

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

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(925) 274-1341 saintstephenparish.org



There appeared to them
tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest
on each one of them.
And they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2:3-4

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2021

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SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

May 22 Margherita Battaglia †
May 23 St. Stephen & CTK Parshioners
May 24 Robin Rigoux, Birthday blessings
Fr. Mario Rizzo, Birthday blessings
May 27 Helen Norris †
May 28 John Vuletich †
May 29 John George, Birthday blessings
May 30 Connie Scott †

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 24 Fr. Mario Rizzo, birthday blessings
May 25 Victoria Bontorostro †
May 26 Roque Ebalo †
Vilma Ordonez †
May 27 Marian Miller †
Duane & Theresa Rustad,
60th anniversary
May 28 Renato Sumangil
May 29 Paul Burke †

Saturday, May 29 and Sunday May 30

Virginia Rossi †
Vilma Ordonez †
Ray & Sam Iorfida †
Rodolfo Quezon, birthday blessings
Dennis Lang †



Dear Friends,

From the beginning of the pandemic, we have been praying to our Blessed Mother of Perpetual Help for protection from Covid 19 and for continued blessings of health for everyone. June 27 is the feast day of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, who is known for miracles and answers to prayer. We have experienced miracles right here in terms of manifold blessings.



The tradition of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is traced back to 1495. The image was stolen from a Cretan monastery by a wine merchant a few years after its creation, and it was brought to the church of St. Matthew in Rome. For 300 years, it resided at the church, and even survived the church's destruction by Napoleon's army in 1798. Eighty-eight years later, Pope Pius IX gave the icon to the Redemptorist congregation at the Church of Saint Alphonsus, where it remains today.

In gratitude to our Blessed Mother, we shall celebrate her festival on June 24th at the 6pm Mass. It is my ardent hope and prayer to see many more of you joining this devotion in the coming weeks. We start with the Holy Rosary at 5.40pm followed by the celebration of Mass and Novena at 6.00pm every Thursday. The mass and the rosary will be live streamed from the church every Thursday.

First Communion: When parishes announced they were no longer having public Masses or church events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this brought an end to many programs. Across the country religious education classes, youth retreats and preparation programs for First Communion and Confirmation came to a stop or at least sent them in a slightly different direction. Parishes, unlike many schools, were unable to put in place online programs for distance learning. In many cases, parishes had to furlough their Directors of Religious Education while not continuing business as usual. The teachers of religious education classes are almost all volunteers, facing their own challenges in the current pandemic.

But I am happy that we have continued religious education and prepared our children for First Communion and our teens for Confirmation. This Saturday, we celebrate First Communion. I would like to thank Deacon John Ashmore, Tori Bartels, our second-grade school teacher, Rosa Panelli, our religious education secretary and all the catechists for their ministry during the pandemic. May God bless our children and their families. Congratulations!

I would like to ask your prayers for Fr. Tom Joseph from Hawaii. You have been praying for him during the past year. Doctors have said that there isn't anything more they can do for him. So, he decided to visit his family in India, just before the recent pandemic outbreak. He was unable to return as flights were canceled. Meanwhile, he ran out of medicines which complicated his situation, and he had a minor stroke or something similar resulting in brain hemorrhage, which the doctors were able to contain. He is doing well now, but doctors have suggested that he should not travel alone. He needs to return to the United States, and connect with his doctors here and get his prescriptions refilled. His brother will fly him to Delhi. I promised to fly to Delhi Wednesday evening, May 19, and pick him up at the airport and accompany him on the next United Flight to San Francisco. I am scheduled to be back on Saturday, May 22, early morning to celebrate the First Communions. Your prayers and blessings are welcome. Fr. Tom will stay with us for a week before returning to Hawaii.

Fr. Paulson



Pentecost Sunday
May 23 , 2021

First Reading:
Acts 2: 1-11

Pentecost was a Jewish feast that celebrated the beginning of the harvest. It took place 50 days after the feast of Passover. Jewish pilgrims came to Jerusalem from all over the ancient world for the celebration. Today we hear how Pentecost became a Christian feast.

Second Reading:
1 Corinthians
12:3b-7, 12-13

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians responds to a letter they wrote to him, asking how to deal with the diversity of gifts in the community, and the rivalries and jealousies that inevitably arose. In today's passage, he uses a comparison that we will recognize immediately.

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

It's great to have our weekend Masses back inside the church. Remember to continue social distancing and wearing your mask.

The archives of our live-streamed Masses will only be available for a limited time.

There is a 2nd collection this weekend for Catholic Communications. Next weekend will be our 5th Sunday collection for St. Vincent de Paul. Please be generous.

In celebration of the Year of Saint Joseph, patron of the universal church and the protector of the family, St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church in Dublin CA invites our young people and their parents to be part of their Youth Conference entitled,

"Like Father Like Son".

This **free event** takes place June 11 and 12 and features renowned speaker and beat box artist *Paul J. Kim*. Please contact St. Raymond Church at 925-828-2460 for more information and to register.

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.

Parishioners of Christ the King and St Stephen are invited to visit the website of Catholic Women Preach (www.catholicwomenpreach.org) to break open the Scripture readings for Pentecost with Dr. Suzanne Nawrocki.

Dr. Suzanne Nawrocki is a graduate of St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana. She holds a Master's degree in Scripture and a Masters of Divinity degree from St. Thomas University in Houston and a Doctorate in Ministry from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. She is an executive member of the *Catholic Association of Homiletics*, known as C.A.T.H., the *Academy of Homiletics*; and the international guild *Societas homileticus*. Dr. Nawrocki, has helped the USCCB train clergy on preaching *Laudato Si*, and she gives workshops for parishes in sacramental preparation, lector training, and on the scriptures.

www.catholicwomenpreach.org

Diocese of Oakland



In the Gospel of Luke, the Angel Gabriel told Mary the good news that a child would be born and that she was to be the Mother of our Savior. When she asked, "How can this be?" the angel told her not to be afraid for "nothing is impossible with God."

The Gabriel Project offers immediate, practical assistance with pregnancy. By employing our individual talents, collaborating with various ministries in the parish and diocese, we utilize community resources, and stand ready to provide assistance as needed in caring for mothers and their babies-to-be.

The CTK Faith In Action Ministry will once again be collecting baby items for our friends at **THE GABRIEL PROJECT** at Queen of All Saints Church in Concord. Collection will take place at CTK on Sunday June 13 after the 9, 10:30 and 12:30 Masses. There will NOT be a collection on Saturday. There will be someone hosting the tables from 8:45-1:30 on 6/13. The items will be picked up before 2pm.

We **cannot accept toys, strollers, car seats, or furniture.** We would prefer gift cards from Target, Safeway or Costco to give to moms for food or other items they need. We will take all **"gently used and spotless" baby clothing and items acceptable for their own child or grandchild.** Baby clothing sizes 0- 24 months, maternity clothes for moms, diapers in all sizes, baby toiletries, wipes, bassinets, Pack N Play, and similar items.

Questions: email Teresa at bollawoman@gmail.com

Retrouvaille a Marriage program that helps couples in struggling marriages restore and rebuild a healthy and loving marriage. The Oakland Retrouvaille Program will be hosting a VIRTUAL Weekend Program starting Thursday, June 24 - Sunday, June 27, 2021. For more information or to register, please check the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or leave a message at (510) 709-6063.

Retrouvaille provides marriage help! You are not alone!

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.

- Easy card registration on your phone
- Option to make your gifts recurring

To give, text the dollar amount to 833-361-4156

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



PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

Fr. Paulson Mundanmani,
682-2486

paulson.ctl@gmail.com

Fr. Lee Chompoochan

lleescj49@hotmail.com

Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP,

246-1122

sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com

Joe Silveira, Principal

685-1109

jsilveira@ctkschool.org

Deacon John,

faithformation@ctkph.org 686-1017

Phyllis Gurnett, Music Director

pgurnett6@aol.com

Robin Morley, Office Mgr

682-2486

ctl.robin@gmail.com

Helen Christian, Office

682-2486

hchristian326@gmail.com

Kathy Ridgway, Office

682-2486

kridgway02@gmail.com

Nelson Gonzales, Youth Minister

ngonzales@ctkph.org

686-1017

Rosa Panelli, RE Office Staff

Rpanellictkre@gmail.com

CTK Office: office@ctkph.org

ADDITIONAL ST. STEPHEN

CONTACTS

SS Office:

saintstephenwc@gmail.com

Chris Lang, Bulletin Info.

274-1341

Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich

Bookkeepersp@gmail.com

Maria Banson, Music Director

274-1341

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