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)
Prayer, Song, Scripture, Friendship Will resume in the Spring of 2018

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
Mass for the Week

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)

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)

Monday, December 11 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
✦ Peter Vu

Tuesday, December 12 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
✦ Evangelina Sousa (Family & Friends)

Wednesday, December 13 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
✦ Charles George Verotsky – 19th Anniversary and Mary Rogosky Verotsky
  (Daughter Carolyn V. Kronen)

Thursday, December 14 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
✦ Manuel Machado (Wife Maria)

Friday, December 15 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
✦ Deacon Thomas Conklin (Friend)

Saturday, December 16 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
✦ Sebastian & Santa Calderone
  (The Calderone Family)

Saturday, December 16 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
✦ Matthew Michael Harrison and Ken Harrison, Jr. (Family)
✦ Yano & Patsy Tanasi (Sally Ann Tanasi)

Sunday, December 17 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
✦ Margaret Gallo – 25th Anniversary
  (Mike & Maria Gallo)

Sunday, December 17 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
✦ Geoffrey Callahan
  (Gloria Callahan & Daughters)
✦ Priscilla Ward (CCD)

PARISH SUPPORT
This weekend’s bulletin was transmitted to our publisher earlier than usual due to our office manager’s vacation schedule; therefore, last weekend’s collections will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin.

YEAR-END GIFT
We extend our sincere gratitude to a long-time parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous, for their generous year-end gift of $4,000. May God bless them for their generosity.

NEW VESTMENTS
Our parish was recently gifted two new chasubles by the Gilbert family who donated these in memory of their loved one Maureen Gilbert. One is appropriate for the priest to wear during the celebration of Marian feast days and the other during the celebration of funeral Masses and feasts that require the priest to wear white. We are grateful to the Gilbert family for their generosity. May God bless them for their generosity and may Maureen Gilbert rest in peace.

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 Human Rights for All
(In Recognition of Human Rights Day - Dec. 10)

✦ The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

In Loving Memory of
Jimmy Shepley
(Grandmother)

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

Mass Intentions (continued)

Sunday, December 17 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
✦ Evangelina Sousa (Howard & Barb Wilmes)

(OLOP) = Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Peace campus
(SC) = Mass celebrated at Saint Christopher campus
CHILDREN’S LITURGY
Our monthly Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. and students in Grade 6 will participate in special ways during the Mass. Hospitality will not follow this month’s Mass. We will resume hospitality in January.

FAMILY CHOIR
The next rehearsal of our Family Choir will be held in our chapel at the Saint Christopher campus this Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. for any adult or child who is interested in singing in the Family Choir at the Children’s Liturgy being celebrated next Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education, at 860-895-8692.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS
Hearts and Hands Christmas Tree
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!

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!

Day of Giving
Saint Christopher School will have a Day of Giving on January 30-31, from 9am - 9am. Watch for more information about this opportunity in the coming weeks.

CRIB OF PRAYER INTENTIONS
Near the stable at each of our campuses is a basket filled with paper “straw.” You are invited to write down on each paper something you are praying for during this Advent season. Then place the paper in the crib so that, by the time Christmas arrives, Jesus will be cradled by your prayers. What a beautiful way this is to prepare for the coming of Jesus “through whom comes everything that is good.”

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.

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

FOOD BANK NEWS
Now that we have gotten through Thanksgiving we are concentrating on our Christmas Baskets. These baskets will be packed on Thursday, December 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St. They will then be delivered from South Congregational Church on Sunday, December 17 beginning at 9:30 am. If you are able to help with packing or delivering, please call me at 860-202-8462. If you know a person or family in need, please let me know that as well or ask that they call me directly. Below are some suggested items we could use at the Food Bank:

Food items: Mashed Potatoes, Jelly, Canned Stews, Vienna Sausage, Small Roasts, Hams

Non-Food items: Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Small Trial-Sized Toiletries

The church at the Saint Christopher campus is open during the day so non-perishable donations can be left there near the candle station. For donations of perishable items, please call me by Wednesday, December 13 at 860-202-8462. Thank you for your support!

– Diane Warner, Food Bank Coordinator
CHRISTMAS DECORATING TEAM
We are seeking adult parishioners who would like to join our decorating team on Saturday, December 23 at 11:00 a.m. to decorate our church at the Saint Christopher campus for the Christmas season. If you are available, please plan to join us that morning.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Council members are at the exit doors this weekend to take your donation 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.

Thanks to all who made our Filet Mignon Dinner such a great success, including chefs Mike Gay and Ken Johnson with helpers Scott Gay, Keith & Joe Garabedian and Oscar Mejia. Through your support, the council has been able to donate several hundred dollars to the hurricane relief fund of the Knights of Columbus Charities.

A Basketball Free Throw Contest will be held during the coming month for boys and girls ages 9 to 14 years old. Proof of age is required. Applications will be available through members of the council.

St. Christopher Council #4 membership and their families will hold their Family Pot-luck Dinner on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00 PM in the Saint Christopher campus church hall. The entrées will be roasted turkey with members bringing side dishes and desserts. This will also be a Christmas present swap and members are ask to bring a wrapped, unmarked adult $10 gift if they wish to participate.

Members who have not taken the higher degrees should plan to take the 2nd & 3rd degrees on Sunday, January 21 at St. Mark’s Community Center in West Hartford. For more information contact the Grand Knight.

There is still time for you and your family to make a difference and join the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 for info.

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.

BEING ON CALL
Let us try to free ourselves from “being on call” for anyone who calls us on our cell phones or texts us...just for a few undistracted minutes. Listen instead for the call of the Lord in our hearts; be alert and attentive to His invitation to draw closer to Him.
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
Next weekend, December 16/17, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be visiting our parish. The collection we will take up next weekend at all Masses will be used exclusively for the care of the elderly poor who reside with them at St. Joseph’s Residence in Enfield. The Little Sisters of the Poor have been serving the needs of the elderly poor in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts for over 100 years. They will be most grateful for your generosity.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
Through our Baptism, we are called to be disciples of Christ. Like John the Baptist, Jesus also stresses the importance of repentance. Advent is a good time to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets again this Monday, December 11 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Saint Christopher campus parish hall.

† IN MEMORIUM †
Please pray for these parishioners who have gone to eternal life during the month of November.
Margery Beck    Kay McNamara
Irene Cone      Josephine "Jo" Picone
Pauline DeNicola  Martha Tracey

“If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21

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, December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent
We are to be robed in ‘the robe of joy’ (first reading – Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11). We know many types of joy – the joys of celebrating something special with family or friends, the joy of love and the person at joyful prayer. And all the in-betweens. Some joys don’t last, but the joy of God does. It’s a joy of love and being loved – which can be experienced even in poverty.

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