Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ July 28, 2019

Saint Edmund Campion Parish

The merged parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace and Saint Christopher

Our Lady of Peace Church
370 May Road
East Hartford, CT 06118

Mass Schedule:
Sunday: 9:00 am
Friday & Saturday: 9:00 am

Saint Christopher Church
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 Church)
Saturdays: 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS
(Saint Christopher Church)
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 Church Hall)
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.

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Find Us on Facebook: Saint Edmund Campion Parish, East Hartford
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (July 21): $ 6,001*

*Includes $525 received through our Online Giving program and $395 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

ONLINE GIVING PROGRAM
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.

GOD IS A GOOD GOD
Jesus is describing God’s immeasurable generosity when He says in today’s Gospel, “Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted....” Our prayers may not have always been answered in the ways we would have wanted. Sometimes they go unanswered. It is in these times when we must see and appreciate where God has heard and answered us. Because God is a good God, a loving Father, we must trust that He will answer our petitions in a way that is for our highest good.

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 Church burns this week

For Victims of Human Trafficking
(In Recognition of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons ~ July 30)

The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week

In Loving Memory of
Sandra Leonard DeVivo

In Remembrance of Her Birthday
(Family)

Please call the parish office to schedule a dedication. The suggested donation is $15.
SO PROUD OF OUR SCHOOL!

The following is an excerpt of a letter from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC):

“Saint Christopher School is to be commended for the significant progress made in addressing both the major recommendations within the Visiting Committee Report as well as their own plans outlined in Part II of the Self-Study. It is particularly heartening to hear that the School has made significant progress in paying down the debt to the Archdiocese of Hartford.* The submitted Technology Plan reflects a creative use of outside funding, and the new school website is appealing and provides prospective families a view into a vibrant school. The administration and faculty should feel proud of all that has been accomplished in the past two years.”

This is a significant recognition for our school! Thank you to the principal Mrs. Kathleen Welch and the School Board for their wise and competent leadership. Registrations are now being accepted for the 2019/2020 school year. For more information, call the school office at 860-568-4100 or visit www.saintchristopherschool.org.

*The school debt was paid in full over a year ago and no debt has accumulated since then.

“Before we can pray, ‘Lord, Thy Kingdom come,’ we must be willing to pray, ‘My Kingdom go.’”

– Alan Redpath
THE OUR FATHER, OR LORD’S PRAYER, EXPLAINED

The question of, “How do we pray?” is one that is often asked and one that was posed thousands of years ago by the disciples. In Luke 11:1-4, which we hear in today’s Gospel, when one of Jesus’ disciples asks Him, “Lord, teach us to pray,” Jesus replied by giving us the prayer that we’ll recite countless times throughout our lifetime — the Our Father, also known as The Lord’s Prayer. This short prayer takes a mere 15-20 seconds to say, yet is filled with incredible meaning. If ever there was a prayer that summarized our faith and what’s expressed in the Gospels, the Our Father is it. If you’ve been a practicing Catholic since you were little, you’ve been reciting this prayer more times than you can count. Like anything we do repeatedly, saying this prayer silently or out loud becomes second nature. It’s important to remind ourselves to stop and reflect on the words we are saying. Let’s take a closer look at what each line means, and how we can apply this prayer to our lives.

Our Father, Who art in heaven,
We start this prayer by professing our core religious belief that God is our heavenly Father—the one who is all knowing and all powerful. Notice that Jesus didn’t instruct us to say, “My Father” but stressed “Our Father.”

Hallowed be Thy Name;
Hallowed is another word for holy or sanctified. When we say “hallowed be Thy name,” we are not only telling God “I recognize that you are holy,” but more importantly, we’re asking that His name be recognized by everyone throughout the world as being the ultimate holy power—that one day (sooner rather than later) all will know Him to be righteous, powerful, and everyone’s one true God.

Thy Kingdom come,
This petition has a two-fold meaning. First, we are asking that God’s kingdom (where there’s only goodness, honesty, and love for one another) surround us in our everyday life. Secondly, we are praying for the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise that He will return at the end of time and grant us eternal life.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
We pray these words asking for God’s grace to move us to do His will throughout our life. That means doing all the things that will please our Father—even the difficult things. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says, “In committing ourselves to [Christ], we can become one spirit with him, and thereby accomplish his will . . .”

Give us this day our daily bread,
Here we’re recognizing that all things we need come to us from God. We’re asking that God continue to give us not only the food we need for nourishment, but also the Bread of Life, the Eucharist.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
This is a tough one. It may be easy for us to ask God to forgive us our “trespasses” or sins, but God in his infinite wisdom teaches us that in order for Him to forgive our wrongdoings, we must first forgive those who’ve hurt us. God isn’t being difficult, rather He’s teaching us that when there is bitterness and anger in our hearts, there’s no room for His love to fill our hearts. How can we ask God to be merciful and forgive our sins, if we’re holding a grudge or refuse to forgive someone who’s wronged us?

And lead us not into temptation,
Temptation and sin go hand in hand. When we come face to face with temptation, it can sometimes be difficult to resist. That’s why we need our Father to set up the road blocks and lead us far from the path of temptation.

But deliver us from evil.
Evil is an unfortunate reality in our world. The devil is always trying to tempt us and makes it his full-time job to look for ways to steer us from the right path and onto the wrong one. The devil has no power over God and when we pray to God for protection against all that is evil, He will shield us—always.

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS ED
Now is the time for families to register children entering grades K-8 this fall for the 2019/2020 religious education program. This program begins in September and runs through April. Classes are held at Saint Christopher School on Sundays from 9:00–10:15 a.m. First Communion and Reconciliation preparation is a two-year program beginning in Grade 1. The registration form can be downloaded from our website at stchris-eh.org (select Religious Education) or it can be obtained by contacting the parish office at 860-568-5240. Please help us to plan accordingly by submitting your registration by August 30.

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<td>Psalm 138: 1-3, 6-8</td>
<td>Psalm 106:19-23 or Psalm 34:2-11</td>
<td>Psalm 103: 6-11</td>
<td>Psalm 99: 5-7, 9</td>
<td>Psalm 84: 3-6a, 8, 11</td>
<td>Psalm 81: 3-6, 10-11ab</td>
<td>Psalm 67: 2-3, 5, 7-8</td>
<td>Psalm 90: 3-6, 12-14, 17</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: “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, August 4 – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jesus came to free us from slavery to sin, including the sins of greed, lack of trust in divine providence, and indifference to the poor. We cannot be called God’s children when we remain so enslaved. It is good to remember the well-worn phrase, “I am just passing through” this earthly world, and act accordingly.