

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

(925) 682-2486 ctkph.org

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF

Easter

MAY 9, 2021

No one has greater
love than this,
to lay down
one's life for
one's friends.

John 15:13

SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

May 7 Joanne Brady, birthday blessings
May 9 Connie Scott †
May 16 Teresa Myers †

**CTK Parish Office is open
Monday - Friday 9 am to 5 pm**

Religious Education: (925) 686-1017
Youth Ministry: (925) 676-0979
CTK School: (925) 685-1109

CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

May 10 Connie Guevarra †
May 11 John Ahern †
May 12 Roma Joseph †
May 13 Wilfredo Orpiano †
May 14 Neil Robertson †

Saturday, May 15 and Sunday May 16
Anna & Martin Dias †
Eugenia Dinatale †
Rufina & Sunder Vivas †
Schneider, Stewart & Mauring Vivas †
Carmelo Magno †

Dear Friends,

This weekend we celebrate our Mothers and I wish all our mothers "Happy Mother's Day!" Pope Francis reflects about mothers: "The gaze of the Mother, and the gaze of every mother. A world that looks to the future without a mother's gaze is shortsighted. It may well increase its profits, but it will no longer see others as children. It will make money, but not for everyone. We will all dwell in the same house, but not as brothers and sisters. The human family is built upon mothers. A world in which maternal tenderness is dismissed as mere sentiment may be rich materially, but poor where the future is concerned."

On this Mother's Day, I would like to discuss the role of women in our church. The church itself is often looked upon as a mother, in her function of nourishing and teaching the faithful. The church is a mother because she has given birth to us in baptism. Pope Francis has created a new commission to study the ordaining of women as deacons in the Catholic Church, the Vatican announced April 8, 2020. We are now a year into the study, and let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct our Pope and the magisterium to make the right decisions. Pope Francis' openness is really important because the dignity and giftedness of women need to be recognized and uplifted in our church. I think that this conversation about the women's diaconate is something every Catholic should know about and probably discuss and pray about.

Deacons are ordained ministers who perform many of the same functions as priests. They preside at weddings, baptisms and funerals, and they can preach. They cannot celebrate Mass. Married men can be ordained as deacons. Women cannot, though historians say women served as deacons in the early Christian church. The question of the ordination of women as deacons has emerged as something of an ideological battleground for the Catholic Church in recent years. Although Pope John Paul II said in his 1994 apostolic letter *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis* that "the Church has no authority whatsoever" to ordain woman as priests, many church historians have said however that there is abundant evidence that women served as deacons in the early centuries of the church.

Phyllis Zagano, a senior research associate-in-residence and adjunct professor of religion at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York is one of the world's foremost experts on the history of the diaconate. She answered the question, "Could there be a place for women in the permanent diaconate?" The following is an excerpt from America Magazine, "The most famous example of a woman deacon comes from Scripture. In fact, the only person in Scripture called "deacon" is named in Paul's Letter to the Romans, where he addresses the deacon—the *woman* deacon—Phoebe. And in the sixth century, the German princess Radegund, for whom many churches in Western Europe are named, was consecrated with laying on of hands as a deacon. Around this same time, many women performed sacred tasks such as baptizing and anointing for other women precisely because it was seen as improper for a man to touch or see women in this context."

In the month of May, we honor Mary as Queen, and many parishes and schools commemorate May Crowning as a special devotion. If you join the rosary these days, you will notice the statue of Mary, crowned with special flowers by our St. Stephen community. For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day *in* May, mind you, but the entire month. I invite you to give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue. And if you are able, join us for rosary in the evening at 5.40pm. As a community, we will sing a hymn to Mary every weekend and every Thursday at 5:40 pm will be Rosary in the church followed by 6 pm Mass.

Fr. Paulson



Sixth Sunday of Easter May 9, 2021

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Peter was originally skeptical about preaching the Gospel to non-Jews. Then one day, the Holy Spirit summoned him to preach to the pagan army officer Cornelius and his household. The result, as we shall see is the first recorded conversion of Gentiles to Christianity.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

The tradition of the apostle John's teachings is expressed in the first letter of John. There is a legend that John, in his old age, would simply repeat over and over to his people, "Love one another." Today's passage from that letter particularly illustrates this story.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

CTK: Monday - Saturday:

9 am Mass ~ Indoor (church) and live streamed on face-book/YouTube

6 pm Thursday Mass indoor (church) includes devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Christ The King Weekends

Saturdays ~ 3 pm - 3:30 pm Private Confessions are available. Please meet in front of the church.

Saturdays ~ 4 pm Vigil Mass indoor

Sundays ~ 7:30 am indoor, 9 am outdoor, 10:30 am outdoor, 12:00 noon Spanish indoor and 4 pm indoor mass.

Note: While communion will be available at all the Outdoor Masses, we will also offer Drive through Communion from 11:30 am - 12 pm Sundays in front of the church.

Saint Stephen Weekends

Saturday Mass ~ 5 pm indoor mass

Sunday Mass ~ 9:30 am indoor mass

St. Stephen Corner

Join us for our Town Hall meeting on Sunday, May 16 at 10:30 am. This will be followed by lunch. There is no charge for lunch, but you must sign up ahead of time. Deadline for sign ups is this Sunday, May 9. There is a link on the St. Stephen website homepage to make signing up easy. Or you could call or email the office.

Every year, we are invited by Catholic Charities of the East Bay to help those in need in our community. Our 2nd collection on May 16 will help people facing difficult circumstances move forward in life. This is especially important this year with the pandemic affecting so many families. Please be generous.

A reminder that our office is now open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Friday, May 7 celebrate First Friday with us.

6 pm to 7:15 pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in person, in church.

7:30 pm: Mass in church.



Next Sunday, May 16

we will celebrate The Ascension of the Lord

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEEDS YOU!

In "The Great Commission," Jesus said, "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." These are our "marching orders," direct from Jesus himself. And they are issued to everyone, not just the clergy and religious.

As we prepare to return to in-person classes for next year's Religious Education program, **we need teachers**. That means we need YOU! If you doubt that you can teach, think again! God doesn't call the equipped; he equips the called! Our materials include complete lesson plans that make the process easy, even for those with limited experience, and we will provide any training you need. So pray on this, think about it and remember that one special teacher who brought Jesus to life in your heart and mind. And then, become that teacher for the next generation!

Please call or email Deacon John at faithformation@ctkph.org or call him at (925) 686-1174 to let him know what level you'd be available to teach.



A very special thank-you to
Laurie Arons
of Laurie Arons Special Events
 for the wonderful use of the tent
 during the pandemic.
events@lauriearons.com

SAN DAMIANO EVENT SERIES: THE BOOK OF JOB

Join us for a six week Zoom Bible study/Virtual retreat on Job. Meetings are Thursdays 12:00 pm -1:15 pm, beginning May 6, ending June 10.



Please register soon to ensure that you will have the text that accompanies this study.

Register at sandamiano.org/events

2021 Virtual Hope Walk

Join Cancer Support Community and register today for the 2021 Virtual Hope Walk. May 9 - 15, 2021. Walk wherever you are and any distance in the safety of your neighborhood or community park.

Join our team: "Christ the King" at hopewalkbayarea.net.

Questions? Call Carol Louisell at 925-324-6385 or
clouisell@cancersupport.net.

Thank you to all our parishioners who have continued to support Christ the King and St. Stephen. We very much appreciate you.

There are many ways to donate including text giving. Text giving is fast, easy and versatile. Give in the moment - all in a matter of seconds.

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You can also scan this QR code on your phone to connect with our donation site. Thank you for your continued generosity!



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