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
Prayer, Song, Scripture, Friendship
This group will resume meeting
shortly after Easter 2020.

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 Hurley, Secretary
www.saintchristopherschool.org
860-568-4100

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Leo Forte 860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com

Visit us on the web: stedmundcampionparish.org

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

Due to the early transmission deadline imposed by our publisher for this weekend’s bulletin, last weekend’s collection will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin.

M. LOUISE SWEETLAND SCHOLARSHIP

A collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend to support the M. Louise Sweetland Scholarship Fund. This fund provides scholarships to students of our parish enrolled in a Catholic grammar or high school. Thank you for your support!

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.

ADVENT

Let’s approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.
– Anonymous

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 Those Who Are Struggling with Crohn’s and Colitis
(In Recognition of Crohn’s and Colitis Awareness Week ~ December 1-7)

The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week for

For Equality, Justice and Dignity of all Humans
(In Recognition of National Human Rights Month ~ December)

Please call the parish office to schedule a dedication. The suggested donation is $15.
SAINT EDMUND CAMPION AWARD
This weekend we are pleased to present the Saint Edmund Campion Award to the following parishioners. These parishioners were nominated for contributing their time and talent for the betterment of parish life through their involvement in our parish’s programs and ministries and for providing service to the greater community.

Adult Award goes to Diane Warner who is the dedicated coordinator of our Food Bank. Diane spends many hours each month shopping, stocking, bagging, scheduling volunteers and taking care of paperwork that is required by both the Town of East Hartford and the federal government. She has also rallied many volunteers from our parish who are quite devoted to helping her oversee our Food Bank. The past couple of years have not been easy for Diane due to health complications. Even while she undergoes treatment for these complications, she never waivers from her dedication to the Food Bank and continues to find the energy to do what needs to be done.

Teen Award goes to Owen Adams-Mejia who leads our 7th grade religious education class and encourages them to enjoy and practice their faith. Despite a very busy school, work and athletic schedule, Owen takes time to study the material that he presents to his students. He also makes time to volunteer in our community by helping at the Friendship Soup Kitchen, visiting the seniors at the Senior Active Day Center, and bringing basic necessities to the men at the Veteran’s Crossing Home. Owen takes his faith seriously and is not afraid to let other young people (and adults) know.

Youth Award goes to Renee Carras who regularly serves our parish as an altar server at our 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday at Our Lady of Peace. Renee also volunteers as a summer camp counselor and helps at the East Hartford Little League Concession stand. Renee is a busy Saint Christopher School student who plays on the school’s basketball team.

Congratulations Diane, Owen and Renee!

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday ~ December 8 ~ 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
We invite you to join us for the Breakfast with Santa and then take a tour of our school. Saint Christopher School is an excellent school option for students in PreK 3 through Grade 8. We offer a small, safe environment, excellent academics, in-town busing, many sports and activities and tuition assistance. Check out our website at saintchristopherschool.org.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Saint Christopher School
Sunday ~ December 8 ~ 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
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. Ticket prices: Adults-$8, Seniors-$7, children-$5 and the maximum family cost is $24 (parents and children in one family). Pre-registration is requested and can be done by calling or texting Danielle Vargas at 860-235-5421 or by sending an e-mail to her at stchrisdvargas@gmail.com.

STRING QUARTET CONCERT
The Mountain Road String Quartet, of which our parishioner Michael Hwang is a member, will be performing at Saint Christopher Church on Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m. Admission is Free. Non-perishable food items and a free-will offering will be accepted to benefit the Food Banks of East Hartford. A light reception will follow in the church hall. All are invited!

HEARTS AND HANDS PROGRAM
The Christmas tree in the sanctuary of Saint Christopher Church, which was generously donated by D’Esopo Funeral Chapel, is decorated with tags suggesting gift items for those in need. These gifts will benefit the children of the teen families at Synergy Alternative School and the clients of Birthright in East Hartford. 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 15. Thank you in advance for your generosity!
ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE
We will meet again this Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus. (The chapel is located inside the school building – a.k.a. the Parish Center, 580 Brewer St.). We will begin our next session by finishing up Chapter 12 and then we’ll move into Chapter 13 of the Acts of the Apostles. Please join us! All adults are welcome! Our group typically meets every other Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Come when you can and bring your Bible! Questions: Contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net or Steve Cadwallader at 860-568-5477.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS
I am so grateful for the generous amount of food donations and monetary support that we’ve received so far this holiday season. Your donations have helped us to provide many Thanksgiving baskets for those in need in our community. We are still collecting donations for the Christmas baskets. We are in special need of canned vegetables, mashed potatoes, cans of Chef Boyardee®, Hamburger Helper™, and baked beans, but anything you would like to donate is always appreciated. Donations can be left near the candle station at Saint Christopher Church and in the main vestibule of Our Lady of Peace Church. Anyone wishing to donate a turkey, chicken, ham or other meat can contact me at 860-202-8462. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season. – Diane Warner

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is celebrated on Dec. 8, conflicts with the Second Sunday of Advent in the 2019 liturgical calendar. Because Dec. 8 is a Sunday during the privileged season of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to the following day: Monday, Dec. 9. However, the obligation to attend Mass on Dec. 8 does not transfer to the following day. Therefore, in 2019, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Monday, Dec. 9 but will not carry the obligation to attend Mass on that day. Those who wish to attend Mass on Dec. 9 can join us at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Christopher Church.
HOPE PRODUCES PEACE

Most of us are quite familiar with Jesus’ comments about faith, hope, and love. As we enter the Advent season, it is a time for us to emphasize all three, but today’s readings in particular speak of hope. Isn’t that what Advent is all about? Many people in our world, perhaps even here in our parish and community, seem to have a feeling of hopelessness. We should not be among them; worldly thinking produces hopelessness, but our hope is found in Jesus Christ who has redeemed us and paid for all our sins on the Cross. In the First Reading the prophet Isaiah foresees a time of peace, a time when all literally “walk in the light of the Lord.” Two phrases commonly quoted are included in this reading: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” This peaceful world is exactly what we prepare for during this Advent time. Think of how often we hear the word “Peace” used at this time of year. Think of how many Christmas cards bear that word alone. Peace produces hope and hope produces peace. That is the feeling we are seeking at this time, as we prepare to declare “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”


LECTIO 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—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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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 8 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

John’s preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John’s message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus’ coming. We respond to John’s message by our repentance and reform of our lives. Make a point to seek the sacrament of Reconciliation during this Advent season.