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

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

Third Sunday of Easter ~ April 30, 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
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

StChristopherChurchEH
Third Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2017

“You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.”
– Acts 2:28

Mass for the Intentions of the Week

Saturday, April 29 – 4:00 p.m.
Jim White
(Family Friend)

Sunday, April 30 – 8:00 a.m.
Katherine Plunge
(Mike & Maria Gallo)

Sunday, April 30 – 10:30 a.m.
Msgr. Daniel F. Colbert
(Family)

Monday, May 1 – 7:30 a.m.
Edward T. Doyle
(Elizabeth Doyle-Zizzamia, Sister)

Tuesday, May 2 – 7:30 a.m.
Lores Zizzamia
(Son Francis & Elizabeth Zizzamia)

Wednesday, May 3 – 7:30 a.m.
Kathleen Doyle-Foley
(Elizabeth Doyle-Zizzamia, Sister)

Thursday, May 4 – 7:30 a.m.
Rev. Thomas J. Baylis

Saturday, May 6 – 4:00 p.m.
Walter Forrest – 5th Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, May 7 – 8:00 a.m.
Joseph Leonardo
(Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, May 7 – 10:30 a.m.
Anna Tamburro
(Maria Sessa)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (April 23): $ 5,526*

Peter’s Pence Collection: $ 1,332

*Includes $603 received through our Online Giving program and $407 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family and of the charitable works of Pope Francis.

HOMEFRONT COLLECTION
Our second collection today helps offset the cost for our parish to participate in HomeFront, an outreach program where a group of volunteers from our parish will conduct a one-day repair blitz for an East Hartford neighbor in need. (Please see page 2 of this bulletin for more information.)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Like the two disciples in today’s Gospel going to Emmaus, we must be alert and prepared to see Jesus in places we least imagine Him. Stewardship is, of course, a two-sided perspective. Not only do we need to seek and search for Jesus in others and then serve, but also others need to see and recognize Jesus in us.

If we properly live out our faith, we, too, may experience the sense of joy and jubilation the two disciples found in today’s Gospel: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened Scriptures to us?” Jesus speaks to us every day, but we must learn to listen.

The original Greek word for what we read as “throes of death” could also be translated as “the birth pains of death.” Jesus’ resurrection is as if He was in the womb, and being raised in this way He was born to new life. That is what we, too, can expect and hope for.

– 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

For the Young People of Our Parish Who Will Make Their First Communion on May 7th
MARIAN GARDEN UPDATE

Now that spring is here and the weather is warmer, 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

HOMEFRONT APPEAL

HomeFront Day on Saturday, May 6, is coming upon us and we need help! We hope to accomplish the following projects for our East Hartford neighbor:

- Rehab backyard deck…the boards are very weather beaten and unstable
- Replace kitchen faucet
- Repair/replace shower faucet
- Lots of yard cleanup
- Possibly replace bedroom doors and closet doors
- Miscellaneous small tasks

**We are having a volunteer meeting on Monday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. Please join us for this valuable meeting.**

We need skilled professionals as well as folks who can rake, clean and help remove clutter. A big part of the success of our project is feeding our hardworking crew with a simple lunch on HomeFront Day. I am thrilled to announce that Joanne and Phil Hadyka have volunteered to provide our lunch again this year! **If anyone would be willing to provide our crew with some coffee and maybe donut holes or something similar in the morning while we are getting ready for our day, that would be awesome.** Please consider assisting us with this very worthy project of neighbor helping neighbor. We can make a difference but it won’t happen without you. Please say YES! For more information or to volunteer, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net. Thank you!

ST CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB

Monday ~ May 1 ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Church Hall

After our business meeting, we will be enjoying some toe-tapping music by the Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers. Don’t miss it! Dues of $20 for the 2017 calendar year were due at the first of the year. Please see Regina and Ray Schultz at the Membership Table to pay your dues…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. If you have any questions regarding the club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ May 5, 2017 ~ 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Call 1-800-Red Cross to make an appointment.
THANK YOU!
The St. Christopher School 2017 Auction Team would like to thank the St. Christopher Parish Community for coming and supporting our event last Saturday. We appreciate your participation and generosity and hope you had a great time. Your presence was also greatly appreciated during the moment of honoring the Hutt Family for their endless considerate and thoughtful support as well as kind-hearted generosity for the children of our School. Through everyone’s generous support and caring nature, the tradition of Catholic education in East Hartford continues on - God Bless You All.

Thanks to all who helped, participated and supported the Pulled Pork Dinner that was held on Saturday evening, March 25th! Sorry that this Thank You is very belated, but it is none the less very heartfelt. It was a fun evening with a delicious dinner enjoyed by all. This too, was very a successful fundraiser, raising almost $2,000 to benefit St. Christopher School. Many thanks to all for your continued support of our parish school.

FIRST COMMUNION
Thirty-three children from our parish school and religious education program will be making their First Communion during our 10:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, May 7. We’re looking forward to sharing this special moment with these children and with their family and friends.

SUMMER ACADEMY at St. 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.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP
July 10 14  ~  9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Registrations are now being accepted for this year’s Summer Vacation Bible Camp – Message Received: Hearing God’s Call – where children will learn that God continues to call all kinds of people – including them! People are called to love God and follow Jesus every day. Those who hear God’s message and respond are forever changed. Please help us to plan accordingly by submitting your registration by June 12. The registration form, with all the information, can be found at church entrances or be downloaded from our website at stchris-eh.org.

THE LIVING ROSARY
The Living Rosary, Novena of the Miraculous Medal and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Monday, May 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul Church, 2577 Main Street in Glastonbury. All are invited to join them for this inspirational and prayerful evening. Refreshments will follow.

A COMMUNITY TAG SALE...will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the churchyard at All Saints’ Episcopal Church, 444 Hills Street, East Hartford. Free space for Tag Sellers. Free parking for all. Activities for children. Hotdogs and hamburgers for sale. Proceeds for area schools.

JOB POSTING
The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools is hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant for their Bloomfield office. The ideal candidate will have Administrative Assistant experience and want to work twenty hours per week. Bachelors or Associates degree preferred, three to five years of executive secretarial experience preferred, excellent computer experience, ability to use internet, must demonstrate computer proficiency and have working knowledge of all Microsoft Office and Excel applications. Working knowledge of Raiser’s Edge 7 preferred. For more information or if you know someone who may be interested, please contact the FACS Executive Director, Cynthia Basil Howard at: CBHoward@FACSHartford.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."

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, May 7, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Easter (a.k.a. Good Shepherd Sunday)

Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Today’s psalm – Psalm 23 – remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

PARISH DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION
Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Robert H. De Fiore
860-895-8692 • stchrisym@gmail.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
Sandra Case
Sheila DeLaura ~ 860-568-7465

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY
Mary Kowalkowski ~ 860-568-8873

PARISH/SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT
Dianne Rumsey

BUILDING & GROUNDS CHAIRMAN
Stephen Roczynski

CHURCH CUSTODIAN
Roger Dube

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE
Roger Dionne

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

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES
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Sue Ward ~ 860-633-2930
tobusysue@gmail.com

“…but not too busy to take your prayer requests!”