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: stedmuncampionparish.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 (January 26): $6,637*
• Includes $940 received through our Online Giving program and $140 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION
Thank you! On behalf of our Catholic secondary school students, Sr. Mary Grace Walsh ASCJ, Ph.D. would like to express sincere thanks to all those who participated in the 2020 High School Collection. Our parish collected a total of $1,446. We deeply appreciate your support of Catholic high schools as they pursue their mission of education and evangelization.

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.

ONLINE GIVING
Are you interested in supporting our parish through the convenience of Online Giving? If so, please visit our secure Online Giving website for more info and to register: www.osvonlinegiving.com/1754

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

For the Women and Men in Consecrated Life
(In Recognition of World Day for Consecrated Life ~ February 2)

• The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week

In Memory of John Burnat
(Jean Nowik & Joe Martocci)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.
FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE
This Monday, February 3, is the Feast of Saint Blaise. At all Masses this weekend, Father John and Father Joseph will give the traditional blessing of throats from the sanctuary in place of the final blessing. Individual blessings will be given at the 8:00 a.m. Mass on the Feast Day. The words of the blessing are as follows: Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

FIRST RECONCILIATION
We congratulate the 14 children of our parish who celebrated their First Reconciliation on the morning of Saturday January 25. We thank their parents for their dedication in raising their children in the practice of the faith. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Communion on May 2.

MARIAN GARDEN
We are pleased to announce that production changes have been made for the Marian Garden 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 engraved 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 our website at stedmundcampionparish.org/mariangarden.php.

CATHOLIC CHURCH ANNULMENTS
Many Catholics have asked the following questions about the Church’s position on divorce, annulments, and marriage. “Can a divorced person receive Holy Communion?” • “Can a divorced person marry in the Catholic Church?” • “Why might a non-Catholic consider or need an annulment?” • “Does a divorced person need an annulment when the marriage was performed only by a Justice of the Peace?” Often these questions and others have been met with misleading, misguided, and sometimes wrong responses. Perhaps you, a family member, or a friend needs sound, clear information. If so, please contact the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford at 860-541-6491 or by email at Tribunal@aohct.org. You can also visit: https://archdioceseofhartford.org/metropolitan-marriage-tribunal.

PARISHIONER IN NEED BAKE SALE
February 8 and 9
Parishioners in Need (PIN) Committee will host their 11th Anniversary Bake Sale next weekend, February 8/9 after all Masses celebrated at Saint Christopher Church. We celebrate eleven years of operation. Since our inception, we have assisted and continue to assist many members within our parish as well as having provided resources to others within the community. Your support has helped us succeed.

Please continue to watch out for those in our parish who may need assistance and may be hesitant to ask for help. Even those we have helped in the past may still be struggling and we ask that they or someone on their behalf come forward if necessary. Let’s be aware of those who need care.

Please plan to stop by next weekend to make a purchase. Donations of baked goods are very much welcomed…and needed. (Please indicate if there are nuts in the ingredients.) Donations can be dropped off in the church hall next weekend before any Mass celebrated at the Saint Christopher Church.

LIVING GOD’S WORD
The pure, hot light that emanates from Christ both reveals and purifies. Like the flames that refine ore into pure gold, Christ’s light burns away all that is impure or worthless in those who come close to the flame. The process may be painful and frightening. It may require sacrifice, but we are not alone.

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST
While we are in the midst of the flu season, we will not be distributing the Precious Blood of Christ at the Masses until further notice.

The Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford is a staff of specially trained and experienced priests, religious and lay persons who offer assistance to parties who have reason to doubt the validity of their marriage.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Beginning in 2010, by Presidential Proclamation, each January has been designated National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The Archdiocesan Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry wants you to know of these upcoming events.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS for Trafficked Persons
Friday ~ February 7 ~ 6:00 p.m.
St. James Church of Saint Josephine Bakhita Parish
767 Elm Street ~ Rocky Hill

PRAYER SERVICE to End Human Trafficking
Sunday ~ February 9 ~ 3:00 p.m.
Saint Louis Church of Saint John XXIII Parish
89 Bull Hill Lane ~ West Haven

BIRTHRIGHT NEEDS YOU!
Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling and practical support. Their guiding principle is: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be BORN. Birthright has served in Connecticut since 1972 and thousands of expectant mothers have received the help they need to bring their babies into the world! There are eight Birthright locations in our state with one of these locations being right here in East Hartford. Volunteers are needed, especially Spanish speaking volunteers. Training is provided. For more information, please contact our East Hartford Birthright location at 860-290-8800.

LIFE AFTER CONFIRMATION
Life After Confirmation is a class offered for those who have been confirmed who are high school and college aged. It is perfect for those in this 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. Regular attendance is optional. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

Blood Drive

St. Christopher Church Hall
Friday ~ February 14, 2020
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Please call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) to make an app’t. or log onto redcrossblood.org.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ~ February 2, 2020
THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord occurs 40 days after the birth of Christ. In Jewish tradition the parents of a baby were to “present” the baby at the temple on the 40th day after birth. This is a celebration that has occurred in the Church from the 300s. More important to us, as reflected in the three readings today, is embracing the Lord as our Savior, acknowledging that He is both God and man, and striving as good stewards to be like Him. Notice how Simeon takes the Baby in his arms, holds Him, and declares, “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.” One of the difficult things for us is to see that same salvation and to go in peace. Stewardship is seeing the glory of our Savior and striving to live out our lives with total trust in Him. As Catholics we need not only to understand our callings, but also to live them out. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, “Three things are necessary for our salvation: to know what we ought to believe; to know what we ought to desire; and to know what we ought to do.” Sharing our time, talent, and treasure with God and our parish is what we are to do. – www.catholicsteward.com

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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 Copyright 2001 by Robert J. Wicks Used with permission of Paulist Press**

**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, February 9 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In the First Reading Israel is called to share basic necessities with the less fortunate — simple things like food, shelter and clothing. The Lord says, through Isaiah, that these actions are like a “Light” that suddenly breaks forth like dawn eliminating a gloomy night. The gloomy “darkness” of those less fortunate can be eliminated by God’s glorious light shining through you.