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
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
Mass Intentions for the Week

(OLOP) = Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Peace campus
(SC) = Mass celebrated at Saint Christopher campus

Saturday, December 7 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
† Antonio & Marianna Bairos (Family)

Sunday, December 8 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
† Joseph “Brian” Mikkelson (Barbara Skenyon)

Sunday, December 8 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Walter & Gladys Juraszewicz (Family)

Sunday, December 8 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
† Reginald Violette (Wife & Family)

Monday, December 9 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Charles George Verotsky ~ 21st Anniversary and Mary Rogosky Verotsky (Daughter Carolyn V. Kronen)

Tuesday, December 10 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Daniel Cabral, Sr. (Sister, Maria Leonardo)

Wednesday, December 11 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Jose Figueiredo (Wife Maria)
† Manuel & Maria Machado (Daughter Maria)

Thursday, December 12 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Diane Olinatz (Family)

Friday, December 13 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
For the People of the Parish (Missa pro populo)

Saturday, December 14 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Ilda Reis (Daughter Maria)

Saturday, December 14 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
† Maurice “Moe” Harden (Mary & Family)

Sunday, December 15 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
† Joseph Leonardo (Mom & Daughters)

Sunday, December 15 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Geoffrey Callahan
In Remembrance of His Birthday (Family)

Sunday, December 15 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
† Dave Amberg, Sr. (Al & Sally Labieniec)

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (December 1): $ 6,414*
What We Collected (November 24): $ 6,696**

*Includes $1,206 received through our Online Giving program and $135 from mail-in offerings.

**Includes $804 received through our Online Giving program and $275 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT
The second collection being taken up at all Masses this weekend is the regular monthly collection to support our parish school. Thank you!

COLLECTION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES
On the weekend of November 23/24 our parish took up the national triennial collection to support the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). The AMS receives no funding from the military or the government in support of programs and services vital to the mission and ministry of its mission. They rely solely on the generosity of private donations. We are pleased to report that our parish collected a total of $1,165 to support the AMS.

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

† The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week for
In Memory of Maria Lourdes Madden (Sam & Madeline Cassarino)

Please call the parish office to schedule a dedication. The suggested donation is $15.
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!

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
This month’s Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Christopher Church. Students in Grade 6 will participate in special ways during the Mass and our Family Choir* will lead the music. Hospitality will follow in the church hall. Everyone is invited!

*If you would like to sing with the Family Choir at this next Children’s Liturgy, please contact Toni Mintel at 860-569-7593 (evenings after 8pm) for more details.

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!

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.”

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.

Envelopes must be received by December 18.
HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS
I am grateful for the wonderful support you provided during the Thanksgiving season. 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

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.

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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). Tickets are available at the door.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Saint Christopher Council #4
The Knights, their families and widows are invited to attend their annual pot-luck supper/Christmas Party and Gift Swap on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Saint Christopher church hall. The gift swap is voluntary, and members are not required to participate to attend the supper. Roast beef will be the main entrée.
If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in faith or obtaining exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. The Knights are looking for Catholic men who want to make a difference in their community. For more information, www.kofc.org

HOLY FAMILY RETREAT HOUSE
Theme: Our Deepest Longing

Women’s Retreat
Do you have a deep longing to grow in your relationship with God each and every day? Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford is the place for women to discover or rediscover their relationship with God. Give yourself or a woman you love the gift of a weekend retreat. Retreat weekends for women in 2020 are being held Jan. 10-12, Jan. 24-26, Feb. 28-Mar. 1, Apr. 17-19, and Jun. 5-7. New retreat attendees welcome! A one-day refresher retreat is offered for those who have attended a weekend retreat this term. For more information and to register, please visit holyfamilyretreat.org or call 860-521-0440. You can also contact our parish representative, Anne Marie Volowski, at 860-936-8989 or at annemarievolowski@yahoo.com.

Men’s Retreat
Please consider joining the men of our parish at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford for a weekend retreat on January 17-19 and give yourself the gift of retreat to start the new year with a renewed perspective. We spend our time and energy on the necessities of everyday life, but what is it that we are longing for in the deepest way? We have an opportunity available for a first-time retreatant to go as a guest of Holy Family. For more information, please contact one of our parish representatives: Ray Simeone at 860-569-8451 or Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001.

† IN MEMORIUM †
Please pray for the following parishioners who passed on to eternal life during the month of November.
Aura Bettencourt • Michael Connolly
Louise Corona • Gayle Katz
William McAllister, Sr. • Carl Ruggiero
Phyllis Shvonski • Peter Wonsewicz
“If Christ is my life, then death is my gain.”
– Philippians 1:21
BREAD RUN MINISTRY
Our Bread Run Ministry is seeking volunteers who can devote about one hour each month to deliver surplus bread from the Silver Lane Stop & Shop to the CRT Hartford Community Shelter on Main Street in East Hartford. If interested, please contact Regina Schultz at 860-568-2275 for more information.

RETIRRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION
Next weekend our parish will take up the annual collection to support our Retired Religious. Please see the insert in this weekend’s bulletin for more information or visit retiredreligious.org.

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—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 15 ~ Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday
“Today is a day of joy. Rather than fretting about all we have not done or accomplished to prepare for Christmas during Advent, we need to think of all the good things God, and life, has given us.”

– Pope Francis, Gaudete Sunday, 2014