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@aohtc.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
**Mass for the Week**

**Saturday, December 2 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)**
Ernest Hutt - In Honor of His Birthday  
(The Pines Family)

**Anniversary of Richard & Rosemary Prachanski**

**Sunday, December 3 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)**
☞ David Knerr (Wife & Children)

**Sunday, December 3 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)**
☞ Joe Gieras (Wife & Family)

**Sunday, December 3 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Reginald Violette – 3rd Anniversary  
(Wife & Family)

**Sunday, December 3 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Reginald Violette – 3rd Anniversary  
(Wife & Family)

**Monday, December 4 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Angelina & Thomas Viglione (Jean Walker)

**Tuesday, December 5 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Bill & Kay McCarthy (Marion Sullivan)

**Wednesday, December 6 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Rose Rogosky Pendley – 23rd Anniversary  
and William L. Pendley (Niece Carolyn V. Kronen)

**Thursday, December 7 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

**Friday, December 8 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Christopher Dolloph & Leonard Kulas

**Friday, December 8 – 9:00 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Deceased Priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford

**Friday, December 8 – 12:15 p.m. (OLOP)**
☞ The Balchunas & Vaisnoris Families  
(The Deyettes)

**Friday, December 8 – 5:30 p.m. (SC)**
☞ Fernand Gosselin (Friends)

**Saturday, December 9 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)**
☞

**Saturday, December 9 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)**
☞ Marianne & Antonio Bairos (Family)  
☞ Michael Wilson (Family)

**Sunday, December 10 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)**
☞ Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

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**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected (November 26): $ 7,957*

What We Collected (November 19): $ 7,445**

*Includes $663 received through our Online Giving program and $150 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes $638 received through our Online Giving program and $820 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family!

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Thank you for your generous support the weekend of November 18/19 to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. As a parish we raised $1,859 to support those on the margins living in poverty.

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**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 Victims of Violence and Terrorism**

☞ The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

**In Loving Memory of Eduviges Velasquez**  
(Daughter & Family)

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

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**Mass Intentions (continued)**

**Sunday, December 10 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)**
☞ Lucian Gionfriddo (Daughter)

☞ Walter Juraszewicz and Gladys Juraszewicz – 4th Anniversary (Family)

**Sunday, December 10 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)**
☞ John Stebbins – 25th Anniversary (Family)

(OLOP) = Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Peace campus  
(SC) = Mass celebrated at Saint Christopher campus
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Friday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of obligation. Masses on Friday will be celebrated as follows:

Saint Christopher Campus
8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Campus
12:15 p.m.

M. LOUISE SWEETLAND SCHOLARSHIP
We congratulate the following recipients of this year’s scholarship awards:

Marylyn Afokwa-Abrokwa Parris Douet
Urielle Afokwa-Abrokwa Emma Lindsay
William Afokwa-Abrokwa Brett Schofield
Erina Aguilar Jason Schofield
Jalynne Ambrose Mara Schofield
Renee Carras Casey Williams

We would also like to thank all parishioners for contributing to the scholarship fund. A total of $1,395 was donated.

– The M. Louise Sweetland Scholarship Committee

THE WORD AMONG US
Available at all entrances of both campuses is a booklet entitled The Word Among Us. This booklet contains the daily readings and meditations for the season of Advent. Please take a copy home with you.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB LUNCHEON
Monday ~ December 4 ~ 11:45 a.m.
We look forward to our first Christmas luncheon with our blended parish club members. Just a reminder…this luncheon is a seated, plated, catered meal for those members only who have registered and paid their portion of the cost of the luncheon. There are 103 members attending, and unfortunately, the sign-up deadline for this event has passed. For those attending, please bring an unwrapped toy which will be donated to a needy child. Please arrive to the church hall no later than 11:45. This will allow time for miscellaneous transactions and the business meeting to be completed in time for the serving of the meal at 12:30. If you have any questions regarding the social club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Sunday ~ December 3
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 noon
Saint Christopher School Gymnasium
Come join us for a fun time at this year’s Breakfast with Santa. There will be great food, arts & crafts, raffles, Christmas Express and pictures with Santa. Adults are $6, children are $4 and the maximum family cost is $24 (parents and kids in one family). Tickets are available at the door.

BIBLE STUDY ADVENTURE
Our Bible Study Adventure group meets again this Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus. Join us as we continue our journey through the Book of Revelation. Questions? Contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001.

PRAYER/SHARING GROUP
The Prayer/Sharing Group will hold its last meeting of 2017 this Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall at the Our Lady of Peace campus. Watch the bulletin in the spring of 2018 for the date when we will resume, which we expect will be the week after Easter. Thank you and God Bless.

A FOOD BANK THANK YOU
I would like to thank everyone who donated to our food bank for the Thanksgiving holiday. I was just overwhelmed this year by the amount of food, including all the turkeys, that were donated by our parish family. With the money donated we were able to buy additional supplies needed to fill our baskets. On behalf of all the people who received Thanksgiving baskets, I want to thank you for making their Thanksgiving a blessed and joyous one. I also with to thank all the volunteers who give their time throughout the year and all those who helped pack the baskets and deliver them. This year we packed and delivered in record time. Thank you!

– Diane Warner, Food Bank Coordinator

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

Victoria Ann Scherer
SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS

Paint Night ~ Friday, December 8
The Saint Christopher Home School Association is hosting a Paint Night this 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 school or parish office. 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!

Hearts and Hands Christmas Trees
The Christmas tree in the sanctuary of the church at the Saint Christopher campus, which was generously donated by D’Esopo Funeral Chapel, is decorated with tags suggesting items for those in need. The people who use the services of Birthright and Synergy benefit from our donations. Please consider taking a heart or hand from the tree, purchase the item and attach the tag to the item unwrapped before putting it under the tree. We ask that all donated items be returned to the tree by December 17. Thank you for your generosity!

Congratulations!
Our very own Dr. Jim Tanguay, Middle School math and science teacher, was recently awarded a grant from the Toshiba America Foundation to fund his project Discovering Important Parameters that Influence Plant Growth. This project is designed to include all middle school science classes in the process. Congratulations Dr. Tanguay!

COATS FOR KIDS
There is currently a great need for winter coats for some of the children in our town’s grammar schools. If you would be willing to donate gently worn or new coats in the following sizes, it would be greatly appreciated: Children’s 5/6, 7/8, 10/12, 14/16 (Some brands size differently but elementary-sized coats is the targeted size). The recipients of the coats will primarily be the children at Mayberry School, but if enough coats are collected, they will be shared with children from other grammar schools in this area. We ask that gently used coats be washed before they are donated. It truly makes a difference to every child who receives a coat. I wish people could see the joy on the faces of the children who receive the coats - it’s like Christmas morning for them. They are so appreciative. There are collection boxes in the parish hall at the Saint Christopher campus and in the foyer at the Our Lady of Peace campus. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

THE MEN’S RETREAT IS COMING!
The Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford contacted me to convey a message to the men of our parish; DO NOT let the cost of the retreat offering keep you from attending! PLEASE go regardless of the amount you can pay; the important thing is that you attend. The 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. The retreat will be January 12-14, 2018. You can register with a credit card at holyfamilyretreat.org or you can contact me for assistance. For more information, you can reach me at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net. – Deacon Phil

WOMEN’S RETREAT WEEKENDS
The 2018 Women’s Retreat dates at the Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, offering the retreat theme, Grace Enough, are: 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.
PARISH OFFICE HOURS
The Parish Office will be operating on a reduced schedule this coming week. The schedule will be:

- Monday, December 4: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Tuesday, December 5: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Wednesday, December 6: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Thursday, December 7: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Friday, December 8: 8:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

FR. NOCK HAS MOVED!
Fr. Nock has moved out of Hartford and is now living in his new home in Wethersfield. His new address is:

1 Lexington Street,
Wethersfield, CT 06109

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
The local council will meet this Thursday, Dec. 7 in the Saint Christopher campus church hall for their business meeting at the following times:

- 6:30 PM – 4th Degree Assembly Meeting
- 7:30 PM – Council #4 meeting

Next weekend the Knights members will be soliciting funds at the exit doors to support East Hartford’s Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities and their winter Olympic games. Your support is much appreciated and accepting our gift of a Tootsie Roll is optional.

We are looking for men and their families who want to help us build up the family which is the domestic church. Contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 for more information.

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 10, 2017 – Second Sunday of Advent
Today’s Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus’ birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.