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@aohtc.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)
Mondays: 6 - 7 pm (during Lent)
Saturdays: 3:00 - 3:45 pm

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS
Tuesdays During Lent
(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
Resumes 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

What We Collected (February 23): $6,534*

*Includes $745 received through our Online Giving program and $850 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

SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING

Lent again! Sigh. What are we giving up this year? If we think only of depriving ourselves, we miss the point. Lent is a time not for depriving ourselves but for spiritual spring cleaning before Easter. The Church recommends fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to help convert our hearts to God and to grow as disciples of Jesus. For fasting, try eating less, or eating healthier foods. Fast from damaging behavior. Add different kinds of prayer to your daily life and be more mindful as you pray at Mass. Focus on more acts of charity and mercy.

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 All God’s People ~ May They Draw Closer to Him During This Lenten Season

The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week

For God’s Healing Presence for Aline Soucy (Diane Warner)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.
CHANGES TO OUR MASS SCHEDULE
As it was announced in the bulletin last weekend, Father Joseph will be leaving us to become the administrator at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Washington Depot, CT effective March 2. We are grateful to him for the great help he has been to us in the past two and a half years.

Because of the severe shortage of priests, he will not be replaced. Thus, we are joining the growing number of one-priest parishes and will need to create a Mass schedule that can be managed by one priest, our pastor Father John. The changes are 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 booked for a 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.

As our society becomes more secular, we must adapt to the declining number of priests. It affects everyone. Please continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, especially from our own parish family.

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES FATHER JOSEPH!
This is Father Joseph’s last weekend with us as he will take on the duties of administering to the needs of another parish beginning this Monday. May he be supported by our prayers and know our gratitude for the support he has given us. At Father Joseph’s request, there will be no reception given in his honor. If you would like to send him a note or a card, here is his mailing address:

Rev. Joseph Moonnanappallil
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
PO Box 303
Washington, CT 06794-0303

2020 ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
This weekend marks the start of the 2020 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal in our parish. If you haven’t already, you will soon receive a letter from Archbishop Blair seeking your support. As Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford we have a profound impact on our local communities, not only in the spiritual realm, but intimately connected to it, the realm of social services and many charities and outreach services performed by, or with help from, our Church. In consideration of the many gifts that God has given to each of us, may our parish community respond generously to the 2020 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, Growing in Faith, Giving in Love. All funds contributed to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at:

https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/

OPEN HOUSE
Looking for School Options? Visit Saint Christopher School, your local PreK 3 through Grade 8 Catholic elementary school right here in East Hartford! There will be an Open House on Monday, March 2, from 2:15-3:30 pm. Come and learn about all that we have to offer: good location, small class sizes, excellent test scores, financial aid available. Visit and see for yourself! This is an educational opportunity that has a proven track record of academic success. Contact Mrs. Welch at welchk@saintchristopherschool.org or at 860-568-4100 for more details. Visit us on the web at saintchristophersschool.org.
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Christopher Council #4
The local assembly and council will meet this Thursday, March 5, in the Saint Christopher Church Hall for their monthly business meetings at the following times:

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

Corned Beef Dinner
Saturday ~ March 14 ~ After the 4:00 pm Mass
Saint Christopher Church Hall
Tickets: $12.50
Ticket sales will only be after the 10:30 am Mass in the Saint Christopher Church Hall or by calling Chairman Bob Falkevitz at 860-568-5452 and arranging to purchase the tickets. The cut-off for reservations is Sunday, March 8 following the 10:30 am Mass. No tickets will be sold at the door without a previous reservation. A portion of the proceeds will support the PIN Ministry.

We 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.

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.

EAST CATHOLIC PRESENTS
Irving Berlin’s Classic ~ Holiday Inn
Friday, March 6 ~ 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 7 ~ 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Come to East Catholic High School’s auditorium to enjoy amazing dancing and classic songs like Blue Skies, Easter Parade and White Christmas! Tickets are $7 for adults, $5 for seniors and ECHS students and $3 for ages 10 and under.

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. Please spread the word. Here are some suggested donations:

- Any new and unopened item (i.e., toys, sports equipment, movies, event tickets, jewelry, home goods, linens, frames, baskets)
- Vouchers for services by a business owner (i.e., haircut, dog grooming, power washing, lawn cleanup, tune-ups)
- 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: dpaulchamberland@gmail.com or you can contact Mrs. Welch at 860-568-4100.

LIVING STATIONS
Our Living Stations’ dramatic presentation will be held on Good Friday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in Saint Christopher Church. There are numerous roles you can assist with to assure that this long running tradition continues. You can be a reader or the narrator. For non-speaking parts, you can portray Jesus, Mary, Simon, Veronica, a Roman soldier, Pontius Pilate, a weeping woman or one of various citizens of Jerusalem. If you have any questions or wish to assist with this wonderful presentation, please contact Alice Gosselin or Deacon Phil at 860-568-5001. For e-mail communication, Alice’s address is alicegoz@comcast.net and Deacon Phil’s is imgoose@comcast.net. Thank you!

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.
March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3
Living Stations will be presented at St. Chris on 4/10.
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.**

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

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT… In addition to Saturday afternoon from 3:00 - 3:45 pm, Father John will hear confessions every Monday evening during Lent from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at the Saint Christopher Church.

**LECTIO DIVINA & DAILY READINGS**

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<td>Matthew 5: 20-26</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.”

**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, March 8 ~ Second Sunday of Lent**

Reflect on the glory of God that makes the crosses we endure all worth it. Take advantage of this Transfiguration experience of Peter, James and John and try to make their experience your own. Be consoled by God’s glory and never forget that this is the ultimate promise He gives to all who press on.