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
Will resume after Easter 2019.
(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
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

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

First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.
Luke 21:36

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(Saint Christopher Campus)
Saturdays: 3:00 pm

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Mass Intentions for the Week

(OLOP) = Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Peace campus
(SC) = Mass celebrated at Saint Christopher campus

Saturday, December 1 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
† Jose Figueiredo (Wife Maria)
† Maria & Manuel Machado (Daughter Maria)

Sunday, December 2 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
† Reginald Violette (Family)

Sunday, December 2 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Helen Roy
(Members of the Former Parish Ministries of Blessed Sacrament Church)

Sunday, December 2 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
† Helen DeFiore (Anne Marie Volowski)

Monday, December 3 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Joseph Gieras ~ In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Family)

Tuesday, December 4 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Rose Rogosky Pendley ~ 23rd Anniversary
(Niece Carolyn V. Kronen)

Tuesday, December 4 – 9:00 a.m. (SC)
Saint Christopher School’s Monthly Mass
† Marshall Aitken (Kristie Sargent)

Wednesday, December 5 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Frank Wroniak (Grandparents)

Thursday, December 6 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Friday, December 7 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Holy Souls in Purgatory
   Especially the Most Abandoned

Friday, December 7 – 5:30 p.m. (SC)
† Emily Trela

Saturday, December 8 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
Ilda Reis ~ 17th Anniversary (Daughter Maria)

(COLOP) = Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Peace campus
(SC) = Mass celebrated at Saint Christopher campus

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (November 25):   $ 6,888*
What We Collected (November 18):   $ 7,718**

• Includes $835 received through our Online Giving
  program and $140 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes $690 received through our Online Giving
  program and $1,003 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 supports our parish school. Thank you!

CCHD COLLECTION
Thank you for your generous support the weekend of
November 18 to the collection for the Catholic
Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we
raised $1,952 to support those on the margins who
are living in poverty in the United States.

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 Equality, Justice,
and the Dignity of All Humans
(In Recognition of National Human Rights Month)

† The candle at the Saint Christopher campus
   burns this week

For a Special Intention
(Lydia Lora)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary
Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.

Mass Intentions (continued)

Sunday, December 9 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
† Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, December 9 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
Special Intention for Joel Rivera

Sunday, December 9 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
† Leona Pelletier (Rolande & Michael Nadeau)
SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on Saturday, December 8. This is a holy day of obligation, and since it is the patronal feast of the United States, it is not abrogated when it falls on a Saturday. Masses for this holy day will be celebrated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Christopher Campus</td>
<td>Friday, December 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Peace Campus</td>
<td>Saturday, December 8</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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HEARTS AND HANDS PROGRAM

The Christmas tree in the sanctuary of the church at the Saint Christopher campus, which was generously donated by D’Esopo Funeral Chapel, is decorated with tags suggesting items for those in need. The people who use the services of Birthright and Synergy High School benefit from our donations. Please consider taking a heart or hand from the tree, purchase the item noted and attach the tag to the unwrapped item before putting it under the tree. In order for the gifts to be distributed to the recipients prior to Christmas, we ask that all donated items be returned to the tree by December 9. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

THE PARISH COUNCIL CHRONICLE

The minutes from the October 22, 2018 meeting of the Parish Council are now available on our website at stchris-eh.org/pcminutes.php.

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE

We will meet again in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus this Wednesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. We will continue our journey with the Book of Job. Please join us. Our group meets every other Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Join us when you can and bring your Bible! If you have any questions please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

Blood Drive

Friday ~ December 7, 2018
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday ~ December 2
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Saint Christopher School Gymnasium

Come join us for a fun time at this year’s Breakfast with Santa. There will be great food, arts & crafts, raffles, Christmas Express and pictures with Santa. Adults are $8, Seniors are $7, children are $5 and the maximum family cost is $24 (parents and kids in one family). Tickets available at the door.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The local assembly & council will meet this Thursday, December 6, in the Saint Christopher church hall for their monthly business meetings at the following times:

6:30 PM – 4th Deg. Assembly Meeting
7:30 PM – Council Meeting

The Knights, families and widows are invited to attend their annual pot-luck supper/Christmas Party and Gift Swap on Tuesday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Saint Christopher church hall.

The Knights are looking for Catholic men who want to make a difference in their community. Please contact the Grand Knight, Ernest Mintel, at 860-569-7593 for more information.

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.
M. LOUISE SWEETLAND SCHOLARSHIP
We congratulate the following recipients of this year’s scholarship awards:

Marylyn Afoakwa-Abrokwa  Kelsey Kowal
Urielle Afoakwa-Abrokwa   Emma Lindsay
William Afoakwa-Abrokwa   Jack Mitchell
Jalynne Ambrose           Jackie Morera
Alayna Bennett            Maliha Pariaug
Jaden Bennett             Alexander Rivera
Anthony Carras            Benjamin Rivera
Connor Castagna           Tatiana Rosario
Parris Douet              Brett Schofield
Brooklyn Earlington      Jason Schofield
Delaney Kowal             Mara Schofield

We would also like to thank all parishioners for contributing to the scholarship fund. A total of $1,453 was donated.

– The M. Louise Sweetland Scholarship Committee

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 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

WAITING FOR BETHLEHEM’S CHILD

**Sunday, December 9 ~ 5:00 p.m.**
**Saint Francis of Assisi Church**
673 Ellington Road ~ South Windsor

All are invited to a magnificent evening of musical preparation for the birth of our Savior, as the Saint Junipero Serra Music Ministry’s Concert Choir and Orchestra perform *Bethlehem’s Child*. Drawing upon the words of Isaiah, Micah and inspired by the Gospel writings of Matthew and Luke, come reflect and join us as we voyage to Bethlehem to retell the story of Christmas and the miracle of Christ’s Birth. Admission is free, however free-will donations will be accepted to support the growth of their music ministry and to allow for future performances. Refreshments will be provided following the concert in their parish hall.

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 to 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. **We have an opportunity available if you would like to go as a guest of Holy Family; please contact Deacon Phil.** 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.

ACTIVE WAITING

As this new liturgical year unfolds, today’s readings are most appropriate, for they root us in what it means to live authentically as Christians. The Gospel, with its frightening predictions of the end times, invites the hearer to “be vigilant at all times.” This kind of vigilance is not at all passive for the Christian. Instead, it is a kind of active waiting. And what should we be doing while we are waiting for the coming of the Lord? The second reading gives us the answer: “abound in love for one another and for all.” Today is all about promises made and fulfilled. May this Advent season root us all firmly in a stance of active waiting for the Lord, who brings justice and peace.

NEW SAINT EDMUND CAMPION PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

Our parish 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. 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.
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, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

God always chooses the lowly, the humble, those who are trying to do His will. Nowhere is this more evident than in the selection of John the Baptist to be the bearer of God’s word! This gives us great hope. It is not the exercise of power nor the holding of possessions that matters. The only thing that matters is the condition of our heart, which reflects our relationship with God.

On Tuesday, November 20, parishioners from Saint Edmund Campion Parish, under the leadership of our Family Choir director, Toni Mintel, presented a sing-a-long Thanksgiving musical program for the residents at the Genesis Health Center (formerly known as Salmon Brook Rehab) in Glastonbury. A good time was had by all. We thank the parishioners who participated and invite anyone who’d like to join us for our next presentation – tentatively scheduled for later this month – to watch the bulletin for more information.

LEOTIO 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.