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

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
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 19, 2017

“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.”
– Leviticus 19:2b

Mass for the Week

Saturday, February 18 – 4:00 p.m.
Lucien Lavertu – 2nd Anniversary
(Wife Joan & Children Paul and Carol)

Sunday, February 19 – 8:00 a.m.
Sebastian Accaputo – 20th Anniversary
(Wife, Children & Grandchildren)

Sunday, February 19 – 10:30 a.m.
John Connors
(Wife Evelyn & Family)

Monday, February 20 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Tuesday, February 21 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel & Maria Machado
(Family)

Wednesday, February 22 – 7:30 a.m.
Peggy Mondo Stevens
Louis Mondo
(The Mondo Family)

Thursday, February 23 – 7:30 a.m.
Rose Ellen Lavoie
(Her Brother Scott & Cousin Barbara)

Saturday, February 25 – 4:00 p.m.
George Grivois
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Daughter Deborah Thorpe)

Sunday, February 26 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, February 26 – 10:30 a.m.
Mr. & Mrs. Aldei Boivin
(Adrien & Denise Hebert)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (February 12): $4,046*
Parish School Support: $1,566**

*Includes $643 received through our Online Giving program and $65 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $185 received through our Online Giving program and $303 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.

HOLINESS
In today’s reading from Leviticus, God says to Moses that he should teach the people this: “Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.”

There is no way, of course, that we can be as holy as God is. God is divine, not human, and thus His Holiness is above and way beyond our capabilities. What God is saying to us though is that we do need to strive for holiness. We often speak of our call to holiness and how we can try to achieve that. One way is to embrace stewardship and all it entails as a way of life.

Will that make us holy like the Lord? No, but it does mean that we need to comprehend that it is God and God’s wisdom we must embrace and follow. Holiness for us means we need to attempt to separate ourselves from those things and thoughts and ideas which can be viewed as not holy in the Eyes of God. Yes, it is impossible for us, but yet that is what we must try to do. —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
Lucien Lavertu – 2nd Anniversary
(Wife Joan & Children Paul and Carol)
FINANCIAL REPORT
2016 Actual and 2017 Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACTUAL</td>
<td>BUDGET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Offertory</td>
<td>$285,118</td>
<td>$279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Day Offertory</td>
<td>11,685</td>
<td>13,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Appeal</td>
<td>48,935</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Offertory Revenue</td>
<td>345,738</td>
<td>332,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stole Fees</td>
<td>4,684</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts, Donations &amp; Bequests</td>
<td>74,866</td>
<td>58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events &amp; Socials</td>
<td>4,144</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education Fees</td>
<td>5,695</td>
<td>6,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>14,011</td>
<td>8,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Income</td>
<td>$450,172</td>
<td>$415,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>$174,563</td>
<td>$179,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>29,980</td>
<td>33,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>18,240</td>
<td>21,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>28,237</td>
<td>33,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Liability &amp; Car</td>
<td>34,687</td>
<td>34,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>18,450</td>
<td>22,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectory Operating Expenses</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>1,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>8,354</td>
<td>9,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Admin Expenses</td>
<td>18,089</td>
<td>3,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacrament &amp; Liturgy</td>
<td>12,706</td>
<td>13,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>5,507</td>
<td>6,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charity/Service/Outreach</td>
<td>6,022</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events &amp; Socials</td>
<td>4,523</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>5,945</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications &amp; Memberships</td>
<td>5,867</td>
<td>6,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish School Subsidy</td>
<td>59,423</td>
<td>66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Cathedraticum</td>
<td>19,246</td>
<td>19,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic School Assessments</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>2,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expense</td>
<td>$453,306</td>
<td>$469,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Ordinary Income (Loss)</td>
<td>$(3,134)</td>
<td>$(54,081)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contributions By Parishioners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan/Special Collections</td>
<td>$15,326</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archbishop's Annual Appeal</td>
<td>$27,216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
Giving the shirt off your back, turning the other cheek or walking/driving the extra mile is normal stuff in families. We do that for one another. Today’s gospel reminds us all people, even those we don’t like, are our brothers and sisters. Our family should prepare us to be FAMILY to others.

NEW PARISH TRUSTEE
Archbishop Blair has approved the nomination of Frank Perrone as Trustee of St. Christopher Parish. He succeeds Richard “Mac” Carthy. Lay trustees provide advice and oversight in the administration of the parish on behalf of their fellow parishioners. Archdiocesan policy calls for them to be ex officio members of the Parish and Finance Councils. In effect, this is how their responsibility is exercised. We thank Frank for accepting this position and express our deep gratitude to Mac for his years of service to the parish as trustee.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
Our monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, February 26 at 10:30 a.m. Hospitality will follow in the church hall and is being hosted this month by families with children in Grade 4. Everyone is invited and donations of baked goods are always appreciated.

FAMILY CHOIR REHEARSAL
The next rehearsal for the Family Choir will be held in our chapel this Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7:00 p.m. for any adult or child who is interested in singing in the family choir at the Children’s Liturgy being celebrated on February 26 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Ed., at 860-895-8692.

STRING QUARTET CONCERT
Rescheduled to Sunday ~ March 5 ~ 3:00 p.m.
Due to inclement weather last Sunday, The Mountain Road String Quartet concert has been rescheduled to March 5. This concert, which will be held in our church, 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. All are invited.

FOOD BANK MEETING
Our Food Bank Ministry will be holding a meeting on Monday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall to discuss a Thank You Breakfast they are planning to host for all parishioners on Sunday, March 26. Anyone interested in learning more about our Food Bank Ministry is invited to attend this meeting. For more info, please contact Diane Warner at 860-202-8462.
PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Pre-K/Kindergarten Social: Celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday with us! Plans are developing for an evening of fun for our youngest students and their parents on Thursday, March 2 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Socialize with other families and have some off-beat Dr. Seuss-like fun. Green eggs and ham will be provided.

Open House: Thinking about Pre-K or Kindergarten for your child? Do you want another option for your older child? Come to our Open House and see what we have to offer! Please join us on Thursday, March 2 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

WOMEN’S RETREAT
Calling all women of the parish! Do you need to slow down, come away and rest awhile? Holy Family Passionist Retreat House in West Hartford is offering three upcoming women’s retreats: March 3-5, April 21-23 and June 2-4. I attended the most recent retreat held from January 27-29 and this year’s theme, “The Light of Simplicity” lived up to its billing. For more information, please visit holyfamilyretreat.org or call the retreat office at 860-521-0440. I would be happy to share with you my retreat experience if you contact me at annemarievolowski@yahoo.com or at 860-680-4219.

– Anne Marie Volowski

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
The St. Christopher Council #4 has provided the Church Book Library located in our church hall with a display case of 15 different booklets in the new Building the Domestic Church Catholic Information Series. This is a special collection of booklets that focuses on family formation and spiritual life. There are more than a dozen copies of each booklet and you should feel free to take one home.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
The Office of Family Life of the Archdiocese of Hartford is offering NFP Introductory sessions to provide an overview of this practical, moral, safe and “all natural” tool for family planning. These sessions are open to anyone interested in this topic. Sessions will be held at St. Joseph Church in Bristol from 10:00 a.m. - Noon on the following dates: March 18, June 17 and September 16. To register call the Office of Family Life at 860-242-5573, ext. 2683.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN
Dear Friends,

I’m writing to remind you of the opportunities that continue to be provided by our parish Marian Garden. Many people have had bricks inscribed to honor or remember significant people or events in their lives. I myself have purchased bricks in memory of my father and my godmother. I plan to do the same for my paternal and maternal grandparents and to commemorate my vocation and ordination to the priesthood.

Hardly a day goes by when someone doesn’t stop by to look at a brick they had inscribed. I’m impressed by how they have been used to remember graduations, baptisms and other events.

Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to provide a lasting way to remember the people and events that are dear to your heart.

Forms can be found near the doors of the church.

May God bless you,
Father John

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://catholicedaohct.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.

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
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 3: 16-23</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 4: 1-5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks
Used with permission of Paulist Press
www.paulistpress.com

Reflection for Next Sunday, February 26, 2017 – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worry is the opposite of faith, and it steals our peace, physically wears us out, and can even make us sick. Worry is caused by not trusting God to take care of the various situations in our lives. There will always be situations that cause us concern, but with God’s help, we can live above all of it and enjoy life. Cast your care on the Lord and say, “God, I trust You, and I’m going to enjoy the life You have given me.”

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES
Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Frank Perrone

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
toobusy sue@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
Robert H. De Fiore
203-630-9295
Robert9700@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 ~ 860-680-4219