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

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

Jesus was transfigured before them:
his face shone like the sun
and his clothes became white as light.

Matthew 17:2

StChristopherChurchEH
Second Sunday of Lent
March 12, 2017

“Christ Jesus . . . destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”
– 2 Timothy 1:10b

Mass Intention for the Week

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)

Monday, March 13 – 7:30 a.m.
Richard “Dick” Domler (Adult Social Club Members)

Tuesday, March 14 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff & Debbie Fallacaro (Family)

Wednesday, March 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz (Family)

Thursday, March 16 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel Machado Leonardo (Maria Leonardo)

Saturday, March 18 – 4:00 p.m.
Fred Schifer – 3rd Anniversary (Wife & Family)

Sunday, March 19 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, March 19 – 10:30 a.m.
Carrado Sessa (Wife Maria)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (March 5): $ 5,604*

*Includes $1,278 received through our Online Giving program and $200 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT
The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend supports our parish school. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Our Gospel Reading on this Second Sunday of Lent recounts the Transfiguration as reported by Matthew. Jesus was transfigured in the presence of three of His Apostles: Peter, James, and John. To be “transfigured” implies that the Lord was completely transformed, not just in how He appeared but absolutely, inwardly as well. Jesus became so dazzlingly bright that it was difficult to look on Him.

During our time in Lent, we are called to a type of transformation, as well. In our cases it is more inward than outer. God asks us to try to seek conversion of mind and heart. Yet, only God can truly cause this type of conversion; however, we must be open to it for it to occur.

Stewardship is closely associated with conversion. People who give of themselves to build the Kingdom of God are disciples of the Lord. To be a disciple, we must follow Jesus’ example and teachings. His way of life literally becomes our way of life. For that to happen we must be transformed. That transformation can present challenges, but it also offers extreme joy. Stewardship challenges us to make conscientious decisions about our lives. Stewardship calls each of us to account for what God has given us, not only for the sake of knowing how much we have and how God has blessed us, but also to know how much God is calling us to share what He has given us with others.

– 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 Jimmy Shepley (Grandma)
A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Dear friends,

On a periodic basis, every school is placed under a strict review process in order to be granted accreditation. Saint Christopher’s underwent this process last October and the conclusions reached were identified in a letter I received this past week. Like a proud father whose child received a good report card, I want to share with you some of what the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Independent Schools had to say about our school:

“The Visiting Committee Report identified many areas for commendation. The Commission particularly commends the entire school community for its clear and evident Catholic identity and the pervasiveness of the mission in all aspects of school life. The consistent call for students to be ‘Christ-bearers’ reinforces the strong culture of service to others and is to be admired. The diversity of the Saint Christopher School community was also mentioned frequently in the report, and it is to the credit of the entire community that this is seen as a distinct strength.

In addition, the Commission commends the current administration for addressing the needs of the faculty and staff, especially for improved professional development offerings and inclusion in the decision-making process. Lastly, the Commission commends the faculty and staff on the seriousness with which they undertook the Self-Study process. The fact that many self-identified recommendations were already addressed by the time the Visiting Committee arrived indicates an eager and dedicated approach to school improvement.”

I want to thank our principal Mrs. Kathleen Welch and the faculty and staff of our school for upholding the excellent reputation of our school and I am grateful for your support as parishioners throughout the history of our school.

Yours in Christ, I am
Father John Gwozdz, Pastor

SOUP & STATIONS

Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, March 15, 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 also take place on the following Wednesday evenings during this Lenten season: Mar. 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.

FAMILY CHOIR REHEARSAL

The next rehearsal of the Family Choir, led by Toni Mintel, will be held in our chapel on Wednesday, March 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 Sunday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education, at 860-895-8692.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Adult Bible Study group meets every other Wednesday evening in our chapel. It meets again this Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. (immediately following our Soup & Stations). 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, contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.

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.

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.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**
We are most grateful when family members request that donations may be made to Saint Christopher Church or School in memory of their loved one. Most recently the families of Marion Botticello and Richard “Dick” Domler made this very request and $80 has already been donated in Marion’s memory and $1,310 has already been donated in Dick’s memory. May they both rest in God’s eternal embrace.

**APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**
The members of our Food Bank Ministry will be hosting an Appreciation Breakfast on Sunday, March 26 in our church hall. There will be two seatings that morning – one at 9:00 a.m. and the other at 11:30 a.m. (The later seating will include some luncheon offerings.) Please plan to stop by for a bite to eat and to give our Food Bank volunteers the opportunity to express to you their appreciation for your continued support of the Saint Christopher/South Congregational Food Bank. This event will take the place of the hospitality that usually follows our Children’s Mass and is being offered free of charge.

**STRING QUARTET CONCERT**
The Mountain String Quartet performed in our church last Sunday afternoon. All who attended were treated to a lovely concert and a nice reception that followed. This concert was held to benefit the Food Banks of East Hartford. Attendees donated several bags of non-perishable food items and a total of $389 which will be divided among the town’s Food Banks.

**PARISH SCHOOL NEWS**
Thank you to the entire Saint Christopher community for coming out for the Father Misgivings comedy night! It was a fun event that raised $1,800 for the school. A sincere thank you to all of the parishioners who so willingly support our school!

Saint Christopher School is currently accepting registrations for the 2017-2018 school year. We are a Pre-K 3 through Grade 8 school with a focus on faith-filled service to others and academic excellence. For more information, visit our website at saintchristophersschool.org, call the school office at 860-568-4100, or email Mrs. Welch at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

**DEACONS AND DIAPERS**
Just a reminder that there’s a collection box in the church hall for donations of diapers (new ones 😊). All sizes are needed. We encourage you to support the efforts of Deacon Phil and Deacon Tanguay by getting behind this movement during this Lenten season to give families in need a helping hand.

**ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL**
The 2017 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. Your support of this year’s Appeal ensures that essential charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford are carried forward. If you did not receive the Archbishop’s mailing, we invite you to take an Appeal packet located at the main entrance of our church.

**DISPENSATION FROM LENTEN ABSTINENCE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 17**
Archbishop Leonard Blair has formally dispensed the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford from the obligation to abstain from meat on the Memorial of Saint Patrick, Bishop, which will be observed this year on Friday, March 17. Inasmuch as fasting is a spiritual good, meant, in the words of the *Catechism*, “to help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart,” the Faithful who partake of meat on March 17, 2017 are encouraged to observe the Lenten abstinence on Thursday, March 16, or Saturday, March 18.

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

Mila Marie Monroe
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Psalm 33: 4-5, 18-20, 22</td>
<td>Psalm 79: 8, 9, 11, 13</td>
<td>Psalm 50: 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23</td>
<td>Psalm 31: 5-6, 14-16</td>
<td>Psalm 1: 1-4, 6</td>
<td>Psalm 105: 16-21</td>
<td>Psalm 103: 1-4, 9-12</td>
<td>Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-9</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."

**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 19, 2017 – Third Sunday of Lent**

Water from deep wells can provide temporary relief from physical thirst. However, we have an even deeper thirst, a thirst for eternal truth and eternal life. This kind of thirst can only be quenched by the author of truth and life, the living God who revealed himself to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. This “living water” is pure gift and always involves an encounter with Christ which demands humility and courage. We need the courage to face ourselves, to ask the right questions, to listen to the Lord’s answers, and then have the humility to make the needed course corrections. Then we become enabled to participate fully in His mission, and share the Good News of the “living waters” that bring us eternal life.

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**PARISH CONTACTS**

**PARISH TRUSTEES**
Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Frank Perrone

**PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**
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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**
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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

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**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

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Order form may be placed in the collection basket next weekend (March 18/19) in an envelope marked “Pulled Pork Dinner” or it can be dropped off at the parish office during regular business hours.

Questions? Send e-mail to: stchrisdvargas@gmail.com

Don’t want to cook? Bring the Family and Join Us.

Have a great *Pulled Pork* dinner on **March 25th at 5:00 PM**.

Great Food—Great Company—Great Fun

50/50 Drawing and Gift Item Drawings.

($1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for $5.00 and 25 tickets for $20.00)

Proceeds to benefit St. Christopher School.

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**Menu**

- Pulled Pork
- Mac & Cheese
- Baked Beans
- Cole Slaw & Corn Bread
- Hot & Cold Beverages and Desserts

**Ticket Pricing**

- Adults — $12.00
- Seniors — $10.00
- Children (5-12) — $6.00
- Children 4 & Under — Free
- Maximum Family — $30.00

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**DINNER TICKET (S)**

Name: ____________________________

# of Adults: ________ # of Children: ________

Payment Enclosed: $ ____________

[Adults $12 Seniors $10 | Children (5-12) $6 | Max Family $30]

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