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
**PARISH SUPPORT**

What We Collected (December 9): $ 7,537
Holy Day: Immaculate Conception: $ 1,627

*Includes $735 received through our Online Giving program and $657 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

**RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS**

“This money is pure gift,” writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. “It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters.” Your gift to last weekend’s collection, which totaled $2,062, helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

**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**

John St. Onge

**Merry Christmas in Heaven**

(Wife Simone & Family)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.
WORLD YOUTH DAY BAKE SALE
December 22 and 23
Our World Youth Day pilgrims will be holding a Christmas bake sale next weekend after all Masses celebrated at the Saint Christopher Campus to raise funds for their World Youth Day pilgrimage to Panama next month. Some past favorites from the bake sale will include cheesecakes (mini and regular size), an assortment of breads (blueberry, banana, chocolate chip, etc), brownies, cookies, cupcakes, and more! If you told your family you would bring a dessert to Christmas dinner and still haven’t figured out what to make, stop by the bake sale to pick up a pre-made treat!

HEARTS AND HANDS PROGRAM
Thank you so very much to all of the parishioners and school families who donated to the Hearts and Hands program this season! Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the young moms and dads at Synergy School and by the mothers who use the services of Birthright. We also thank the students of Saint Christopher School who sorted these gifts to get them ready for distribution.

2018 ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL
We are most grateful for the number of responses we’ve received so far in support of this year’s annual parish appeal and we thank the families who have responded to this appeal. Your donation to this appeal, whether big or small, helps to make sure that our income keeps up with our expenses and enables us to maintain our campuses in good order. If you have not yet responded to this year’s appeal, please prayerfully consider doing so in the coming days. If you have misplaced your pledge card, no worries. Simply put your donation in an envelope marked “Parish Appeal” and place it the collection basket or you may drop it off or mail it in to the parish office. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
The Knights, their 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. For more information about the Knights, please contact the Grand Knight, Ernest Mintel, at 860-569-7593.

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 this weekend. We will resume offering the Precious Blood when the flu season is over.

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE
We will meet again this Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus. We will start chapter 6 in the Book of Job. We are planning a modest celebration since this is our last session prior to Christmas; all of our regular attendees are planning to bring some food item to share that night. All are welcome! Please join us. Our group meets every other Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Come when you can and bring your Bible! If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Phil at imgoose@comcast.net or 860-568-5001 or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

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.

Brian Aselton Memorial Blood Drive
St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ January 18, 2019
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.
CHRISTMAS MASS AND CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – December 24
4:00 p.m. - Saint Christopher Campus
10:00 p.m. - Saint Christopher Campus
(Chancel Choir’s Prelude Program begins at 9:40 p.m.)

Christmas Day – December 25
9:00 a.m. - Our Lady of Peace Campus
10:30 a.m. - Saint Christopher Campus

Confessions
(Saint Christopher Campus)

Monday, December 17: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 19: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 22: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Monday, December 24: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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.”

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

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.

PIN MINISTRY

Dear Parishioners,

During this gift-giving season, please remember our PIN (Parishioner in Need) ministry. Founded back in 2009, our mission is to assist any parishioner or parish family who is facing an emergency need and to set aside donations to sustain a PIN fund for future needs. **We cannot cure all needs, but we can care for all in need.** And so, in simple ways, we have assisted many parishioners and parish families during these past nine years. We could not have succeeded in doing so without your support of our annual bake sale or your financial contributions using the PIN envelopes that can be found at the entrances of the church. We ask that you consider supporting our PIN ministry through a donation and that you continue to **Be Aware of Those Who Need Care.** More information can be provided by contacting the parish office. Thank you!

Your PIN Co-chairpersons:
Maria Sousa and Toni Mintel

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.
STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION… We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for “rejoice”) this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior’s birth. Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, “The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all.” Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: “In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Paul’s instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him along with our thanks. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us. The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to live out this thanks, making our lives a “Christmas gift” to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist’s message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same.” He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God’s gifts to them! As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ’s extravagant love. Let’s avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let’s look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. – www.catholicesteward.com/blog

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>Third Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Zephaniah 3: 14-18a</td>
<td>Genesis 49: 2, 8-10</td>
<td>Jeremiah 23: 5-8</td>
<td>Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a</td>
<td>Isaiah 7: 10-14</td>
<td>Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a</td>
<td>1 Samuel 1: 24-28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Hebrews 10: 5-10

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 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God’s plan of salvation. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God’s plan for salvation.

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks
Used with permission of Paulist Press

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 16, 2018
STATEMENT REGARDING CLERICAL SEXUAL ABUSE

Every Advent Season we are renewed in hope—hope that Jesus, who was born on the first Christmas—will come again, this time in glory, to judge the living and the dead. His judgment will shine brightly and reveal the truth about each and every person who has ever lived. It is a divine light of both mercy and justice, and we distort what God has revealed if we emphasize only one of these two realities.

Judgment is very much on my mind when I think of the heinous crimes of predatory sexual abuse of minors by clergy, including the misconduct of bishops. Much attention has rightly been given to recent events connected with our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Baltimore, and I want to share with you some of my thoughts about this matter.

First of all, it is very important for me to repeat that when it comes to priests, deacons, and any other person working in the Archdiocese, we have had strict and comprehensive policies and procedures of accountability in place since 2002. There are no clergy ministering in the Archdiocese against whom there has been a credible accusation of abuse of a minor. Those who have been credibly accused are either laicized (i.e. returned to the lay state) or, if the Holy See in Rome will not impose laicization, then they are sentenced to a life of “prayer and penance” with absolutely no public identity or ministry whatsoever as a cleric.

Today’s uproar has to do with bishops, precipitated by the as yet unexplained case of Theodore McCarrick, former Archbishop of Washington. I was deeply disappointed by the directive the U.S. Bishops in Baltimore received from the Holy See in Rome not to vote on proposals which had been developed to ensure the accountability of bishops. However, the rationale given for this prohibition was that we should wait for the results of a meeting of representatives of all the world’s bishops to take place in Rome in February. Whether this February meeting will provide an effective and timely way forward remains to be seen, but I want to assure you that I fully support what the leadership of our U.S. Conference of Bishops has said, that “we are committed to taking the strongest possible actions at the earliest possible moment,” and that we will continue to develop the proposals that were to have been discussed in November.

I remain convinced that allegations against bishops ought to be handled by a review board principally composed of lay people who have the expertise to properly assess and make a determination about the credibility of such accusations.
Finally, having heard in Baltimore the recommendations of the bishops’ National Review Board, I wish to announce that in January the Archdiocese of Hartford will be publishing the names of archdiocesan clergy who have been the object of lawsuits and legal settlements, or otherwise credibly accused, and the names of religious order priests and priests from other dioceses who have been credibly accused of an offense that took place in the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese will also contract for a further independent review of all our clergy files to identify any additional names from the present going back to 1953, the year in which the Archdiocese of Hartford as such was established. The publication of names will be updated as any new information becomes available. Finally, the Archdiocese will be publishing the financial outlay that has been made as a result of the abuse of minors by clergy and the sources of these funds.

Very importantly, in seeking to apply spiritual remedies to this great scandal and tragedy that has seriously wounded so many people, I will be offering Masses of reparation for the evil that has been done. Three Masses are envisioned, to be celebrated in different churches in early 2019.

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford
December 8, 2018