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 Moornanappallil, Parochial Vicar
860-918-4022 • fr.moornanappallil@gmail.com
Mr. William Bartlett, Deacon
deaconbill@yahoo.com
Mr. Philip Gosselin, Deacon
imgoose@comcast.net
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 21): $7,296*
*Includes $623 received through our Online Giving program and $80 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION
This weekend all parishes of the Archdiocese of Hartford will be taking up the annual High School Collection to support our Catholic high schools. Your investment will yield significant results, since our Catholic high schools offer students exceptional academics, solid faith formation, and a true spirit of service. We deeply value your support of Catholic school education as we continue to form another generation in the faith.

TAX STATEMENTS
We are happy to provide tax statements to our parishioners who request one. If you regularly use your envelopes to make your offerings to our parish and wish to receive a tax statement, please contact the parish office by phone (860-568-5240) or by e-mail (stchris-eh@sbcglobal.net).

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE
Moses told the people, “The Lord will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own kinsmen.” God still provides among His people the gifts and talents necessary to continue the work of His Church. What gifts are yours to share?

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 All Catholic School Students and Staff

The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

In Loving Memory of Philip Cormier
(Jean Nowik & Joe Martocci)

Please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication. Suggested donation is $15.
PARISHIONER IN NEED BAKE SALE
February 3 and 4
Parishioners in Need (PIN) Committee will host their Ninth Anniversary Bake Sale next weekend in the church hall after all Masses at the Saint Christopher campus. (Sales are possible after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady of Peace campus if we’re able to get volunteers to help - please see below.) Since our inception nine years ago, we have assisted and continue to assist many members within our parish as well as having provided resources to others within the community. Your support has helped us succeed and we are most grateful!

Please continue to watch out for those in our parish who may need assistance and may be hesitant to ask for help. Even those we have helped in the past may still be struggling and we ask that they or someone on their behalf come forward if necessary. Let’s be aware of those who need care.

Plan to stop by next weekend to pick up a baked good item. Donations of baked goods are very much welcomed…and needed. (Please indicate if there are nuts in the ingredients.) Donations can be dropped off in the Saint Christopher campus church hall before any Mass next weekend.

Volunteers are needed to help us sell baked good items at the Our Lady of Peace campus after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on February 4. If you are able to help, please contact Toni Mintel at 860-569-7593 (eves.) or Maria Sousa at 860-895-8692 (days).

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL NEWS
Open House
Saint Christopher School will host an Open House this Tuesday, January 30, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Come and see what Catholic education looks like in East Hartford! Tour the school, speak with current students and families, take a look at the Science Fair, browse through the Book Fair...you can even order grinders from our Grab ‘n’ Go Grinders Supper! It’s an evening packed with fun things to do. E-mail Mrs. Welch at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org for more information.

Day of Giving
Saint Christopher School will hold a Day of Giving from January 30 at 9:00 am through January 31 at 9:00 am in conjunction with the National Catholic Educator’s Association. This is an opportunity for 24 hours of donations to benefit the school.

At Saint Christopher School, we are asking families to celebrate the year of their child’s (or their own!) graduation during the Day of Giving. For example, a donation of $20.18 on behalf of an 8th grade student would celebrate the Class of 2018, while a donation of $20.26 on behalf of a Kindergarten student celebrates the Class of 2026. We thought it would be fun to focus on their “Class of” years, but any donation is greatly appreciated. Please consider asking friends and family to join us in celebrating the students in this way. There will be a website and online donation portal available during this 24 hours of giving that can be accessed through the school’s website: saintchristopherschool.org.

Giving Back
During Catholic Schools Week, the students will also spend time giving back. Each class will prepare part of a meal to be donated to the soup kitchen because everyone should be able to eat a good meal.

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE
We will meet again this Wed., Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus. We will continue our journey with the Book of Revelation; we will start the next session with chapter 7. This group meets every other Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Join us when you can and bring your Bible! For more information, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

St. Christopher Church Hall
Blood Drive
Friday ~ February 9, 2018
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Appointments: 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767)
NEW DAY PROGRAM ~ GRIEF SUPPORT
It’s been a few years since a grief support program has been offered in our community. Considering the list of deceased who we remembered during our Annual Mass of Remembrance celebrated this past November, it seems timely to offer the NEW DAY program. It is an opportunity to care for and companion people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, to offer solace and comfort in times of need and be a witness to the sacred in our lives.

What is the NEW DAY program? The New Day program is based on the belief that with God’s help, all things are possible, that through Him we can help ourselves and each other. This 10-week program guides participants through the stages of grief. A guide book ($15) addresses these topics: acceptance of loss, the journey from grief to healing, adjusting to a loss, creating cherishable memories, and the spiritual journey of grief.

An organizational meeting will be on Thursday evening, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory at the Our Lady of Peace campus to determine a suitable day and time for the group to meet during the 10 weeks. It is necessary that you pre-register for the program. Information and registration may be made by calling Chickie Amberg, a trained facilitator, at 860-568-9069.

FRANK RUNYEON
COMING TO EAST HARTFORD
TV star Frank Runyeon is coming to St. Mary’s Church, East Hartford on Sat., March 3 at 7:00 p.m. to perform Sermon on the Mount followed by Hollywood vs. Faith. $10/person or $25/family (3 or more). Suitable for all ages. More info to follow.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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., 2/16, 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.

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2018
January 28 – February 5
#CSW18
This Sunday, January 28, is the start of Catholic Schools Week (CSW). Sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association, CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Schools typically observe the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation. (Our parish school will be hosting several events this coming week, some of which are being promoted in the article on page 2 of this bulletin.)

In recognition of Catholic Schools Week, we share with you these dozen reasons to choose a Catholic school.

1. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith culture and life.
5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
7. We teach children respect of self and others.
8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99% high school graduation rate. 85% of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
12. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.
WE, TOO, ARE SENT

In today’s Gospel Reading from St. Mark, it is reported that Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach, but His teaching was somewhat different from that normally heard there “for he taught with authority and not as the scribes.” Often those who taught in Jesus’ time (the scribes) simply quoted others, a variety of Rabbis.

However, Jesus taught with authority because He had authority. Jesus’ divine message was not quoting other humans, but quoting God. Jesus was One with God so He knew what He was talking about. Jesus taught with authority because He believed what He was teaching. He was familiar with the information which allowed Him to teach boldly. People listening could perceive that this was someone Who knew.

Up until this time we have seen the Lord as the Son of Man who submitted to His Father. He submitted to God in His Baptism, and to the Holy Spirit in the wilderness. To have authority also requires submission. We, too, are called to submit to God, but for us that is sometimes challenging because it requires humility, something that is not easy for many of us.

Later in the Gospel of John there is another account of the Lord teaching at the Temple. He is challenged, and His response is quite simply, “My teaching is not from myself; it comes from the one who sent me.” We are not divine, but we, too, are sent. – catholicsteward.com/blog

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, February 4 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today’s Gospel we notice the importance of prayer in Jesus’ daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW

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