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: 8:30 am
Monday: 8:00 am

Saint Christopher Church
538 Brewer Street
East Hartford, CT 06118

Mass Schedule:
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 10:30 am
Tuesday - Thursday: 8:00 am

Visit us on the web: stedmundcampionparish.org

Rev. John P. Gwozdz, Pastor
860-568-5240 • fr.gwozdz@ahct.org

Mr. William Bartlett, Deacon
deaconbill@yahoo.com

Mr. Philip Gosselin, Deacon
imgoose@comcast.net

CONFessions
(Saint Christopher Church)
Suspended Until Further Notice

Wednesday Devotions
(Saint Christopher Church)
Suspended Until Further Notice
Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration and Benediction • Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal • Scriptural Rosary

Thursday Prayer Group
(Our Lady of Peace Church)
Suspended Until Further Notice

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, Coordinator
860-895-8692
stchrisre@gmail.com

Find Us on Facebook: Saint Edmund Campion Parish, East Hartford
PARISH SUPPORT

What We Collected (April 12): $5,147*

*Includes $837 received through our Online Giving program and $4,310 from mail-in offerings.

Thank you for your support of our parish!

Thank you to those of you who are mailing in your offertory envelopes. Your continuing financial support of the parish is crucial for its ongoing operation and the obligations to employees, etc.

ONLINE GIVING

We thank the parish families who are making their donations through our Online Giving program. Are you interested in supporting our parish through the convenience of Online Giving? You can make a one-time gift or you can sign up for recurring gifts. You may cancel at anytime without any penalty. If you’d like more information, please visit our secure Online Giving website at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1754. You can also contact the parish office for assistance.

FAITH AND DOUBT

Faith and doubt cannot exist in the same mind at the same time, for one will dispel the other.

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
Fran Macchi ~ 6th Anniversary
(Peg Macchi)

The candle at the Saint Christopher Church burns this week

In Loving Memory of
André Charron
(Wife & Family)

Please call the parish office to schedule a Sanctuary Lamp dedication. Suggested offering is $15.
**BEQUEST**
Our long-time parishioner Irene Crowley passed away in March 2020. Irene kindly remembered our parish in her will by bequeathing us the sum of $1,000 for general purposes. We are most grateful to Irene for her kindness and generosity. May she rest in peace in God’s loving arms.

**SAINT EDMUND CAMPION SOCIAL CLUB**
April and May Meetings Cancelled
In order for us to be in compliance with Governor Lamont’s current order restricting social gatherings through May 20, our April and May meetings have been cancelled. For more information about the Social Club, please contact Frank and Joan Perrone at 860-568-6229.

---

**SAINT EDMUND CAMPION**
**MARIAN GARDEN**
We are pleased to report that after we announced that production changes had been made to the Marian Garden, several brick orders have already been received and installed in the Garden. The turnaround time is quicker than ever! 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.

---

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**
*Suspended Until Further Notice*
Archbishop Blair has suspended the Sacrament of Reconciliation (hearing of confessions) in every parish in the archdiocese because of the virus and to protect the priest and penitent. This is likely to be the case worldwide. Until further notice, this suspension will stay in effect. You are encouraged to make a sincere Act of Contrition, bringing to mind your sins, asking God for forgiveness, and trusting in God’s mercy. Those aware of serious sin should go to confession after the ban is lifted.

---

**Act of Contrition**
*My God,*
*I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.*
*In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,*
*I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.*
*I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.*
*Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.*
*In his name, my God, have mercy.*

---

**BIBLE**
**EMERGENCY HOTLINES**
Stressed ................................ Matthew 11:25-30
Worried ................................ Matthew 6:19-34
Lonely ..................................... Psalm 23
Disappointed by people .............. Psalm 27
Bitter or critical ..................... 1 Corinthians 13
Sinned ................................. Psalm 51
Discouraged ........................... Psalm 34
Losing hope ........................... Psalm 139
Sick ...................................... Psalm 41
Sad ...................................... John 14
In danger .............................. Psalm 91
Scared ................................. Joshua 1:9
Lacking faith ......................... Hebrews 11
Negative .............................. Colossians 3:12-17
Broke .................................. Psalm 37
Betrayed .............................. Psalm 27
Hurt ..................................... John 15
GET HELP • TOLL FREE • 24 HRS

---

**MARIAN GARDEN**
We are pleased to report that after we announced that production changes had been made to the Marian Garden, several brick orders have already been received and installed in the Garden. The turnaround time is quicker than ever! 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.
WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2020

MON 4/20  Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
TUE 4/21  Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
WED 4/22  Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
THR 4/23  Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
SAT 4/25  1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2020

Sunday:  2nd Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday
Tuesday:  St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:  Earth Day
Thursday:  St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
Friday:  St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; Arbor Day
Saturday:  St. Mark, Evangelist
Next Sunday:  3rd Sunday of Easter

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever experienced awe? Awe is commonly defined as a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder. A moment of awe has the ability to lift us up out of ourselves and immerse us into something that causes us to wonder about ourselves, the meaning of life, and truth. Awe is an experience of connection that links us to something that is beyond the normal happenings of life. For us who believe that the resurrected Christ is present in all of life and the totality of the universe, being touched by awe can lead us to exclaim, “My Lord and my God!” Pondering the vastness of God’s presence also brings us to a profound sense of God’s mercy, which is the showering of His unconditional love on each of His daughters and sons. When we internalize this mystery, we may find ourselves standing in awe once again and feeling an intense sense of peace.
A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, “I am here on purpose and I am loved!” Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation’s grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I-don’t-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person’s soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn’t require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn’t matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The “my Lord and my God” responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The “my Lord and my God” affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy. God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. “Peace be with you.” Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” - Jn 20:26-27

GIVE YOURSELF COMPLETELY

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DISCERN A VOCATION?

The word vocation comes from the Latin word vocare, meaning “to call.” A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God’s grace and witness to God’s love in the world.

Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God’s guidance. We listen for God’s message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives, and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. Vocation is a human process of divine origin, and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives.
Compassionate and Loving Father,

In the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of Your presence.

In You allow us to find hope and healing.

Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.

Be with those who lead and give them Your spirit of wisdom.

Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.

Wrap Your arms around our world and hold us in Your love.

Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.

We ask this in Your Name.

Amen
The Archbishop’s Annual Appeal changes lives through service. In addition to assisting the underserved of our communities, your gift helps those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Your gift to the Appeal is an investment in the future of our Church and our faith. Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge to the 2020 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider a gift today. Please know that every dollar of your gift will have a positive impact in someone’s life.

https://appeal.archdioceseofhartford.org/donations/