Saint Edmund Campion Parish

The merged parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace and Saint Christopher

Our Lady of Peace Campus
370 May Road
East Hartford, CT
Mass Schedule:
Sunday: 9:00 am
Friday & Saturday: 9:00 am

Saint Christopher Campus
538 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT
Mass Schedule:
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am & 10:30 am
Monday - Thursday: 7:30 am

CONFESSIONS
(Saint Christopher Campus)
Saturdays: 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS
(Saint Christopher Campus)
6:30 pm
Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration • Scriptural Rosary • Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal • Benediction

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP
(Our Lady of Peace Campus)
6:30 pm
Prayer, Song, Scripture, Friendship

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.

PARISH OFFICE
860-568-5240
Bonnie Szalay, Office Manager

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

“[If you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until harvest.]”
– Matthew 13:29-30
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (July 9): $7,607*

*Includes $823 received through our Online Giving program and $95 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family.

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT
The regular monthly collection to support Saint Christopher School will be taken up next weekend, not this weekend as the envelope indicates. This change was necessary so we can support the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries through this weekend’s second collection. (See article below.)

MISSION APPEAL
Welcome Rev. Richard O’Nyamwaro!
This weekend we welcome Rev. Richard O’Nyamwaro, AJ who will be speaking at all our Masses on behalf of the Apostles of Jesus and as part of our parish’s 2017 Mission Appeal Sunday. Apostles of Jesus Missionaries minister in Africa, Europe, Cuba, Oceanic countries and the USA. They particularly minister in most difficult and challenging places. You will be invited to be in partnership with the Apostles of Jesus, through this weekend’s second collection, so that together we can fulfill the mission mandated by Our Lord, “Go teach them” (Mt 28:20).

SANCTUARY LAMP
The lamps beside our church’s tabernacles remind us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

❖ The candle at the Our Lady of Peace campus burns this week
❖ The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

For the People of Saint Edmund Campion Parish
If you wish to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication for either the Our Lady of Peace or Saint Christopher campus, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240.
From the Pastor…

My dear friends,

Can you believe it? Soon a month will have gone by since the parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace and Saint Christopher were merged to form our new parish of Saint Edmund Campion. Where has the time gone?

I have to say that, over all, the process has gone quite smoothly. I am greatly impressed by the way you have supported the mergers and adjusted to the new arrangements. Father Joseph and I, as well as Deacon Phil and Deacon Bill have also had to make some adjustments, especially when it comes to determining “who does what, where?” It is my hope that, by September, most matters will have been addressed.

I want to mention, in particular, the wonderful way in which the Adult Social Club of Saint Christopher’s and the Retirees’ Club of Our Lady of Peace have worked together to become one club. I officiated at a little ceremony in which the board members joined the flames of two candles to create one new flame.

For those who may be unfamiliar with our parish church on the Saint Christopher campus: since December we have been painting the church interior. For about thirty years the interior was in various shades of pink. Now, every wall below the cornice has been painted a light beige with white trim. What remains are the arches above the sanctuary and choir loft (which would be painted a light beige) and the ceiling (which would be painted a very light blue). The entire cost of this work, so far, has been paid through the generous contributions of parishioners; money was not taken from the ordinary income of the parish. We are now in the process of gathering funds to complete this project. Your contribution would be most welcome. To make a donation you may use one of the envelopes at the entrances of the church or simply use a plain envelope marked “paint fund.” This is a wonderful opportunity for the three merged parishes to “make a mark” on the walls of the new parish church of Saint Edmund Campion.

Now that we have a second priest living at the rectory, I would like to hire a part-time cook. Most of you know that I’m not a good cook, and when I do cook, I eat my mistakes, but I would not ask Father Joseph to do the same. The person hired would be paid hourly and would be responsible for food shopping, preparing a dinner for two, and cleaning up afterwards. Presently, there is need for a meal only on Saturday evenings, but it would be expected that several meals would be prepared for use later in the week that could be refrigerated and reheated, such as a casserole. Both Father Joseph and I have to watch our intake of sugars, carbohydrates and fats. If anyone is interested in applying for this position, please call me at 860-568-5240. If several candidates apply, a sampling of their culinary skills would help determine who receives the position. Neither Father Joseph nor I are fussy eaters.

Thank you for your continued support of our merging together. Saint Edmund Campion, pray for us.

Yours in Christ, I am

Father John Gwozdz

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ONLINE GIVING PROGRAM

Online Giving is available here at Saint Edmund Campion parish! It’s all about convenience for you and consistency for the parish. For more information and to register for Online Giving, please visit our website at stchris-eh.org. Click on the Online Giving button on the left side and you will be immediately connected to our secure Online Giving server.

Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Nina Giuliana Paradis

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Parents plant values in their children anticipating the tiny seeds of honesty, respect, commitment and fidelity will grow with their child and one day become “a safe haven” to many.
SUMMER VACATION BIBLE CAMP

During the week of July 10, our parish held its annual Summer Vacation Bible Camp. Nearly 50 campers, counselors and adult volunteers enjoyed the week-long program that included crafts, music, snacks, games, skits and Bible storytelling. Squeals of delight could be heard when one of the camp days ended with a water activity. The week ended with the campers performing for their families and friends the songs they had learned during the week and celebrating at a reception that immediately followed the performance (which is pictured above).

We are most grateful to our Youth Minister, Kristi Gillespie, who directed this year’s program. We also offer our thanks and appreciation to the adult volunteers who helped oversee the various camp stations and to the middle school and high school students who did a wonderful job as camp counselors and station helpers.

Everyone who participated in this year’s program left camp knowing that God calls all kinds of people to do His work – including them!

FLAME PROGRAM
Our Youth Ministry invites all high school aged students to this summer’s FLAME program being held from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. on this two Wednesday in July (July 26). Join us for a bonfire, s'mores and conversation as we discuss the topic: Proofs of God. Come and learn so you can amaze your friends. Meet in the yard behind Saint Christopher School. For more information, send message to stchrisym@gmail.com.

PERSONAL CHECKS
This is a friendly reminder to those who use personal checks to make your weekly offering: please make your check payable to Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace or Saint Christopher Church. We cannot yet deposit checks that are made payable to Saint Edmund Campion Parish.

FREE SUMMER MEALS
Meals are being served Monday - Friday, rain or shine, at a number of sites throughout East Hartford. All children ages 18 and under are welcome at every site. This program is federally funded through the USDA. No registration required and no ID required. Information on where the meal sites are and the times that breakfast and lunch are served at each site can be found by visiting www.CTSummerMeals.org or by calling 211. Please share this information with families you know whose children could benefit from this program.

PRAYER/SHARING GROUP
The Prayer/Sharing Group meets on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Our Lady of Peace campus church hall. All are invited to join us at anytime for an evening of Prayer, Song, Scripture Sharing and Friendship. Refreshments follow each meeting and all are welcome to stay. We meet each Thursday with the exception of holydays and holidays.
WEEDS AND GOOD WHEAT

It is true that each one of us have been both “weeds” and “good wheat” during our lifetime. When we listen to God’s gospel word that is sown in our hearts, and then act upon it, we bear good fruit. But when we stray from God’s word or ignore it, we inevitably sin, and we become as useless as “weeds.” But thank God for his patience!! He does not treat us as “weeds” to be destroyed, but patiently waits for us to repent, to “change” back into wheat. Over and over he gives us chance after chance to amend our lives. The Church is for sinners, and we all acknowledge that we are sinners. Or, do we? Perhaps we instead “rank” ourselves on a scale of goodness that is always weighed in our favor? When we tend to “judge” others in this world, with a “proud” stance of moral superiority, it can be good and very humbling to remember the many times that we, too, were obviously “weeds” that deserved to be eradicated. We need to hold up our “mirror of personal history” to keep the record straight, and our hearts open. Did you ever consider that simply by your daily good example, you can be a turning point for someone else, a “seed” that can take root in their hearts and result in interior change? Maybe we need to “hug a weed,” i.e., show the morally marginalized that they are still loved as one of God’s creation — an acknowledgment that no matter how bad they have been, they are “brother” or “sister” to us. There is always a chance to “turn back,” before the final harvest – thanks to a patient harvester.

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.”

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, July 30, 2017 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Gospel according to Matthew, the kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated. Let this parable remind us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.