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

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

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
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2017

“He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.”

—1 Peter 2:24a

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (April 30): $ 6,044
HomeFront Collection: $ 641

+Includes $1,278 received through our Online Giving program and $287 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family and of the HomeFront outreach program.

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

REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD
At the end of the day, shepherds would bring their sheep to a common sheepfold, leading them through a gate that was guarded during the night. Shepherds would give names to their sheep and call to them when daylight came, leading them back out to pasture. Because the sheep recognized the shepherd’s voice there was no mix-up with sheep that belonged to others.

The idea that shepherds had a name for each of their sheep brings home the difference between a good shepherd and a stranger. The good shepherd was concerned not only for the flock but for each sheep in it. He knew them and they knew him. “They will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers” (John 10:5).

Jesus knows his sheep by name, leads them to safety when darkness falls, and returns them to pasture. He was willing to lay down his life for them. Most comforting of all, he came then and comes now so we might have life and have it more abundantly. This image challenges all who have been called to be shepherds in today’s church, to be good shepherds and to be good at shepherding.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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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 Frank Wroniak
(Family & Friends)
FIRST COMMUNION
We congratulate the following children who will be receiving the Body of Christ for the first time this Sunday during our 10:30 Mass. We are grateful to those who helped to prepare these children for this sacrament and to their parents for raising them in the Catholic faith.

Kaitlyn Bonfiglio
Reene Carras
Russell Cook
Kolbie Cumento
Alexandra Estrella
Austin Freund
Melanie Gonzales
Julia Guerrero
London Hayle
Joshua Houseley
Audrey Kennedy
Alexia Laffin
Lila Laureano
Abigail Leibold
Angelina Leone
Elizabeth Marra
Sara Miranda

PAINT FUND
We offer our thanks and appreciation to the students of our parish school who on Friday, April 28, held a Dress Down Day in support of our Paint Fund. They raised a total of $292.00. Way to go!

We are grateful for the generosity of these students and those of you who have contributed to our Paint Fund. We’ve been able to complete about 80% of this project, but more funds are needed to allow us to finish the remaining 20%. If you are interested in supporting our Paint Fund, envelopes are available at all church entrances. Thank you!

IN MEMORIUM
Please pray for the following parishioner who has gone to eternal life during the month of April.

Irene Pecor
“ If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21

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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Our Adult Bible Study group meets every other Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in our chapel. It meets again this Wednesday, May 10. 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, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

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

SAVE THE DATE
8th Annual Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference
“Rooted in Faith: One Family Under God”
Sat. ~ June 10, 2017 ~ 9-3 pm (St. Thomas Seminary)
www.catholicsocialjustice.org/
BABY BOTTLES FOR BIRTHRIGHT
Baby bottles will be available after all Masses on Mother’s Day weekend, May 13/14. Please plan to take a bottle home, fill it with your spare change (cash or a check) and return it on the weekend of June 3/4. This is an opportunity for the Saint Christopher community to have a hands-on involvement in a project that helps saves the lives of unborn children and makes a difference in their mothers’ lives, too. Thanks for your support.

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.

HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATIONS
A Holy Hour for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood around the world will be held on Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. A light “coffee-and” reception will follow. All are invited.

COURAGE AND EnCOURAGE GROUPS
Courage: Thurs. May 11 & Thurs. May 25 at 7 p.m.
EnCourage: Wed. May 17 at 7 p.m.
Courage is an international network of Catholic support groups for men and women who experience same-sex attraction and seek to live chaste lives in Christ. Courage also sponsors separate support groups (called “EnCourage”) for those who seek to gain greater understanding and acceptance of their loved-one’s same-sex attraction, while honoring the virtue of chastity. Courage ministers under the auspices of the Office of Family Life. For meeting location and additional information you can contact Fr. Robert Landback, Chaplain at 203-265-0961, x-2 or aohctcourse@gmail.com. The website for Courage International is couragerc.org.

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. Your help enables so many programs and initiatives that help thousands across our Archdiocese every day. If you did not receive an Appeal packet at your home, you can find one at the main entrance of our church.

SUMMER ACADEMY at St. Christopher School
Information is available on our parish school’s website www.saintchristopherschool.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.

TRINITY DOME - SPECIAL COLLECTION
The Bishops of the United States have approved a special one-time second collection to take place in parishes across the nation on Mother’s Day weekend to support the mosaic ornamentation of the Trinity Dome, the crowning jewel of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Also known as America’s Catholic Church, the National Shrine has been nearly a century in the making since the laying of its foundation stone in 1920, built by and for the faithful of our great nation in honor of our Blessed Mother, the patroness of the United States. Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative to help complete America’s Catholic Church in advance of its 100th anniversary through next weekend’s second collection. Please visit www.trinitydome.org for more information about this initiative.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Thanks to all who made our Pot-Luck Supper so enjoyable. This month’s member’s Pot-Luck supper will be Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the church hall.

Congratulations to Father John and Keith Garabedian for completing the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus initiation this past weekend.

There is still time for you and your family to make a difference and join The St. Christopher Council #4 and the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. The requirements for membership are that you be a Practical Catholic man and be age 18 or older. Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 for more information.
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."

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Reflection for Next Sunday, May 14, 2017 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's Gospel is part of Jesus' farewell conversation with his disciples. They are confused and distressed at the prospect of his leaving, but Jesus comforts them and us with the promise of the Spirit. While he is leaving us in one way, he remains with us in different way, through the Spirit. The gift of the Spirit will build us into the Mystical Body of Christ — to be one with him and each other, to continue his mission in the world.

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
tobusysue@gmail.com

...but not too busy to take your prayer requests!

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION
Kristina Gillespie
860-895-8692 • stchrism@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

BUILDING & GROUNDS CHAIRMAN
Stephen Rocznyski

CHURCH CUSTODIAN
Roger Dube

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FOOD BANK MINISTRY
Diane Warner ~ 860-202-8462

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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Bob Falkevitz, Grand Knight
860-568-5452

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772

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