

# Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

(925) 682-2486 ctkph.org

(925) 274-1341 saintstephenparish.org

AS THE EARTH BRINGS FORTH ITS PLANTS,  
AND A GARDEN MAKES ITS GROWTH SPRING UP,  
SO WILL THE LORD GOD MAKE JUSTICE AND PRAISE  
SPRING UP BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS.

ISAIAH 61:11



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2020

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Photo: Painterstock/Adobe Stock. Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. 2019.

### SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 12 5:00 pm Audrey Ostberg †  
Dec. 13 9:30 am Danny Mullins †  
Dec. 19 4:00 pm Joselito Asuncion †  
Dec. 20 9:30 am Jack & Maryann Connolly,  
50th anniversary

**All CTK Masses streamed live with videos  
available to watch later**

**\*CTK Parish Office is open  
Mon-Fri ~ 9 am to 1 pm\***

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

### CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 14 9 am Martin Soriano †  
Lilia Castro †  
Dec. 15 9 am Juan Badong †  
Dec. 16 9 am Ann Obschernings †  
Dec. 17 9 am Connie Guevarra †  
Dec. 18 9 am

**Saturday, December 19 & Sunday, December 20**

Jack Viani †  
Vic Remorini †  
CTK & SS Parishioners  
Cecilia Nguyen †  
Jesus Pamintuan Jr.  
Encaracion Cabrera †  
Virginia Fundano  
William Radding †

Dear Friends,

Rejoice It is Gaudete Sunday, only a week and a half before Christmas. As a child, I loved Gaudete Sunday. It meant only a few more days of Advent which I never really embraced. It was too somber and penitential in those days for my neophyte taste. Little did I know what I was missing. If we look at our Covid-19 riddled Advent of 2020, we may find ourselves just being glad it is almost over. If we do that, we miss something very life giving. As somber as the pandemic continues to be and as much as we wonder how much more we need to suffer the consequences of it, there are many reasons to rejoice. I am not thinking of the promise of a fully vaccinated future, as grateful as we all are for that, I am thinking of the gifts of the period of transition itself that we have been in since March. A period of transition is always difficult. It is a time of half-light or twilight – a weird sort of zone. We can't see clearly where we are headed and it may even be difficult to remember where we have been. A somber time, but if we allow, it can also be a time of transformation. The question is, how can this transformation happen since I have no . . . . Wait a minute. That sounds like words from a woman I know, Mary of Nazareth. The Angel Gabriel gave her the answer to her first question but there was still so much she didn't know. I think of the song we have come to love. *Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water . . .?* Of course, the answer to that question is a resounding, NO! She had no idea what was in store for her, much less how and under what circumstances she would celebrate the first Christmas. What she did know was that her cousin, Elizabeth who was also pregnant needed her tender loving care. Luke's Gospel tells us "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country with haste to a town of Judah . . . and greeted Elizabeth". The encounter of those two women who shared in a very ordinary time of transition was a glorious revelation of our loving and compassionate God. Elizabeth exclaimed, How is this that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Mary proclaimed, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior". A simple act of human kindness and a willing acceptance of that kindness transformed that moment into one of Spirit-filled unbounded joy. Like Mary, we have set out to tend those in need of our care during the last several months. Thanks to CTK ministries we have wrapped our parish in the mantle of justice and reached out to the poor and brokenhearted. We have fed and clothed many. We have sheltered some. We have aligned ourselves with the hundreds of people peacefully protesting racial injustice. We have stood for life in its myriad forms and stages. Lest we become complacent, Paul offers us a reality check. *"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks . . . for the One who calls you is faithful and God will accomplish it."* We never know what transformation God accomplishes through simple acts of kindness either on the people we serve or on ourselves. Maybe that lonely person you visited is exclaiming in their heart, "How is this that a sister or brother of my Lord has come to me" and you can truly sing in your heart, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior because he who is mighty has done great things in me." As we make the final preparations for our celebrations of Christmas this year, let us remember that even though we are still in a time of great unknowing, what we do know is that there are many reasons for rejoicing, even as we gather well masked and six feet apart. Even though the table may not be as full as usual or is outside on the patio, our compassionate loving God is still present there. Mary is too, I'm sure. Invite her to the celebration of her son's birth to be held at your house. She will not stand by idle. She will teach you how to rejoice in all circumstances with Spirit-filled unbounded joy.

Honey O'Leary

## Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

### First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who preached after the Jews returned from exile. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. In today's reading, the prophet describes how God called him to encourage the people in this desperate time.

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Today's passage comes at the end of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Just as a parent might give last minute instructions as their child heads out the door, so Paul has a list of last minute instructions for these people whom he loves.

### Prayer Works!

Do you have a need that requires Divine intervention?

Let us add our prayers to yours. Send confidential

prayer requests to:

[prayerline@ctkph.org](mailto:prayerline@ctkph.org)



## WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**CTK: Monday - Saturday:**

**9 am Mass ~ Live streamed from our chapel on facebook/YouTube**

**6 pm Thursday Mass 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 ~ 5 pm Vigil Mass Drive-In/Lawn - beginning Dec. 19 this will change to 4 pm.**

**Sundays ~ 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am and 4 pm drive-in/lawn mass**

**12:00 noon Spanish drive-in/lawn 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**

**Sunday Mass ~ 9:30 am Outdoor Mass**

**Communion only - please arrive at the end of mass, approximately 10:10 am.**

## CTK Mass Schedule Highlights

**Saturday, Dec. 12 at 5 pm** mass we celebrate **Our Lady of Guadalupe** with a bilingual mass and Mariachi band!

**Saturday, Dec. 19** our evening mass will be at **4 pm (instead of 5 pm)** due to darkness. This will continue until further notice.

### **CTK/SS Christmas Schedule**

**Friday, Dec. 11, Reconciliation Service** 7 pm streamed live on FB and YouTube only. Then join us for individual confessions on

**Saturday, Dec. 12 from 3 pm to 4 pm outdoors under the tent.**

**CTK Christmas Eve Masses:** 1 pm, 3 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm with drive -thru communion from 2 pm to 2:30 pm.

**St. Stephen Mass** at 3 pm

**CTK Christmas Day Masses:** 9 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm (bilingual mass) with drive -thru communion from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm.

**St. Stephen Mass** at 9:30 am.

### **St. Stephen Updates**

This weekend's **2nd Collection** is **for the Retirement Fund for Religious**. If you are not using envelopes, please note it on the subject line of your check. Thank you for your generosity.

If you are not receiving our weekly St. Stephen email updates, you are missing out on the latest news about our parish and parishioners. This email has become a lifeline to our parish family in this time of Covid restrictions. If you would like to be added, just send an email ([saintstephenwc@gmail.com](mailto:saintstephenwc@gmail.com)) to our office and we will add you.

Our **Advent and Christmas schedule** is posted on the St. Stephen website. If there are any changes, you will find them there. We will have two Masses at St. Stephen for Christmas - 3:00 pm Christmas Eve and 9:30 am Christmas morning.

If you have not yet picked up your box of **donation envelopes for 2021**, please do so after Mass on Sunday - or call/email the office to arrange for a special pick up or drop-off (yes, we will drop them off for you if you live close by.)



## Christmas Masses: Help Needed



We are working together to help make Christmas a wonderful celebration for all! If you are able and willing ~ we would need USHERS at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. You would greet people, facilitate parking, take collections .... We would very much appreciate a few new people stepping forward to help on this special day.

## PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

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## ADDITIONAL ST. STEPHEN

### CONTACTS

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**Chris Lang, Bulletin Info.**

274-1341

**Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich**

Bookkeepersp@gmail.com

**Maria Calderazzo, Music Director**

274-1341

**SIMBANG GABI** -- The Filipino Society of Christ the King invites you to join in the celebration of "Simbang Gabi", a nine-day novena in preparation for the birth of Jesus, at Christ the King Church from December 15th to the 23rd. Mass begins at 6:30 p.m. every night (except Dec. 17, Mass 6 pm and Dec. 19 and 20, Mass at 4 p.m.). Because of limitations brought on by Covid-N19, masses will be held outdoors inside a large tent and will be live stream. You can view it on CTK Facebook Page or CTK YouTube Channel. For additional information, please contact Abe Miralles (925-381-5898) or Imelda Santos (925-623-7340).



**Are you or anyone you know, curious about the process of becoming Catholic?** The program is called Rite of Christian Initiation, or RCIA. As an adult, you receive Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. There is no commitment, simply come and see! During the pandemic we are meeting through email. Contact: Mary McCarthy ([maryjane.mccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:maryjane.mccarthy@gmail.com)).

Our **second collection this weekend supports Retired Religious**. Elderly religious have offered a lifetime of service. Now they need your help. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend. Learn more at [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).

A **huge thank you** to all our parishioners who have continued to support Christ the King and St. Stephen during this Covid-19 pandemic. 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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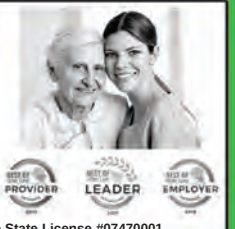
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