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 (March 4): $ 9,912*
*Includes $1,303 received through our Online Giving program and $820 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT
The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend is the regular monthly collection to support our parish school. Thank you!

2018 ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
The 2018 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal is now underway in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford. Your support of this year’s Appeal ensures that essential charitable, educational and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese are carried forward. If you would like to make a gift to this year’s Archbishop’s Appeal, kindly mail in your pledge card. You may also call the Appeal Office at 800-781-2550 or visit the Archdiocesan website at archdioceseofhartford.org.

IN MEMORIUM
Please pray for these parishioners who have gone to eternal life during the month of February.

Mildred Aiello • Ana Noyes
“If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21

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
Mrs. Jeannine Bourques
(Her Sister Julienne DeBlois)

The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

In Loving Memory of Jose Figueiredo
(Wife Maria)
In Loving Memory of Manuel & Maria Machado
(Daughter Maria)
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: Mar. 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.

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. The narrator role and a few reading roles have now been filled, but more readers are needed to deliver the prayerful reflections that are spoken during each station. We also need folks to portray Jesus, Mary, Simon, Veronica, a Roman soldier, Pontius Pilate, a weeping woman or one of various citizens (including children) of Jerusalem; these are nonspeaking parts. 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!

If singing is more your gift, then you are invited to join our Living Stations choir. This choir enhances our Living Stations presentation by singing beautiful hymns and songs of praise between each station. Please contact Toni Mintel at 860-569-7593 (evenings) for further details.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
This month’s Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Saint Christopher campus. Students in Grades K and 8 will participate in special ways during the Mass and our Family Choir will lead the music. The Food Bank’s Appreciation Breakfast will follow in the church hall. Everyone is invited!

APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
The members of our Food Bank Ministry will be hosting an Appreciation Breakfast next Sunday, March 18 in the Saint Christopher church hall immediately following our 10:30 a.m. Mass. This breakfast will take the place of the hospitality that usually follows our Children’s Mass and is being offered free of charge. Coffee and Danishes will be available immediately following our 7:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, March 18. Please plan to stop by for a bite to eat and to give our Food Bank volunteers the opportunity to express to you their appreciation for your continued support of the Saint Edmund Campion/South Congregational Food Bank.

FIRST RECONCILIATION
We congratulate the 28 children of our parish who celebrated their First Reconciliation here at Saint Edmund Campion parish on the morning of Saturday March 3. We thank their parents for their dedication in raising their children in the practice of the faith. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Communion on May 5.

St. Edmund Campion Adult Social Club
Monday ~ March 19 ~ 12:00 noon
Members, you can be Irish for a day! It’s time for the wearing of the green. This meeting starts at noon, with a short business meeting, corned beef or turkey sandwiches, and entertainment by “Irish to the Last Drop.” If you have signed up to attend the Lunch and Play on April 22 and have not yet paid, please bring to this next meeting your payment of $38 per person. 2018 dues of $15 are now due. If you have any questions regarding the social club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE
• Note Lenten Time Change •
We will meet again this Wednesday, March 14, 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. This group meets every other Wednesday. Join us when you can and bring your Bible! Questions? please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.
**PRAYER LINE MINISTRY**
It has been several months since our Prayer Line Ministry has been active. Our most recent coordinator, Sue Ward, had to step down this past summer when life got too busy for her to be able to devote the necessary time to our Prayer Line. We are most grateful to Sue for the three years she handled our prayer requests with great care and compassion. We are pleased to announce that we are resurrecting our Prayer Line as our parishioner Sally Ann Tanasi has agreed to serve as the coordinator of this ministry. We invite you to become a member of our Prayer Line Ministry and intercede for those who need prayers. If you accept our invitation to become a member and you would like to receive prayer requests via e-mail, please send an e-mail message to Sally Ann at 6854angeleyes@gmail.com and ask that you be added to the distribution list. If you would rather receive prayer requests through our telephone chain, please call Sally Ann at 860-569-4072 and ask that she add you to our telephone chain list. *(Please leave a message.)* And lastly, our Prayer Line members are eager to pray for you and your needs, so please feel free to reach out to Sally Ann by either phone or e-mail with your prayer requests.

**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. Please note that confessions are regularly heard at the Saint Christopher campus every Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
Traditional Stations of the Cross will be led by Deacon Bill and held at 7:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of Peace campus on the following Friday evenings: Mar 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 on page 3 for further details).

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**
meets the second Monday of each month. We meet again this Monday, March 12 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in the Saint Christopher church hall. New members welcome!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
The Friday Fish Dinner continues to be successful, so we will hold the dinner again this Friday, Mar. 16 in the OLOP Hall at 5:45 p.m.

Tickets for the following dinners will be on sale this Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass at the back of OLOP Church and after the 10:30 AM Mass at SC in the church hall or you may contact Bob Falkevitz at the number below.

**Fri., 3/16, at OLOP, 5:45 PM Fish Dinner**
 prior to Stations of the Cross
 to benefit our World Youth Day pilgrims.
 New England Clam Chowder
 Baked Breaded Fish or Mac ‘n Cheese
 French Fries, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad,
 Coffee and Soda - Ice Cream
 **Take-out Orders Available**
 Adults $8.00, Kids (age 6-12) $4.00

**Sat., 3/17, at SC, 6 PM Corned Beef Dinner**
 to benefit our World Youth Day pilgrims.
 Corned Beef or Mac ‘n Cheese
 Boiled Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots
 Irish Soda Bread, Tossed Salad
 Coffee and Soda - Desert
 **Price:** $12.50/Person or $15.00/Person at the Door
 **Children under age 6 Free (limit 2/Paid ticket)**

This is **your last chance to purchase discounted tickets.** Tickets available after Sunday Masses described above.

**! Attention Members !**
There will be no family pot-luck supper on Tuesday, March 20, due to all the other dinners planned.

**Congratulations to the Following New Members**

Andre Landry • Emmanuel Nadeau
Jacques Ouellette

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 or at rfalkevitz@att.net for more information.
JOHN 3:16
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Do we really need a more powerful reminder of the importance of Lent and Easter than that? That verse (from John 3:16) has become very popular in modern culture, to the point that we see it often at athletic events. When the University of Florida played for the national college football championship in 2009, quarterback Tim Tebow did not wear the regular eye black under his eyes. Under his right eye it said “John” and under his left eye it said “3:16.” God sends us messages all the time, if we listen and are attentive. Tebow did not have a remarkable professional career, but he was the quarterback of the Denver Broncos against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 2012 playoffs. The Broncos won, and in that game Tebow passed for 316 yards; his completed passes averaged 31.6 yards; perhaps the key play in the game came on third down and 16; the TV ratings for the game were 31.6%. That is not the important aspect, however. What is important is that the truth of that statement is so simple; nevertheless, it is difficult for us to completely grasp its significance. The truth is that God loves us, no matter what we are or what our attitude toward God is. The world that God gave His Son to save is our world. We are the children of God. This Lenten season is a time to see that and accept it as truth. – www.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.”
Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks Used with permission of Paulist Press

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 18 – Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jesus’ message is today’s gospel is clear: if you want “to produce fruit” you must first “die to self.” It is only when the grain of wheat “dies” that it is transformed into an explosion of fruitfulness. This is what happened to Jesus; he freely accepted death on the Cross, fulfilling the will of his heavenly Father. Discipleship demands this same self-emptying of pride and self-righteousness. It demands a choice either for or against Jesus.