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
(Tuesdays During Lent)
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

StChristopherChurchEH
First Sunday of Lent
March 5, 2017

“The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.” – Matthew 4:10

Mass 🕊️ for the Week

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)

Monday, March 6 – 7:30 a.m.
Claude Rienneau (Friends)

Tuesday, March 7 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Family)

Wednesday, March 8 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. James C. Rush

Thursday, March 9 – 7:30 a.m.
Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Saturday, March 11 – 4:00 p.m.
Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)

Sunday, March 12 – 8:00 a.m.
Connie Paquette – 1st Anniversary
(Sister, Dorothy Turmel & Family)

Sunday, March 12 – 10:30 a.m.
Kaitlyn Saunders Derr – 5th Anniversary
(Family)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (February 26): $ 5,181

• Includes $623 received through our Online Giving program and $293 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

ARCHIBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
This weekend we kickoff the 2017 Archbishops’s Annual Appeal. As we consider our gifts to this Appeal, may we remember God’s generosity to us and graciously be Moved by Mercy for those in need throughout our community.

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

Alexandro Rocco Dones

STRENGTH AGAINST TEMPTATION
The first Sunday of the season of Lent always includes a Gospel account of the temptation of the Lord Jesus in the desert by the devil. This year, the story is set against the backdrop of the first reading from Genesis, which recounts the very first temptation by the devil. That story is set in a garden of delight. The Gospel story is set in the desert. As believers, we know that temptation comes our way in our own gardens of delight as well as the deserts of our lives. As Lent begins, our attention is drawn to that temptation within each of us to become like God — we want control, power, and answers to all of life’s difficult questions. As communities of faith, we are given this season of repentance so that we can join our hearts with others on the difficult journey of conversion. We look to God and to one another for strength against temptation.

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 Maria Machado
(Joe & Jean Martocci)
STRING QUARTET CONCERT
Sunday ~ March 5 ~ 3:00 p.m.
The Mountain Road String Quartet will perform a concert in our church this 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.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT
This Lenten season the Archdiocese of Hartford is working to make it easier for Catholics to experience God’s love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All the churches of the Archdiocese will be open for Confessions every Monday during Lent from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm. Visit Lightforyou.today for help in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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.

SOUP & STATIONS
Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, March 8, at 5:30 p.m. in the hall followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Our Soup & Stations will take place on the following Wednesday evenings during this Lenten season: Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5. The young people from our parish school and religious education program will lead us once again in the Stations. Volunteers will be needed to prepare soup and/or bread for each Wednesday. You may simply bring with you the item you wish to share on the Wednesday evening that works best for you. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN
Dear friends,
As you can see, the first two phases of our project to paint the church have been completed: the sanctuary area (around the altar) and part of the east and west walls. Now we have begun the third phase: the south wall around the choir loft and the rest of the cornice. All that remains is the rest of the east and west walls and the windows. At a later time, when we have the funds to do so, the ceiling will be painted a very light blue.

Many parishioners have told me how pleased they are with this project and have made generous donations to make it possible. I am grateful for every penny that has been contributed so far. I can’t thank you enough. One gift in particular was made by a parish family who wishes to remain anonymous – $10,000!

I know that you are getting bombarded by requests for many donations and I understand if it has been difficult for you to respond to them. But if you have not done so already, and it is within your means, I ask that you consider giving to our Paint Fund so that we may complete the project. It doesn’t take much to imagine how our church will look when it’s finished with the light beige walls, white trim and light blue ceiling all coming together to create a beautiful space to worship.

May God bless you all!

– Father John Gwozdz
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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Patrick’s Corned Beef Dinner
St. Christopher Council #4 will be selling tickets this weekend after all Masses to their annual St. Patrick’s Corned Beef Dinner being held next Saturday, March 11 from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. in our 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 the last opportunity to purchase advance tickets.

Members who plan to attend the 2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremonies on Sunday April 23 in Higganum must notify the Grand Knight by the April council meeting.

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 info.

FAMILY PAINTING SOCIAL
Our parish school is hosting a Family Painting Social on Saturday, March 25 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in our church hall. Let your child explore their creative side through a painting with you. The cost is $25 per painting and payment must be received no later than March 20. **Space is limited so register soon!** Please send an e-mail to HSA@saintchristopherschool.org to register or to get more information.

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

Theresa Bouchard Boglisch • Richard Domler
Maria Machado • Leontine Tougas

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

CHILDREN’S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT HELPS
ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL FAMILIES
A wonderful opportunity for school families who want to explore the Catholic school option has arrived! The Children’s Educational Opportunity Foundation of CT has announced additional scholarships that are open to residents of East Hartford who would like to attend private school such as Saint Christopher’s. These scholarships are based on financial need. Applicants must be at or within 200% of the poverty guidelines, be able to prove residency, and have official proof of income such as a current completed tax return. Online applications at ceoct.org opened on March 1. The application is also available in the school office. It is advised that families file taxes and be prepared to complete the application as soon as possible as these are given on a first-come, first-served basis. New families who wish to attend Catholic school may qualify! Contact Mrs. Kathleen Welch, principal, with any questions at 860-568-4100 or at: welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

DEACONS AND DIAPERS
A Lenten Diaper Collection
I want to introduce you to a new movement called *Deacons and Diapers*. Deacon Jim Tanguay is a teacher at our parish school and came up with the idea of collecting diapers (new ones ☺) for folks in need of a hand up as a Lenten outreach. Deacon Tanguay and I will share in promoting this worthy cause within the St. Chris community. If we can provide diapers so children are covered, literally and figuratively, then parents will have less to worry about it and that really helps.

A collection box is available in the church hall for your donations. The donated diapers are targeted to assist Birthright of Greater Hartford, Synergy High School in East Hartford and one of our P.I.N. families. Birthright’s needs are for newborns, sizes 1 and 2. Synergy High School currently has a need for sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5. Our P.I.N family’s size will be provided soon. Please get behind this movement. If you have any questions I can be contacted at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.

Peace, Deacon Phil
### LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>First Sunday of Lent</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Second Sunday of Lent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 51: 3-6, 12-13, 17</td>
<td>Psalm 19: 8-10, 15</td>
<td>Psalm 34: 4-7, 16-19</td>
<td>Psalm 51: 3-4, 12-13, 18-19</td>
<td>Psalm 138: 1-3, 7c-8</td>
<td>Psalm 130: 1-8</td>
<td>Psalm 119: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8</td>
<td>Psalm 33: 4-5, 18-20, 22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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."

**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, March 12, 2017 – Second Sunday of Lent**

Jesus chose this moment in his life to disclose his divinity to those he had called as witnesses. The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of the glorious second coming of Christ and reminds us that we, too, will be transformed to become like him. It also strengthens us in our faith journey by building our hope.

---

**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
tobusysue@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**
Roberta H. De Fiore
203-630-9295
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 ~ 860-680-4219