



Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish

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

Christ the King Church
195A Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
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

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm

St. Stephen Church

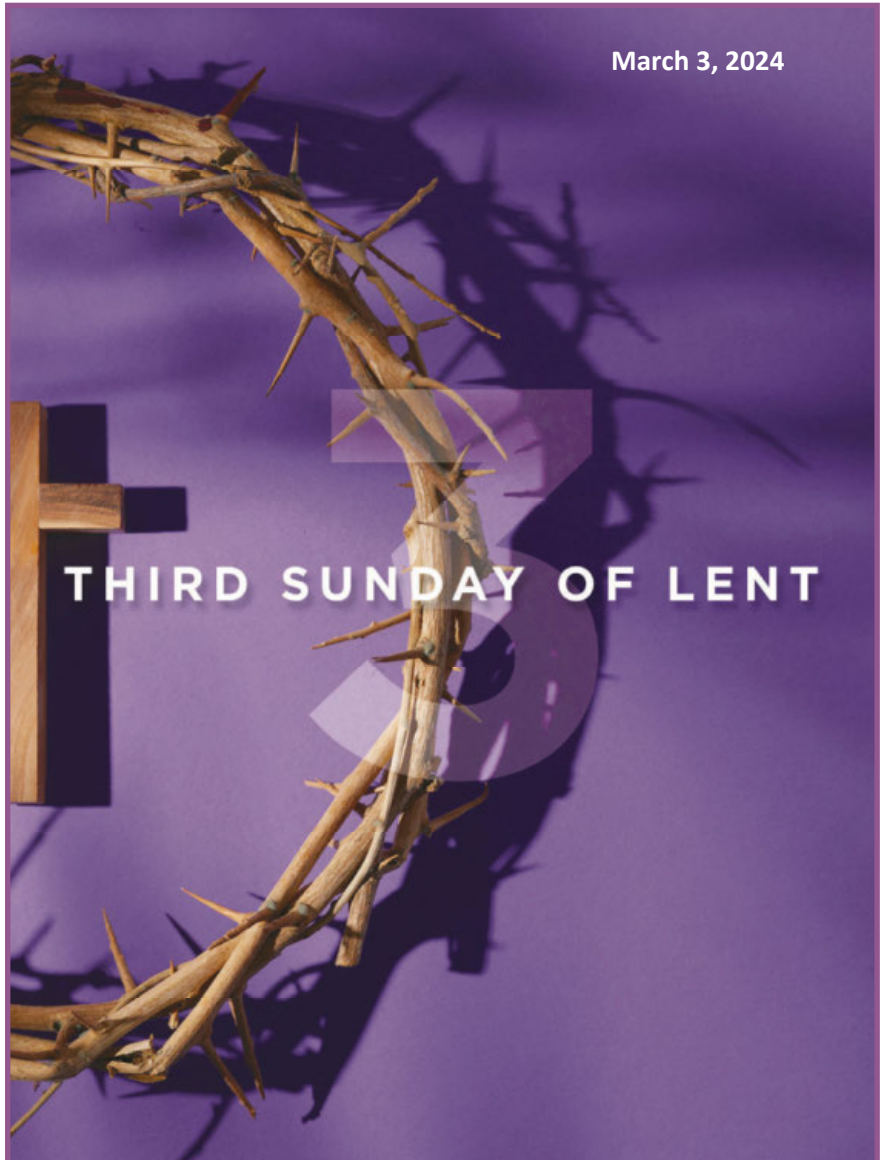
Daily Mass Times
Monday - Friday 8am

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

Private Confessions
Saturday Before the 5pm Mass

Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday 11am to 2pm

March 3, 2024



Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

Dear Friends:

The **World Day of Social Justice** was observed on February 20. Initiated in 2007, the United Nations General Assembly established the **World Day of Social Justice** to promote efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity, and access to social well-being and justice for all.



The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church offers "a complete overview of the fundamental framework of the doctrinal corpus of Catholic social teaching". It reminds us: *"A just society can become a reality only when it is based on the respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person. The person represents the ultimate end of society. The social order and its development must invariably work to the benefit of the human person... not the other way around...It is necessary to consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity ...Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society."*

Love of God and neighbor requires that we play our part in our homes, communities, nation, and world to promote social justice equity, equality, and inclusion. The biblical parables of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), and the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) are worth studying. We cannot be indifferent in the face of injustice.



The promotion of right relationships requires us to reject greed, individualism, and other forms of 'isms'. Conscience formation is critical if we are to embrace the right values. "Our consciences... need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing" (Pope Francis). The season of Lent is a time when we form our conscience in the ways of justice and love.

As one of the three pillars of Lent, almsgiving is as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on almsgiving by donating to the poor and performing acts of charity. St. John Chrysostom wrote, *"Not to share our riches with the poor is a robbery of the poor; and a depriving them of their livelihood. It is for this that God has permitted you to possess much that you should distribute it to the needy."*

To live out almsgiving in the spirit of Lenten sacrifice and following the clear teaching of Jesus, we do not give simply from our surplus or just what we can spare. Rather, we should give sacrificially. Giving alms to those in need is not just a good idea or a pious practice. It is truly a moral obligation. Acts of almsgiving during Lent allow us to:

- Let go of our own desires and focus on the needs of the less fortunate
- Sacrifice our temporal comfort for the good of another person
- Rely on God to meet our needs rather than providing for ourselves

Two of the central lessons of the cross are compassion and selflessness. As we go through this Lenten season, the world continues to suffer from pain and unrest. Now, more than ever, acts of almsgiving can bring us together and heal our wounds. You can never go wrong with generosity.

During this week, I invite you to be generous. God is defined by his generous giving – even his very self. In his Lenten message of 2020, Pope Francis wrote, “there is a need to appeal to men and women of goodwill to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness.”

Fr. Paulson



UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Mar. 4	Mon.	9:00am	Nesto Jile
Mar. 5	Tues.	9:00am	The Moore Family
Mar. 6	Weds.	9:00am	Spencer Swann
Mar. 7	Thurs.	9:00am	Christian Anicoche † Crisanta Gonzales † Cesario Ruban, Jr. † Mary Ellen Mangiapane
Mar. 8	Fri.	9:00am	Jane Matthews †
Mar. 9	Sat.	9:00am	Albert Haggett †
Mar. 9	Sat.	4:00pm	Anna & Martin Dias †
Mar. 10	Sun.	7:30am	Bryan Irwin † Jack Cardoza †
Mar. 10	Sun.	9:00am	Frank O'Neill †
Mar. 10	Sun.	10:30am	Amy Guarino † Crisanta Gonzales † Ricardo Sidamon † Roberto Dio † Diosdado Simsuangco †
Mar. 10	Sun.	4:00pm	Albert Haggett † Ernesto Cardenas, Sr. † Josefa Puntanilla Lizardo The Moore Family

UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Mar. 2	Sat.	5:00pm	Katherine DuBeau †
Mar. 3	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †
Mar. 9	Sat.	5:00pm	Francis Ah Yee †
Mar. 10	Sun.	9:30am	Robert Norris †



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
FR. GERRY MORAN!**

**MANY BLESSINGS AS YOU
CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY!
TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH**



**FROM FR. GERRY'S HOMILY LAST YEAR:
WHAT TO GIVE UP IN LENT**

Give up complaining....focus on gratitude
Give up harsh judgments...think kindly thoughts.
Give up worry...trust Divine Providence.
Give up bitterness...turn to forgiveness.
Give up anger...be more patient.
Give up pettiness...become mature.
Give up gloom...enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
Give up gossiping...control your tongue.
Give up giving up...just hang in there!



To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference

STATIONS of the CROSS

Christ the King Church

Please join us every Friday in Lent to pray
The Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm

St. Stephen Church

Please join us on Fridays for 12pm
Stations of the Cross in the church.

We are also open for self-guided outdoor stations on Fridays 12pm to 6pm
and Mon. & Wed. 11am-2pm



Celebrate St. Patrick

The Hospitality Ministry invites you to
celebrate St. Patrick on Saturday, March 16h,
following the 4pm mass, outside on the patio.

Let's gather together for fellowship,
food and fun!
All are welcome!



You are invited to attend our **Lenten Reconciliation Service in the church**

CTK: Monday, March 11 at 6pm or
CTK: Saturday, March 16 at 3pm
St. Stephen: Friday, March 15 at 6pm

**Come and experience the healing power
of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
as we journey together during Lent.**



DRESS A CHILD AROUND THE WORLD, the sewing ministry that makes dresses and shorts for children around the world and here in the U.S. is in need of a few items. If

you have a clean, working order IRON, SUITCASE (on rollers approx. 18"x32"), or SEWING MACHINE we can put it to good use. If you'd like to join in the fun with this group, please call Carol Vogl at (925) 288-0488.



The Karilagan/Kultura Dance Group - a Filipino cultural dance group is excitedly opening its doors to all new members.

Our mission is to give tribute to Philippine heritage as well as international culture by preserving & promoting ethnic attire, music & dance through research, practices & performances. We aim to serve as a bridge inspiring & connecting Filipinos to their roots to give them a sense of pride & identity while educating diverse communities to foster awareness & appreciation of the Philippine culture.

We will have a table outside the church on Sunday, March 10, after the 10:30 am mass if you're interested in this wonderful opportunity. See you there!



Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is back!

Twice a month, starting on March 10, your children will have the opportunity to join other children in a special Children's Liturgy. Children will listen to the readings of the day in an interactive, child-friendly way so they can better understand God's Word and strengthen their faith. CLOW details:

Time: Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Mass
March Dates: March 10, March 17

No registration necessary. Children will be called forward at the start of mass, and will return to the church to present the Gifts and sit near the Altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They will return to their families during Peace be with You. CLOW is optional, children may participate if they'd like, or remain with their families throughout mass in the church.

Are you interested in helping with CLOW? Live Scan and Virtus Training is required for all volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or for any other questions please contact Heidi Nuti at hnuti@ctkschool.org.

To Live and to Love in Christ

Christ the King/St. Stephen Parish Lenten and Spring Adult Faith Formation



Lenten Scripture Study on Fridays of Lent

Jeannette Holmes

Join us on the Fridays of Lent at 10am in the CTK Ministry Center Chapel for a prayerful reflection on the Lenten Sunday scripture readings.

March , 8, 15, & 22.
Attend one or all sessions.



Presentation of "Our Father"

Fr. Paulson

In this presentation Fr. Paulson examines the six petitions of the Lord's Prayer. This series is specifically designed for the Catholic community and will provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of this important prayer.

**St. Stephen Parish Hall on Thursdays at 10am and 7pm at CTK Church
beginning April 18, 25, May 2, 9 and 16.**



Join us after Mass on March 17

School Library & Media Center 9:30-12:30

The CTK School Book Fair is Back!

Empower kids to become bolder, prouder & stronger readers. As always – purchases benefit our school.

Sun 17 th	9:30a - 12:30p
Mon 18 th to Wed 20 th	7:15a - 5:30p
Thurs 21 st	7:15a - 2:30p

Join us in a small group Zoom discussion, hosted by:
Christ the King—St. Stephen Parish Young Families Ministry



a video series created for Catholic parents
by Catholic parents!

Please join other young families in the parish, as we gather together on Mondays evenings at 8PM during the Lenten season (**every Monday through April 1**) to watch (via Zoom) and discuss *The Catholic Parent* video series.

Parents are welcome to attend with or without their children (or with their children running around in the background). Families are encouraged to join any session(s) that they are able (you do not need to commit to all 6 sessions). Each session will begin by watching the short 15 minute video together, followed by 45minute discussion.

If you would like to access the series on your own, go to formed.org and sign up. It is free to all Christ the King - St. Stephen Parishioners.



Better with Friends
Better with Family
Better with Faith



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The Italian Catholic Federation

2024 \$500 Catholic High School Scholarship

The CTK-St. Stephen Parish branch of the Italian Catholic Federation is offering two, \$500 scholarships to 8th grade students attending a Catholic High School in the fall of 2024.

Applications are at the CTK school office, CTK church office and at St. Stephen in the vestibule.

The application deadline is April 15th, 2024.
Please contact Mary Ragsdale (925) 297-7169 if you have any questions



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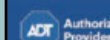


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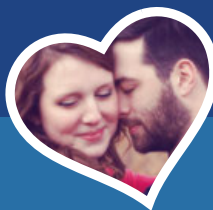
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