The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ~ December 29, 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

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

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
PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (December 15): $ 8,386*

*Includes $755 received through our Online Giving program and $1,785 from mail-in offerings.

Due to the early submission deadline for this weekend’s bulletin, last weekend’s collection and our Christmas collection will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin.

Thank you for your support of our parish community!

Consider signing up for Online Giving. Please visit stedmundcampionparish.org for more information.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Religious Give Thanks

“Thank you hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us,” says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to this year’s collection which totaled $2,294.

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 Happy & Healthy New Year for the People of Our Parish

The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week for

In Loving Memory of
Philip Cormier ~ 2nd Anniversary
(Wife Eloise & Family)

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

MASS INTENTIONS (continued)

Sunday, January 5 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
♀ Josephine Picone (Family)

Sunday, January 5 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
♀ Stan Traynor (Wife Ann & Family)
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses for this Solemnity will be celebrated as follows:

Vigil ~ Tuesday, December 31 ~ 5:30 pm
   (Saint Christopher Church)

Wednesday, January 1 ~ 8:00 am
   (Saint Christopher Church)

AN APPEAL TO WIVES!

We appeal to the wives of our parish to encourage your husbands to attend our parish’s Men’s Retreat being held January 17-19, 2020 at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford. There’s a reason there are many more retreats scheduled for men than for women; we need more help! Not only will you enjoy a football-free weekend, you’ll get a shiny new husband back in return. Together the men of the parish will take a journey, with the hope of discovering what it is that we are longing for in the deepest way. Contact Deacon Phil about an opportunity for a first-time retreatant to go as a guest of Holy Family. Register online at holyfamilyretreat.org or if you do not have access to the internet or have any questions, please contact Ray Simeone at 860-569-8451 or at rjsimeone95@comcast.net or Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Theme: Our Deepest Longing

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 annemarievolowski@gmail.com at 860-840-9320.

ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE

No Meeting January 1

Due to January 1 being a holiday and holy day of obligation, we will not meet this Wednesday evening. We will meet again on January 15.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Christopher Council #4

The local assembly and council will meet this Thursday, January 2 in the Saint Christopher Church Hall for their monthly business meetings at the following times:

6:30 PM – 4th Deg. Assembly Meeting
7:30 PM – Council Meeting
Refreshments will be served.

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 info, www.kofc.org

ST. 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.

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 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!
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!

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL Hall
Friday ~ January 17, 2020
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.
To make an appointment, call
1-800-Red Cross

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 decorate both our churches during this Christmas season. We appreciate their generosity! We also appreciate the generosity of D’Esopo Funeral Chapel. They donated the beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary of Saint Christopher Church and the wreaths that hang at both our campuses this Christmas season. We are most grateful!

FAMILY LIFE

Today’s readings encourage us to appreciate the importance of family life. They prompt us to never forget the essential attributes of being a good family member: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, and most vital, love. Love is, as Paul reminds us, “the bond of perfection.” Like the Holy Family, we must to strive for holiness in all we are and all we do.
ST. EDMUND CAMPION SOCIAL CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Monday, December 16, the Saint Edmund Campion Social Club held their annual Christmas Party at the Manchester Country Club. Prior to the meal, the newly elected officers were installed by Father John and the prayer before the meal was given by Father Joseph. After the delicious luncheon, there was a sing-a-long where Frank Perrone dressed up as a Christmas Tree and some members came up to decorate him. It was a lot of fun! The club members are looking forward a new year, which will start with a Memorial Mass for the deceased members of the Blessed Sacrament Ladies Guild, the Our Lady of Peace Retirees Club, the Saint Christopher Social Club, and the Saint Edmund Campion Social Club. A breakfast will follow. More information will be provided in an upcoming bulletin.

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, January 5 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord
The gifts of the Magi — gold, frankincense, and myrrh — have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say.

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