

Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 21, 2017



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



StChristopherChurchEH

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



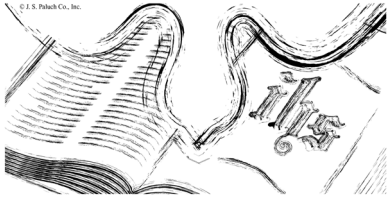
ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Welch, Principal
Audrey Cesana, Secretary
www.saintchristopherschool.org
860-568-4100



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Maria Sousa 860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com



**Sixth Sunday
of
Easter
May 21, 2017**

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you . . . the Spirit of truth.”

– John 14:16–17

*Mass for the
Intentions for the
Week*

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*)

Monday, May 22 – 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Louis Y. Chow

Tuesday, May 23 – 7:30 a.m.

Dinis Leonardo (*Wife & Family*)

Wednesday, May 24 – 7:30 a.m.

Theo Thomas (*Maria Viani*)

Thursday, May 25 – 7:30 a.m.

Nancy Aniston – 1st Anniversary
(*Sally & Al Labieniec*)

Thursday, May 25 – 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Francis V. Karvelis

Thursday, May 25 – 5:30 p.m.

Rev. Robert F. Condron

Saturday, May 27 – 4:00 p.m.

Bernard Nowik

In Remembrance of His Birthday
(*Wife & Family*)

Sunday, May 28 – 8:00 a.m.

Frances Mary Blessing (*Maureen Carroll*)

Sunday, May 28 – 10:30 a.m.

Marlene Brunette (*Tony & Maria Sousa*)

PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (May 14): \$ 5,610*

Trinity Dome Collection: \$ 323

*Includes \$723 received through our Online Giving program and \$206 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family and of the Trinity Dome initiative.

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/cc.

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.

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.

BABY BOTTLES FOR BIRTHRIGHT

We thank those of you who took a baby bottle home with you last weekend. If you were not with us last weekend, we invite you to take a bottle from the basket near our candle station before you leave today. You are asked to fill the bottle with your spare change (cash or a check) and return it the weekend of June 3/4. This is an excellent 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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Lord's Ascension is Thursday, May 25, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated on Thursday, May 25 at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

HOMEFRONT - THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Another HomeFront project is completed and I have many people to thank. First I want to thank Fr. John for supporting our participation in the HomeFront project. Next, my gratitude to our House Captain Stephen Roczynski and Assistant House Captains Tony Sousa and Lori Brunette who invested so much of their time and effort in our project. Although an aggregate thank you to our tremendous crew might be adequate, I feel compelled to mention each by name: Roger Dionne, Susan Potter, Troy Himmel, Dave & Chickie Amberg, Claudette & Larry Flanigan, Mary & John Lawson, Real & Nathalie Laprise, Deborah Thompson, Barbara Ruocchio, Andrew Sargent, Scott Gay, Joseph Amirault, Eric Rowe, Toni & Ernie Mintel, David Boardman, Mike Munley, and Matt Nauss.

Thank you to Joanne and Philip Hadyka for preparing and delivering lunch for our hungry crew, Kristie and Andy Sargent for donating our breakfast items to get us off to a great start and Pat Clark for bringing us brownies! Thank you to Peter Marra for his generous spirit to give! Thank you to Bonnie Szalay for all she does to make things happen behind the scene. And last, but not least, thank you to you, the Saint Christopher parish community, for financially supporting our efforts through the special collection for HomeFront and for your prayers! The homeowner was so grateful at the end of the day, she cried tears of joy for all that was done for her and her family.

Thank you and God bless you all!

➤ Missing Tool ◀

One of the members of our 2017 HomeFront crew is missing his T-square tool. I checked with the homeowner and she did not find it anywhere on her property. If the members of our crew could check to see if they may have inadvertently picked it up when packing up at the end of the day I would appreciate it. If you find that you have it, please contact me so I can reunite the owner with his tool. I can be reached at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net. Peace,

Deacon Phil, HomeFront Volunteer Coordinator

THE HOLY SPIRIT

As the weeks of the Easter Season draw on, we hear more and more in our Scriptures about God the Holy Spirit. We hear less and less about Jesus, or so it seems. In the forty days between His Resurrection and His Ascension to Heaven, Jesus is – so to speak – weaning His disciples. He's helping them realize that He's not going to be with them in the same way anymore. He will be with them: He'll be with them always, "unto the end of the age." But He will not be with them physically as He was during the three years of His public ministry. He will not be at their sides to point the way, for them to talk with face-to-face.

Yet the Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ present in a new way. This new way is through the Church. We hear about this in the midst of the Third Eucharistic Prayer at Holy Mass. "... grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son, and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ." This goal is what the Easter Season leads us towards. This goal is the heart of the mystery of Pentecost, which we will celebrate on June 4.

This is why we all come together on the Lord's Day: not only to be united with Jesus through Holy Communion, but also to be united more strongly with each other. The Mass – like the whole Christian life – is not just about me and Jesus. Coming together through the Mass is the greatest way that God has to unite us poor, fallen sinners into the one body of the Church. The Holy Spirit is the One who helps us see why and how this is.

The Holy Spirit, like the ligaments that hold parts of our physical bodies together, binds us together, to make us one body in Christ. Even when we are separated from our loved ones by great distances, or even by death itself, the Holy Spirit sustains our relationships. The Body of Christ cannot be diminished or destroyed by distance or death.

The Holy Spirit helps us love others even when it is difficult to do so. Everyone around us is an important part of our spiritual life, whether we want them to be or not. Everyone plays a part in our journey on the Way of Christ Jesus. Sometimes that Way is narrow. Sometimes it demands reconciliation. The Holy Spirit leads us into the sort of love that led Jesus to Calvary: the sort of love which allowed Christ to embrace the Cross as His Father's gift.

-<http://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/dailyreflections>

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. Adult and high-school aged volunteers are needed.

THANK YOU CARDS

We received thank you cards from Synergy High School and Birthright expressing gratitude for your generosity to the *Deacons and Diapers* movement. The card from Synergy was particularly touching. It was signed by a member of the staff and by the young women who received the diapers you donated; the notes they wrote were very moving. Thank you and God bless you for your continued support of mothers and babies in our community!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**Did you Know...**

- We are over 125 councils in the state of Connecticut consisting of about 25,000 men and their families.
- We sponsor a Living Rosary annually at Ender's Island Retreat, Enders Island. This will occur Sunday, June 21 at 2:00 p.m.
- We sponsor a golf tournament at Lyman Orchards Golf Club to raise funds to support vocations. This will occur on Monday, June 19.
- We are one of a very few fraternal insurance companies that will provide insurance for citizens with intellectual disabilities.
- We are looking for men and their families who want to help us build up the family which is the domestic church.

No time? It only takes 24 hours per year to save lives and change lives. **Members will be available at the end of Mass this weekend** to invite you to learn more how you are needed and wanted to help with our new programs.

– Bob Falkevitz, Grand Knight
860-558-1502

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS**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. Thank you for your support!

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.

**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. Brooksdale 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.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday Ascension of the Lord	Friday	Saturday	Sunday Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17	Acts of the Apostles 16:11-15	Acts of the Apostles 16:22-34	Acts of the Apostles 17:15, 22 - 18:1	Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11	Acts of the Apostles 18:9-18	Acts of the Apostles 18:23-28	Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14
Psalm 66: 1-7, 16, 20	Psalm 149: 1b-6a, 9b	Psalm 138: 1-3, 7c-8	Psalm 148: 1-2, 11-14	Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-9	Psalm 47: 2-7	Psalm 47: 2-3, 8-10	Psalm 27: 1, 4, 7-8
1 Peter 3: 15-18				Ephesians 1: 17-23			1 Peter 4: 13-16
John 14: 15-21	John 15:26 - 16:4a	John 16: 5-11	John 16: 12-15	Matthew 28: 16-20	John 16: 20-23	John 16: 23b-28	John 17: 1-11a

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."

*Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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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 28, 2017 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

In the Gospel we glimpse Jesus' prayer for his disciples. If we read further in John's Gospel, we find that Jesus prayed for his disciples' protection from the evil one. Jesus also prayed for all those who would have faith in him because of the disciples' teaching. That means that Jesus prayed for us as well, even before his death on the cross. Our faith tells us that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the Father's right hand.

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH TRUSTEES

Marie Gallo-Garabedian
Frank Perrone

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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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