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.saintchristophersschool.org
860-568-4100

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Maria Sousa 860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com

Find Us on Facebook: Saint Edmund Campion Parish, East Hartford
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (December 2): $7,531*
Parish School Collection: $1,801**

*Includes $1,170 received through our Online Giving program and $425 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $90 received through our Online Giving program and $20 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish community!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to this weekend’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

ONLINE GIVING
Online Giving is available here at Saint Edmund Campion parish! It’s all about convenience for you and consistency for the parish. For more information and to register for Online Giving, please visit our website at stchris-eh.org. Click on the Online Giving button on the left side and you will be immediately connected to our secure Online Giving server. You may also contact the parish office for assistance.

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

In Loving Memory of George Brookman
(Joe Martocci & Jean Nowik)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.
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 “Parish Appeal” and place it in the collection basket or you may drop it off or mail it in to the parish office. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

HEARTS AND HANDS PROGRAM

In order for this year’s gift items to be distributed to the recipients prior to their Christmas parties, we ask that all gift donations be placed unwrapped under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary of the church at the Saint Christopher campus by Monday, Dec. 10. The people who use the services of Birthright and Synergy High School benefit from our donations. We appreciate your support of this program!

THE PARISH COUNCIL CHRONICLE

Do you enjoy taking pictures? All you need is a cell phone or camera. Our parish is looking for a few photographers – high school aged students and adults – to take pictures at parish events and to submit an article to the Saint Edmund Campion Facebook page. High school students will earn service hours for their volunteer time. Please contact me for more information.

Lori Brunette
St. Edmund Campion Parish Council President
C-860-655-9367 • H-860-904-2116

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

An envelope for making a donation towards the flowers that will decorate our churches this Christmas season can be found in your envelope set. If you do not receive envelopes, simply place your donation in a plain envelope marked “Christmas Flowers” and include a note with the name(s) of the loved one(s) for which your donation is being made in the memory of. The names of these loved ones will be included in our Christmas bulletin.

PRECIOUS BLOOD

As we face another influenza (flu) season, greater attention must be given to keeping one another healthy. With this in mind, we will cease offering the Precious Blood during our liturgies beginning next weekend, December 15/16. We will resume offering the Precious Blood when the flu season is over.

Our Church is growing! We welcome into our Christian community through the holy waters of baptism:

Harper Marie Beaumier
Gionni Luca D’Alesandro
Kaiden Joseph Reed
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 9, 2018

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
This month’s Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the Saint Christopher campus. Students in Grade 6 will participate in special ways during the Mass and our Family Choir will lead the music. (See article below on participating in the Family Choir.) Hospitality will follow in the church hall. Everyone is invited!

FAMILY CHOIR
The next rehearsal of our Family Choir will be held in our chapel at the Saint Christopher campus this Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. for any adult or child who is interested in singing in the Family Choir at the Children’s Liturgy being celebrated next Sunday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Maria Sousa, our Coordinator of Religious Education, at 860-895-8692 or Toni Mintel, Family Choir Director at 860-569-7593.

CRIB OF PRAYER INTENTIONS
In the sanctuary of both our churches is a basket filled with paper “straw.” You are invited to write down on each paper something you are praying for during this Advent season. Then place the paper in the crib so that, by the time Christmas arrives, Jesus will be cradled by your prayers. What a beautiful way this is to prepare for the coming of Jesus “through whom comes everything that is good.”

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets again this Monday, December 10 at 12:00 noon in the Saint Christopher campus 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.

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.

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
BEGINNING ANEW... Luke’s Gospel pinpoints the year when John the Baptist first began to announce the salvation of God, yet all four Gospels are silent on the date of Jesus’ birth. Preoccupation with dates and accuracy is a modern notion. The Gospels are focused more on why God had broken so personally into human history: the Good News that God comes to meet us whatever our condition; when we have hit the wall, bottomed out, or just drifted away. To the astonishment of “good” people, Jesus spends a lot of time with men and women of low reputation. Jesus forgives their sins and puts hope in their hearts – exactly the opposite of what society expects. It is never too late to allow God into our hearts and, repenting of our sins, begin anew. To begin anew, pray to do God’s will and then give a proportion of time, abilities, and resources to our community and the world around us—what Saint Paul calls producing “the harvest of righteousness” (Philippians 1:11). It seems easier to give when we are in the Christmas spirit, and that is all well and good. But what counts more is taking that spirit into the rest of the year.

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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zephaniah 3: 14-18a</td>
<td>Psalm 12: 2-6</td>
<td>Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13</td>
<td>Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13</td>
<td>Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13</td>
<td>Luke 3: 10-18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.”

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 16 – Third Sunday of Advent
God never forces himself on anyone. He offers us a relationship, and even gives us the grace necessary to make the right response — but the free will choice to accept or reject Him and his ways is still ours. Since we have this free will, it demands responsibility on our part. Pray earnestly that His kingdom come, and that we respond from our hearts to his actions and invitations as we await his second coming.