The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist ~ June 24, 2018

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”
– John 3:30

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

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

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)
6:30 pm
Prayer, Song, Scripture, Friendship

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
Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 23 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
♀ Dinis Leonardo
(Wife & Family)

Sunday, June 24 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
♀ Joseph Leonardo
(Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, June 24 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
♀ Lillian & Enrico Genga
(Henry & Elaine Genga)

Sunday, June 24 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
♀ Evangelina Sousa
(Family & Friends)

Monday, June 25 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
♀ Philip Cormier (Wife Eloise)

Tuesday, June 26 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
♀ Justina Alamada (Maria Leonardo)

Wednesday, June 27 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
Alisa Aljuaily ~ For God’s Healing (Family)

Thursday, June 28 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
♀ Evangelista Milheiro (Maria Moreira)

Friday, June 29 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
♀ Chester & Wanda Obuchowski

Saturday, June 30 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
♀ Jack & Carolyn Bollinger

Saturday, June 30 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
♀ Jose Figueiredo (Wife Maria)
♀ Maria & Manuel Machado (Daughter Maria)

Sunday, July 1 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
♀ Flora Manocchio (Maria Sessa)

Sunday, July 1 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
♀ John Albani ~ 20th Anniversary
(Wife Marie & Family)

Sunday, July 1 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
♀ Edna Volowski (Carla & Bill Merrill)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (June 17): $7,716*
Parish School Support: $1,893**

*Includes $643 received through our Online Giving program and $1,171 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $110 received through our Online Giving program and $170 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish community!

JOHN THE BAPTIST
Since June 24 falls on a Sunday this year, the Church has the opportunity for a more intense celebration of the birth of John the Baptist, who is often described as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the bridge between Judaism and Christianity. More commonly, John is known as the “precursor” of our Lord Jesus Christ. All the Gospels report John’s basic message: Repent, the kingdom is near at hand. One greater than I is coming. Though he was a wandering preacher who dressed in camel skins and ate grasshoppers, John’s legacy is one of true royalty. His origins are similar to those foretold by God through the prophet Isaiah: “You are my servant, he said to me, Israel through whom I show my glory” (Isaiah 49:3). John’s humility — “I am not he” — was surpassed only by that of his Lord Jesus, the humble servant who followed.

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 Those Who Suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
(In Recognition of PTSD Awareness Day ~ June 27)

♀ The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

For the Protection of Religious Liberty
(In Recognition of Religious Freedom Week ~ June 22-29)

If you would like to schedule a sanctuary lamp dedication, please call the parish office. Suggested offering is $15.
A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Dear Friends,

With the end of yet another year at our parish school, I would like you to know that at a recent evaluation conducted by the Archdiocese, Saint Christopher School was given an excellent rating. Archbishop Blair, School Superintendent Dr. Michael Griffin and several other members of the Archdiocesan School Office told me how pleased they are with our efforts. The school is debt free and our prospects for enrollment are promising. The Archbishop said that he would like to visit the school someday and celebrate Mass with the students and staff. Your support of our school is responsible for its success and future outlook. For this I am most grateful. May God bless you with a peaceful summer.

– Father John Gwozdz

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
An Investment in Your Child’s Future

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2018/2019 school year. Call the school office at 860-568-4100 or visit www.saintchristopherschool.org for more information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Welcome to our new members: Steve Hutt and Scott Templeton. Our council is now qualified to receive the internationally recognized Knights of Columbus 3-Star Award.

There is still time to get a chance to enter the drawing for a couple to win the trip to Dublin, Ireland for the Family Conference with the Pope.

There is no charge if a man joins the Knights before the end of June. Please contact the Grand Knight, Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 to join this month.

MARRIAGE BANNS - III

Nicole Prasser
&
Brandon Ryan

WATCH FOUND

A few weeks ago a watch with a black band was found in the church at the Saint Christopher campus. If you believe this watch is yours, please contact the parish office at 860-568-5240.

SERVING OTHERS IN GOD’S LOVE
Religious Freedom Week ~ June 22-29

Catholics across the United States are encouraged to pray and act in support of religious liberty at home and abroad during Serving Others in God’s Love: Religious Freedom Week 2018, which began on June 22, the Feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, and ends on June 29, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. The chairman of the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, states: “Religious freedom allows the space for people of faith to serve others in God’s love in ministries like education, adoption and foster care, health care, and migration and refugee services. We encourage people of faith to reflect on the importance of religious freedom so that we might have the space to carry out our mission of service and mercy, and we invite everyone to pray for our brothers and sisters who face intense persecution in other parts of the world.” Resources for Religious Freedom Week and other religious liberty resources can be found at these websites:

www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek
www.usccb.org/freedom.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER JOHN!

This Tuesday, June 26, Father John will celebrate his 65th birthday. We offer him our good wishes and pray that he be blessed with God’s boundless love, calming peace and heavenly joy throughout the coming years. Happy Birthday Father John!

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Sing a New Song Unto the Lord

Greetings! Our music ministers at the 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass continue to rehearse throughout the year, every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus. We rehearse again on June 27. If interested, come join us. We also extend an early invitation to our young parishioners and family members who may want to sing with the family choir come fall. All are welcome. Call me, Toni Mintel at 860-569-7593, for further details.
AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN

Archbishop Blair Calls for a Diocesan Synod

Archbishop Blair has announced that he will call for a Diocesan Synod for the year 2020. Now, you’re probably wondering “What’s a Diocesan Synod?” Canon Law defines it as “An assembly of selected priests and other members of Christ’s faithful from throughout the diocese, which the Bishop calls together for the good of the whole community, in order to assist him in deliberating on the pastoral needs of the diocese and discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit.” (Canon 460)

In other words, it is the responsibility of those who participate in a Diocesan Synod to advise the Archbishop on the direction they think the Archdiocese should take in the future. The last one held in our Archdiocese was in 1996 and the one before that was in 1959. Given the fact that the Archdiocese has gone through many changes in the past three years, especially the restructuring of parishes, it seems that this is a good time for us, as an archdiocese, to “organize our thoughts” so to speak, as we consider what our long-term goals should be.

On the local level this long process will begin with a Parish Listening Session. Pastors have been asked to assemble no less than 50 parishioners for a Town Hall Style meeting. These parishioners will be asked to respond to three questions:

- What are we (as an Archdiocese) doing well?
- What are we (as an Archdiocese) doing not so well?
- What are we (as an Archdiocese) not doing that we should be?

The response to each question should be no more than 2-3 minutes per person per question. The date of our Parish Listening Session will be Monday, July 23 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall of the Saint Christopher campus.

If you are seriously interested in participating in this Parish Listening Session, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 by July 20. Of course, it goes without saying that each response should be given and received with Christian charity.

COUNTING MINISTRY

A new schedule for our Counting Ministry will soon be prepared. This next schedule will begin with the weekend of July 22 and run through to the end of the year. Now is a great time to express your interest in joining this ministry. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please call Bonnie at the parish office at 860-568-5240 no later than Friday, June 29. If you are a current member who is unable to continue serving in this ministry, please let Bonnie know by Friday, June 29. Thank you!

PRAYER/SHARING GROUP

Our Prayer/Sharing Group meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the hall at the Our Lady of Peace campus. All members of Saint Edmund Campion Parish and their friends are invited to attend. Please join us for an evening of Prayer, Song, Scripture Sharing and Friendship. Refreshments follow each meeting and all are welcome to stay. For more info, please call Phyl Tyrseck at 860-568-3855, Barbara Veci at 860-568-2701, Pat Roberge at 860-568-5777, Barbara Hanson at 860-965-9162 or Leo Forte at 860-568-7383.

CATHOLIC BIBLICAL SCHOOL

St. Jerome famously said that “ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” The Catholic Biblical School (CBS) is currently accepting applications for new students. The program is intended for adults who are willing to make a commitment for at least two years to complete all course requirements. No particular educational background is required. It is recommended especially for those wishing to meet the Lord in a deeper way through Scripture. Applications for new students are available online at catholicedaohct.org. Interviews can be scheduled May 1 through August 15 by calling Jill Costa at 860-242-5573 or you can e-mail her at Jill.Costa@aohct.org. Tuition for year one is $350. If you would like to speak to Deacon Phil about the experience of the CBS he can be reached at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.

TRUST IN GOD

The trust shown by Zechariah is an example to us that we must trust in God, not just when it is convenient, but all the time. Lawrence Welk once said, “Never trust anyone completely but God. Love people, but put your full trust only in God.”
Father John stands with our parish catechists who were awarded with service awards at a ceremony held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on June 19 for their years of dedication to our religious education program. (L-R) Deacon Phil – 10 years; Kimberly Murphy – 15 years; Maria Sousa (CRE); Lori Brunette – 20 years; Steve Cadwallader – 10 years; Ann Bradley – 10 years. We thank them for their time, talent and energy!

### LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 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 World 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, July 1 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Book of Wisdom reminds us that our God desires that we enjoy life, health, and happiness not death, illness and misery. Whatever is used the way God intended is good and wholesome. What we have been given we should enjoy, but we need to remember that we hold all possessions in trust from God, to be used according to his purposes.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Connecticut General Assembly concluded its work last month, and we would like to share with you our profound disappointment that House Bill 5340 An Act Concerning Education Savings Accounts was not permitted to see the light of day, even though it had the support of a number of legislators and had advanced through various committees.

For years, the Connecticut Catholic Conference (CCC) has tried to impress upon the state legislature both the justice and the benefit of providing significant relief to Catholic school families. Catholic parents, like all residents, contribute to state and local revenue. And by reducing the number of students in public schools, our families and parishes have underwritten public education for decades.

Yet, despite twelve million dollars in tuition aid from parishioners and the three (Arch) dioceses in Connecticut last year, many working families cannot afford to enroll their children in our schools. To help them, the CCC has proposed an expanded inter-district transportation system and corporate tax-credits to K-12 scholarship foundations. And yet, unlike other states that provide some sort of assistance to private school families, these proposals have been virtually dead on arrival at the Connecticut legislature. Only on a very limited basis has some legislation advanced.

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) would grant parents access to funds equivalent to all or a portion of the money allocated toward their child’s government school education, to use on educational alternatives such as tutoring, learning therapies, and private school tuition. It would enable our superintendents to expand special needs services that have been cost prohibitive at some of our schools. This expansion of services would make Catholic education greatly accessible to an even more diverse student population—a population that already ethnically and racially mirrors the Connecticut census.

Sadly, Catholic schools in Connecticut have been closing. In 1967 there were 205 Catholic elementary schools in Connecticut. Five decades later, in 2017, there were 78 schools. There are some people who are happy at this trend. We are not, but this diminishment will continue without some reasonable steps from the legislature comparable to what has worked in several other states.
We invite you, the Catholic people of our State, to make known to your elected representatives the importance and the justice of legislative measures that can ease the burden of education for Catholic school parents who are exercising their right as the primary educators of their children. As legal scholar of religious liberty Carl Esbeck wrote, when the state offers educational services to its resident children, it should not exclude a child whose parent makes a religious choice over a secular one: "To take note of religion only in order to exclude it from modern civil society...runs counter to the Establishment Clause’s predisposition to enlarge religious freedom."

Thank you for your attention and support, and above all for your efforts on behalf of our Catholic schools. God bless you.

+Leonard P. Blair
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

+Frank J. Caggiano
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

+M. Michael Cote
Most Reverend Michael R. Cote
Bishop of Norwich