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

Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 26, 2017

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

Like us on Facebook
StChristopherChurchEH
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 26, 2017

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”
– Psalm 23:1

Mass for the Week

Saturday, March 25 – 4:00 p.m.
Lucien Gendreau
(Brother Elmer & Omerine Gendreau)

Sunday, March 26 – 8:00 a.m.
Norman Daigle
(Joan & Bob Parisi)

Sunday, March 26 – 10:30 a.m.
Virginia Demers – 7th Anniversary
(Family)

Monday, March 27 – 7:30 a.m.
Angeline Willis
(Dorothy Clark)

Tuesday, March 28 – 7:30 a.m.
James & Yolanda Gusy
(Family)

Wednesday, March 29 – 7:30 a.m.
E. Barbara Jero – 1st Anniversary and Robert I. Jero
(Carolyn V. Kronen)

Thursday, March 30 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. Thomas B. Campion

Saturday, April 1 – 4:00 p.m.
Maria Machado
(Daughter Maria)

Sunday, April 2 – 8:00 a.m.
Louise Agnes
(Mike & Maria Gallo)

Sunday, April 2 – 10:30 a.m.
Robert Perrone
(Wife & Children)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (March 19): $5,637*
*Includes $673 received through our Online Giving program and $445 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

SEEING IS BELIEVING
People in Jesus’ time thought blindness was caused by sinfulness – the sinfulness of the blind themselves or of their parents. In the story of Jesus’ healing in today’s Gospel, the Pharisees – the supreme rule-keepers of their day – were far less concerned about the blind man than they were that Jesus broke the rule of the Sabbath. God had ordained the Sabbath as a day of rest for the Jews when most of them earned their living with hard physical labor, but over the centuries the rules governing what could and could not be done on the Sabbath seemed to be more important than the rest from labor. By healing the man, Jesus had done something beyond the law of Moses, and that drew the condemnation of the Pharisees. They were quick to label the blind man and Jesus himself as sinners. We are prone to this same tendency to judge people who are different from us. It can range from simple annoyance when our grown children do not live their lives exactly as we do, all the way to condemnation of a whole group, such as those of a different religion or political persuasion. The more we fall into anger at these differences, the more blind we become to our own lack of charity. This time during Lent is a time for us to open our eyes. We need to see and to embrace the fact that Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer. To see we need light. In the Second Reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, Paul says, “Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”

SPRING
We welcomed the First Day of Spring this past Monday, March 20, and we’re reminded that Spring is a miraculous experience. The whole world comes alive after the winter in which it seemed that everything was dead. Spring gives us hope for rejuvenation in our own lives as well. Spring is a time to renew the excitement and zest for life that lives inside each of us.
APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
This Sunday ~ March 26
The members of our Food Bank Ministry are hosting an Appreciation Breakfast this weekend in our church hall. There will be two seatings – 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, being offered free of charge, will take the place of the hospitality that usually follows our Children’s Mass.

LIVING STATIONS
We Still Need Help!
The Living Stations, a dramatic presentation of volunteers from our parish, will be held in our church on Good Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. We have Jesus, the narrator, Veronica, a weeping woman and a couple of religious education students who have expressed interest in participating. We still need folks willing to portray Mary, Pontius Pilate, Simon, Roman soldiers, and various citizens of Jerusalem (adults and children). We are also in need of more readers. We expect our organizational meeting will be Monday of Holy Week at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and the dress rehearsal will be Wednesday of Holy Week at 6:30 p.m. in the church. If you are willing to help, please contact Phil or Alice Gosselin at 860-568-5001 or e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
The 2017 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, Moved by Mercy, is underway. We thank all parishioners who have already made a gift. If you have not had a chance to respond yet, please prayerfully consider doing so today. Your help enables so many programs and initiatives that help thousands across our Archdiocese every day; those served in Catholic Charities Family Centers, Catholic school students, our seminarians, and many others. If you didn’t receive an Appeal packet at your home, you can find one at the main entrance of our church.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT
All the churches of the Archdiocese are 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.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to our parishioners and former altar servers Justin and Austin Nwafor who are players on the East Hartford High School basketball team. The team has had a very good season which took them all the way to the Class LL State finals. Unfortunately, the team did not win the championship game against Hillhouse High School of New Haven, but an East Hartford team had not made it to the finals since 1949! This year’s team made it that far and Justin and Austin were key players in making it happen. We are very proud of their achievement and admire the fact that they were able to maintain a healthy balance of excellence between their athletic and academic efforts. We also offer our thanks to another young parishioner, Melinda Gallery who proved to be an effective cheerleader for the team. Congratulations to the high school, the team, the cheerleaders, the coaches, the teachers and the staff for “giving it their all.”

SOUPL AND STATIONS
Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) this Wednesday, March 29, at 5:30 p.m. in the hall followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Our last Soup & Stations during this Lenten season will take place next Wednesday, April 5. The young people from our parish school and religious education program will lead us once again in the Stations. Volunteers are 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.

NEW DAY PROGRAM
St. Bridget’s Church in Manchester is offering the “New Day” program, a nine-week program for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. “New Day” is led by trained facilitators and includes prayer, discussion and journaling. This is a faith-based program that provides a sense of community where support is given and received. This session is being held on Tuesday evenings beginning April 4 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the St. Bridget Parish Office, 80 Main Street, Manchester. For further information or to register for the program, please call Dana at 860-883-9822.
CONGRATULATIONS
DAVID GAUDREAU

Last Sunday during a special ceremony held at the Cathedral, Archbishop Blair awarded the 2017 St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation to dedicated parishioners from across the Archdiocese who share their time and talents with their parishes. Congratulations to St. Christopher’s deserving recipient, David Gaudreau! A long-time parishioner, David worked tirelessly as the Coordinator of our Food Bank. He kept inventory, purchased perishable food items, coordinated the packing and distribution of the holiday food baskets, worked with the town to obtain referrals of people in need and assisted the Boy Scouts and Post Office with their annual food drives. David did all of this quietly, drawing no attention to himself. Thank you, David, for your compassionate and generous service to St. Christopher’s Food Bank and to those in our community who are less fortunate.

DEACONS AND DIAPERS

We want to remind you of a new movement called Deacons and Diapers. During this Lenten season, we are collecting diapers so that children whose families are less fortunate are covered, literally and figuratively, and so their parents will have less to worry about 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 and Deacon Tanguay

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS ED
Students Entering Grades K-8 This Fall

Now is the time for new and returning families to register your child for our 2017/2018 religious education program. 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.

“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light.”
– Helen Keller

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.

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.

ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday ~ April 3 ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Church Hall

Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon of fun. Entertainment to be announced. If you’ve not attended any of our meetings, we invite you to spend the afternoon with us to see if we’re a good fit for you. Dues are $20 per calendar year. Members who have not yet paid your dues for 2017, please see Regina and Ray Schultz at the Membership Table... and members...if you know someone who might be interested in joining the club, bring them along. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 22
6:00 - 10PM @
St. Christopher School
570 Brewer St, East Hartford

If you are interested in joining the GALA team please contact:
auction@saintchristopherschool.org
"Flavors of St. Chris
Annual Gala & Auction"
More information to follow...
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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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, April 2, 2017 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus gives us the promise of eternal life with him, if we only believe that he is the Christ, the Son of God. Such belief will gain us eternal life, and will enable us to “see the glory of God.” He provides a glimpse of that glory, as he raises Lazarus from the dead and restores him to life. It is a great and wonderful paradox: “even if we die, we will live”! Only one who holds power over death can make such a promise!

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
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HOMEBOUND MINISTRY
Barbara Casey ~ 860-568-4638

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY
Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930
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“…but not too busy to take your prayer requests!”

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Robert H. De Fiore
203-630-9295
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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 ~ 860-568-1772

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

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

“...but not too busy to take your prayer requests!”
Dear Friends,

As you can see, our project to repaint the church is progressing nicely. Work on the sanctuary, parts of the side walls, the back wall, and the cornice that connects them is near completion.

The next phase will involve the walls and window casings on the east and west sides. The final phase will include the choir loft, the stairwell, the arches over the sanctuary and choir loft (which will continue the light beige color) and the entire ceiling (which will be a very light blue).

As you know, all of this is being funded by your donations which are specified for this purpose and not taken from funds in the budget. We can only go as far as the money takes us, and we are at a point now where we can continue only after more donations are received. If you have not made a contribution, your gift would be greatly appreciated.

You may use the envelope attached to this note to enclose your donation and then place it in the collection basket, drop it off at the rectory or send it in the mail.

I know that you are “being hit on all sides” for contributions and ask that you give what you can. At least this gift will be for something you see every time you come for Mass. Thank you for bringing us closer to being “pink no more!”

Father John Gwozdz, Pastor