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 Church EH

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ May 28, 2017

They devoted themselves to prayer

Like us on Facebook
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (May 21): $5,288
• Includes $578 received through our Online Giving program and $707 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN
This 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.

DEVOTED TO PRAYER
Today, as we await Pentecost, we come to the end of the baptismal homily from Peter that we have heard over the past few weeks. This homily was written by a realist who knew the joy and the glory of a resurrection faith, but also knew that the strength of that faith would be put to the test and tried in suffering. Earlier this year we heard Jesus preach, “Blessed are you when they insult you . . . because of me” (Matthew 5:11) and this is echoed today by Peter. These words are also formed in the image of Christ who prays to the Father in heaven today, a prayer that is placed in John’s Gospel right before Jesus endures his suffering and death. Our awaiting the Spirit, awaiting our mission for Christ means that we are, most likely, awaiting some sort of trial and suffering. We don’t endure the same degree of persecution that Peter and John knew, but each of us has our faith put to the test eventually. And it is for this reason that we, like Jesus and like those faithful followers gathered in the upper room, devote ourselves to prayer. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

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 Those Who Courageously Laid Down Their Lives for the Cause of Freedom
OFFERTORY GIFTS  
We invite you to participate in our weekend liturgies by bringing up the gifts of bread and wine to be offered. If you’re interested, please take the wooden fish from the gift table before the start of Mass.

PAINTING PROJECT
As you can see, the painting of our church interior continues. Work is now being done to paint the window frames of the two windows closest to the sanctuary on each side of the church. Your donations to this project have allowed us to get this far and we are most grateful to you for your incredible generosity!

Our Paint Fund is now spent and more donations will be necessary, especially from those of you who have not yet made a contribution, to bring this project to completion. All that remains now are the rest of the windows, the arches on either end of the church (which will continue the beige color of the walls) and the ceiling (which will be a pale blue).

Please consider making a donation by using the Paint Fund envelopes at the entrances of the church. Your support of this project would be most appreciated!

NEW ARCHDIOCESAN PRIESTS
On Saturday, May 20, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair ordained three men to the Holy Priesthood. They are Rev. Glen Dmytryszyn, Rev. Eduar Gutiérrez Tovar and Rev. Eric Zuniga. We invite you to take a moment to learn more about these men and why they chose to become apostles of Jesus. Please visit archdioceseofhartford.org/meet-new-priests. May we be grateful for their unselfish response to God’s call to service, and may they inspire others to do the same.

MARIAN GARDEN UPDATE
Now that spring is here and the weather is warmer, work on our Marian Garden will be resuming shortly. 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 on our website at stchris-eh.org/mariangarden.php.

WHOOPS! I MISSED ONE
My fifty-something brain is starting to show some wear. For some unknown reason I failed to include Sheila Delaura in the Living Stations’ thank you. Sheila was one of our readers who helped make the 2017 Living Stations presentation so special. I am so grateful to all those who participated in this year’s Living Stations presentation!

Peace, Deacon Phil

BABY BOTTLES FOR BIRTHRIGHT
We remind those of you who took a baby bottle home with you these past two weekends that these bottles will be collected next weekend, June 3/4. This fundraiser supports the efforts of Birthright of Greater Hartford as they help to save the lives of unborn children and make a difference in their mothers’ lives.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE
The Archdiocesan Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry will host its 8th Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference, “Rooted in Faith: One Family Under God” on Saturday, June 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. Visit www.catholicsocialjustice.org or call 860-242-5573, ext. 2688 for more information.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS

Graduation Mass
The Saint Christopher School Class of 2017 will celebrate their graduation with a Mass here in our church on Friday, June 2, at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend and celebrate this milestone with the graduates.

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.
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.

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.

ATTENTION: COLLEGE AGE CATHOLICS (Ages 18-28)
Looking for a way to keep connected to Christ this summer? Join Father Jeff Gubbiotti for Mass, a grill and chill cookout, prayer, study and fellowship. Bishop Robert Barron’s The Pivotal Players guide will be used. When: 6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 7/26, 8/2, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., come to any or all sessions. Where: St. Thomas Becket Church, 435 N. Brooksvale Road in Cheshire. Materials are free for the first 15 registrants – don’t delay, sign up today! RSVP to Father Jeff at fr.gubbiotti@aohct.org.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
“And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Find ways to let the Lord deeper into your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends in our area are July 7-9, 2017 in Manchester, CT and November 3-5, 2017 in Manchester, CT. For more information, call Dennis and Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit wwmectw.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Correction: The Living Rosary announced in last week’s bulletin is not on Sunday, June 21st.

Faithful Navigator Ernie Mintel and Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz wish to thank all the members who spent last Saturday honoring the deceased veterans by placing flags on their graves. This was truly an honor to perform.

The Knights are distributing raffle tickets for a 2017 Corvette Stingray to support the Hartford Bishop’s Foundation in support of Catholic education. Please consider purchasing one for this worthy cause. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452.

The local council and assembly will meet this Thursday, June 1, in the church hall for their annual business meetings at the following times:

6:30 PM – Assembly #1571 meeting
7:30 PM – Strawberry Dessert Reception
8:00 PM – Council #4 meeting

These meetings will include electing officers for the coming year. Member attendance for a quorum is needed.

Members who have not taken the higher degrees should plan to attend the 2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremonies on Sunday, June 4, 12:00 noon, at St. Joseph School, 29 Edison St., New Britain. Members wishing to attend must notify the Grand Knight by the council meeting this Thursday.

There is still time for you and your family to make a difference and join the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. Catholic men who join before June 28th will have their dues waved for the rest of the year. Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 for more information.

WJMJ RADIOTHON
WJMJ, your Catholic radio station in the Archdiocese of Hartford needs volunteers to assist during their fundraising Radiothon being held June 8 - June 12. If you’re good on the phone and familiar with basic computer data entry, we would love to have you work the phone bank for a few hours. Call 203-758-7367 or visit WJMJ.org and click on the Volunteer button to sign up. Help keep this great station on the air. Tune in at 88.9 FM in greater Hartford. WJMJ Catholic Radio - Where Faith Meets Life.

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ST. CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CLUB  
Monday ~ June 5 ~ 1:00 p.m. ~ Church Hall

Make your own sundaes at this fun meeting. We are providing a variety of ice cream and toppings. Throw caution to the wind...we can eat it all now! 😊

Dues of $20 were payable at the first of the year. If you are not yet a paid member for 2017, please see Regina and Ray Schultz at the Membership Table...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.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Next weekend, June 3/4, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ’s love and respect to all people here at home and abroad. Please see the flyer in this weekend’s bulletin for more information or you may visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS

A Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated this Monday, May 29 at 9:00 a.m. in the mausoleum chapel at St. Mary Cemetery, 930 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford. Everyone is invited to this special Celebration of the Eucharist to remember and honor our deceased veterans and other loved ones who have gone before us.
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, June 4, 2017 – Pentecost Sunday

The gifts of the Spirit are not given for our personal enjoyment or prestige, but for the common good of the church, to build up the body of Christ. In today’s Gospel Jesus gives the Spirit and the power to forgive sins so that the church may fulfill its mission of reconciliation—“to reconcile all things in Christ.” Whatever gifts we have been given, no matter how spectacular or commonplace they may be, they are given to be used 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 Roczynski

CHURCH CUSTODIAN
Roger Dube

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE
Roger Dionne

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Roberta H. De Fiore
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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
HELP Jesus in Disguise

"Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation... Don't we all want a better, more decent and prosperous life to share with our loved ones?"
—Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2016

Imagine a situation so dangerous you need to flee with your family from your home to an unknown country. What would you bring? Where would you live? Where would your kids go to school?

Jordan, a country bordering Syria, is home to over 600,000 Syrian refugees; more than half are children. And these are the questions parents are asking every day.

Most refugee children do not have access to formal education. Many have been out of school for years or missed the chance to go to school entirely. For these children, their future is a difficult road full of obstacles. But with your help, these families find hope.

Your donations to The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) are providing educational opportunities for refugee children including catch-up and remedial classes. Now, over 6,000 students in 21 schools are getting the education they need to protect the future ahead of them.

Your donations are putting these children on a road of hope.

As you walk with these children, you walk with Jesus in disguise. Support the CRSC today. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

WITH YOUR DONATIONS

- Feed Jesus’ hunger in suffering refugees... through the USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).
- Give water to quench Jesus’ thirst in the people of Syria and Niger... through the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).
- Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants... through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).
- Reach out to comfort Jesus’ loneliness in isolated workers... through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.
- Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized... through the public policy work of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.
- Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster... through the Holy Father’s Relief Fund.