Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 4, 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

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

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.

PARISH OFFICE
860-568-5240
StEdmund3@gmail.com
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
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (July 28): $ 6,008*
• Includes $570 received through our Online Giving program and $432 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.

REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD
“You can’t take it with you,” Aunt Frances used to say. “I never saw a hearse pulling a U-Haul.” Aunt Frances had a point. We expend a lot of effort making money for our families, planning for retirement, and managing our investments. Yet we have no control over when our lives will be demanded of us. And wealth may not be the only “treasure” that we “store up.” We have many ways to preserve a false sense of security, to mask the vulnerability that we humans share. ... The scriptures today remind us that whatever we might be banking on to keep us safe is mere “vanity.”

— Virginia Stillwell; Copyright © 2012, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

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 a Safe and Relaxing Summer for All Parish Families
☎ The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week

In Loving Memory of Manuel Machado ~ 20th Anniversary (Daughter Maria)

Please call the parish office to schedule a dedication. The suggested donation is $15.
OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS
A representative from the Holy Land will be visiting our parish next weekend, August 10/11, to sell olive wood carvings after all Masses. For centuries, the Christians of Bethlehem have earned a living by carving olive wood religious articles. Your purchase will help the Christians in the Holy Land to maintain both their livelihood and their ancestral homes in the land of Christ. Please stop by to support their efforts.

PICNIC PLANNING MEETING
Please help us plan a fun parish event! We’ll be holding our 3rd Annual Saint Edmund Campion Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 22, from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of Peace campus. It will be a fun-filled afternoon of great food, fellowship and activities for all! Many hands are needed to plan this fun-packed event. Please join us for a planning meeting being held this Tuesday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Peace church hall. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Danielle at stchrisdvargas@gmail.com or Marie at garabedian@comcast.net or at 860-836-5514. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!
3rd Annual Saint Edmund Campion Parish Picnic
Sunday ~ September 22, 2019
12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Peace Campus
Please help us to plan this fun event. See article above for information about a planning meeting.

AMIRAH HOUSE UPDATE
Our parish has officially adopted the One-on-One rooms at the very first Amirah House in Connecticut which will provide a safe home for adult victims of sex trafficking. We are excited about this opportunity to assist with rehabbing this house so it can be opened to provide refuge for those seeking to break free from exploitation and to heal in a safe community on their journey toward lasting hope. Our team recently visited the house to see the spaces we will be cleaning, painting and furnishing so we could get a feel for what is needed. Firstly, I want to thank Michelle and John Carras, Ernie Mintel and Diane Robaczynski for participating in this project. Our two small rooms are next to each other and will be used by interns and for one-on-one meetings. Our spaces are in need of the following: two desks and desk chairs, two chairs for the one-on-one sessions, a small table to go between the chairs, a few lamps, pictures for the walls and a couple of throw rugs. We are going to need paint and paint supplies, which may have already been donated, plus we’ll need new panels for the drop ceiling and a door that will be installed between our two rooms. If you would be willing to make a monetary donation towards this project or if you have any of the items that are needed, please contact me at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.

– Deacon Phil Gosselin

PRAYER/SHARING GROUP
Our Prayer/Sharing Group will meet again this Thursday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Peace church hall. All members of Saint Edmund Campion Parish and friends are invited to attend. Please join us for an evening of Prayer, Song, Scripture Sharing and Friendship. Refreshments follow each meeting and all are welcome to stay.

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.

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

Jhené Lina Fernandez

“He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have.”

– Socrates
SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION
East Hartford Girl Scout Troop 10894, of which some of the girls of our parish are members, is partnering with the Night Angels/Grassroots organization to collect school supplies that will be distributed to students in need in our local community. Please support their efforts and make a donation between now and August 18. You can leave your donation in one of the specially-marked boxes located in the Saint Christopher church hall and the Our Lady of Peace main foyer. All donations must be new and unopened and can include backpacks, notebooks, folders, lined paper, highlighters, hand sanitizer, crayons, markers, rulers, scissors, calculators, binders, etc. Thank you for your support!

SAINT EDMUND CAMPION SOCIAL CLUB
Luau and Leis Members’ Picnic
Monday, August 19, 2019
Saint Christopher Church Hall
If possible, please wear a lei or Hawaiian shirt to this member’s picnic to enhance your experience. We will be having a photo booth in the church hall in front of the folding doors. Please try to arrive between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon so you can have your photo taken. We will provide a beautiful background and some props for extra interest. If you would like to have a copy of your photo, please be prepared to pay $1 at the time of your photo. We will have the photos printed up after the picnic and will distribute them on a timely basis. Lunch will be served around 12:00 noon. We will have great food and some surprises. Hope to see you there!

FLAME
Weekly Bonfire Get-Togethers for High School Students
Join us on Wednesday nights from 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the field behind Saint Christopher School for a bonfire, conversation, games, faith sharing, and prayer. Bring a chair! Rain sends us inside, upstairs in the parish center. Contact Kristi Gillespie, our Director of Confirmation and Youth Ministry, by text at 860-402-6233 for more information, but you can just show up! We will be happy to see you!!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Monsignor Thomas J. Drennan Assembly #1571 Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus:
Navigator – Scott Gay
Comptroller – Robert Falkevitz
Friar – Father John Gwozdz
Captain – Stephen Sam
Admiral – Ernest Mintel
Purser – Augustine Amponsah-Kusi
Pilot – Felix Mensah
Scribe – Godwin Gyan
Inner Sentinel – Frederick Kyeremeh
Outer Sentinel – Rodney Lambert
3-Year Trustee – Mike Gay

The Fourth Degree Knights are the patriotic arm of the Knights of Columbus. Members of the Knights of Columbus, be they Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, Cubans, Filipinos, Poles, or Dominicans, are patriotic citizens and are proud of our devotion to God and country and believe in standing up for both. Whether it’s in public or private, the Knights remind the world that Catholics support their nations and are amongst the greatest citizens. The Fourth Degree is available to any Third Degree Knights of Columbus Member. If you would like to join or want more information, contact FN Scott Gay at 860-569-0617 or at scottgay95@gmail.com.

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE - A QUALITY TAG SALE
Saint Bridget Church - 80 Main Street - Manchester
Thursday, August 22: 5 pm - 8 pm
Wine/Cheese/Shopping - $10 Admission
Friday, August 23: 4 pm - 8 pm - $1 Admission
Saturday, August 24: 9 am - 6 pm - Free Admission
Sunday, August 25: 8 am - 11 am - Free Admission
PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

Jesus said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.” (Lk 12:15). Most of the Parables shared by the Lord in Holy Scripture address the issue of possessions and how we treat them, how we use them as a measurement of success. Christ was living in a society that was very different from that we experience today, but that basic difficulty existed then, as it does now. The problem is not that possessions exist, but that they can become the dominant motivation in our lives and how we live them. The Lord cautions us, as he does in the Parable of the Rich Fool from today’s Gospel, that storing up treasure and possessions means that we may be wealthy in the eyes of society, but not in “what matters to God.” This is one of our ongoing stumbling blocks to being stewards living a Christian life. Our Holy Father Pope Francis speaks often about this same problem. In a recent homily he said, “True joy does not come from things or from possessing. It is born from the relationship with others; it is born from feeling accepted, understood, and loved, and from accepting, understanding, and loving. It is saying to one another, ‘You are important to me,’ not ‘What you have is important to me.’ Possessions are nothing but an illusion.” – [https://www.catholicsteward.com/2016/07/13/stewardship-bulletin-reflection-july-31-2016/](https://www.catholicsteward.com/2016/07/13/stewardship-bulletin-reflection-july-31-2016/)

LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS

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<td>Psalm 81: 12-17</td>
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<td>Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11</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.”

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 11 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These readings deal with hope and responsibility. Both the Book of Wisdom and the Letter to the Hebrews teach us to put up with present discomfort and problems. We have learned from the experience of faithful people in the past that God keeps his promise that all will be well in the future. Future reward depends on how we have met our present responsibilities.