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 11): $7,248*
Parish School Collection: $2,203**

*Includes $593 received through our Online Giving program and $624 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $155 received through our Online Giving program and $145 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish community!

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.

LIVING GOD’S WORD

Loving God, give us a new heart in these final days of Lent, a heart that carries within it your loving imprint, that we may always know your will and yield to it, even when it calls for a dying of some kind. In such dying, may we trust that you will bring forth new life.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The lamps beside our church’s tabernacles remind us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Fred Schifer – 4th Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Douglas Churchill

The Buccheri & Ierna Families
(Bill & Carmela Carpentieri & Family)

Evangelina Sousa (Family & Friends)

Antonio Leonardo (Wife & Family)

James & Yolanda Gusy (Family)

Benoit Pelletier (Mary Jane Mailhot)

For All Fathers and Father Figures
(In recognition of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph ~ March 19)

Gary D’Alesandro – 10th Anniversary
(Wife & Family)

Benoit Pelletier (Mary Jane Mailhot)

If you would like to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication, please contact the parish office. Suggested donation is $15.
LIVING STATIONS
Volunteers Are Still Needed!
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 several reading roles have now been filled, but more readers are needed to deliver the prayerful reflections that are spoken during each station. There is a particular need of 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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
Relationships come with a price tag. We must be willing to entrust ourselves to another, to let go of our autonomy and die to our independence. It is in dying to our independence that we find interdependence with others.

St. Edmund Campion Adult Social Club
Members Only Luncheon
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, and we look forward to an enjoyable year with interesting activities and wonderful entertainment. If you have any questions regarding the social club, please feel free to contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT
The Archdiocese of Hartford is once again sponsoring its Lenten Confession Campaign, although with some modification of past practice. Monday is “confession day” in every parish throughout the Archdiocese. Our parish 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.

CT FUTURE MUSICIANS CONCERT
The 2018 CT Future Musicians All-State Band Program will be presenting a concert on Saturday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. Approximately 280 student musicians, including students from Saint Christopher School – representing 50 elementary and middle school parochial schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford, the Diocese of Norwich and the Diocese of Bridgeport – will be performing. The concert will feature students in the All-State Gala Band, All-State Jazz, Flute Choir, Concert and Symphonic Bands. Students are either nominated by their school’s band director or selected by audition. Tickets are $7/pp and must be purchased in advance. Please contact Jill Hernandez at 860-342-4485. CT Future Musicians, LLC has been providing instrumental music education to students in Connecticut Catholic schools for the past 36 years.
**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 this Wednesday, March 21. **This will be the last Soup & Stations of this Lenten season.** 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.** You may simply bring with you this Wednesday evening the item you wish to share. Soup and bread are all we will need. **No desserts please.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
The final Traditional Stations of the Cross for this Lenten season will be led by Deacon Bill and held at 7:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of Peace campus this Friday, March 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 in next column for further details).

**MARIAN GARDEN**
With spring arriving this week and with warmer weather on the horizon, now is the perfect time to order your slab or brick to be incorporated into our Marian Garden this summer. Messages can memorialize a loved one, honor someone special, commemorate an event (i.e., baptism, First Communion, graduation, anniversary) or can simply be your name as a supporter of the garden. Donation levels begin at $50. For more information, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 or visit our Marian Garden page at stchris-eh.org/mariangarden.php

**St. Christopher School’s Annual Gala & Auction**
**Saturday ~ April 21, 2018 ~ 5:00 p.m.**
Annual Gala & Auction being held at St. Christopher School to benefit the educational programs and opportunities for our students. This year’s Gala will offer a pizza and cupcake trucks, pig roast, wine, beer and soda tasting, live music and fantastic items to bid on in both the silent and live auctions! All this for $35 (single) and $60 (couple). Please look for the reservation form in next weekend’s bulletin.

**OPEN HOUSE**
Saint Christopher School will hold an Open House on Tuesday, April 3, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. All interested families are welcome! Please contact our school’s principal, Kathleen Welch, for more information at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org or 860-568-4100.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
**! Attention Council Members !**
There is no council family pot-luck supper being held this Tuesday, March 20.

**Friday Fish Dinner**
The Friday Fish Dinner will conclude at the OLOP hall this Friday, March 23. Dinner tickets will only be sold at the door beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**Fri., 3/23, at OLOP, 5:45 PM Fish Dinner**
prior to Stations of the Cross to benefit the 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**
Price: Adults $8.00, Kids (age 6-12) $4.00

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.

Members who have not taken the higher degrees should plan to take the 2nd & 3rd degrees on Sunday April 15 at St. Bridget Church in Manchester. For more information contact the Grand Knight.

For those members who have completed the Third-Degree Ceremony are invited to join Father Joseph in taking the Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremony at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 19 South Canal Street, Plainville on Sunday, April 22 beginning at Noon. A banquet will follow at the Farmington Marriot, 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington at 5:00 PM. For details contact the council Grand Knight, Bob Falkevitz, at 860-568-5452 or the Assembly Navigator, Ernie Mintel, at 860-569-7593.
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Easter Sunday is but two weeks away (April 1). In our First Reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we hear God tell us, “I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.” To affirm that forgiveness, St. Paul has this to say in the Second Reading: “He (Jesus) became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.” There is a connection between these two statements which present forgiveness as the way to salvation. The Lenten season is one of penance, reflection, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting, perhaps even in that order, so we can better prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday and beyond. Lent reminds us that God is gracious and merciful. God’s divine mercy is a central theme of Lent. One might say that the priceless gift of God’s mercy is highlighted and celebrated in the Church in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). That should be a key part of our Lenten journey. As mentioned, only two weeks remain on that journey so getting to reconciliation is important if we have not done so already. Sacramental confession allows God’s loving mercy and His grace-filled absolution to be confirmed to us through a priest. God sees us with love, mercy, and an abundance of forgiveness. Christ, through the priest, helps us to let go of anything that gets in the way of our relationship to God. St. Isidore wrote, “Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin. All hope consists in confession. In confession there is a chance for mercy.” – 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
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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, March 25 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Palm Sunday is the overture to Holy Week. The procession with palms celebrates Jesus’ coming into Jerusalem and his being acclaimed by the people for his miracles and teachings. But we are quickly reminded that there is a price to be paid before the final victory. St. Paul describes the meaning of the cross: “He emptied himself, obediently accepting even death on the cross.” This is Jesus’ real victory, his self-emptying, his self-giving on the cross to open for us the road to the Father.