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 (Tuesdays During Lent)
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
PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (February 18): $8,194*

*Includes $748 received through our Online Giving program and $1,905 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

2018 ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

This weekend marks the start of the 2018 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal in our parish. If you haven’t already, you will soon receive a letter from Archbishop Blair seeking your support. As Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford we have a profound impact on our local communities not only in the spiritual realm, but intimately connected to it, the realm of social services and many charities and outreach services performed by, or with help from, our Church.

In the most recent edition of the Catholic Transcript, Archbishop Blair described the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal as the “bread and butter” fundraiser of archdiocesan life. It is “bread and butter” for the widest range of Archdiocesan activities. Whatever is collected for the Appeal in a given year is spent in that year, for everything from our seminarians’ education to the grants made to approximately 250 local charities throughout the archdiocese that receive financial support in the name of the Catholic people, including charities right in our community. Please respond generously.

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 Memory of the Deceased Priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford

The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week.

For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood

Please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication. The suggested offering is $15.
PRECIOUS BLOOD
It has been decided that for the remainder of this flu season, we will not offer the Precious Blood at Communion time.

SOUP & STATIONS
Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) at 5:30 p.m. in the Saint Christopher campus church hall on the following Wednesday evenings: Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21. Stations of the Cross begins at 6:30 p.m. in the church. The young people from our parish school and religious education program will lead us once again in the Stations. Volunteers are needed to prepare soup and/or bread for each Wednesday. You may simply bring with you the item you wish to share on the Wednesday evening that works best for you. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

OPEN HOUSE
Saint Christopher School will hold an Open House this Thursday, March 1, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All interested families are welcome! There will be some Dr. Seuss activities for the PreK children. Please contact our school’s principal, Kathleen Welch, for more information at 860-568-4100 or welchk@saintchristopherschool.org.

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). Tickets are only available at the door. Questions? Call 860-289-7916.

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE
• Note Lenten Time Change •
We will meet again this Wednesday, February 28, in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus. Please note that during Lent, we will begin right after our Soup and Stations concludes which will be around 7:00 p.m. We will continue our journey with the Book of Revelation starting the next session with chapter 9. This group meets every other Wednesday. 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.

UNWANTED MAIL
In an effort to keep our church entrances looking neat, we kindly ask that you please not leave unwanted mail at the entrances of either of our churches. Thank you!

LIVING STATIONS
The Living Stations, a dramatic presentation of our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, will be held on Good Friday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the church at the Saint Christopher campus. There are numerous roles that you can assist with to assure that this longstanding tradition continues. You can be a reader or the narrator. For non-speaking parts, you can portray Jesus, Mary, Simon, Veronica, a Roman soldier, Pontius Pilate, a weeping woman or one of various citizens of Jerusalem. If you have any questions or wish to assist with this wonderful presentation, please contact Alice Gosselin or Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001. For e-mail communication, please use alicegoz@comcast.net (Alice’s address) or imgoose@comcast.net (Deacon Phil’s address). Thank you!

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT
The Archdiocese of Hartford is once again sponsoring its Lenten Confession Campaign, although with some modification of past practice. Monday will be “confession day” in every parish throughout the Archdiocese. Our priests will hear confessions every Monday during Lent from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Saint Christopher campus. For the times that other parishes in our area are hearing confessions, please visit ConfessionMondays.com or contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 for assistance.
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Traditional Stations of the Cross will be led by Deacon Bill and held at the Our Lady of Peace campus on the following Friday evenings: Mar 2, 9, 16, 23. (Our Living Stations dramatization will be held on Good Friday, March 30, at the Saint Christopher campus. Please see article on page 2 for more information.) This Friday’s Stations will immediately follow the Knights of Columbus Fish Dinner (please see article to the left for further details).

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
The Catholic Graduates Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. will award three scholarships of $2,000 each to Catholic students who are high school seniors and who plan to attend a four year college in Fall of 2018. The club has awarded over $109,000 to 161 scholarship recipients during the past 66 years. Students are chosen on the basis of financial need, scholarship, character, leadership and achievement. The applicant must reside in Hartford County. The deadline to submit scholarship applications is March 15, 2018. Please visit catholicgraduatesct.org to see more information and to download the application.
THE TRANSFIGURATION

The Transfiguration was a revelation of the Trinity. The voice from heaven proclaimed the words of the Father. The Son stood transformed in his glory. And the Spirit overshadowed the scene as the cloud. The scene hearkens back to the Baptism, the Father’s voice from heaven, the Son rising from the water, and the Spirit descending upon the Son. The difference between the two events, however, lies in the reception of the revelation. In the Baptism, Jesus received the revelation with others as witnesses. In the Transfiguration, the followers received the revelation.

Notice the revelation was in context as confirmation and foreshadowing. The event confirmed Peter’s confession. Jesus was the Messiah. But it also foreshadowed the mission of the Messiah, death on the cross to enter glory. The Transfiguration was a look backward and a look forward.

The message of this gospel is clear. To see, we need to look. To hear, we need to listen. To experience, we need to open our minds and hearts to the possibility of God’s voice. Look at the Son. Listen to his words. Open your mind and heart to his presence. We don’t need to be on the top of a mountain to experience God’s fullness. Just shake off rote and routine, and he will be there. – Larry Broding (www.word-Sunday.com)

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, March 4 – Third Sunday of Lent

The “10 Commandments” are not a burden, but an incredible gift, because they reveal God to us and his holy will for us. These commandments are certainly also discernible by reason alone, because the natural law was imprinted on our hearts at our conception, and it finds its expression in the commandments. This Lenten season is a time to ponder the question: how have I responded to God’s holy will for me?