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
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

Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ May 14, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2017

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

– John 14:6

Mass for the Week

Saturday, May 13 – 4:00 p.m.
Frank Wroniak
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Grandparents)

Sunday, May 14 – 8:00 a.m.
Norman Daigle
(Alcide LeBlanc)

Sunday, May 14 – 10:30 a.m.
John Leonard
(Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Monday, May 15 – 7:30 a.m.
Maria Nguyen

Tuesday, May 16 – 7:30 a.m.
Mark Tardiff & Debbie Fallacaro
(Family)

Wednesday, May 17 – 7:30 a.m.
Manuel & Maria Machado
(Family)

Thursday, May 18 – 7:30 a.m.
Diane Olinatz – 4th Anniversary
(Family)

Saturday, May 20 – 4:00 p.m.
Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)

Sunday, May 21 – 8:00 a.m.
Richard Domler (Mary Kaminski)

Sunday, May 21 – 10:30 a.m.
Joe Kronen
(Polish American Republican Club)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (May 7): $ 5,718*
Parish School Collection: $ 1,634**

*Includes $548 received through our Online Giving program and $335 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $175 received through our Online Giving program and $56 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

TRINITY DOME
Special Collection This Weekend

The Bishops of the United States have approved a special one-time collection to take place in parishes across the nation this 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 today’s second collection. Please visit trinitydome.org for more information about this initiative.

THE WAY

The Easter season has been a time of growing in Easter faith so that we, too, may learn to know that Jesus is the way. We can take comfort in the Lord’s promise that he is going to his Father’s house to prepare a place for us, his chosen people who have been called out of darkness into God’s wonderful light.

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
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Family & Friends)
A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, last weekend, the final arrangement of parishes as a result of the Pastoral Planning Process of the Archdiocese was announced. For us it means that, effective June 29th, Saint Christopher Church will merge with Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Peace parishes to form a new parish family under the patronage of Saint Edmund Campion.

All three parishes will lose their legal status as separate entities and form one new legal entity. The building of Blessed Sacrament will close and not be used. The building of Our Lady of Peace will be used for worship and other purposes periodically. The building of Saint Christopher will be used as the principal worship place. It is important to note, however, that both buildings will retain the name with which they were dedicated even though they serve the same parish: Saint Christopher Church of Saint Edmund Campion parish and Our Lady of Peace Church of Saint Edmund Campion parish.

Archbishop Blair has appointed me to serve as the pastor of this new parish. I will have an assistant priest, a.k.a. Parochial Vicar, who will live at the rectory. He is Father Joseph Moonnamappallil, originally from India. He has been serving at parishes in the archdiocese for nearly ten years and was with me when I was in Glastonbury.

A new Parish Council and Finance Council will be formed drawing from all three churches. Also, the members of the Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Altar Server, and Usher ministries from the other two churches will join our ministry members. The Religious Education and Confirmation programs of all three churches will combine and be based in our school. Much work will be done this summer to meet accounting and legal requirements.

Anyone who is familiar with the population changes in our region in the past twenty years should not be surprised by this development. The census of the year 2000 resulted in the loss of a Congressional seat, and thus, was a clear indication that the population of Connecticut was not growing. We are also an aging State; hence the closing of many public schools. Cities and towns have been restructuring to meet this new reality. As our region becomes more secularized, many non-Catholic churches and synagogues have also found it necessary to restructure. In other words, things are not the way they were fifty years ago and we have to adjust accordingly.

Jesus prayed “that they may all be one” (John 17:22). Saint Paul reminded us that “There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all, and works through all, and is in all” (Ephesians 4:5-6). Combining churches will mean combining talents and resources which will benefit everyone.

Saint Edmund Campion, patron of our new parish family, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ I am

Father John Gwozdz

BABY BOTTLES FOR BIRTHRIGHT

Baby bottles will be available after all Masses this weekend. Please plan to take a bottle home, fill it with your spare change (cash or a check) and return it the weekend of June 3/4. This is an opportunity for you to have hands-on involvement in a project that helps save the lives of unborn children and makes a difference in their mothers’ lives, too. Thanks for your support.

HOLY HOUR 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.

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! 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.
Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ May 14, 2017

**Prayer for Mother’s Day**

Thank you God for all mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, and those who are like mothers to us. We ask for your blessing on those mothers living and not living and for mothers to be. We pray they always turn to you in times of joy and sorrow and that they continue to be a source of strength in leading us to you. May all mothers know your loving and gentle presence. Amen.

*Father John, Deacon Phil and the entire parish staff wish all the mothers of our parish a Happy Mother’s Day!*

**Catholic Communication Campaign**

Next weekend our second collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ, here and around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. Fifty percent of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message! Visit: www.usccb.org/ccc.

**Knights of Columbus**

**Member Family Dinner**

The St. Christopher Council #4 will host our member’s family Pot-Luck Supper this Tues., May 16 in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. Our featured entrées will be hotdogs, hamburgers and brats. We plan to present our appreciation certificates to our remaining Altar Servers, hear how Dan Valente is doing at the seminary, and present a Knight’s Eagle Scout Award to Joshua Cadwallader. RSVP to the Grand Knight.

**Formation and Knighthood Ceremonies**

Members who have not taken the higher degrees should plan to take the 2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremonies on Sun., June 4, at St. Joseph School in New Britain. Members are not full-fledged Knights who understand our values until they complete these ceremonies. You must notify the Grand Knight if you wish to attend.

**Fourth Degree**

In preparation for Memorial Day, the patriotic members will be placing flags on veterans’ graves at the Hockanum and Old South Cemeteries on Saturday, May 20 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Assembly members are requested to meet at the Hockanum Cemetery at that time. The town Memorial Day ceremonies will be held indoors at the East Hartford High School on Friday, May 26, at 6:00 p.m. if you wish to attend.

**SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS**

**Open House**

Our parish school will be hosting an Open House this Monday, May 15 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. We offer more than 50 years of Catholic education excellence! Looking for a full or part-time program for your 3 or 4 year old? Thinking about Kindergarten for your child? Maybe your older child needs a new option for learning? Come see what we’re about! Visit our PreK 3 & 4 through grade 8 classes. See why our graduates are so successful in high school and beyond. Please join us!! Help us to spread the word. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Welch at 860-568-4100 or at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

**Part-time Position Available**

Our parish school has a part-time position available in the After School Program. Monday - Friday from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. when school is in session. Please call 860-568-4100 or contact Mrs. Welch at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

**Let Us Help You Spring Clean!**

Our parish school is hosting a Savers collection event on Sun., May 21 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bag up your used clothing and household goods and bring them to the school. We will earn a profit for all of the items we bring in. Questions? Call 860-568-4100. Thank you for your support of the school!

**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 3 & 4 through grade 8 classes. See why our graduates are so successful in high school and beyond. Please join us!! Help us to spread the word. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Welch with any questions at 860-568-4100 or at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

**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
LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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 21, 2017 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus speaks in the gospel about being alive even after his death. Mostly we find Jesus alive in the love of others. There is an energy of love which is connected to the energy of God, for God is love. There are times we find God close to us in prayer; but where we sense him alive mostly is in the ordinary and extraordinary loves of every day, in marriage, family, friendship and care for others.

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
860-895-8692 • 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

BUILDING & GROUNDS CHAIRMAN
Stephen Roczniski

CHURCH CUSTODIAN
Roger Dube

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE
Roger Dionne

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Roberta H. De Fiore
203-630-9295
Roberta9700@yahoo.com

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 Falkowitz, Grand Knight
860-568-5452

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Santa Vallone ~ 860-569-1772

MINISTRY OF GREETERS
Anne Marie Volowski ~ 860-680-4219
Saint Christopher
Community Event - East Hartford, CT

Grinder Order
May 20th
$6

Doors Open at 5:15 PM

Come and enjoy our Annual
Talent Show and help support
St. Christopher School.

Menu

Make Your Own Cold Grinders - Your choice of:
Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef or Combination (Turkey, Ham & Roast Beef)
With toppings
Cole Slaw | Chips
Cold Beverages & Coffee

GRINDER ORDER

Name: __________________________________________

# of Turkey ___ # of Ham ___ # of Roast Beef ____ # of Combo _____

Payment Enclosed: $ __________

$6.00 per 6” Grinder includes Chips & Cole Slaw

Please help us to plan accordingly by responding by Thursday, May 18.

Send order form w/payment to: Danielle Vargas - St. Christopher School, 570 Brewer Street, East Hartford, CT 06118
or you may make reservations by sending an e-mail to Danielle at stchrisdvargas@gmail.com.
As a spiritual gift, these mothers – both living and deceased – will be remembered in the Masses celebrated in our parish this Mother’s Day weekend.

**Living**

- Olympia Aboumrad
- Vivian Arena
- Aparecida Barbosa
- All Bergeron Mothers
- Mary Blondin
- Carol Brousseau
- All Crowley Mothers
- Marlys Daugherty
- Maureen Desrosiers
- Kristen Galica
- Maria Gallo
- Janet Goorahoo
- Alice Gosselin
- Mary Harden
- Lisa Johanns
- Zita Keating
- Maria Kepinski
- Carolyn Verotsky Kronen
- Kimberly Cremona Kronen
- Ann Marie Langenfeld
- Lisette Laprise
- Nathalie Laprise
- Mrs. Gertrude Lariviere
- Zorina Mahago
- Theresa Mathiau
- Rena Monahan
- Diana Oliveira
- Theresa Plenzio
- Beverly Plefka
- Lillian Poulion
- Barbara Sander
- Kim Spatz
- Felicia Stanizzi
- Edna Volowski

**Deceased**

- Mary Abenavoli
- Louise Agnes
- Dawn Agnes
- Victoria Allion
- Maria T. Alvarenga
- Nellie Anderson
- Rita Audibert
- Mary Anne Bairos
- Maria Bastos
- Rose Beaupre
- Flora Belanger
- Aurore Belanger
- All Bergeron Mothers
- Cecile Bernard
- Leona Biloodeau
- Kathleen Bister
- Antoinette Boivin
- Elsa Bosco
- Belle Bradley
- Mary Bradley
- Amy Brimley
- Ann Budaj
- Pearl Bugbee
- Stella Burnat
- Mary Monahan Burke
- Doris Burhans
- Lillian Burhans
- Helen Cadorette
- Christine Calamari
- Alice Thibodeau Caron
- Mary E. Carron
- Concetta Cassarino
- Anna Cervini
- Marie-Blanche Charron
- Alice Chamberland
- Philomene Chasse
- Albertine Chamberland
- Felicia Chesery
- Catherine Claffey
- Madelyn Clark
- Dorothy Cleaves
- Mary T. Colbert
- Jenny Contois
- Emma Coti
- Stella Cowing
- All Crowley Mothers
- Rose V. Cumniskey
- Jane Curley
- Rena Cyr
- Aline Cyr
- Thirza D'Abate
- Eleanor Dawson
- Rosa DeJesus
- Letizia Della Nave
- Florence Desrocher
- Catherine D'Onofrio
- Helen Dorak
- Helen Duarte
- Yvonne Dulude
- Eduviges Espinosa
- Ethel Fiaschetti
- Margaret Flaherty
- Bev Florida
- Frances Fronczek
- Helen M. Gallo
- Margaret Gallo
- Doria Gaudette
- Jean Gesuele
- Philomena Giansanti
- Clara Golas
- Leona Guerin
- Alice Guerette
- Pearl Harden
- Mrs. Emilia Hebert
- Mabel Hogan
- Paula A. Muscillo Huston
- Betty Hutt
- Rose Jandreau
- Lillian B. Jones
- Lillian G. Jones
- Florence Kamszik
- Krystyna Knap
- Ruth Knotts
- Stella Kochanowicz
- Helen Kosiorek Kronen
- Sophie Krzanik
- Alice LaCosse
- Mary LaFontaine
- Mary Lamonda
- Anna Langenfeld
- Eva Lekouses
- Lillian Leonard
- Yvonne Letourneau
- Antoinette Licitra
- Concettina Lionti
- Rose Lombard
- Julia Luizzi
- Emily Manship
- Edith Mante
- Marie Manager
- Lillian Marie Martin
- Mary A. Martino
- Theodora Marszalek
- Cecile Marquis
- Helen Martocci
- Bernice Hurley Marshall
- Hortense Mason
- Irma McCarthy
- Mildred McCarthy
- Joan McCarthy
- Molly McGlinchey
- Judith D. Melo
- Alma Michaud
- Lena Michaud
- Helen Mintel
- Patricia Muszynski
- Regina Nadeau
- Marguerite Nadeau
- Angela M. Nagle
- Simone O'Bright
- Sara Parent
- Lillian Parent
- Laura Paszek
- Nellie Pearson
- Marianantonia Petinato
- Connie Pirruccio
- Gloria Plante
- Katheryn Pleva
- Anna Plefka
- Alma Plourd
- Angelica Porcari
- Anna Povinelli
- Jane Povinelli
- Mildred Proctor
- Pauline Richter
- Mrs. Jeanne Riendeau
- Beatrice Rioux
- Anna Ruggiero
- Helen Saviske
- Dorothy Schofield
- Theresa Schiche
- Helen Schifer
- Mary B. Schultz
- Lucille Serruto
- Lucia Serruto
- Eloise Sheehan
- Bridie Shea
- Rose P. Smith
- Florida St. Laurent
- Ida St. Onge
- Sara Parent
- Sarah Parent
- Laura Paszek
- Nellie Pearson
- Marianantonia Petinato
- Connie Pirruccio
- Gloria Plante
- Katheryn Pleva
- Anna Plefka
- Alma Plourd
- Angelica Porcari
- Anna Povinelli
- Jane Povinelli
- Mildred Proctor
- Pauline Richter
- Mrs. Jeanne Riendeau
- Beatrice Rioux
- Anna Ruggiero
- Helen Saviske
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- Theresa Schiche
- Helen Schifer
- Mary B. Schultz
- Lucille Serruto
- Lucia Serruto
- Eloise Sheehan
- Bridie Shea
- Rose P. Smith
- Florida St. Laurent
- Ida St. Onge

“She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel.” (Proverbs 31:26)