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
PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (January 12): $6,413*
Parish School Collection: $1,824**

*Includes $645 received through our Online Giving program and $470 from mail-in offerings.
**Includes $205 received through our Online Giving program and $107 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish community!

TAX STATEMENTS
We are happy to provide tax statements to our parishioners who request one. If you regularly use your envelopes to make your offerings to our parish and wish to receive a tax statement, please contact the parish office by phone: 860-568-5240 or by e-mail: StEdmund3@gmail.com.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING
Dear Friends,
On June 8, 2019 I turned 100 years old. Family and friends hosted a wonderful celebration for me in the church hall immediately after the 4:00 Vigil Mass. Many of you gifted me with beautiful cards and gifts. At my age it is difficult for me to write a note to each of you, but I want you to know how grateful I am to you for making my 100th birthday so happy. I am showing my appreciation by having a Mass said for you on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. Thank you all for your kindness!

– Mary Alice Sydor

SANCTUARY LAMP
The lamps beside the tabernacles in our churches 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
Peter Ashe ~ 3rd Anniversary
(Wife & Family)
❖ The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week
For All Unborn Children
(In Recognition of the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children ~ January 22)
CHILDREN’S LITURGY
This month’s Children’s Liturgy will be celebrated next Sunday, Jan. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Christopher Church. Students in Grade 2 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.

MARIAN GARDEN
We are pleased to announce that another batch of bricks were installed in the Marian Garden this past week. The mild winter we’ve been having made it possible for this mid-winter installation. We are also pleased to announce that production changes have been made so that the engraving of bricks will be done as soon as orders are placed. Installation will soon follow as weather permits. There’s no more waiting months to see your brick appear in the Garden! Bricks can be engraved to memorialize a loved one, honor someone special, commemorate an event (i.e., baptism, First Communion, graduation, anniversary) or you can even have your own name on a brick. Donation levels begin at $50. If you’d like to learn more about ordering a brick, please call the parish office at 860-568-5240 or visit stedmundcampionparish.org/mariangarden.php.

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION
When the High School Collection is taken up in all parishes of the Archdiocese next weekend, January 25/26, we ask for your participation in helping reach the Archdiocesan 2020 goal of $250,000. Your investment will yield significant results, since our Catholic high schools offer students exceptional academics, solid faith formation, and a true spirit of service. We deeply value your support of Catholic school education as we continue to form another generation in the faith.

OPEN HOUSE – Saint Christopher School will hold an Open House on Wednesday, January 29, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. All families are welcome. We have an open enrollment, so families may consider transferring for this school year or enrolling for next school year. Saint Chris is an excellent school option for students in PreK 3 through Grade 8. We offer a small, safe environment, excellent academics, STREAM learning (STEM with religion and the arts), and many sports and activities. Financial aid is available. For more information, call 860-568-4100 or visit us at saintchristopherschool.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4
This Sunday, January 19, at 11:00 a.m. is the CT State Council Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford. Arrive early if you want to be assured a good parking space. There is a parking lot at the rear of the Cathedral on Asylum Ave. There is a baby shower immediately following the Mass in the hall downstairs where the CT State Council will be collecting everything from bottles and diapers to car seats and cribs. Please consider bringing something. These items will be distributed to various agencies throughout CT that support young mothers in need.

Our members-only pot-luck supper will be held this Tuesday, the 21st, at 6:00 p.m. in the Saint Christopher Church Hall. The snow date is Thursday the 23rd. The main entrée is rotisserie chicken. Contact Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 to reserve a seat.

Saturday, March 14, will be our annual Corned Beef Dinner after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Ticket sales will begin Saturday and Sunday, February 22 and 23 after Masses. A free Polish Paczki will be given out with each ticket sale following the Sunday Masses (Saturday purchasers can pick up a Paczki on Sunday after any Mass). No Paczkies will be sold until ticket sales are completed after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

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. Any Catholic man who joins the council prior to February 22 will receive a free Corned Beef Dinner ticket and Paczki. For more information, contact Membership Director Keith Garabedian at 860-569-7226 or Grand Knight Ernie Mintel at 860-569-7593.

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SAINT EDMUND CAMPION ADULT SOCIAL CLUB
MEMORIAL MASS AND MEMBERS-ONLY COMMUNION BREAKFAST
Monday ~ January 20 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Saint Christopher Church
In place of our regular meeting, Father John will be celebrating Mass at 10:00 a.m. this Monday, Jan. 20 in memory of 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 Communion Breakfast will immediately follow in the church hall. (Please note that you must be a club member to attend the Communion Breakfast.)

Our membership committee will be on hand that morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. to accept your $15.00 for the 2020 dues and to handout ID badges which are ready for pickup.

If you would like to learn more about the Social Club, please call Frank or Joan Perrone at 860-568-6229.

AMIRAH SAFE HOME IN CT UPDATE
In 2019, Amirah, Inc. was able to secure a safe home location and work with 18 amazing groups (which included a group from Saint Edmund Campion Parish) to renovate the space into a beautiful home. They were able to fund the major renovation expenses through current donations, but they are now looking for funds to staff the facility so they can open the doors and welcome survivors of sex trafficking into the space to begin their journeys of healing. They currently have about 89 Hope Partners who are, each month, giving $20 or more; this monthly total is about $4,500 and they have received annual gifts of about $45,000. In order to open their doors, they need more Hope Partners to increase the total monthly donations to about $9,300 and see the annual gifts increase to about $200,000. If you would be willing to become a Hope Partner, please go to www.amirahinc.org/hope-partners and click on “Become A Hope Partner”. You can select your monthly donation amount and click on “Recurring Donation”. It is important that under, “Gift Designation” you select “Connecticut Safe Home” from the dropdown menu. If you prefer to make a one-time donation, click “One Time Donation” instead of “Recurring Donation” and the rest is the same. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or by e-mail at imgoose@comcast.net.

ORDINARY TIME
Today we celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Many Catholics do not fully understand the meaning and importance of Ordinary Time. Ordinary is based upon the fact that the Sundays during this time are numbered, and that is because they do not fall into the various seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter. That does not make this time of year unimportant; in fact Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting. As indicated in today’s Gospel Reading from John, John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. That means this is the time of year when Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and can transform our lives. There is certainly nothing “ordinary” about that.

DO YOU NEED PRAYER?
Contact Sally Ann Tanasi with your prayer requests.
860-569-4072  ® 6854angeleyes@gmail.com
THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our Gospel Reading today is quite short. However, it contains an important revelation from St. John the Baptist about Jesus, our Lord and Savior. John the Baptist testifies, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him.” We are fond in the Church to use the symbol of the dove to represent the Holy Spirit, but what John says is not that the Spirit was a dove, but it descended like a dove. The Spirit descends upon us as well throughout our lives as Catholics. At our Baptism the Holy Spirit came upon us, and we received the fullness of the Holy Spirit’s gifts at Confirmation. Nevertheless, we receive the Holy Spirit at every Mass and especially at the Eucharist. Just as John the Baptist spoke of seeing the Holy Spirit descend upon the Lord, that same Holy Spirit descends upon us. You probably have never paid much attention to how a dove actually descends. It sort of hovers and floats downward. Its descent is smooth, deliberate, and in its own unique way. This Spirit has descended upon us and continues to do so. It fills us. What do we do with it? It is part of our very being, but for it to be effective we must share it and use it. Our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said, “No one can give that which they do not personally possess, which means we cannot transmit the Holy Spirit if we ourselves are not close to the Spirit.” – www.catholicsteward.com

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.”

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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, January 26 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Peter and Andrew, James and John all respond immediately to the call of Christ. We’re reminded that everything we say or do needs to point to the saving Cross of Jesus, in one loving way or another. May we be open to God’s call and be as ready to use our talents in His service as those first disciples were!