

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

Christ the King Church

195A Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
ctkph.org

St. Stephen Church

1101 Keaveny Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925-274-1341
saintstephenparish.org



5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“You are the light of
the world. A city set on
a mountain cannot be
hidden.” - Mt 5:14

February 5, 2023

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

©LPI

Daily Mass Monday-Saturday

9am (Also Livestreamed)

Thursday

5:40pm Rosary, 6pm Mass
(Also Livestreamed)

Every First Friday

5pm to 6pm Exposition
6pm Mass

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday

4pm Vigil
(Also Livestreamed)

Sunday

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm
(10:30am – Also Livestreamed)

St. Stephen Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 9:30am

Private Confessions

Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm
In the church

Drive-Thru Communion

11:30am to 12 noon
In front of the church

Livestream Links

Can be found at ctkph.org

“TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

Ministering to our Youth: Continuing our Parish Journey Post Pandemic and Beyond

Dear Friends,

I will be spending this Saturday evening with our young people, on their retreat at Occidental Retreat Center in rural Sonoma County. I will join them there for Reconciliation and Mass, then set them up for an evening of Eucharistic adoration and prayer. I always look forward to and treasure this time away, to get to know our young people better!



As we all emerge from the pandemic, our dedicated, Faith Formation Team continues trying myriad options to reconnect and re-engage with our parish young people. We are truly delighted that nearly 50 Confirmation candidates are traveling on this faith journey in 2023. Our 50 candidates will be joined by another 30 candidates from St. Agnes in Concord, with whom we have a close connection in our deanery of nearby parishes. We often do joint sessions here at CTK, including Sunday Night Masses.

Investing in our youth is critical in growing our Body of Christ. Teaching young people in our Church how to grow in their relationship with the Lord prepares them to serve Christ in all they do. One of the highlights of our Youth Ministry is our vibrant, Sunday evening Teen Mass, well attended by our youth. Currently the Sunday 4pm Mass is one of the best attended Masses at CTK, even exceeding pre-pandemic times. The Mass is “youth-led” with Confirmation candidates involved as Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors and an amazing Teen band with multiple instruments and voices. This Youth-led Mass is the central focus of our Youth Ministry because it integrates the youth community with the rest of the parish community. Before the final blessing, our candidates are invited to the front for a special blessing by the celebrant, the prayers of the congregation, and sent forth in a solemn way for their sessions which follow. The entire community joins in that important show of support, and the sending forth.

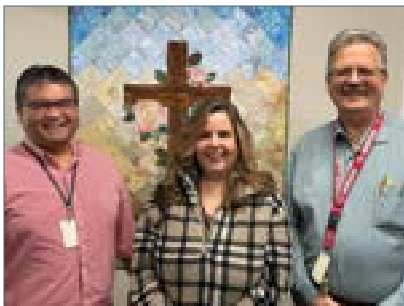
Soon, our Junior High Youth Group will travel to the Abbey of New Clairvaux in Vina, CA. to observe and understand the role of monastic life. Our High School Youth Group is amidst preparations to offer a Lenten, off-site retreat at St. Stephen.

While we know there is no single path to engage our youth more fully in our church, our enthusiastic Youth Minister, Mike Aliscad continues his amazing ministry with our teens. Under his direction, 30 young people decorated our church and campus for Christmas, cleaned the surrounding areas, and arranged seating for the outdoor Christmas Mass. Together, they set up Christmas trees and the Manger Scene both in the church and outdoors. After Christmas, they returned to help with further cleanup and the big job of returning the meadow to its use as school playground. We are grateful for their service.

Our teenagers today lead very busy, highly scheduled lives between school, extracurricular activities, and part-time jobs. Finding time for additional activities is always a challenge! Performing community service offers many benefits for young people before, during, and even after their high school years. The benefits of volunteering can have a holistic effect on students’ lives—professionally, educationally, spiritually, and personally.

In 2023, our Youth Ministry is leveraging partnerships with different organizations and parishioners to offer a wide variety of programs that we pray our youth, and their families will find valuable, meaningful, and lead them to realizing God’s plan for them. We’ve started “Service With Enthusiasm And Teamwork” (SWEAT), a service ministry partnering with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and the St. Anthony Foundation in San Francisco’s Tenderloin District. Our year-round partnership offers service opportunities at both locations monthly, year-round.

In partnership with American Red Cross, which now rents a small area on our campus, we are offering age-appropriate disaster preparedness courses. Our age breakdowns are Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and high school. In tandem with the younger grades, we will be offering a “Be Red Cross Ready” course simultaneously for their parents.



Third, we are partnering with parishioners that have specific skill sets to offer financial literacy (offered by a member of our finance committee) and summer employment and interview tips (by a parishioner in the HR field). These offerings will be ready in the spring in time for teen summer employment.

Again, while we know there’s no single path to engagement and spiritual growth with our youth, we continue our enthusiasm, dedication, and prayer toward an ever more vibrant faith community. If you have ideas to add to the mix, please share them with me, Deacon John Ashmore, or our Youth Minister, Mike Aliscad.

Please pray for their growth in the Lord!

(Pictured: Faith Formation Team: Mike Aliscad, Rosa Panelli & Deacon John Ashmore)

Fr. Paulson

UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Feb. 6	Mon.	9am	Jack O'Leary † Jim Vreelan † Manuel Jangar † Alfred Tablante (<i>Birthday Blessings</i>) Dorothy Guinez (<i>Birthday Blessings</i>) Megan Calise Family
Feb. 7	Tues.	9am	Christian Anicoche † Paul & Alison Young Family
Feb. 8	Wed.	9am	Renato Roman Reyes III Intention for Baby
Feb. 9	Thur.	9am 6pm	Christopher & Jen Young Family Christopher Wijekoon
Feb. 10	Fri.	9am	Carlos Ricafrente †
Feb. 11	Sat.	9am	Fr. Paulson Mundanmani (<i>Birthday Blessings</i>)
Feb. 11	Sat.	4pm	Baby Victor Rajo † Mary Lou Zabala † Donald Wijekoon † Noretta Gilbert †
Feb. 12	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza † Catherine Tressel † Vincent Hutcheson †
Feb. 12	Sun.	9am	Frank O'Neill †
Feb. 12	Sun.	10:30am	Carlos Lopez † Jaime (Chico) Laico †
Feb. 12	Sun.	4pm	Loraine Christian †

Let the light of Christ
that we carry within us
drive away the darkness
of fear and sadness.



ST. STEPHEN CORNER "To Live and to Love in Christ"

St. Stephen Church - Mass Times

Monday - Friday - 8am

Saturday - 5pm and Sunday - 9:30am



SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Feb. 4	Sat.	5:00pm	Nicodemo Mammola †
Feb. 5	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †
Feb. 6	Mon.	8:00am	Eric Peare, Healing
Feb. 7	Tues.	8:00am	Bill Pauplis †
Feb. 8	Weds.	8:00am	Eric Peare, Healing
Feb. 9	Thur.	8:00am	Fr Joseph McDermott, Healing
Feb. 11	Sat.	5:00pm	Barbara Colton †
Feb. 12	Sun.	9:30am	Robert Van Slambrook †

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Continue to pray for those names on the prayer requests listed on our bulletin boards, including Barbara Costa, Carlota Dunhower, Deanna & John Jury, Francine Loyd, Fran McCormick, Robert Norris, Eric Peare, Noreen Perscheid, Cathy Pluta, Rudy Stahl, Charlene Tigri, and Phil Wojtalewicz. To have your name added or removed from the list, please contact our parish office.

Lent is just around the corner. Starting next weekend you will be able to pick up a CRS Rice Bowl and the Little Black Book of Lenten reflections. Our book table in the back of the church also has an excellent selection of books for your Lenten reading.

Office hours - Monday & Wednesday 11am-2pm.



Italian Catholic Federation Meeting Sunday, February 12 12 Noon

All are invited to a very special meeting of the Italian Catholic Federation on Sunday afternoon, February 12 at 12 o'clock noon in Rooms A and B of the Parish Hall.

We will have a presentation about the life of St. Francesca Cabrini, the first American to be canonized a saint. Our guest speaker will be here from Southern CA and is a renowned authority on Mother Cabrini's ministry to the Italian immigrants in America. Following her talk, we will have a pot luck lunch of "finger foods," followed by a short business meeting of our ICF branch. All are welcome to join us for all or part of this event. Don't worry, it will end in plenty of time for you to watch the Superbowl!



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION
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CTK's Italian Catholic Federation is offering a scholarship to 8th grade students wishing to attend a Catholic High School in the fall of 2023. Applications are in CTK'S and St. Stephen's church vestibule and the CTK church office. The application deadline is March 31, 2023. Please contact Mary Ragsdale (925) 297-7169 if you have any questions.



Knights of Columbus Meeting Tuesday, February 7

The CTK Council of the Knights of Columbus will be holding a council mtg on Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 6-9pm in the Parish Hall (Room A/B).

The event is open to all brother Knights, along with any potential Knights that would like to join the council. Please plan to join us for an evening of fellowship. Kindly RSVP to Steve Zalewski (zalewski.steve@gmail.com) so we can get an approximate headcount for planning purposes.

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To register visit
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All are invited - especially all those suffering and caring for the sick, all those seeking God's grace and a life filled with goodness, truth, and beauty.

Please share with your family, friends, parishes, and especially those in spiritual need in their time of suffering.

To register visit: rebrand.ly/worlddayofsick2023



Today, February 5th, we remember the 4 year death anniversary of Fr. Brian Joyce.

*An excerpt from one of his 4 minute
homilies on November 4, 2001:*

But have you noticed we Catholics still pray for the dead – why is that – I don't

think it's really to get our loved ones an early pardon from purgatory or to help them escape from a divine "lock up."

- **Praying** for the dead is a Catholic way of saying that their life goes on;
- **Praying** for the dead witnesses to a communion and solidarity that we continue to gently hold on to one another even after death by faith and by prayer;
- **Praying** for the dead is both a human and Christian way of saying "we do not forget," "we will not forget;"
- **And**, finally if our day to day experience of life is any indication, whether before or after death, there is constant change, growth, ongoing dynamic blossoming – so we pray that our loved ones may continue to grow and to advance in bliss and in joy until one day, with their rough edges gone and our rough edges made smooth, we will all meet again.



From CTK Auction Chairs:

The CTK School Auction is coming up on Friday April 28, 2023!

As always, you are welcome to attend as we'd love to enjoy the fun-filled evening with you. More info on ticket sales to come in February.

Currently, we are looking for any donations that you would like to contribute to the school auction. Some ideas of items that can be donated to the Auction are airline and/or concert tickets, vacation homes/timeshares, airline miles, extra Scrip, gift cards, wine membership donations, winery tastings, hotel points and many more. Your donation can become a featured raffle prize, silent auction item, or more!

Donations of any amount or value are greatly appreciated!

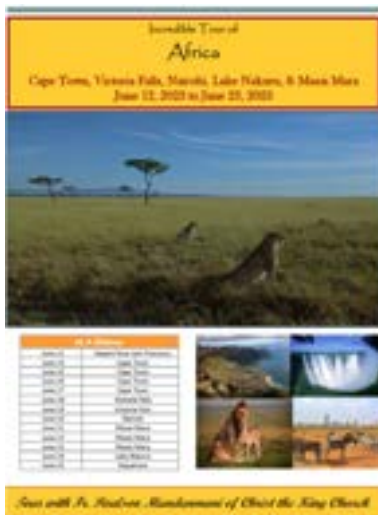
If you would like to donate, please email the team at: procurement@ctkschool.org **Thank you!**



2022 Annual Giving Statements

Annual Giving Statements that show your contributions for the year ending 2022 were sent by email (if we have your current email address in our new Realm system). These email addresses may not be the same as the one you use for our weekly newsletter.

If you did not receive an email statement, a physical statement will be sent to you via U.S. Mail. If you have any questions, please email us at office@ctkph.org.



Tour with Fr. Paulson to Africa

Join Fr. Paulson on an incredible tour of Africa (Cape Town, Victoria Falls, Nairobi, Lake Nakuru and Masai Mara National Park).

There is an additional package of Madagascar for those who want to continue for another 7 days. The trip will take place in June, 2023. For more information please contact the Parish Office at 925-682-2486.

CTK STAFF CONTACTS

CTK Office: office@ctkph.org
195A Brandon Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Fr. Paulson Mundanmani
925-682-2486
paulson.ctl@gmail.com

Fr. Lee Chompoochan
925-682-2486
lleescj49@hotmail.com

Deacon John Ashmore
925-686-1017
faithformation@ctkph.org

Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP
925-246-1122
sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com

Joe Silveira, Principal
925-685-1109
jsilveira@ctkschool.org

Helen Christian, Office Manager
925-682-2486
hchristian326@gmail.com

Kathy Ridgway, Parish Office
925-682-2486
kridgway02@gmail.com

Mike Aliscad, Youth Minister
925-686-1017
maliscad@ctkph.org

Rosa Panelli, RE Office
925-686-1017
rpanellictkre@gmail.com

Jennifer Bennett, Music Ministry
jenniferbennett1011@gmail.com

ST. STEPHEN STAFF CONTACTS

St. Stephen Office:
saintstephenwc@gmail.com
1101 Keaveny Ct.
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Chris Lang, Bulletin Info.
saintstephenwc@gmail.com
925-274-1341

Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich
925-274-1341
Bookkeepersp@gmail.com

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden."

- Mt 5:13a, 14

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah spoke of God's desire for us to not only feed the hungry and take care of the afflicted but also to rid ourselves of malicious and accusatory speech. Which of these directives might you be able to do this week?

Second Reading

Paul teaches the Corinthians to place their faith in the power of God more so than in human wisdom. What could be some good ways to make sure this becomes a regular spiritual exercise?

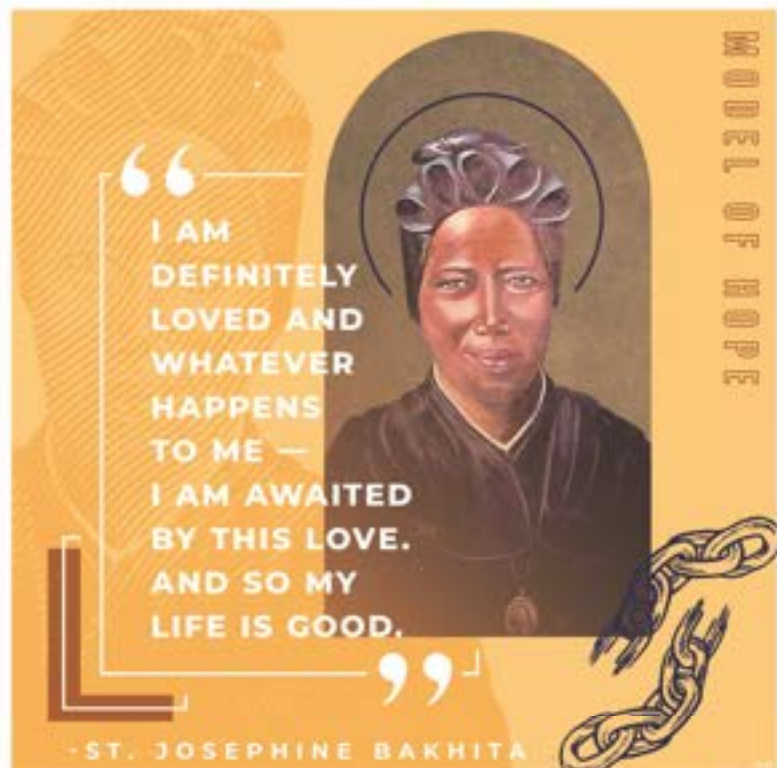
Gospel Reading

Jesus calls his followers to be salt of the earth and light of the world. In other words, Jesus is calling his followers to have a positive influence on the world. In what ways can believers today do good in the world?



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