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

Saint Edmund Campion Parish

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 4, 2018

Jesus said,
"LET US GO ON TO THE NEARBY VILLAGES THAT I MAY PREACH THERE ALSO. FOR THIS PURPOSE HAVE I COME."
Mark 1:38

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
daconbill@yahoo.com

Mr. Philip Gosselin, Deacon
imgoose@comcast.net
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 28): $7,891*
*Includes $718 received through our Online Giving program and $460 from mail-in offerings.
Thank you for your support of our parish!

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION
THANK YOU! On behalf of our Catholic secondary school students, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Michael S. Griffin, would like to express sincere thanks to all those who participated in the 2018 High School Collection taken up last weekend throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford. Our parish collected a total of $1,831. We deeply appreciate your support of Catholic high schools as they pursue their mission of education and evangelization.

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).

LIVING GOD’S WORD
After his time spent alone, Jesus was very certain of his purpose. We, too, can be more aware of God’s purpose for us if we but make the time to listen.

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 an End to Human Trafficking
(In Recognition of International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking – Feb. 8)
❖ The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

In Memory of Roland LaPorte
(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

This Weekend!
Parishioners in Need (PIN) Committee is hosting their Ninth Anniversary Bake Sale this weekend in the church hall at the Saint Christopher campus after all Masses this weekend. Please stop by to treat yourself to a baked good and to support our efforts.

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.

JOIN SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL AT THE 2018 CONNECTICUT KIDS FAIR
The Students and Staff of Saint Christopher School had such a fun-filled Catholic Schools Week! We are capping off this very special week with an enjoyable event for all families. Please join us this weekend, Saturday, February 3 & Sunday, February 4 at the Connecticut Convention Center for the 2018 Connecticut Kids Fair. The Kids Fair has many things to do for children and their families. At the Kids Fair stop by our booth, #1202, to say hello to the families representing our Parish School. Take the time to see what is new and exciting in our school. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school. We hope many of you can come out to support us and have a fun family day at the Kids Fair.

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:

https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1754

DAILY MASS ~ ST. CHRIS CAMPUS
We are excited to announce that the painting of the church ceiling at the Saint Christopher campus is expected to begin this Monday, Feb. 5 and be completed by the Vigil Mass on Saturday, Feb. 10. For this coming week only, the 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass at the Saint Christopher campus will be celebrated in the church hall and any funerals will be celebrated at the Our Lady of Peace campus.

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 this 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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019
The next World Youth Day celebration is being held in Panama in 2019! Any teens or young adults age 16 and older who are interested in experiencing this life-changing pilgrimage should contact Ginamarie Garabedian at ginamarie_helene@hotmail.com or at 860-810-9826 to discuss the itinerary, payment plans, and plans for fundraising. For a glimpse of what World Youth Day is like, please visit our blog from our trip to Krakow in 2016:

www.stchrischurch.wix.com/wyd2016
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

- Sat. & Sun., 2/10-11, after all Masses, Paczki and advanced dinner ticket sales (purchase a ticket for the 3/17 dinner and get a free Paczki).

- Fri., 2/16, at OLOP, 6 PM Fish Dinner to benefit the World Youth Day pilgrims. A traditional Stations of the Cross will immediately follow and will be led by Deacon Bill. (These Friday night Stations will be in addition to the Wednesday Soup & Stations that will be offered at the Saint Christopher campus.)

- Sat., 3/17, at SC, 6 PM Corned Beef Dinner to benefit the World Youth Day pilgrims.

Practicing 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.

**EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

_Eagles After Hours: Thursday, February 8: 4-5 p.m._

Stop by East Catholic anytime from 4pm-5pm. Hear student testimonies, go on a tour of our campus and meet with members of our Leadership Team.

_Elence Exam: Thursday, February 15 at 8:30 a.m._

Pre-registration for these events is not required but will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ms. Devlin at 860-649-5336 ext 6238.

**FRANK RUNYEON COMING TO EAST HARTFORD**

TV star Frank Runyeon is coming to Saint Mary’s Church, 1588 Main Street in East Hartford on **Saturday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m.** He will perform _Sermon on the Mount_ followed by _Hollywood vs. Faith_. Frank has won national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts over the past 20 years. He has performed the gospel for hundreds of thousands of people in almost every state in America, earning rave reviews from critics, scholars and church leaders of every denomination. He is regularly reviewed as “the best speaker we have ever heard.” He is best known for his many roles on television including seven years as Steve Andropoulos _As the World Turns_ opposite Meg Ryan. This performance on March 3 is suitable for all ages. Entrance fee is $10 per person or $25 per family (3 or more). Questions? Call 860-289-7916.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General has designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

On February 8, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to pray for greater awareness about this phenomenon. Through prayer, we not only reflect on the experiences of those who have suffered through this affront to human dignity, but also comfort, strengthen, and help empower survivors.

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry has formed an Archdiocesan Human Trafficking Task Force. Please pray for the Task Force, that they may increase others’ awareness of the problem of human trafficking and become voices in the public square calling for its abolition.

_Did you know?..._ As sports fans around the country gear up for Super Bowl 52, they may not know that vulnerable people will be sex trafficked at this year’s Super Bowl, just as they have been year after year. In 2017, 183 sex buyers and 9 sex traffickers were arrested at the Super Bowl in Houston, Texas.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING SEMINAR**

On Tuesday, Feb 6 (snow date: Feb 7) from 6:30-8:00 pm, the Mercy Alumnae Association is hosting a seminar at Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Road in Middletown, to inform the local community on the dangers, risks, and signs of human trafficking. Panelists, including an FBI agent, Middletown Police Officer, and a representative from DCF, will discuss local occurrences and provide advice to local youths and adults. Following the panel, the audience will be invited to ask questions. After the program, the panelists as well as a registered therapist will be available for audience members who would like to speak confidentially. Contact Barb Miller, Director of Alumnae at 860-347-8957 for more information. **The event is free and open to the public.**
GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today’s Gospel completes a picture of Jesus’ ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark’s Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee. Jesus’ compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ’s healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness. Father John often reminds us that all Sacraments are for the living and that we should not wait until a person is near death before requesting this Sacrament. 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.

In today’s Gospel we also 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. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. 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.

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 11 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus’ healing mission always had one goal: to restore the “unclean” and isolated person back to his community, which would also be a witness to the glory of his Father. He did not want the sick person to be ignored and avoided by his friends and family simply because they had a problem. No one is an outcast around Jesus, not even the leper.