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.

BAPISM  
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

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
PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (Dec. 10): $6,097*
What We Collected (Dec. 3): $7,402**
Parish School Support (Dec. 3): $2,424***

*Includes $1,103 received through our Online Giving program and $287 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $753 received through our Online Giving program and $525 from mail-in offerings.
***Includes $90 received through our Online Giving program and $231 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish family!

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

**In Loving Memory of John T. Rice (Wife & Family)**

- The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

**In Loving Memory of John St. Onge Merry Christmas in Heaven (Wife Simone & Family)**

- The candle at the Saint Christopher chapel burns this week

**In Loving Memory of Carmen C. Zocco (Wife & Family)

Stephen R. Zocco (Mom & Family)**

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

Mass Intentions (continued)

Sunday, December 24 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
- Robert Boardman (Wife Helen & Family)
- John & Margaret Grogan (Daughter Helen & Family)
- Mike & Jim Grogan (Sister, Helen & Family)

(OLOP) = Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Peace campus
(SC) = Mass celebrated at Saint Christopher campus

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Mass Intentions for the Week

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)
- Mary Gallo – 50th Anniversary
- Margaret Gallo – 25th Anniversary (Mike & Maria Gallo)

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

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

Monday, December 18 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
- John & Louise Olinatz (Children)

Tuesday, December 19 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
- Mark Tardiff & Debbie Fallacaro (Family)

Wednesday, December 20 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
- Diane Olinatz (Family)

Thursday, December 21 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
- Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Friday, December 22 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
- Roberta Vroblick (Her Daughter Valerie)

Saturday, December 23 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
- Elizabeth “Betty” Jones (Grandniece)

Saturday, December 23 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
- Maurice “Moe” Harden

In Remembrance of His Birthday (Wife & Family)

Sunday, December 24 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
- Felicia Chesery - 20th Anniversary
  (Daughter Madeline & Sam Cassarino)

Sunday, December 24 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
- Richard Lessard (Barbara & Ronald Lessard)

(continued in the next column)
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
This weekend we welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor to our parish. The collection that will be taken up at all Masses this weekend 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.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH
Since John The Baptist is such an important Advent figure and since I am referring to The Canticle of Zechariah in my homily this weekend, I thought it would be best for everyone to have a copy for their nightstand. It is a prayer of Advent Joy!

– God bless, Deacon Bill Bartlett

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called
the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell
in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING TEAM
We are seeking adult parishioners who would like to join our decorating team on Saturday, Dec. 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.

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.”

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS
Day of Giving
Saint Christopher School will hold a Day of Giving on January 30-31, from 9am-9am, in conjunction with the National Catholic Educator’s Association. This event is being held during Catholic Schools Week, a national celebration of Catholic education. Watch for more information about this opportunity in coming weeks.

NJHS News
Students in the National Junior Honor Society made 100 lunches for the Manchester Area Conference of Churches food pantry. The bags included a sandwich and a granola bar as a quick bite for those in need. Lord, bless those who are hungry.

WYD CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE
The pilgrims from our parish who will be traveling to the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama are holding their first fundraiser - a Christmas Bake Sale the weekend of December 23/24! Order forms are available at the church entrances at both campuses for those of you who would like to pre-order your favorite treats. Pre-orders will be available for pick up after all Masses the weekend of December 23/24. A representative will be available after all Masses this weekend to help you place your order and to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your support!
CHRISTMAS MASS AND CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – December 24
4:00 p.m. - Saint Christopher Campus
10:00 p.m. - Saint Christopher Campus
(Chancel Choir’s Prelude Program begins at 9:40 pm)

Christmas Day – December 25
9:00 a.m. - Our Lady of Peace Campus
10:30 a.m. - Saint Christopher Campus

Confessions
(Saint Christopher Campus)

Monday, December 18: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 20: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 23: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE
We will meet again in the chapel at the St. Christopher campus this Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 pm and we will continue our journey with the Book of Revelation. The group meets every other Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Join us when you can and bring your Bible! If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

THE MEN’S RETREAT–TAKE A TIME OUT!
The men of our parish will soon be taking off for our Men’s Retreat at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford. The retreat will be January 12-14. It’ll be a relaxing weekend of peace and quiet. Good rest, good food, inspiring talks to bring you closer to Christ. You’ll come away with a new perspective on your life; a wonderful inner peace to face problems with new courage. Come on out! 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. You can register online at Holy Family Retreat Center’s website at holyfamilyretreat.org or you may contact Deacon Phil at imgoose@comcast.net or 860-568-5001 for assistance with registering or for more information.

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.

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


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.

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.
WE ARE CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES

A key facet of stewardship has always been personal witness. Today’s readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry. St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God’s eyes. These are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others. Jesus can meet our every need. Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him. We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people. – www.catholicsteward/blog

**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

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<td>Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54</td>
<td>Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19</td>
<td>Psalm 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17</td>
<td>Psalm 24: 1-4ab, 5-6</td>
<td>Psalm 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21</td>
<td>1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8abcd</td>
<td>Psalm 25: 4-5ab, 8-10, 14</td>
<td>Psalm 89: 2-5, 27, 29</td>
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<td>John 1: 6-8, 19-28</td>
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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 24, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

It is Mary’s heart that is being modeled for us today. She clearly had a humble heart, trusting totally in God. She also clearly had a prayer life that kept her tuned in to God’s will at all times. So when the “invitation” came to become the mother of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, there was only one trusting answer for her to give: “May it be done to me according to your word.”