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

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**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

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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
image@comcast.net
Sanctuary Lamp

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

The light at the Our Lady of Peace campus burns this week

For Those Who Are Suffering from HIV/AIDS
(In Recognition of National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day ~ September 18)

The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

In Loving Memory of
The Deceased Members of
the Loura & Bairos Families
(Family)

Please contact the parish office to schedule a dedication. Suggested offering is $15.

Parish Support

This weekend’s bulletin was transmitted early due to Bonnie’s vacation schedule. Last weekend’s collection will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin.

Online Giving

Online Giving is available here at Saint Edmund Campion parish! For more information visit our secure site at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1754.

Listening and Responding

There are three interwoven themes in today’s readings: listening to God, faith vs. good works, and losing our life in order to find it. How are they related?

The Suffering Servant of Isaiah undergoes much distress and ridicule, but is able to bear it because he has listened to the promptings of God day after day. The psalm tells us that God listens, too. God hears our prayers for help and is always ready to save us. As our faith deepens, so does our desire to do the works of justice and charity that build up the reign of God. God directs our actions in ways we often cannot see, and we don’t always see the results. We are called upon in faith to trust that what we do is enough, and that willingness to listen to God’s promptings will lead us in the right way.

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REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS ED
Grades K-8
This year’s program begins this Sunday, Sept. 16 and runs through to March 31. Classes are held at Saint Christopher School from 9:00–10:15 a.m. First Communion and Reconciliation preparation is a two-year program beginning in Grade 1. If you have not yet registered your child for this year’s program, please contact Maria Sousa, Coordinator of Religious Education, at 860-895-8692 as soon as possible to register your child.

Grades 9-10
Confirmation classes will be held Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. in the Saint Christopher church hall. The fee for the year is $50, and students are required to take part in two years of preparation.

First-Year Students Only – Registration and the first day of class, accompanied by a parent or sponsor, will be Sunday, September 16 at 9:00 a.m. in the Saint Christopher church hall.

Second-Year Students Only – Registration and the first day of class, accompanied by a parent or sponsor will be Sunday, September 23 at 9:00 a.m. in the Saint Christopher church hall.

ALL students will meet for class on Sunday, September 30, from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. in the Saint Christopher church hall.

GOOD STEWARDS
In the second reading today, St. James has harsh words for those who do not put their faith into action. May we be such good stewards of God’s gifts to us that we can never be accused of having “faith that does nothing in practice.”
ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY CELEBRATION
On Sunday, October 14, at 2:00 p.m., the annual Archdiocesan Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph for married couples observing their 25th, 50th, 60th and other special wedding anniversaries in 2018. Archbishop Blair will be the main celebrant. Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows, followed by a simple reception and an opportunity for a photo with Archbishop Blair. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend. In order for you to receive a special invitation in the mail and for your names to be printed in the program provided that day, you must respond to this invitation by Sept. 21 by contacting the parish office at 860-568-5240. If you are celebrating a special anniversary this year, but you are unable to make it to the ceremony on October 14, please call the parish office in order to receive a special congratulatory certificate from Archbishop Blair.

MARIAN GARDEN UPDATE
We’ve been informed that the bricks and slab we were expecting to be installed in late August are being delayed. This is due to the engraving equipment being located in the greenhouse at Peter’s Landscaping. The hot weather we’ve been experiencing this summer has made it impossible to work in the greenhouse. We’ve been assured that this project will be given high priority as soon as the temperatures decrease. We apologize for this unfortunate delay.

DID YOU KNOW?
On the First Sunday of Advent in 2011 the new translation of The Roman Missal was implemented across the English Catholic world. For those of you who are more comfortable referring to the new text, especially the Nicene Creed, you can find the text on the inside of the front cover of the missal. This is most helpful when you are seated in a pew without a reference card.

2019 MASS INTENTIONS
The 2019 Mass Book is quickly filling up, especially the 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses. If you’d like to book a Mass in 2019, you are encouraged to call Bonnie at the parish office at 860-568-5240 at your earliest convenience. Masses are booked on a first come, first served basis.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES
The Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis is offering an Adult Confirmation Class this fall as noted below. If you are 18+ years of age, baptized Catholic, received the sacrament of First Communion and attend Mass regularly, you are eligible to participate in this class.

Pastoral Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield
September 20 - November 1
Contact: Nicole M. Perone at 860-242-5573 x2677

Participants who successfully complete the class will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at a ceremony being held on November 7 at 7:00 p.m., at the chapel of the Pastoral Center (467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT). The celebrant will be Archbishop Blair.

PRAYER/SHARING GROUP
The Prayer/Sharing Group meets on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Our Lady of Peace campus church hall. The Holy Spirit works with us when we pray together. Please join us in an evening of Prayer, Song, Scripture Sharing and Friendship. Refreshments follow each meeting and all are welcome to stay. We meet each Thursday with the exception of holidays and holidays. You are invited to join us whenever you can.

SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH
September is National Suicide Awareness Month. Everyone is affected by suicide, not just the victim. Suicide impacts family and friends long after the loss of a loved one. If you or someone you know is dealing with the loss of a loved one through suicide, our parish has available the following resources. Please call the parish office or speak to Father John or Father Joseph if you are interested in obtaining any of these resources.

Bruised & Wounded
Struggling to Understand Suicide
Paperback by Ronald Rolhesier

When it Feels Impossible to Pray
Prayers for the Grieving
Paperback by Thomas McPherson

Reclaiming Life
Faith, Hope and Suicide Loss
2018 DVD by Paraclete Press, Inc.
GOSPEL REFLECTION
Sometimes the Sunday readings bring peace and consolation. Other times they come as a swift kick in the pants. Today’s readings definitely fall in the latter category. In the Gospel from St. Mark, Jesus begins to instruct the Apostles in what was ahead for Him – and for them. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.” In Peter’s worldly way of thinking, Jesus should not have to suffer — and for that matter, neither should Peter. But, rebuking Peter strongly, Jesus indicates He meant exactly what He said earlier. What’s more, He was inviting Peter, and all of us, to join him in this way of life that is costly and self-sacrificing. Why? Isn’t Jesus all about love? Of course He is. He is love. And Jesus shows us by His example that real love requires toughness as much as tenderness. Our second reading teaches that real faith in Him is displayed through service or “works.” In fact, this passage goes so far as to state that “faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” These readings make it clear that faith and love are not alive in us until they are demonstrated through service to others for the sake of the Gospel. Service of any kind will involve some self-denial. But when I embrace this way of life, I have the joy of knowing my faith and love are real. By laying down my life for Him, I gain a life that is really worth living.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<td>Psalm 116: 1-6, 8-9</td>
<td>Psalm 40: 7-10, 17</td>
<td>Psalm 100: 1-5</td>
<td>Psalm 33: 2-5, 12, 22</td>
<td>Psalm 118: 1b-2, 16ab-17, 28</td>
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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: 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, September 23 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jesus reminds us that his greatness flows from his complete self giving for others. He tells us that we must be like little children — in his day the most powerless of all and of no public importance or status. This message is also reflected in the words of the Books of Wisdom and of St. James.