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

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
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 29, 2017

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
– Matthew 5:3

Mass for the Week

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)

Monday, January 30 – 7:30 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo
(Mom & Daughters)

Tuesday, January 31 – 7:30 a.m.
Normand Daigle
(Helen LeBlanc)

Wednesday, February 1 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. Stanislaw Ryszard Staron

Thursday, February 2 – 7:30 a.m.
Helen Kosiorek Kronen – 31st Anniversary
and Stanley Walter Kronen
(Carolyn Kronen)

Saturday, February 4 – 4:00 p.m.
Jimmy Shepley – 2nd Anniversary (Family)

Sunday, February 5 – 8:00 a.m.
Esther Hartl – 25th Anniversary (Family)

Sunday, February 5 – 10:30 a.m.
Deceased Members of the Abejar Family
Victorino, Rosario, Benjamen, Briccio,
Arturo, Vincente, Elena, Cecelia, Maria and Romeo (Leonie Cumento & Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 22): $ 6,240
High School Collection: $ 1,211
• Includes $623 received through our Online Giving program and $1,090 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of both our parish family and the Catholic High Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
The Gospel Reading for today is what is popularly called the Sermon on the Mount. Many think it is the absolute epitome of Jesus’ teachings – it tells us how we are to live our lives, the attitudes we are to have. It begins with what we call the Beatitudes (the word means “blessings”) with “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” In a sense we are all “poor in spirit.” Without the guidance and strength provided us by the Lord there is no way we can escape this poverty of spirit, of spirituality, if you will. That is why we often say that living God-centered lives is at the very core of stewardship. Being a disciple of Christ translates into being a steward of our many gifts and blessings. Some scholars believe that Jesus may have given this sermon often during His ministry. Those who followed Jesus and became the earliest Christians, the first members of the Church, were fond of quoting and referring to what the Lord said on this occasion. As stated, Jesus provides us with the secret of living a good life. If we rely on Him and follow Him, we will be blessed. –www.catholicsteward.com/blog

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
Doris E. Steeves
(Joe & Jean Martocci)
PASTRY WITH THE PARISH
Help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week by joining us at Saint Christopher School this 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!

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL HOSTING OPEN HOUSE
Our parish school will be hosting an Open House this 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.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
Our parish school is most grateful for the number of Box Tops for Education coupons we receive from you! Clipped coupons can be placed in our offertory baskets any weekend. Ask your friends to save them too. Thank you!

GIFT CARDS
Another easy way to support our school is to purchase gift cards through our school’s TCP program. For every card you purchase at face value, our parish school receives a cash rebate. 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 you can use for your everyday use at shopwithscrip.com.
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Our Adult Bible Study group meets every other Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in our chapel. It meets again this Wednesday, 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.

PAINTING OF OUR CHURCH
The painting of our church sanctuary was the first step in an ongoing effort to repaint the entire church. We're looking for your help in keeping this effort moving forward. 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. $1,790 has already been received. We are grateful to those of you who have donated!

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB
Monday ~ February 6 ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Church Hall
Our 2017 club year will start with a few rousing games of Concentration. Fun for all, as we try to guess the puzzle answers. Because of increased expenses, our members voted last year to raise the yearly dues. This will help us to continue to provide quality programs and entertainment. Dues of $20 for the 2017 calendar year are now due. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2017, please see Regina and Ray at the Membership table as you arrive for the meeting. In the event of inclement weather, please watch WFSB or WVIT for cancellation information. Do you know someone who might be interested in joining the club? Bring them along to see if we are a good fit for them. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

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.

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 Normand Daigle made this very request and $45 has been donated in Normand’s memory. May he rest in God’s eternal embrace.

EIGHTH ANNUAL PIN MINISTRY BAKE SALE...will be held the weekend of February 11/12 after all Masses. Donations of baked goods are very much welcomed (and needed) and can be brought to the church hall prior to each Mass. Please plan to stop by to support the efforts of our PIN Ministry, and to help them to continue to help others.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
The local council and assembly will meet this Thursday, February 2, in the church hall for their business meetings: Assembly meeting at 6:30 PM and the Council meeting at 7:30 PM.

Knights who have not planned to take the higher degrees this weekend in West Hartford should plan to take the 2nd & 3rd degrees on Sunday March 5, at St. Francis Cabrini Parish Center in North Haven. For more information contact the Grand Knight. Those 3rd Degree members wishing to take the Patriotic Fourth Degree Exemplification should contact the Faithful Navigator, Ernest Mintel at 860-569-7593 to apply by March 18. The ceremony will be held Sunday, April 30, in New Haven.

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.

EIGHTH ANNUAL PIN MINISTRY BAKE SALE...

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.
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, February 5, 2017 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Salt and Light are not idle words; they are metaphors for Mission. This mission takes us down a path of evangelization, self-sacrifice, and service. Whenever you see the Easter candle by the baptismal font, remember its meaning: the baptized have become “the light of the world” in Christ, the true Light.

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: stchrismym@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