



# Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish

**St. Stephen Church**  
1101 Keaveny Court  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
925-274-1341  
[saintstephenparish.org](http://saintstephenparish.org)

**Christ the King Church**  
195A Brandon Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
925-682-2486  
[ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org)

## Christ the King Church

**Daily Mass Times**  
Monday - Saturday 9am

**Every First Friday**  
5pm to 6pm Exposition  
6pm Mass

**Weekend Mass Times**

**Saturday:** 4pm Vigil  
(4pm Mass is also livestreamed)

**Sunday**

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm  
(10:30am Mass is also livestreamed)

**Private Confessions**  
Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm

**Drive-Thru Communion**  
Sunday 11:30am to 12 noon  
In front of the church

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm

## St. Stephen Church

**Daily Mass Times**  
Monday - Friday 8am

**Weekend Mass Times**  
Saturday: 5pm Vigil  
Sunday: 9:30am

**Private Confessions**  
Saturday Before 5pm Mass

**Drive-Thru Communion**  
Upon Request

**Office Hours**  
Monday & Wednesday 11am to 2pm



## 31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant." - Mt 23:8-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**TO LIVE AND TO LOVE IN CHRIST**  
**TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



Dear Friends,

**Synod published a final report: Calls for more discussion on synodality, women deacons and more. Among the topics addressed in the report were clerical sexual abuse, women's roles in the church, outreach to poor and the concept of "synodality" itself.**

The assembly, with 364 voting members -- 365 counting Pope Francis -- met in working sessions six days a week Oct. 4-28 after a three-day retreat outside of Rome. They joined the pope Oct. 29 for the assembly's closing Mass.



After the voting on the synthesis concluded, the pope said he wanted to remind everyone that "the protagonist of the synod is the Holy Spirit." He briefly thanked the synod officers and joined members of the assembly in giving thanks to God.

The assembly's discussions set the stage for a year-long period of reflection that will culminate in the second and final synod assembly in late 2024 on the same topic. The 41-page synthesis report, voted on paragraph-by-paragraph Oct. 28, described its purpose as presenting "convergences, matters for consideration and proposals that emerged from the dialogue" on issues discussed under the headings of synodality, communion, mission and participation. Every item in the report was approved by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, synod officials said.

Among the topics addressed in the report were clerical sexual abuse, women's roles in the church, outreach to poor and the concept of "synodality" itself.



Within the synod topics, members looked at the role of women in the church, including in decision making, and at the possibility of ordaining women deacons. The report asked for more "theological and pastoral research on the access of women to the diaconate," including a review of the conclusions of commissions Pope Francis set up in 2016 and 2020.

Among members of the assembly, the report said, some thought the idea of women deacons would be a break with tradition, while others insisted it would "restore the practice of the Early Church," including at the time of the New Testament, which mentions women deacons. "Others still, discern it as an appropriate and necessary response to the signs of the times, faithful to the Tradition, and one that would find an echo in the hearts of many who seek new energy and vitality in the Church," it said. But, the report added, some members thought that would "marry the Church to the spirit of the age."

Assembly members also discussed pastoral approaches to welcoming and including in the life of parishes people who have felt excluded, including the poor, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ Catholics and Catholics whose marriages are not recognized by the church. The synthesis report did not use the term "LGBTQ+" or even "homosexuality" and spoke only generally of issues related to "matters of identity and sexuality."

"To develop authentic ecclesial discernment in these and other areas, it is necessary to approach these questions in the light of the Word of God and Church teaching, properly informed and reflected upon," the report said. "In order to avoid repeating vacuous formulas, we need to provide an opportunity for a dialogue involving the human and social sciences, as well as philosophical and theological reflection."

The divergences in the assembly, it said, reflected opposing concerns: that "if we use doctrine harshly and with a judgmental attitude, we betray the Gospel; if we practice mercy 'on the cheap,' we do not convey God's love."





### **Fr. Paulson's Letter Continued:**

Still, it said, “in different ways, people who feel marginalized or excluded from the Church because of their marriage status, identity or sexuality, also ask to be heard and accompanied. There was a deep sense of love, mercy and compassion felt in the Assembly for those who are or feel hurt or neglected by the Church, who want a place to call ‘home’ where they can feel safe, be heard and respected, without fear of feeling judged.”

The report emphasized the “listening” that took place on the local, national and continental levels before the assembly and the “conversations in the Spirit” that took place during it, which involved each person speaking in his or her small group, other participants at first commenting only on what struck them, silent reflection and then discussion. In several places throughout the report, assembly members insisted that greater efforts must be made to listen to the survivors of clerical sexual abuse and those who have endured spiritual or psychological abuse.

“Openness to listening and accompanying all, including those who have suffered abuse and hurt in the Church, has made visible many who have long felt invisible,” it said. “The long journey toward reconciliation and justice, including addressing the structural conditions that abetted such abuse, remains before us, and requires concrete gestures of penitence.”

Members of the assembly described the synodal process as being “rooted in the Tradition of the Church” and taking place in light of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, particularly its emphasis on “the Church as Mystery and People of God, called to holiness.”

I will be writing more on the synod in the coming weeks. The above article is taken mostly from Cindy Wooden, who wrote for the America Magazine. Let us continue to pray for the success of the Synod which is still a work in progress till next October.

*~Fr. Paulson*



**Thursday, November 23**  
**You are invited to attend our**  
**Thanksgiving Mass Celebration**  
**CTK at 9am**  
 Reception to follow on the patio.  
**St. Stephen at 9am**

Bring your bread and wine to be blessed at this year's Thanksgiving Mass! This is a wonderful custom that unites our Eucharistic celebration at the altar with your family celebration at home!



**CTK Eucharistic Minister Training**  
**Monday, November 13 at 7pm/**  
**CTK Church**

Would you like to participate in parish ministry without an extra time commitment? Join our ministers of the Eucharist – by helping to distribute Holy Communion during the weekend Mass of your choice. What a privilege it is to serve God and the community in this way!

Contact Kieran Chan, [kierankc@pacbell.net](mailto:kierankc@pacbell.net) with questions.



**Men's Retreat**  
**Saturday, November 11**  
**9:30am to 4pm**  
**St. Stephen Parish Hall**  
**Retreat Leader: Pat Lencioni**

**The Deeper Journey for Men –**  
**from False Self to the True Self**

This year, we have invited Pat Lencioni who is a founding member of The Amazing Parish Conference, which is attended by pastors, their core staff and leaders from around the world. Mr. Lencioni is a personal friend of Fr. Paulson, a devout Catholic and author of books such as The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, Five Temptations of a CEO, and Death by Meeting.

**Register at [ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org) or email**  
**Terry Heywood at: [spence124@gmail.com](mailto:spence124@gmail.com).**



**Save the Date!**  
**Monday, December 4 at 7pm**  
**St. Stephen Parish Hall**  
**Speaker - Kathy Roberts**

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, and it can often be a time of uncomfortable stress. Join us for an unrushed hour in which we'll explore real ways to find real treasure during the beautiful season of Advent. Treasure awaits...



**In Observance of**  
**Veterans Day**

**Our Parish Offices at CTK**  
**Will be closed on**  
**Friday, November 10**



**CYO Mass - Sunday, November 12**  
**9am Mass at CTK**

All CYO participants (both coaches and children) are invited to mass next Sunday, at 9am. Donuts and coffee will be served on the patio after mass.



**Pick Up Your Boxes the Weekend of Nov. 18 & 19**  
**At CTK**

The boxes will have a list of food and directions for delivery. This program offers families the opportunity to enjoy the holidays without the worry of food insecurity.

Thank you for your generosity!



**Young Families Ministry**

*Do you have young children? Are you hoping to grow in your faith as a family? Are you looking to connect with other families and serve your community?*



**Join the Young Families**  
**Monthly Gatherings!**

**November 12 at CTK's Ministry Center**  
**(Fellowship & Football)**

Please Email us at: [YoungFamiliesCTK@gmail.com](mailto:YoungFamiliesCTK@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 6	Mon.	9:00am	Donna Patterson † Jack Cardoza †
Nov. 7	Tues.	9:00am	Christian C. Anicoche † Rey & Imelda Santos (Wedding Anniversary)
Nov. 8	Weds.	9:00am	Anna Nho † Spencer Swann
Nov. 9	Thurs.	9:00am	Cassandra Creger †
Nov. 10	Fri.	9:00am	Mai Nguyen † Peter Bartlett † Sylvia Spears † Rey DeBorja
Nov. 11	Sat.	9:00am	Amadeo Quintans †
Nov. 11	Sat.	4:00pm	Chana Decosta † Anna & Martin Dias † Roger Van Maren † Avelina Tesoro Florencio Tesoro
Nov. 12	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza † Michael Mansfield † Manuela Cauilan †
Nov. 12	Sun.	9:00am	Participants and Coaches of CYO
Nov. 12	Sun.	10:30am	Gloria Maliwanag † Amy Guarino † Mary Taggart †
Nov. 12	Sun.	4:00pm	CTK-SS Parishioners

## UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 4	Sat.	5:00pm	Donald DuBeau †
Nov. 5	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †
Nov. 11	Sat.	5:00pm	CTK-SS Priests
Nov. 12	Sun.	9:30am	CTK-SS Parishioners



## CTK STAFF CONTACTS

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**Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich**  
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## HONOR OUR VETERANS

In the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, WWI ended when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. It was originally known as Armistice Day. One year later President Woodrow Wilson declared it to be known as Veterans Day.

Not to be confused with Memorial Day, which remembers and honors those who died while in service to our country, Veterans Day is set aside to thank our living Veterans for their service and to remember those Veterans who have gone to their rest.

**On November 12, 2023, following the 10:30 AM Mass, Christ the King – St. Stephen Parish will honor the living and the deceased Veterans of our parish families (at the CTK Campus).** Organized by the Boy Scouts of Christ the King – St. Stephen Parish, an American flag will be placed on the Christ the King Church lawn, with their name, branch of service, and other pertinent information you wish to share.

**A blessing will be given to all Veterans represented by a flag, followed by a prayer for those who have gone to their eternal rest. A black ribbon affixed to the flag will signify each deceased Veteran.**

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### TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

Please complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office or drop it into a collection basket no later than Sunday, November 5, 2023. Completed forms can also be emailed to [troop221.info@gmail.com](mailto:troop221.info@gmail.com), or scan the QR code for easiest submission.

Donations in the name of each Veteran accepted via check payable to Troop 221.  
Please deliver donations to the Parish Office.



**Veteran's Name:** (living\_\_\_\_ deceased\_\_\_\_)

(First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch of Service:** Air Force\_\_\_\_ Army\_\_\_\_ Coast Guard\_\_\_\_ Navy\_\_\_\_ Marines\_\_\_\_

**Other Information You Wish to**

**Share:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name: (PLEASE PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

You may pick up your flag at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Please let the Boy Scouts know you have received your Veteran's flag. Thank You for participating.



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