

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
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St. Christopher Parish

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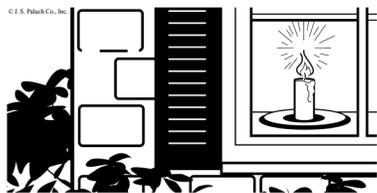


Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor
E-mail: pastorstchris@hotmail.com

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



StChristopherChurchEH



Third Sunday
in
Ordinary Time
January 22, 2017

“Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted,
and wait for the LORD.”

– Psalm 27:14

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

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)

Monday, January 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Antonio Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Tuesday, January 24 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Wednesday, January 25 – 7:30 a.m.
Angele Lynch
(Friend)

Thursday, January 26 – 7:30 a.m.
Robert Oliver
(Ken & Louellen Johnson)

Saturday, January 28 – 4:00 p.m.
Jeremiah B. Sullivan
(Daughter Marion)

Sunday, January 29 – 8:00 a.m.
Katherine Abenavoli
(Tony & Maria Sousa)

Sunday, January 29 – 10:30 a.m.
John Leonard
(Bruce & Barbara Manner)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (January 15): \$ 5,334*

*Includes \$583 received through our Online Giving program and \$330 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION

This weekend we are taking 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.

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.

THE LIGHT OF LIFE

The prophet Isaiah again records a remarkable prophecy in our First Reading. Within the context of this Scriptural reading Isaiah says, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” The prophecy speaks of the coming of the Messiah, the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. Thus, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

Christ is still the light of the world, and He still provides this light and hope to those of us who may feel like we are in darkness and distress. We must embrace Him nonetheless and follow His way by becoming His disciple. If we do that, our lives will indeed be filled with light and great rejoicing. It is up to us to respond. The Lord tells us, “I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in dark, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

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 Unborn Children

May they be lovingly welcomed into this world.

“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. Donations of baked goods are welcome.



Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Thomas Kearns Adams

PAINT NITE “FUN”DRAISER

Our Paint Nite “Fun”draiser was held on Friday evening, January 13. Forty-six people attended and had a great time painting their dragonfly pictures while enjoying the company of each other. Photos of this successful event can be seen on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StChristopherChurchEH. (You do not need an account to view the photos. Simply click “Not Now” if prompted to do so.)

Proceeds from this event, which totaled \$730, will be used for church facility improvements. We are grateful to all who attended and supported this fundraiser.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY!

Our Adult Bible Study group met for the first time this past week. This group will meet every other Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in our chapel. It meets again on February 1. Come when you can...we’re not taking attendance, no tests, no grades...we just want to expose you to reading, studying and praying with Scripture. For more information, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week is January 29 - February 3. Our own observance will begin next weekend as children from our school will participate in various ways at all the Masses. The main celebration will take place at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, January 29. It will be followed by a reception in the church hall. Please contact Marie Garabedian at garabedian@comcast.net or at 860-836-5514 to offer your help with the reception. Our parish is rightfully proud of the wonderful school we have. Since it’s founding in 1963, Saint Chris has produced outstanding graduates who are making a significant difference in the church, in the community and in the world. Thank you for your support and please spread the word about our excellent school where children are given a strong foundation to “Learn, Love and Lead” along the way of Jesus Christ.

**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.

PASTRY WITH THE PARISH

Help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week by joining us at Saint Christopher School on Wednesday morning, February 1, between 8:00-9:00 am for some pastry, coffee and juice. Come after morning Mass! Stop in before school or work! Visit the school and have a breakfast treat before starting your day. We would love to see you! Hope you can join us!

St. Christopher Church Hall

Friday ~ February 10, 2017

1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please call **1-800-Red Cross** (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.



STRING QUARTET CONCERT

Sunday ~ February 12 ~ 3:00 p.m.

We are excited to announce that The Mountain Road String Quartet will be performing for us again this year. For those of you who were fortunate to attend last year's concert, we're sure you'll agree that it was a lovely performance by a very talented group. One member of this group is our parishioner Michael Hwang. This concert is open to the public with no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the East Hartford Food Banks. The concert will be followed by a light reception where the audience may enjoy refreshments and fellowship and an opportunity to greet the performers.

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.

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 \$1,740 has already been donated.** We are grateful to those of you who made a donation to this fund.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CELEBRATION

The 10th annual Archdiocesan Marriage Enrichment Celebration will be held on Sat., Feb. 4 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Mary Our Queen Church, 248 Savage St., Plantsville, CT. Celebrate our Sacrament with other married couples for Mass, prayer, and a good deal of laughter focusing on the theme: "Weddings, Wines and Miraculous Times: Jesus' Gift at Cana". \$25.00 per couple; includes dinner and a wine tasting. Register by January 29. Contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860-621-7858 or at dfinnmspt@sbcglobal.net.

GIFT CARDS

We are unable to offer gift card sales after Masses this weekend. If you would like to purchase one or more gift cards, please contact our school's TCP coordinator, Ania Simpson at 860-966-9825 or at simpsonania@sbcglobal.net or you may contact the parish office. You can see the large selection of gift cards that are available at shopwithscrip.com. For every card you purchase at face value, our parish school receives a cash rebate. This is such an easy way to support our school.

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. Two deliveries have already been made 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 winter. Thank you!

PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL & SPAIN

Archbishop Blair will lead a pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. The pilgrimage is from September 24 to October 2, 2017. For all the details, you may view the flyer at this web address: <http://archdioceseofhartford.org/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/fatima-flyer2017.pdf>.

ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

(as of January 18)

As you will notice, we are less than \$1,000 away from reaching our Appeal goal. Will you be the one to help us reach our goal? Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

- Total # of Parish Families: 1,005
- Total # of Participating Families: 221
- % of Participation: 21.79%
- Appeal Goal: \$50,000
- Total Amount Pledged: \$49,168
- Total Amount Received: \$48,668
- Average Gift Amount: \$222.48

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3	Hebrews 9: 15, 24-28	Hebrews 10: 1-10	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22	2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5	Hebrews 10: 32-39	Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19	Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
Psalm 27: 1, 4, 13-14	Psalm 98: 1-6	Psalm 40: 2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11	Psalm 117: 1bc, 2	Psalm 96: 1-3, 7-8a, 10	Psalm 37: 3-6, 23-24, 39-40	Luke 1: 69-75	Psalm 146: 6-10
1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17							1 Corinthians 1: 26-31
Matthew 4: 12-23	Mark 3: 22-30	Mark 3: 31-35	Mark 16: 15-18	Mark 4: 21-25	Mark 4: 26-34	Mark 4: 35-41	Matthew 5: 1-12a

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.

<p>Call to Prayer: "Let us take a moment in the midst of all our activity to prepare ourselves for prayer."</p> <p style="font-size: small;"><i>Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks Used with permission of Paulist Press www.paulistpress.com</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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Reflection for Next Sunday, January 29, 2017 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES

Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Richard "Mac" McCarthy

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HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930
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"...but not too busy to take your prayer requests!"

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION

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Dianne Rumsey

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Roger Dube

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

Roger Dionne

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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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