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 06118
Mass Schedule:
Sunday: 9:00 am
Friday & Saturday: 9:00 am

Saint Christopher Campus
538 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
Mass Schedule:
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am & 10:30 am
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 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
Once arrangements are made with a funeral home, we will help you plan the Mass of Christian Burial.

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
stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net
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

Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor
860-568-5240 • fr.gwozdz@aohct.org
Rev. Joseph Moonnanappallil, Parochial Vicar
860-918-4022 • fr.moonnanappallil@gmail.com
Mr. William Bartlett, Deacon
deaconbill@yahoo.com
Mr. Philip Gosselin, Deacon
imgoose@comcast.net

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe ~ November 26, 2017
PARISH SUPPORT
Due to the early transmission deadline imposed by our publisher for this weekend’s bulletin, last weekend’s collection will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin.

SCHOLARSHIP COLLECTION
A special collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend to support the M. Sweetland Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund benefits students of our parish who are enrolled in a Catholic grammar school or high school. This year’s recipients will be awarded their scholarships at our 10:30 a.m. Mass this weekend. A reception will immediately follow in our parish hall. All are invited. Thank you for your support!

– The M. Louise Sweetland Scholarship Committee

ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL
Our Annual Parish Appeal is underway! Letters have gone out to all parish families on record with reminder letters scheduled to go out later this week. If you did not receive an Appeal packet, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240. As you know, the money raised by this appeal is very important to the financial health of our parish family and will help us make some improvements to our campuses. We are encouraged by the number of responses we have already received. Please pray for the success of this important effort.

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

For Persecuted Christians Around the World
(During this Week of Awareness: 11/26 - 12/2)

The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

In Loving Memory of Lucien Lavertu
In Remembrance of Our Wedding Anniversary
(Wife Joan)

Please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication. Suggested donation is $15.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MONTH

All eleven dioceses in New England are celebrating Religious Education Month during this month of November. It provides us with a wonderful opportunity for celebrating the catechetical ministry. Saint Edmund Campion’s staff and parish would like to thank all of those who volunteer as Catechists in our Religious Education program and those who teach in our parish school. We appreciate their dedication and passion as they work with parents in passing on the teachings of our Catholic faith to the children of our parish community.

A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Soon we will begin the last phase of painting the interior of the Saint Christopher Church building. It will involve painting the ceiling and the arches over the sanctuary and the choir loft.

Some of you may know that, architecturally speaking, Saint Christopher’s is the older sister of the church building of Saint Paul’s in Glastonbury. They were both designed by the same architect, Walter Furey, and they contain similar architectural elements.

In the past I’ve mentioned how I would like the ceiling at Saint Christopher’s to be painted a pale light blue. However, when visiting Saint Paul’s recently, I noticed that they repainted their ceiling a darker shade of blue which provides an attractive contrast. I took two pictures for you to consider. They are on display near the baptismal font. I also encourage you to visit Saint Paul’s to see for yourself. The church is open in the daytime. An alternative color could be a medium beige matching the floor tile. I would appreciate your opinion on the color before purchasing paint for the ceiling. The arches, of course, will be painted the same shade of light beige as the walls.

BREAD RUN MINISTRY

Our Bread Run Ministry is seeking volunteers who can devote about one hour each month to deliver surplus bread from the Silver Lane Stop & Shop to the CRT Hartford Community Shelter on Main Street in East Hartford. If interested, please contact Regina Schultz at 860-568-2275 for more information.
SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS

Paint Night ~ Friday, December 8
The Saint Christopher Home School Association is hosting a Paint Night on Friday, December 8 in the parish hall at the Saint Christopher campus. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. (immediately following our 5:30 p.m. Holy Day Mass) and painting begins at 7:00 p.m. (Your painting will take approximately two hours to complete.) This is a fun night out for adults! A paint master will provide step-by-step instructions for you to create your own masterpiece of a winter scene while you socialize and enjoy BYO light snacks and drinks with friends! 50% of the proceeds will go to support Saint Christopher School. $30 per person, includes all paint supplies. Payment needs to be submitted no later than Wednesday, December 6. Checks can be made payable to Saint Christopher School HSA. Payments can be dropped off at the parish office, the school office or placed in the collection basket in an envelope marked “Paint Night.” For more information, please call the school office at 860-568-4100.

Gift Cards
Saint Christopher School has gift cards available for many well-known stores and restaurants and are perfect for gift giving and for your everyday use. For each card you purchase at face value, the school receives a rebate. If a representative is available after Mass, this will be announced in the welcome message. You may also call the school office at 860-568-4100 to place your order and to get further information. Thank you for your support!

COUNTERS’ MINISTRY
Now is the time to begin preparing next year’s weekly schedule for our Counters’ Ministry. If you are a current member of this ministry and are not able to continue next year, please let us know. If you are interested in joining this ministry and would like to be included on next year’s schedule, please let us know that as well by calling the parish office at 860-568-5240. The commitment is once every couple of months (so five to six times a year). This ministry is a great way to serve your parish while giving you the opportunity to meet and mingle with your fellow parishioners. It is a friendly and outgoing group. All are welcome to join us. We are thankful to our current members for their service to this ministry and look forward to welcoming new members!

HOLIDAY SUPPORT PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
D’Esopo Funeral Chapel is holding their 28th annual Holiday Support Program and Service of Remembrance on Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m. at the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street in Wethersfield. You are invited to bring a picture of the person being remembered to place at your table. A donation to a local charity will be given in honor of your loved one. Please RSVP so they can adequately plan for refreshments: 860-257-7635 or Janet@desopo.com.

WOMEN’S RETREAT WEEKENDS
Join Holy Family’s retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection on the power of God’s grace in our lives. In an age of division, tension and change, their 2018 retreat theme, Grace Enough, will explore the many ways God’s presence empowers us and supports us through every step of life’s journey. Discover anew how God’s grace is our greatest source of strength and courage to meet the ever-present challenges in our lives. Retreat dates: January 5-7, January 26-28, March 2-4, April 20-22 and June 1-3. To learn more about what you can expect to experience at a retreat weekend, you can contact our parish representative, Anne Marie Volowski, at 860-680-4219 or at annemarievolowski@yahoo.com. You can also visit holyfamilyretreat.org. The Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center is located in West Hartford.

MEN’S RETREAT WEEKEND
Men from our parish will be joining other men from throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford at the Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford the weekend of January 12-14. They will enjoy the same retreat theme as the women (see article above for more information). To learn more about what you can expect to experience at a retreat weekend, you can contact our parish representative, Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net. You can also visit holyfamilyretreat.org.

BOOKCASE NEEDED
Our Parish Library, which is located in the parish hall at the Saint Christopher campus, is in need of a bookcase. If you have one you wish to donate, please contact Joan Perrone at 860-568-6229. Also, until further notice, please do not drop off any more books or AV materials as we have run out of space and cannot accept donations at this time.
WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019
The next World Youth Day celebration is being held in Panama in 2019! Any teens or young adults age 16 and older who are interested in experiencing this life-changing pilgrimage should contact Ginamarie Garabedian at ginamarie_helene@hotmail.com or at 860-810-9826 to discuss the itinerary, payment plans, and plans for fundraising. For a glimpse of what World Youth Day is like, please visit our blog from our trip to Krakow in 2016:
www.stchrischurch.wix.com/wyd2016

CHRIST THE KING...To say that Christ is king, that he reigns over our lives, is to admit to a world bigger than our own. In Christ’s realm, each is cared for simply because each is a part of the kingdom.

PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS
During this Week of Awareness (11/26-12/2), please take a moment to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are punished for practicing their faith.

O God of all the nations, the One God who is and was and always will be, in your providence you willed that your Church be united to the suffering of your Son. Look with mercy on your servants who are persecuted for their faith in you. Grant them perseverance and courage to be worthy imitators of Christ. Bring your wisdom upon leaders of nations to work for peace among all peoples. May your Spirit open conversion for those who contradict your will, that we may live in harmony. Give us the grace to be united in truth and freedom, and to always seek your will in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, December 3, 2017 – First Sunday of Advent
Today’s gospel finds Jesus urging his disciples to “Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake!” The master is going to be physically absent for a long time, and he wants every single one of his servants to be faithful to the task he has assigned to each of them. No one knows when the master will return, so the advice to them, in effect, is to live each day as if the master will return any moment.