St. Christopher Parish

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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

The Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord ~ April 9, 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
Palm Sunday
of the
Passion of the Lord
April 9, 2017

“God greatly exalted [Christ] and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.”
– Philippians 2:9

Mass 🙌 for the
Intentions 🙏 Week

Saturday, April 8 – 4:00 p.m.
Lucien Lavertu (Elmer & Omerine Gendreau)

Sunday, April 9 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, April 9 – 10:30 a.m.
Mr. & Mrs. John Hebert (Adrien Hebert)

Monday, April 10 – 7:30 a.m.
Mr. Claude Riendeau (Mr. & Mrs. Yvon Boivin)

Tuesday, April 11 – 7:30 a.m.
Stanley Walter Kronen – 64th Anniversary and Helen Kosiorek Kronen (Carolyn V. Kronen)

Wednesday, April 12 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff & Debbie Fallacaro (Family)

Sunday, April 16 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Chesery – 22nd Anniversary (Daughter Madeline & Sam Cassarino)

Sunday, April 16 – 10:30 a.m.
For the People of the Parish

PARISH SUPPORT
Due to the early transmission deadline imposed by our publisher for this weekend’s bulletin, the report of last weekend’s collection will be published in next weekend’s bulletin.

EASTER COLLECTIONS
We will be taking up two collections at all our Masses on Easter weekend. Both collections will benefit the needs of our parish. We thank you for your continued support!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Most of us know today as Palm Sunday, although officially in the Church it is called Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. The liturgy we celebrate today begins with great joy and becomes more and more somber with the reading of the Passion.

During the procession of the palms Jesus arrives in Jerusalem to great tumult and rejoicing as the people cry out “Hosanna... blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest.” As the Mass progresses we get an overview of what is to occur during this holiest of weeks, including the institution of the Eucharist, the passion and death of the Lord, the prediction of His Resurrection, and then His Resurrection itself.

Imagine the confusion of the Twelve Apostles. Jesus has been spending time with them in the recent weeks prior to the Passion trying to get them to understand that His time of suffering was near and approaching, and that is the reason He must go to Jerusalem. And here is the crowd welcoming and praising and laughing and celebrating His presence.

We are not much different in many ways, but now is the time for us to really embrace and understand the sacrifice the Lord made for each of us, and the incredible gift He has given us. In the coming days it is our final chance to truly rededicate ourselves to being His disciple.

– www.thecatholicsteward.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
For a Blessed Holy Week for
The People of the Saint Christopher Church and School Community
MARIAN GARDEN UPDATE
Now that spring is here and warmer weather is on the horizon, work on our Marian Garden will be resuming shortly. During the winter months, nine granite slabs were engraved and will be installed as soon as the weather is warm enough to use the adhesive. All three granite benches have now been reserved by donors and will be engraved and incorporated into the garden. And several orders for bricks are ready to be sent to the engraver. Now is the perfect time to order a slab or brick to be incorporated into the garden. Messages can memorialize a loved one, honor someone special, commemorate an event (i.e., baptism, First Communion, graduation, anniversary) or can simply be your name as a supporter of the garden. Donation levels begin at $50. For more information, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 or visit our Marian Garden page at stchris-eh.org/mariangarden.php

LIVING STATIONS
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. Narrated meditation and beautiful music will help us to prayerfully reflect on our Lord’s passion, death and Resurrection and on His love for us. All are invited.

An organizational meeting for all volunteers will be held this Sunday, April 9 at 11:45 a.m. in the church hall and the dress rehearsal will be held this Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. There’s still time for you to join our cast. We have available non-speaking parts as well as some reading parts. If you are willing to help, please join us at our organizational meeting.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in our church hall again this Monday, April 10, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. New members are welcome to join at anytime. You don’t need to know how to knit or crochet to join because we can teach you! For more info, please contact Santa Vallone at 860-569-1772.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS
Our Food Bank is seeking individuals and families who are in need of food assistance this Easter. If you or someone you know in our community is in need of this kind of assistance, please contact Diane Warner, our Food Bank Coordinator, at 860-202-8462 or at dwarner376@gamil.com.

PINK NO MORE!
Your donations have allowed us to continue to paint the interior of our church, and for that, we are most grateful. During this past week the east and west side walls and the window pockets were painted. All that remains now is the choir loft, the stairwell, the arches over the sanctuary and choir loft (which will continue the light beige color), the windows and the entire ceiling (which will be a very, very light blue).

As we’ve mentioned previously, this project is being funded solely by your donations and is not being covered by funds in the operating account. If you share our desire to see this project completed this year, we invite you to make a donation to our Paint Fund. No donation is too small. You may use the envelope found at all church entrances to make your donation and then place it in the collection basket, drop it off at the rectory or send it in the mail. Thank you for your consideration and for helping to bring us closer to being “pink no more!”

MUSICAL PRESENTATION
Please plan to join us at 10:15 a.m. on Easter Sunday for a special Resurrection morning musical presentation by our Chancel Choir. Our 10:30 a.m. Mass will immediately follow.

CRS RICE BOWLS
We thank those of you who participated in the Rice Bowl program this Lenten season. You may deposit your Rice Bowl into the specially marked box in the front of our church which will be available during these next few weeks.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month at which time we are reminded of the call to be instruments of justice, working for the common good of all, which includes the protection of children. Throughout the Gospel, Christ calls upon his followers to care for the most vulnerable among us, especially children.

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS ED
Now is the time for new and returning families to register children entering grades K-8 this fall for our 2017/2018 religious education program. First Communion and Reconciliation preparation is a two-year program beginning in Grade 1. Registration forms are available at all entrances. To avoid a late fee, please register by April 30, 2017.
SUMMER ACADEMY
at Saint Christopher School
Information is available on our parish school’s website www.saintchristophersschool.org under the Admissions tab for our new and improved Summer Academy options! There is an 8-week camp for PreK and a 6-week camp for incoming Kindergarten - Grade 2 students. The focus is on STEM learning with connected activities and a weekly in-school field trip. The half-day option is from 8:00 am -1:00 pm and the full-day option is from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm for both groups. Registrations are being accepted and are requested at least one week in advance. Please contact Mrs. Welch with any questions at 860-568-4100 or at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
2017/2018 School Year
Registrations are being accepted for the 2017-2018 school year. Financial aid applications can be submitted through Smart Aid. All financial aid information is on the main page of the school’s website: www.saintchristopherschool.org. Scholarships through Connecticut Educational Opportunities are also available for East Hartford residents. There are options for financing a Catholic school education that make a Catholic education an option for your family. Contact Mrs. Welch for more information at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org or at 860-568-4100.

KNGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Member Family Dinner
The St. Christopher Council #4 and Monsignor Thomas J. Drennan Assembly #1571 invite all members, families and widows of the Knights of Columbus, regardless of council or assembly affiliation, to our Family Pot-Luck Supper being held on Tuesday, April 18, at 6:00 p.m. in our church hall. Our featured entree will be chicken. Please call the Grand Knight, Bob Falkevitz, at 860-568-5452 to indicate what vegetable and/or dessert you wish to bring and how many people will be attending so we can insure that ample food is available.

Join our Council
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. CHRIS ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION
Saturday ~ April 22 ~ 5:30 p.m.
Please join us for an unforgettable evening filled with good food; wine, beer and soda tastings from local vendors; music by The Rusty Crickets Band and DJ Ron Donson; and a variety of great items to bid on. Our auctioneer will be Tim Lammers of Fox 61 Morning News. $30 single; $50 couple. Tickets can be purchased by calling the school at 860-568-4100 or by visiting saintchristopherschool.org.

RETREATS FOR WOMEN
Holy Family Retreat Center
Do you need to slow down, come away and rest awhile? Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford is offering two upcoming women’s retreats: April 21-23 and June 2-4. I attended the retreat held in January, 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 would like to contact me at annemarievolowski@yahoo.com or at 860-680-4219. – Anne Marie Volowski

ACTS Retreat
Are you a woman who would like to strengthen your faith and its application in your daily life, to renew yourself spiritually, and to build community through lasting friendships? If so, then an ACTS retreat at the Immaculata Retreat House in Willimantic is perfect for you. The retreat begins Thursday evening, April 27 and ends Sunday, April 30 with a 10:30 a.m. Mass and reception at St. Patrick’s church in East Hampton where transportation to and from the retreat house is being provided. More information can be found on the yellow brochures at the church entrances or at www.actsct.net/retreats.

ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
Moved by Mercy, is underway. We thank all parishioners who have already made a gift. If you have not yet responded, please prayerfully consider doing so. 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.
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.

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**Reflection for Next Sunday, April 16, 2017 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

By baptism we participate in Christ’s life, death and Resurrection and it can and should shape our lives and give us spiritual energy. We too have to be enlightened and strengthened by the Holy spirit to recognize the power of the risen Jesus in our lives. We are still on earth but we have to live with the new risen life that Christ shares with us. To the extent that we do this, people will sense and experience the meaning of the Resurrection of the Lord.

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**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
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**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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**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