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: Fr.Gwozdz@aohct.org

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

St. Christopher Church
538 Brewer Street
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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 5, 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

Light shines through the darkness for the upright.
—Psalm 12:4

Like us on Facebook
StChristopherChurchEH
St. Christopher Church ~ East Hartford, CT

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 5, 2017

“Light shines through the darkness for the upright.”
– Psalm 112:4

Mass for the Week

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)

Monday, February 6 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz (Family)

Tuesday, February 7 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. Louis A. Evangelisto

Tuesday, February 7 – 9:00 a.m.
In Appreciation for Mrs. Kathleen Welch

Wednesday, February 8 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Thursday, February 9 – 7:30 a.m.
Stanley Thomas Kronen – 4th Anniversary
Joe H. Kronen – 3 Month Anniversary
(Carolyn V. Kronen)

Saturday, February 11 – 4:00 p.m.
Eleanor Domler – 5th Anniversary
(Husband & Family)

Sunday, February 12 – 8:00 a.m.
Anna Dube (Tony & Maria Sousa)

Sunday, February 12 – 10:30 a.m.
John Leonard (Tony & Maria Sousa)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 29): $5,516

• Includes $543 received through our Online Giving program and $586 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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Remember that stewardship is a call from God to recognize that all of our blessings and talents have been given to us for a purpose. As baptized Catholics it is our obligation to share these gifts willingly in order to serve the Church and our parish community. As we have pointed out many times, stewardship is much more than financial support. It is, as stated, putting our faith in action with the key word there as “action.” In that way we can become, also as stated, a true disciple of the Lord.

In today’s Gospel reading from the Book of Matthew Jesus calls us salt and then light. He tells us, for example, that we are the light of the world, reflecting His light. Specifically He says to those who choose to be His disciple, “Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand.”

St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, “To keep a lamp burning you have to keep putting oil in it.” If we see ourselves as lamps as Jesus told us we should be, we need to keep the oil in it and that requires action on our part.

– 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 Loving Memory of
Manuel & Maria Moreira
(Joe & Jean Martocc)
SCHOOL MASS
A Mass will be celebrated with the students and staff of our parish school this Tuesday, February 7, at 9:00 a.m. All are invited.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR FR. JOHN
Effective immediately, please use the address noted below when sending e-mail correspondence to Father John.

Fr.Gwozdz@aohct.org

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.

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 Norman Daigle made this very request and $215 has been donated in Norman’s memory. May he rest in God’s eternal embrace.

CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT
The newly-designed Catholic Transcript, the magazine of the Archdiocese of Hartford, started arriving in mailboxes last weekend. We received a small supply of these magazines so those of you who did not receive one at your home will be able to take a copy to read and enjoy. You will find these copies at all the entrances to the church while supplies last.

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.

STRANGE 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.

IN MEMORIUM
Please pray for these parishioners who have gone to eternal life during the month of January.

Norman Daigle • Janet Duley
Gloria Grant • Frances Lanzo

“If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21

GRAYSON JACK WALLACE

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

Grayson Jack Wallace

ADULT CONFIRMATION
The Archdiocesan Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis will begin classes the week of March 13 for adults who have been baptized and received First Communion and who wish to be confirmed. Classes in this area will be held at Saint Mark the Evangelist in West Hartford from 7-9 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18. For information about classes being held outside this area and instructions on how to register, please visit http://catholicedaoahct.org/programs/adult-confirmation. The Confirmation Ceremony will be held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Registration is due to the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis at least one week prior to the start of class and must be accompanied by a $30 registration fee.
FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE
This past Friday, February 3, was the Feast of Saint Blaise. At all Masses this weekend, Father John will give the traditional blessing of throats from the altar in place of the final blessing. The words of the blessing are as follows:

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PARISHIONER IN NEED BAKE SALE
February 11 and 12
Parishioners in Need (PIN) Committee will host their Eighth Anniversary Bake Sale after all Masses next weekend, February 11 and 12. We celebrate eight years of operation. Since our inception, we have assisted and continue to assist several members within our parish as well as having provided resources to others within the community. Your support has helped us succeed.

Please continue to watch out for those in our parish who may need assistance and may be hesitant to ask for help. Even those we have helped in the past may still be struggling and we ask that they or someone on their behalf come forward if necessary. Let’s be aware of those who need care.

Plan ahead for Valentine’s Day dinners. Stop by next weekend to pick up a baked good item to compliment your dinner. Donations of baked goods are very much welcomed (and needed) and can be brought to the church hall prior to each Mass. (Please indicate if there are nuts in the ingredients.) Thank you all for your continued support!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
The Catholic Graduates Club of Greater Hartford will award three scholarships of $2,000 each to Catholic students currently residing in Hartford county and who are now high school seniors enrolled in an accredited secondary school with plans to attend a four-year college beginning in 2017. The student does not need to attend a Catholic college. Students are chosen on the basis of financial need, scholarship, character, leadership and achievement. Please visit catholicgraduatesct.org for more information and to download the application. Deadline for submittal of applications is March 15, 2017.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
Archbishop Leonard P. Blair affirms the January 27 statement made in Washington, D.C., by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that the Bishops “believe in assisting all those who are vulnerable and fleeing persecution, regardless of their religion... welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope.”

The social teaching of the Catholic Church has long given consideration to the issue of immigration based on fundamental moral principles that flow from both faith and reason.

“What are some of those principles?” Archbishop Blair asked in an article published in 2014, “For one,” he wrote, “people have a right to a decent life in their own homeland so that they don’t have to leave; but if that fails, people also have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families, just as so many of our ancestors did. Another principle is the rule of law and the right that sovereign nations like the United States have to control their own borders, but this does not abolish the duty every country has not only to grant asylum to the persecuted and to war refugees, but also to respect the basic human dignity and human rights of every immigrant... As good Catholics and good citizens, let us make a positive, informed and morally principled contribution to the national debate.”

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 on Wednesday, February 15. 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.

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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<td>Psalm 112: 4-9</td>
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<td>Psalm 104: 1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30</td>
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<td>Psalm 32: 1-2, 5-7</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."
Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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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 12, 2017 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jesus sets the bar high for his disciples and all who would call themselves Christians — not just to follow checkboxes of rules and regulations, but to live their lives according to the Spirit and caritas, both externally and internally. Jesus wants his disciples to be people of integrity, people who are faithful to their promises, people who have no need to swear that they are telling the truth because they are truth-tellers.

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
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Roberta9700@yahoo.com

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY
Deacon 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

MINISTRY OF GREETERS
Anne Marie Volowski ~ 860-568-1303