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

Saturday, February 22 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
† Marianne Harden (Mom & Family)

Sunday, February 23 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
† Esther Hartl ~ 28th Anniv. (Granddaughter)

Sunday, February 23 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Aldie Boivin & Family (The Hebert Family)

Sunday, February 23 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
† John Connors (Wife Evelyn & Family)

Monday, February 24 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Madeleine Lavigne (Friends)

Tuesday, February 25 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Lucien Lavertu ~ 5th Anniversary (Joan, Paul & Carol)

Wednesday, February 26 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Diane Olinatz (Family)

Wednesday, February 26 – 9:00 a.m. (SC)
† Mr. Matos (Deceased) & Mr. Prokop (Living) (Staff & Students of St. Christopher School)

Wednesday, February 26 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Deacon Eugene E. Phaneuf

Wednesday, February 26 – 5:30 p.m. (SC)
† Deacon Joseph J. Cooke

Thursday, February 27 – 8:00 a.m. (SC)
† Dinis Leonardo (Wife & Family)

Friday, February 28 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† David Amberg (Diana & Brian LeMay)

Saturday, February 29 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Deceased Members of the Raibeck Family (Son & Brother)

Saturday, February 29 – 4:00 p.m. (SC)
† Timothy Gilbert ~ 8th Anniversary (Parents Elaine & Tom Gilbert)
† Lucas Regan (Grandparents)

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

PARISH SUPPORT
What We Collected (February 16): $8,260*

*Includes $2,245 received through our Online Giving program, which includes a $1,550 donation from an anonymous donor, and $250 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

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.

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

That All God’s People Draw Closer to Him During This Lenten Season

† The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week

For the Victims of the Coronavirus

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.

MASS INTENTIONS (continued)

Sunday, March 1 – 7:30 a.m. (SC)
† Helen Roy ~ In Remembrance of Her Birthday (Husband & Family)

Sunday, March 1 – 9:00 a.m. (OLOP)
† Frank Noyes ~ 1st Anniversary (James Dolan)

Sunday, March 1 – 10:30 a.m. (SC)
† Rita Grosser & William Grosser (Family)
ASH WEDNESDAY
Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation. It is, however, a day of universal fast and abstinence. Our schedule of services on Ash Wednesday, February 26, is as follows:

Masses
(Communion and the Distribution of Ashes)
Saint Christopher Church
8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Peace Church
9:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word
(Distribution of Ashes – No Communion)
Saint Christopher Church
12:15 p.m.

FAST & ABSTINENCE DURING LENT
Catholics, age 14 and older, are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays in Lent. The rule does not apply when health or ability to work would be impacted seriously. In addition to abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, but have not yet marked their 59th, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday. On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to individual needs, but together they should not equal another meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices are allowed.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT
The Archdiocese of Hartford will once again sponsor its Lenten Confession Campaign. Monday will be “confession day” in every parish throughout the Archdiocese. Father John will hear confessions every Monday during Lent from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Saint Christopher Church. For the times that other parishes are hearing confessions, please visit ConfessionMondays.com or contact the parish office at 860-568-5240 for assistance.

SOUP & STATIONS
Join us for a sharing of simple soup and bread (with conversation and sharing with fellow parishioners) at 5:30 p.m. in the Saint Christopher Church hall on the following Wednesday evenings:
March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1.

Stations of the Cross begins at 6:30 p.m. in the church. The young people from our parish school and religious education program will lead us in the Stations. Volunteers are needed to prepare soup and/or supply bread for each Wednesday. You may simply bring with you the item you wish to share on the Wednesday evening that works best for you. Soup and bread are all we will need. No desserts please.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Traditional Stations of the Cross will be led by Deacon Bill Bartlett at the Our Lady of Peace Church on the following Friday evenings at 6:30 pm.
February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3

We expect to hold our Living Stations dramatization on Good Friday, April 10, at the Saint Christopher Church. More information on that to follow.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONS MOVES TO TUESDAY NIGHT DURING LENT
Due to the Soup & Stations event being held on Wed. evenings during Lent, our Wednesday Night Devotions will move to the following Tuesday evenings:
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7
They will return to Wednesday evening beginning April 14.

BEST.LENT.EVER!
During this Lenten season, you have an opportunity to participate in a special kind of observance. It can be found free on the site: BestLentEver.com. This program is being sponsored by Dynamic Catholic and its founder Matthew Kelly, a motivational speaker and author. It’s free to sign up and every day during Lent you’ll receive in your e-mail short inspirational videos, practical tips, and a study guide to become the best-version-of-yourself, making this a truly life-changing Lent. What better way is there to observe this sacred time, all at your own convenience?

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL’S
21st ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION
Saturday ~ April 25
More Information to Come
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
**St. Christopher Council #4**

Corned Beef Dinner  
Saturday ~ March 14 ~ After 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
Saint Christopher Church Hall

**Ticket sales begin this weekend after all Masses.** A free Polish Paczki will be given out with each ticket sale following the Sunday Masses (Saturday purchasers can pick up their Paczki on Sunday after any Mass). No Paczkie 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. For more information, contact Membership Director Keith Garabedian at 860-569-7226.

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**ADULT BIBLE ADVENTURE**

We will meet again this Wednesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Saint Christopher campus. (The chapel is located inside the school building – a.k.a. the Parish Center, 580 Brewer St.). At this next session we will continue with chapter 17 in the Acts of the Apostles. Our time together begins with music to center ourselves and then we have opening prayer. We then read sections of our chosen scripture and discuss it. Sometimes our discussions are supplemented with audio or video commentary. We end with a closing prayer and return home with joyful hearts because we encountered God’s truths in the scripture. Please join us! All adults are welcome! Our group typically meets every other Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Come when you can and bring your Bible! Questions? Contact Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001 or at imgoose@comcast.net.

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**RENOVATIONS**

As part of our ongoing renovation of Saint Christopher Church, you should know that refinishing of the pews will begin shortly. This means that half the pews will be removed from the church and returned before Easter. After Easter the other half will be removed and then returned. The pews will be completely refinished, the kneelers will be replaced by stronger ones, and all the pews will be cushioned! While the pews are being refinished, the hall will be open during our weekend Masses to accommodate those who are temporarily displaced by the removal of pews. Thank you for your patience.

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**AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED**

Saint Christopher School will be celebrating their 21st Annual Gala and Auction on April 25, 2020. This event is the school’s largest fundraiser of the year and we need your help to make this year the best year yet! Below are some ways that you can help support our school. All donations can be dropped off at the school or left at the church tagged for the auction. All donations are tax deductible. Here are some suggested donations:

- Any new and unopened item (i.e., toys, sports equipment, movies, event tickets, jewelry, home goods, linens, frames, baskets)
- Gift cards (these can be used to purchase filler items or they will be added to baskets)
- Completed gift baskets

If you have any questions or would like to receive a tax receipt for your donation, please contact Dean Chamberland: d paulchamberland@gmail.com or you can contact Mrs. Welch at 860-568-4100.

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**GIRL SCOUT COOKIES SEASON!**

Junior/Cadette Girl Scout Troop 10862 will be selling cookies after all Masses next weekend, **February 29/March 1**. The six core varieties are all $5 a box, and specialty cookies are $6 a box. You can also donate boxes to our military troops overseas. Your purchase helps the troop earn money for troop and community events, summer camp and it also supports the girls as they strengthen their leadership skills and work to make a difference in their community.
We are not perfect, and we will never be without sin in this life. And so, we know, we will never be completely holy, either. But, in order to be faithful servants of our Lord, we must do our best to be holy, to be perfect. When we fail, we need to seek forgiveness in the sacrament of Penance. And we must remember that we do not have to accomplish this on our own. God offers his abundant grace to help us on our journey. However, it is not enough to have a general intention to live a life of holiness and work toward perfection. We have to take specific steps to achieve that goal. We can begin by loving our neighbors, including our enemies, and praying for them. And if we love them, we want what is best for them and so will help them as we are able. That may require that we use our talents and share our resources to meet their needs. A life of holiness includes spending time with God in prayer and worship. It includes forgiving those who have hurt us, so we can be forgiven. It means directing our lives toward good and turning our backs on evil, no matter how enticing. In sum, we find that being holy means that we, because we are grateful for the blessings we have received from God, respond by dedicating a portion of the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to us back to God for his service and for the service of his people. And as we imitate that self-giving life that Jesus exemplified, others will see that his character is reflected in us and that we have grown in holiness.

**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

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<td>Psalm 19: 8-10, 15</td>
<td>Psalm 55: 7-11a, 23</td>
<td>Psalm 51: 3-6ab, 12-14, 17</td>
<td>Psalm 1: 1-4, 6</td>
<td>Psalm 51: 3-6ab, 18-19</td>
<td>Psalm 86: 1-6</td>
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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, March 1 ~ First Sunday of Lent**

Jesus’ rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God’s word alone will suffice; God’s promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.
Dear Friends,

Yes it’s true. As you may have heard, Father Joseph will be leaving us to assume the duties of administrator at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Washington Depot, CT effective March 2. I am grateful to him for the great help he has been to me in the past two and a half years.

Because of the severe shortage of priests, Father Joseph will not be replaced. That means, of course, that we will become a one-priest parish and I’ll be that one priest as I was before the merger. I might be able to find another priest to cover a Mass once in a great while, but that’s hard to do (if not nearly impossible these days). There are no priests to send; we’ve simply run out! This requires that the number of Masses we offer be reduced.

I think it is best that we return to a pattern similar to what it was when I was by myself before the merger. Thus, the new arrangement will be as follows:

- The vigil Mass on Saturday will stay where it is at 4:00 pm at Saint Christopher.
- On Sunday, the 7:30 am Mass will be dropped (since it is the lightest attended).
  The 9:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Peace will be moved ahead to 8:30 am and the 10:30 am Mass at Saint Christopher will remain.
- The Monday morning daily Mass will be moved to Our Lady of Peace and will be celebrated at 8:00 am.
- The Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday daily Masses will remain at Saint Christopher at 8:00 am.
- There will be no daily Mass celebrated on Friday or Saturday.

The new daily Mass schedule will take effect on Monday, March 16.
The new weekend Mass schedule will take effect the weekend of March 21/22.

If you have a Mass intention already booked for any Mass that is being removed from the schedule, please call Bonnie at the parish office at 860-568-5240 and she will help you to reschedule the intention.

I know this new arrangement will be a bit of a hardship for some parishioners, but I ask for your understanding. We must face the harsh reality of the severe shortage of priests. There are some years in the near future when, in this archdiocese, we will not be ordaining any new priests at all!

I’m not getting any younger and I ask that you pray for me and that you continue to pray that young men who hear God calling them to the priesthood will respond favorably, especially from our own parish family.

May God bless you,

Father John Gwozdz