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)
6:00 pm
Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration and Benediction • Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal • Scriptural Rosary

Thursday Prayer Group
(Our Lady of Peace Campus)
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
stchrirsre@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

Find Us on Facebook: Saint Edmund Campion Parish, East Hartford
PARISH SUPPORT

Our bulletin publisher imposed an early transmission deadline for this weekend’s bulletin due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will report last weekend’s collection in next weekend’s bulletin.

SCHOLARSHIP COLLECTION

A special collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend to support the M. Sweetland Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund benefits students of our parish who are enrolled in a Catholic grammar school or high school. This year’s recipients will be awarded their scholarships at our 10:30 a.m. Mass this weekend and a reception will immediately follow in our parish hall. All are invited. Thank you for your support!

– The M. Louise Sweetland Scholarship Committee

ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Our Annual Parish Appeal is underway and many parish families have already responded most generously! As you know, the money raised by this appeal is very important to the financial health of our parish family and will help us to keep our campuses in good order. All donations - big or small – make a difference! If you have not yet responded to this appeal, please prayerfully consider supporting this important effort.

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 All Catechists of Our Parish ~
Those in Our Religious Education Program
and Those in Our Parish School
(In Recognition of Religious Education Month)

The candle at the Saint Christopher campus burns this week

In Loving Memory of
Alice Dalenta
(Joe Martocci & Jean Nowik)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.
MEN’S RETREAT - NO ORDINARY PATH

Our parish’s Men’s Retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford will be held January 11-13, 2019. Please consider giving yourself the gift of retreat; start off 2019 with a renewed perspective. Many of you know what a great job Holy Family does in providing us with a vibrant retreat experience. This year’s theme is No Ordinary Path: Holiness in Everyday Life. God has called all of us to lives of holiness. No Ordinary Path will explore ways that we can be attentive, intentional, and cooperative with God’s grace in serving the world. Together we will take a journey, with the hope of discovering who we are and how what we do matters. We’ll reflect on how living an ordinary life of holiness can lead to extraordinary happiness and peace. Register online at holyfamilyretreat.org or if you do not have access to the internet or have any questions, please contact Ray Simeone at 860-569-8451, rjsimeone95@comcast.net or Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001, imgoose@comcast.net.

SAINT EDMUND CAMPION AWARD

The Saint Edmund Campion Award Committee is seeking candidates to receive this award. The award will be given to the person who has contributed their time and talent to the service of the parish, its programs and ministries, service to the betterment of parish life and service to the community.

There will be three awards:
1. Youth - Through the 8th grade
2. Teen - High School
3. Adult

Please submit a short biography outlining how the candidate has fulfilled the three areas of service. Place your submission in a sealed envelope marked to the attention of the Saint Edmund Campion Award Committee. You may drop your submission off to the parish office or you may place it in any weekend’s collection basket.

All submissions must be received by Friday, December 28, 2018. The award winners will be announced Sunday, March 24, 2019.

175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

On November 28, 2018, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford will be 175 years old. On that day in 1843 Pope Gregory XVI created the new diocese to include all of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Over the years, with the growth of the Catholic population, other dioceses – Providence, Norwich and Bridgeport – were carved out of the original territory, and Hartford is now the Archdiocese among them in an ecclesiastic province that includes them all.

This Tuesday, November 28 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, a Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Blair to give thanks to God for the past, ask for healing in the present, and seek his blessing to continue our mission into the future with faith, hope and love. A reception at The Aetna follows the Mass. All are invited.

EAGLES AFTER HOURS

Stop by East Catholic High School anytime from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 29. Hear student testimonies, go on a tour of our campus and meet with members of our Leadership Team. For more information, contact Dorota Debski, ECHS Admissions Assistant at 860-649-5336, ext. 6456.

CHRIST THE KING...To say that Christ is king, that he reigns over our lives, is to admit to a world bigger than our own. In Christ’s realm, each is cared for simply because each is a part of the kingdom.
NEW DAY BEREAVEMENT GROUP
Living through grief is not easy and it does not have to be done alone. The North American Martyrs Parish in East Hartford is offering “New Day,” a six-week program for those who wish to do grief work with others experiencing the same. This program provides a sense of community where support is given and received, and one feels at ease knowing that those attending are also experiencing the same pain of loss. “New Day” is led by a trained facilitator and includes prayer, discussion and journaling. It is a faith-based program and all are welcome. This six-week program begins this Wednesday, November 28 and will meet every other Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Saint Mary’s rectory, 15 Maplewood Ave., East Hartford. A Spanish speaking program will meet every other Wednesday evening beginning December 5. For more information or to register for the program, please call North American Martyrs Parish at 860-289-7916, or for the Spanish program, please call Luisa Guerra at 860-997-5105.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MONTH
All eleven dioceses in New England celebrate Religious Education Month during this month of November. It provides us with a wonderful opportunity for celebrating the catechetical ministry. Saint Edmund Campion’s staff and parish would like to thank all of the those who volunteer as Catechists in our Religious Education program and those who teach in our parish school. We appreciate their dedication and passion as they work with parents in passing on the teachings of our Catholic faith to the children of our parish community.

GREETERS MINISTRY
I continue to accept new applications from anyone who wishes to join this ministry during this current term, which began on September 17 and will go through to Pentecost Sunday, June 9. Being a parish greeter is a great service opportunity for a Confirmation student. For more information about this ministry, please contact me at my new phone number which is 860-936-8989 or by e-mail at annemarievolowski@yahoo.com.

– Anne Marie Volowski
Coordinator of the Saint Edmund Greeters’ Ministry

NEW SAINT EDMUND CAMPION PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE
Our combined parish (Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace and Saint Christopher Churches) now has an official Facebook page which can be accessed by searching for “Saint Edmund Campion Parish, East Hartford.” Please join and like the page at your earliest convenience. We will be posting items about upcoming Parish events, parishoner updates, and accompanying photos. Please also share this news with your friends and family. We encourage everyone’s participation. Visitor posts are welcome and will be reviewed by Father John.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR
Saint Bridget School
74 Main Street ~ Manchester, CT
Saturday, December 1 ~ 9am - 3pm
Saint Bridget School in Manchester invites you to do your holiday shopping at their Holiday Craft Fair. There will be over 75 craft vendors set up in their gym, school hallways and every classroom. There’ll be ornaments, knitted items, wood crafts, candles and soaps, holiday wreaths and arrangements, jewelry, food items, baked goods, raffles and much more!

HOLIDAY SUPPORT PROGRAM
The 29th Annual Holiday Support Program and Service of Remembrance sponsored by D’Esopo Funeral Chapel will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 2 at the Wethersfield Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street. You are invited to bring with you a picture of the person being remembered. A donation to a local charity will be given by the D’Esopo Family in honor of your loved one. Please RSVP to Janet@desopo.com or 860-257-7635 so adequate plans can be made for refreshments.

BEST ADVENT EVER
Best Advent Ever is a free e-mail program by Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. You’ll experience Advent (which begins next Sunday) in a whole new way – leading to the best Christmas of your life! For more information and to sign up for this year’s Best Advent Ever program, please visit:
dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever
HUMBLE SERVANT

On this last Sunday of Ordinary Time for the liturgical year, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, at a time when the world was experiencing a rise of secularism, materialism and individualism, and an increasing denial of Christ’s existence and authority. The hope was that the establishment of this feast would accomplish three goals — that nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, that leaders and nations would see that they are required to give respect to Christ, the King of kings, and that the faithful would be strengthened and encouraged by the reminder that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills and bodies. This feast is needed more than ever for all people and for us especially, as Christian stewards. It reminds us of three vital truths. First, even when it seems the world is spinning out of control, we need not fear because we have a King of kings who is very much in charge and who is loving, merciful and just. Second, if Christ is king of all, then He is also king of me, personally. I am not “lord” of my time, talents, and treasure. He is. I am a servant of the King and a steward of His gifts to me. Third, as His disciple, I am called to imitate my King. Christ’s kingship is characterized by humble service, by emptying Himself for the good of others. The Scriptures tell us He went about doing good and He says of Himself, “I came not to be served but to serve.” How can I live in any other way than as a humble servant like my King?  

– www.catholicsteward.com/blog

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LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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, December 2 – First Sunday of Advent

Jesus calls us all to watchfulness, as we hope in his second coming in glory. Not only does an active hope give us joy, it also keeps our prayer life alive and ready to resist temptation. The virtue and gift of hope keeps our focus on our eternal goal, and humble before the Giver of this gift.