

Look at the birds in the sky;  
they do not sow or reap,  
they gather nothing into barns,  
yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Matthew 6:26

February 26, 2017 • Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# St. Christopher Parish

538 Brewer Street  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
860-568-5240 (Phone) • 860-568-0673 (Fax)  
E-mail: [stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.stchris-eh.org](http://www.stchris-eh.org)



Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor  
E-mail: [Fr.Gwozdz@aohct.org](mailto:Fr.Gwozdz@aohct.org)

Mr. Philip J. Gosselin, Deacon  
E-mail: [imgoose@comcast.net](mailto:imgoose@comcast.net)



StChristopherChurchEH

## 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



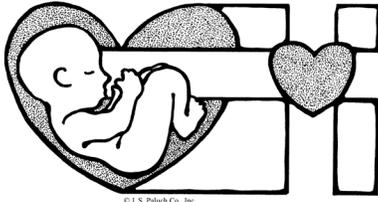
## ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Welch, Principal  
Audrey Cesana, Secretary  
[www.saintchristopherschool.org](http://www.saintchristopherschool.org)  
860-568-4100



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Maria Sousa 860-895-8692  
[stchrisre@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisre@gmail.com)



**Eighth Sunday  
in  
Ordinary Time  
February 26, 2017**

*“Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.” – Isaiah 49:15*

*Mass for the  
Intentions Week*

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)*

Monday, February 27 – 7:30 a.m.

**Rev. Ronald R. Yelle**

Tuesday, February 28 – 7:30 a.m.

**Stanley Thomas Kronen – 4th Anniversary  
and Joe H. Kronen – 3-month Anniversary**

*(Carolyn V. Kronen)*

Wednesday, March 1 – 7:30 a.m.

**John & Louise Olinatz** *(Children)*

Wednesday, March 1 – 9:00 a.m.

**In Appreciation for Mrs. Kathleen Welch**

*(The Students & Staff of St. Christopher School)*

Wednesday, March 1 – 5:30 p.m.

**Rev. George F. Ziezulewicz**

Thursday, March 2 – 7:30 a.m.

**Norman Daigle** *(Marie Bastarache)*

Saturday, March 4 – 4:00 p.m.

**Francis A. Ostrowski – 16th Anniversary**

**Olga A. Ostrowski – 40th Anniversary**

*(Family)*

Sunday, March 5 – 8:00 a.m.

**Ethel Melanson** *(Edith Daigle)*

Sunday, March 5 – 10:30 a.m.

**Deceased Members of the Volowski and  
Muszynski Families** *(Anne Marie Volowski)*

## PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (February 19): \$ 4,913\*

\*Includes \$623 received through our Online Giving program and \$160 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

St. Paul had both a deep understanding and appreciation for stewardship – what it meant to be a good steward. In today’s second reading, Paul states eloquently, “Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

As is the case with all Holy Scripture, Paul is writing to more than the Corinthians; he is writing to each of us as well. Paul’s understanding of what a steward was is that he manages the household of God. Managing included preserving and protecting. We are also to be servants (disciples) of Christ, and Paul goes on to say that a servant steward must be trustworthy. To Paul that meant we are to be faithful in order to be good disciples.

There are several difficulties for us in all of those terms and requirements: being stewards, being servants, and being faithful. They mean that we have to place ourselves second to others and second most of all to Christ our Savior. We tend to question this and tend to have strong feelings of independence. That is what we learn from our society. Yet, to be a steward like Paul requires us to be humble and accepting. That may be our greatest test.

—[www.catholicsteward.com/blog](http://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 Norman Daigle**

*(Joe & Jean Martocci)*

### **PIN MINISTRY**

Our PIN (Parishioner in Need) bake sale that was held a couple of weekends ago was a success – in spite of the weather – and we thank all those who supported us in some way. We are currently assisting two families who will benefit from the \$506 raised by this bake sale and will provide details in the future on ways we can continue to assist. Please remember PIN throughout the year and donate whenever possible, using the special PIN envelopes at the church entrances. *We cannot cure every need of our parishioners, but we can care for all those in need.*

### **BESTLENTEVER.COM**

During the Lenten season this year, you'll have an opportunity to participate in a special kind of observance. It can be found free on the site BestLentEver.com. Just sign up and every day during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, you'll receive in your e-mail short inspirational videos, practical tips, and a study guide to help make this your Best.Lent.Ever! It was designed by the author Matthew Kelly (Rediscovering Jesus) and it's based on his latest book Resisting Happiness. What better way is there to observe this sacred time, all at your own convenience?

### **STRING QUARTET CONCERT**

**Sunday ~ March 5 ~ 3:00 p.m.**

The Mountain Road String Quartet will perform a concert in our church next Sunday. 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. All are invited.

### **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES**

Daisy/Brownie Troop 10862 can supply you with all your favorites! They will be selling Girl Scout cookies after all Masses next weekend, March 4 & 5. This year there are eight varieties including a Vegan cookie & a Gluten Free cookie! Boxes are \$5-\$6 each depending on the variety of cookie. Your purchase helps the Troop earn credits toward summer camp as well as other activities. With the *Cookies for Heroes* program you can also purchase boxes to be donated to our US troops overseas!

### **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 Thurs., March 2 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

### **Misgivings - An Evening of Comedy:**

Saint Christopher School is hosting an evening of comedy on Saturday, March 4. Join Father Patrick Aloysius Misgivings for this divine presentation of stories and one liners about growing up Catholic. From miracles and marriage counseling to bazaars and birth control, nothing escapes the good father's razor sharp Irish wit. This hilarious interactive comedy includes a collection, a raffle and even an actual Bingo game. Bring your own beverages and snacks. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., show begins at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person (suitable for ages 21+). For tickets and information call the school office at 860-568-4100 or contact Stacy at [mckeones@saintchristopherschool.org](mailto:mckeones@saintchristopherschool.org).

**School Board:** Would you like to join us and help Saint Christopher School in our vision to maintain a healthy and vibrant Catholic School in East Hartford? We are looking for a few people to fill upcoming seats on our School Board. As the Catholic School of East Hartford, we would love to have the diversity of people from all East Hartford parishes join us.

The Saint Christopher School Board is a consultative board which is comprised of adults that have a strong commitment to Catholic Education, as well as an enthusiastic sense of community. The Board's main purpose is to lend thoughts, ideas and solutions to the Administration. The Board meets once a month in the evenings at the School.

If you feel you can help us support this vital part of our Catholic mission, please e-mail Marie Gallo-Garabedian ('71) at [garabedian@comcast.net](mailto:garabedian@comcast.net) for more information.

**ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB**

**Members Corned Beef or Turkey Sandwich Luncheon  
Monday ~ March 6 ~ 12:00 Noon**

After a delicious luncheon, we will be entertained by some Irish dancers and a sing-along. Put on your green and don't miss the fun! Dues of \$20 for the 2017 calendar year were due at the first of the year. If you have not yet paid your dues, please see Regina and Ray Schultz at the Membership Table...and if you know someone who might be interested in joining the club, bring them along to see if we are a good fit for them. For more information, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

**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

**LIVING STATIONS**

The dramatic presentation of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection has become a beautiful tradition here at St. Christopher parish. The Living Stations cannot happen without the involvement of many people from our parish community. What are the needs? We need folks to portray the various individuals who had a role in the Stations of the Cross: Jesus, Mary, Simon, Veronica, Pilate, Roman soldiers, and various citizens of Jerusalem. We also need a narrator and numerous readers. We are blessed to already have Joshua Cadwallader on board to portray Jesus this year! The presentation will be Good Friday evening at 7:30 pm. We typically have an organizational meeting and a dress rehearsal at the start of Holy Week. If you are willing to help make this a reality, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.



We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

**Brielle Sophia Klemonski  
Cody Christopher Klemonski**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

St. Christopher Council #4 will be selling tickets this weekend in the church hall after our Sunday Masses for their annual St. Patrick's Dinner:

**Corned Beef Dinner**

Saturday, March 11, 2017

5:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Church Hall

\$12.50/Person in Advance

\$15.00/Person at the Door

Children under age 6 Free (limit 2/Paid ticket)

Door Prize

**This weekend only: Buy an adult ticket to the  
Corned Beef Dinner and receive a Paczki!**

Pączki, pronounced poonch-KEY or punch-KEY, is a traditional Polish donut. These are usually made from all the baking materials not used during Lent. They are deep fried pieces of dough shaped into a flattened sphere and filled with delicious fillings! Flavors: Bavarian Crème, Powdered and Boston Crème, Raspberry, Apple, Lemon, Prune, and Blueberry.

**Council Meeting**

The local council and assembly will meet this Thursday, March 2, in the church hall for their business meetings at the following times:

6:30 PM – Assembly meeting

7:30 PM – Council meeting

Members who have not taken the higher degrees should plan to take the 2nd & 3rd degrees on Sunday March 5, at St. Francis Cabrini Parish, Parish Center, 57 Pond Hill Road North Haven, CT. Members wishing to attend must notify the Grand Knight by the council meeting on Thursday.

**In Gratitude**

We are grateful to the family of deceased member John Zocco for donating two pancake batter dispensers to the Knights. We will certainly put them to use this year!

**Learn More About Us**

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.



# St. Christopher Church Lenten Schedule 2017

Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are three traditional disciplines by which the church observes Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening Mass of Holy Thursday, when the Paschal Triduum begins. All the faithful and catechumens are called to practice these traditions.

**Catholics, ages 14 and older, are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays in Lent.** The rule does not apply when health or ability to work would be impacted seriously.

In addition to abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays, **Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, but have not yet marked their 59th, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday.**

On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to individual needs, but together they should not equal another meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices are allowed.

Throughout Lent we should be reminded that, indeed, “We are dust, and unto dust we shall return.” Our Lenten agenda of prayer, fasting and almsgiving is not intended as a “spiritual New Year’s resolution,” rather, it is to remind us that we are creatures who, despite our best efforts to lead Christian lives, are in need of salvation, which comes only from Jesus’ saving act on the Cross on Good Friday.

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**ASH WEDNESDAY** – Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation. It is, however, a day of universal fast and abstinence. The schedule of services on **Ash Wednesday, 3/1**, is as follows:

**Masses:** 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. – Communion and the distribution of ashes

**Liturgy of the Word Service:** 12:15 p.m. – Distribution of ashes (no Communion)



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**MONDAYS DURING LENT** – Confessions from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. This Lenten season churches throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, including St. Christopher’s, will be open every Monday during Lent for sacramental confession. This is in addition to our regular Saturday afternoon schedule and confessions that are heard by appointment. Prepare for this Sacrament by visiting: [www.Lightforyou.today](http://www.Lightforyou.today).

**Dates:** 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10

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**TUESDAYS DURING LENT** – Scriptural Rosary and Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Begins at 6:30 p.m. As Father John’s schedule permits, Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction will be included in this Devotion.

**Dates:** 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11 (Returns to Wednesday evenings beginning 4/19)

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**WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT** –

Soup and Stations: Join the parish community for homemade soups and fellowship, followed by the Stations of the Cross which are led by the children of our parish and school community.

**SOUP:** 5:30 p.m. **STATIONS:** 6:30 p.m. **Dates:** 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5

Adult Bible Study: Meets every other Wednesday evening throughout the year in our chapel. 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.

**Dates:** 3/1 (6:30 p.m.), 3/15, 3/29 (7:00 p.m. - following Stations), 4/12 (6:30 p.m.)

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**LENTEN RESOURCES** –

[www.BestLentEver.com](http://www.BestLentEver.com): Just sign up and every day during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, you’ll receive in your e-mail short inspirational videos, practical tips, and a study guide to help make this your Best.Lent.Ever!

Rice Bowls: The Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowls will be available beginning Ash Wednesday for you take home and contribute financially to efforts to end global hunger. Bowls can be returned beginning Palm Sunday.

## LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Ash Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday First Sunday of Lent
Isaiah 49: 14-15	Sirach 17: 20-24	Sirach 35: 1-12	Joel 2: 12-18	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20	Isaiah 58: 1-9a	Isaiah 58: 9b-14	Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Psalm 62: 2-3, 6-9	Psalm 32: 1-2, 5-7	Psalm 50: 5-8, 14, 23	Psalm 51: 3-6ab, 12-14, 17	Psalm 1: 1-4, 6	Psalm 51: 3-6ab, 18-19	Psalm 86: 1-6	Psalm 51: 3-6, 12-13, 17
1 Corinthians 4: 1-5			2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2				Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 6: 24-34	Mark 10: 17-27	Mark 10: 28-31	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18	Luke 9: 22-25	Matthew 9: 14-15	Luke 5: 27-32	Matthew 4: 1-11

### 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><b>Call to Prayer:</b> "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><b>The Word of God:</b> 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><b>Faith Sharing:</b> 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 &amp; sharing.</p>	<p><b>Closing Prayer:</b> 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, March 5, 2017 – First Sunday of Lent

Jesus fasted and prayed in our Gospel story. In fasting we sacrifice our love of "Self" so that we can become free to love God and others. In prayer we sacrifice our love of "time" to make time for the love of God. In almsgiving we sacrifice our love of "stuff" to make room for the love of others. With these three, we fulfill the Great Commandment. More importantly, without these three penitential actions operative in our lives, we will not be able to resist temptation. Think about that!

## 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  
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**  
Sheila DeLaura ~ 860-568-7465

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**  
Jean Nowik-Martocci ~ 860-568-8873

**PARISH/SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT**  
Dianne Rumsey

**CHURCH CUSTODIAN**  
Roger Dube

**SCHOOL MAINTENANCE**  
Roger Dionne

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
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St. Christopher Council #4**  
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**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**  
Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772

**MINISTRY OF GREETERS**  
Anne Marie Volowski ~ 860-680-4219