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 Intentions for the Week**

Saturday, December 30 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)  
agogue (Ernie & Jean Hutt and Barbara Casey)

Sunday, December 31 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)  
Evangelina Sousa (Kathy & Joe Gauches)

Sunday, December 31 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)  
Gerard LaRocque (Family)

Sunday, December 31 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)  
Maurice “Moe” Harden and Marianne Harden (Family)

Monday, January 1 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)  
The Gilbert Family (Evelyn Gilbert)

Tuesday, January 2 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)  
William “Bill” Tardiff (The Tardiff Family)

Wednesday, January 3 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)  
Claude Riendeau (Mr. & Mrs. Gilles Hebert)

Thursday, January 4 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)  
Kay McNamara (Dave & Chickie Amberg)

Friday, January 5 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)  
Frank Szalay (Family)

Saturday, January 6 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)  
Bruce Robinson – 2nd Anniversary (Wife & Family)

Saturday, January 6 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)  
The Beaulieu Family  
Normand Daigle – 1st Anniversary (Wife & Family)

Sunday, January 7 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)  
Thomas Morrison (Barbara & Bruce Manner)

Sunday, January 7 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)  
Mary Ann Garro (Family)

Sunday, January 7 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)  
Stan Traynor (Wife Ann & Family)

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**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected: $8,660*  
(Dec. 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent)

What We Collected: $8,053  
(Dec. 25 – Nativity of the Lord)

*Includes $1,253 received through our Online Giving program and $2,080 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

**PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

God our Father,
as we stand at the beginning of this new year,  
we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us – but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

   Amen

**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 Justice and Peace for All**

- The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

**In Loving Memory of**
Maurice “Moe” Harden & Marianne Harden (Family)

Please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication. Suggested donation is $15.
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is a holy day, but not a day of obligation in 2018. This Solemnity will be celebrated at the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Monday, January 1 at the Saint Christopher campus.

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. We ask that gently used coats be washed before they are donated. It truly makes a difference to every child who receives a coat. 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.

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE
We will meet again in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus this Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. to begin chapter four of the Book of Revelation. We meet every other Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Join us when you can and bring your Bible! If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail 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 more information.

THANK YOU!
We, the pilgrims who will be traveling to Panama in 2019 for World Youth Day, wish to thank the Saint Edmund Campion Parish Family for their generous support of our first fundraiser – the Christmas Bake Sale held last weekend. We are always so grateful for your unending generosity!

– Ginamarie Garabedian and Maddie Gay

2018 CALENDARS
We extend our appreciation to the Newkirk & Whitney and Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Homes for providing us with a supply of 2018 calendars. Please feel free to take a calendar home with you.

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 secure online giving website:

www.osvonlinegiving.com/1754

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.

Once a man was asked, “What did you gain by regularly praying to God?”

The man replied, “Nothing...but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity and fear of death.

Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining, but losing; Which ultimately is the gain.
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The local council will meet this Thursday, Jan. 4, in the Saint Christopher Church Hall for their business meeting at the following times:

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

5th Sunday Family Rosary: A family rosary is planned after the 7:30 AM Mass this weekend and all are invited to attend. A scrambled egg breakfast will follow in the hall for $5.00/person. Please let Grand Knight Bob know if you plan to attend the breakfast in order to plan sufficient food. The next 5th Sunday is April 29th.

A Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest is being held by the council and is open to all boys and girls ages 9 to 14 years old. The poster size paper is available from any member of the council. All contestants will receive a certificate of participation and winners will receive a winner’s certificate. All entries must be submitted by January 7 to the Grand Knight.

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

FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

This Holy Family Sunday presents a great opportunity for us to share with you information on a couple of programs we have been informed about by the Family Life Office. The Family Life Office is the agency that serves as a resource to families and parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Please feel free to call them or visit their website for information on all the programs they offer.

Archdioceseofhartford.org/office-of-family-life
860-242-5573 ext 2690

Marriage Encounter Weekend

The emphasis of the Marriage Encounter weekend is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. Marriage Encounter Weekends in 2018 are being held in Manchester, CT on the following dates: February 2-4 and July 6-8. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at wwmectw.org.

Retrouvaille Weekend

The Retrouvaille program is for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. This program gives couples the opportunity to sign off, get away, and examine their lives together in a real and realistic way. It’s based on the belief that marriage is the most significant relationship on earth and is worth investing your time, energy and efforts to make it the best it can be. The weekend is hard work, but more worthwhile than can ever be explained. Retrouville Weekends in 2018 are being held in Hartford, CT on the following dates: January 19-21, April 20-22 and September 21-23. For more information, visit retrouvaille.org.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN

The Sacrament of the Sick

Please, if at all possible, do not wait until a person is near death before requesting the Sacrament of the Sick, as this Sacrament cannot be administered to someone who has already died. All Sacraments are for the living. While the Sacrament of the Sick may include prayers for the Last Rites when such prayers are called for, the Sacrament may be given to a person at any stage of illness including those who are not terminal. It may also be given to someone who is elderly or about to enter surgery.

Dates to Remember

- Sat. & Sun., 2/10-11, after Masses, Paczki and advanced dinner sales (purchase a ticket for 3/17 dinner and get a free Paczki).
- Fri., 2/17, at OLOP, 6 PM Fish Dinner prior to Stations of the Cross to benefit the World Youth Day pilgrims.
- Sat., 3/17, at SC, 6 PM Corned Beef Dinner to benefit the World Youth Day pilgrims.

There is still time for you and your family to make a difference and join the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. Practical Catholic men, age 18 and over, who join before June 30th will have their initiation and annual dues waived for the coming year. What have you got to lose? Come try us out. Please contact Grand Knight Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 for more information.
THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The primary purpose of The Feast of the Holy Family is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. In Italy there is a saying, “La famiglia é tutto,” which means, “the family is everything.” Our Holy Father Pope Francis has made families one of the focal points of his papacy. He organized a conference on families in 2015. Speaking to the gathered families, he said, “It is in the family that we first learn how to pray. Don’t forget: the family that prays together stays together! This is important. There we come to know God, to grow into men and women of faith, and to see ourselves as members of God’s greater family – the Church. In the family we learn how to love, to forgive, to be generous and open, not closed and selfish. We learn to move beyond our own needs, to encounter others and share our lives with them. That is why it is so important to pray as a family! So important! That is why families are so important in God’s plan for the Church!”

All of today’s readings have to do with families and family life. The reading from Sirach, our First Reading, emphasizes the Fourth Commandment, “Honor thy father and mother.” We are commanded to respect and love our parents. However, it is a two-way street. The Gospel Reading speaks of the development of Jesus, and that should inspire parents to understand that our prayers are the same as the prayers of Joseph and Mary – that our children will become strong in spirit and filled with wisdom. –catholicsteward.com/blog

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</td>
<td>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</td>
<td>1 John 2: 22-27</td>
<td>1 John 2: 22-28</td>
<td>1 John 3: 2:29 - 3:6</td>
<td>1 John 3: 7-10</td>
<td>1 John 3: 11-21</td>
<td>1 John 5: 5-13</td>
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<td>Psalm 105: 1-6, 8-9</td>
<td>Psalm 67: 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>Psalm 98: 1-4</td>
<td>Psalm 98: 1, 3cd-6</td>
<td>Psalm 98: 1, 7-9</td>
<td>Psalm 100: 1b-5</td>
<td>Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20</td>
<td>Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13</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.”

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, January 7 – The Epiphany of the Lord

On this celebration we call “Epiphany,” we celebrate the adoration of Jesus by those Magi drawn to the “light of the world” and guided to him by the “light of a star”. The long-awaited Messiah of the world has come. In the Holy Spirit, Christ fulfills the Old Testament symbols of light and glory. Are you focused on God first, or on worldly allurements?