goal. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Total # of Parish Families: 1,005
Total # of Participating Families: 219
% of Participation: 21.79%
Appeal Goal: $50,000
Total Amount Pledged: $49,115
Total Amount Received: $48,340
Average Gift Amount: $224.27

A MUSIC MINISTRY PRAYER  
(Submitted by Roberta De Fiore)

Gracious and loving God,
Our souls are filled with the power and joy of Your song of Creation.
Our hearts dance to the beat of Your rhythm as we raise our voices in response to Your call.
Wrapped in the arms of Your sustaining and eternal Love, we offer our gift of music.
We pray that all who listen will hear with understanding, and open themselves to feel Your presence through the joy in our voices and the passion in our hearts.
We work to learn and improve, all for Your glory, because we know You do not want the gifts that cost us nothing.
We pray that all who listen will feel their spirits touched by the wonder of Your mystery, and add their own voices to our joyful noise.
May we ourselves continue to be uplifted in knowing our singing touches, edifies, and uplifts many others in our faith community.
May we sing always with hearts open to Your presence and Your power.
Amen!
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.

Reflection for Next Sunday, January 22, 2017 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do not neglect the first step into the net of Jesus, the step of “repentance” – which is also the first teaching of Jesus. The Church responds to Jesus by reminding us that the call from Jesus is “personal” for each one of us. It is then our responsibility to be a personal witness within the common mission of spreading the good news.

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

EXCERPTS FROM SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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