They shall name him Emmanuel

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

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

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

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.

ONLINE GIVING
Online Giving is available here at Saint Edmund Campion parish! For more info and to register for online giving, please visit our website at stedmundayoung.org. Click on the Online Giving button on the left side and you will be connected to our secure Online Giving server.

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

In Loving Memory of
John Newman
In Remembrance of His Birthday
(Wife & Family)

❖ The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week for

In Loving Memory of
Felicia Chesery ~ 22nd Anniversary
(Daughter Madeline & Sam Cassarino)

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

MASS INTENTIONS (continued)

Saturday, December 28 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
❖ Fred Schifer
In Remembrance of His Birthday
& Merry Christmas (Wife & Family)

Sunday, December 29 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
❖ Joseph & Esther Hartl (Granddaughter)

Sunday, December 29 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
❖ Mary Ann Garro ~ 9th Anniversary (Family)

Sunday, December 29 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
❖ Peter Mazzadra (Karen Rodden & Family)
CHRISTMAS MASS AND CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

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

Confessions
(Saint Christopher Church)

Monday, December 23: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

A SANTA BREAKFAST THANK YOU!
The staff and students of Saint Christopher School wish to extend a big THANK YOU to the Knights of Columbus as well as to Denise Rioux and Lise Charron who worked behind the scenes at our school’s Breakfast with Santa. They worked tirelessly on behalf of the school and we are so appreciative of all their efforts! Thank you!

SAINT EDMUND CAMPION SOCIAL CLUB
Atlantic City Bus Trip
The Saint Edmund Campion Social Club is sponsoring a 3-day/2-night bus trip to Atlantic City on February 18-20, 2020. This trip includes a stay at Caesars Resort Hotel, three shows, $50 slot bonus, $50 in food vouchers, cancellation protection, baggage handling and driver gratuity. For more information about this trip, please contact Joan or Frank Perrone at 860-568-6229.

LIFE AFTER CONFIRMATION…
We are so pleased that our parish is able to offer a class for those who have been confirmed who are high school and college aged. This class is perfect for those in that age group who want to continue their faith education...and have fun while doing so! This informal class meets every other Sunday from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. at Saint Christopher School (Parish Center/PreK Entrance, 580 Brewer Street). *If we are not at the door, ring the bell or text us and we will come down to get you. Class starts with 15 minutes of a movie in line with our faith, followed by studying the 4 pillars: The Creed, Sacraments, Commandments and Prayer. Dig deeper into our rich and beautiful faith and find answers and understanding on various topics with a great group of young men and women. For more info or for our next meeting date, please call or text Mr. & Mrs. Hartley at 860-796-0165 or just show up and check it out! Regular attendance is optional. We hope to see you at our next class. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season!

COUNTERS’ MINISTRY
Now is the time to begin preparing next year’s weekly schedule for our Counters’ Ministry. If you are a current member of this ministry and are not able to continue next year, please let us know. If you are interested in joining this ministry and would like to be included on next year’s schedule, please let us know that as well by calling the parish office at 860-568-5240. Team Counters are scheduled an average of once every couple of months. This ministry is a great way to serve your parish while giving you the opportunity to meet and mingle with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome to join us!

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.”

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4
Members are reminded that the fraternal survey that was included with the annual dues bill needs to be returned to the Financial Secretary. Last year the Knights donated more than 76 million hours to volunteer service and charitable contributions of more than $185 million.

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
My Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the birth of our savior, we are reminded of the great mystery that Christmas is, that in Jesus, God has made his home among us! Let us make room for him in our lives, in our homes, in our hearts.

On behalf of Father Joseph, Deacon Bill, Deacon Phil and our wonderful parish staff, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Yours in Christ,
Father John

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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.

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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.

THANK YOU!
We extend our appreciation to the Newkirk & Whitney and Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Homes for providing us with a supply of 2020 calendars. Please feel free to take a calendar home with you. They also donated some of the poinsettia plants that will decorate both our churches during this Christmas season. We appreciate their generosity! We also appreciate the generosity of D’Esopo Funeral Chapel. They donated to us the beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary of Saint Christopher Church and the wreaths that will hang at both our campuses this Christmas season. We are most grateful!

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St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ January 17, 2020
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.
1-800-Red Cross to make an app’t.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
Many great things are happening at Saint Christopher School! If you’re looking for an excellent option for your PreK 3 through Grade 8 child, we invite you to visit us. We offer a small, safe environment, excellent academics, in-town busing, many sports and activities and tuition assistance. For more information or to schedule a visit, please contact Mrs. Welch at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org or at 860-568-4100. www.saintchristopherschool.org
ARE WE READY?
It is the final Sunday of Advent, and Christmas is just a few days away. We may ask ourselves if we are prepared for Christmas, but that question may focus on the wrong things — we may be thinking of decorations and Christmas gifts and Christmas dinners. However, the question we should be asking is “Are our souls ready for Christmas?” That should be the most important part of our Advent preparation. Is God present within us? Are we ready to welcome Christ? Do we acknowledge our need to be prepared for Christ’s Second Coming? In his letter to the Romans, today’s second reading, St. Paul uses the phrase “the Spirit of holiness.” Paul, and in a more important way Christ Himself, calls us to holiness. Holiness is more than what we do; it has everything to do with what we are. It has to do with our very identity. Holiness is characterized by our relationship with the Lord. We are waiting for Christ, but the reality is that Christ is waiting for us. God loves us; knowing and responding to that love is holiness. St. Teresa of Calcutta may have said it best when she stated, “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand.” — https://www.catholicsteward.com/2016/11/30/stewardship-bulletin-reflection-december-18-2016/

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.”

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, December 29 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
In the midst of the Christmas season, it is quite appropriate that our liturgy asks us to pause to consider the Holy Family. Following the model of the Holy Family, we might use this feast to recall the responsibility that each family member has to contribute to the good of the family and recommit ourselves to one another.