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.saintchristophersschool.org
860-568-4100

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Maria Sousa 860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com
Third Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2017

“While we were still sinners Christ died for us.”
– Romans 5:8

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (March 12): $4,659*
Parish School Collection: $1,644**

*Includes $618 received through our Online Giving program and $217 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes $170 received through our Online Giving program and $165 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

GOSPEL REFLECTION
In today’s Gospel Reading from John, we hear the story of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus confronts at the well. It was about noon, the hottest part of the day, and a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus breaks three Jewish customs in His exchange with the woman. First, He spoke to a woman, something forbidden to men with strange women; second, she was a Samaritan woman, a group with whom Jews did not normally mix; third, He asked her to give Him a cup of water, which would have made Him ceremonially unclean from using her cup or jar. The woman was rightfully shocked. However, Jesus told her that He could give her “living water.” At that time some spring water was carbonated and it seemed “alive” as it bubbled up from the ground, so it was called “living water.” Jesus meant that the water He offered was alive in a different way because it could both give life and quench spiritual thirst.

Although the whole situation is amazing to the woman, she is particularly struck by how much Jesus knows about her. She reports to her fellow Samaritans “He told me everything I ever did.” That is not what she found so surprising though. What truly astonished her was that in spite of that knowledge, Jesus still loved her. Jesus loves us as well, despite our many shortcomings and sins.

– www.catholicsteward.com/blog

ARCHIBISHOP’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.
SOUPL & STATIONS
Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, March 22, 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: March 29 and April 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.

APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
The members of our Food Bank Ministry will be hosting an Appreciation Breakfast next 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.

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 p.m. Visit Lightforyou.today for help in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS ED
Students Entering Grades K-8 This Fall
Now is the time to register your child for our 2017/2018 religious education program. Returning families are asked to submit a new registration form each year. To avoid a late fee, please submit your registration no later than April 30, 2017. First Communion and Reconciliation preparation is a two-year program beginning in Grade 1. Registration forms are available at all entrances of our church.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
Our monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. Grade 3 students in both our parish school and religious education program will host this liturgy. Hospitality after this Mass is being replaced with the Appreciation Breakfast hosted by our Food Bank volunteers. (More information about this event can be found in the column to the left.)

FAMILY CHOIR REHEARSAL
The next rehearsal of the Family Choir, led by Toni Mintel, will be held in our chapel this 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 info., please contact Maria Sousa, at 860-895-8692.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4 thanks all those who participated in our annual St. Patrick’s Dinner. It enabled us to make a substantial donation to support a Seminarian in need and to present to Father John a framed portrait of St. Theresa of Calcutta that was commissioned for her sainthood. This event would not have been possible without the assistance of members Mike Gay, Scott Gay, Deacon Phil Gosselin, Tom Hurley, Harry LaCrosse, Ernie Mintel, Ray Simeone, and Ed Thurz.

Members who plan to take the 2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremonies on Sunday, April 23, in Higganum must notify the Grand Knight by April 6.

We also welcome new member Kenneth Johnson to our Order. 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.

WOMEN’S COMMUNION BREAKFAST
Saint Mary’s Women’s Club will hold their Annual Women’s Communion Breakfast in their Parish Center, 30 Maplewood Avenue in East Hartford on Sunday, March 26 after their 9:00 a.m. Mass. Speaker is Sister Mary Alexandra from the Little Sisters of the Poor in Enfield. Tickets are $10 per person and can be purchased by calling St. Mary’s at 860-289-7916. No tickets sold at the door. The breakfast is open to all women of the community. Come and be spiritually refreshed!
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.

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT
St. Christopher’s is hosting a community event on **Saturday, March 25**. A Pulled Pork dinner will be held in our school’s gym with doors opening at **5:00 p.m.** Great food - Great company - Great fun! Adults are $12, Seniors $10, Children (5-12) $6 and children 4 and under are free. Maximum family charge is $30 - parent(s) and their minor children. Menu to include pulled pork, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, hot and cold beverages and dessert items. 50/50 drawing and gift item drawings. Tickets can be purchased after all Masses this weekend. For more information, please send an e-mail to stchrisdvargas@gmail.com.

FIRST RECONCILIATION
We congratulate the 31 children of our parish who celebrated their First Reconciliation here at Saint Christopher’s on the morning of Saturday March 4. We thank their parents for their dedication in raising their children in the practice of the faith. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Communion on May 7.

DEACONS AND DIAPERS
I want to remind you of 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. All sizes from newborn to size 5 are needed. 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 a family being assisted by our P.I.N. ministry. Please get behind this movement 😊. – Peace, Deacon Phil

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.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
Our parish 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, call the school office at 860-568-4100 or visit our website at saintchristopherschool.org.

PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE
Our parish school has a part-time position available in their After School Program. Hours are Monday - Friday from 2:00-5:30 p.m. when school is in session. Please call the school office at 860-568-4100 or contact Mrs. Welch, school principal, at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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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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www.paulistpress.com

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 26, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Lent
In the Gospel (John 9), it is the man who was blind from birth who is able to “see.” The leaders of the Pharisees, on the other hand, who knew the man had been blind but could now see, were unable to “see” the power of God at work in Jesus. So it was really those leaders who were “blind” all the time. But the formerly-blind man is now brought to belief in Jesus by stages, as he opens his heart to permit God to work his transforming power in his life. Is this not the story of our own lives?

PARISH CONTACTS
PARISH TRUSTEES
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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!”

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Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772
MINISTRY OF GREETERS
Anne Marie Volowski ~ 860-680-4219