

# Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish

**St. Stephen Church**  
1101 Keaveny Court  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
925-274-1341  
[saintstephenparish.org](http://saintstephenparish.org)

**Christ the King Church**  
195A Brandon Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
925-682-2486  
[ctkph.org](http://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

December 10, 2024

## *second Sunday of* ADVENT



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**TO LIVE AND TO LOVE IN CHRIST**  
**TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



Dear Friends,

**Two important feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary take place during the Season of Advent:** the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, on December 12th. Closely related to both feasts is the December 9th Memorial of Saint Juan Diego, (the messenger of Our Lady of Guadalupe).



**The Immaculate Conception:** On December 8th, we recall and celebrate how God preserved the Virgin Mary, from the very moment of her conception, from every stain of sin. In a mysterious and wonderful way, God permitted our Blessed Mother to receive, in anticipation, the grace of eternal salvation which her Divine Son would win for all mankind by His Passion and Death. In this way, the Virgin Mary was prepared to receive and fulfill her call to be the Mother of God; the Virgin Mary's heart was totally pure from her conception and thus her womb was the fitting vessel in which God the Son could be received into the world. The purity of her heart is a sign to us of how our hearts must become pure, with the help of God's grace, in order that we may welcome our Lord ever more fully into our lives and be ready to meet Him at His Final Coming.

**Saint Juan Diego:** On December 9, 1531, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at that time in the Spanish Empire, Juan Diego, a native was on his way to his parish church for the celebration of the feast, when Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, and asked him to be her messenger in carrying out a special mission of love on behalf of his people and all the peoples of the American continent.

The mission was to have Bishop Juan de Zumárraga, O.F.M., First Bishop of Mexico, build a chapel on Tepeyac Hill, in which she might show to all peoples God's mercy and love in her Divine Son. She announced her name as the Perfect Virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe. God imprinted the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Juan Diego's cactus-cloth mantle in which he gathered roses. There is no human explanation of how the image is imprinted. The cactus-cloth mantle which should have disintegrated within thirty to forty years remains intact today, so that we can still gaze upon the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe who is, by a very special title, our mother in America.



**Our Lady of Guadalupe:** We celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th, the day which marks both her last appearance to Saint Juan Diego, with the miracle of the roses and of the sacred image, and her appearance to Juan Bernardino. In a very special way, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe uncovers for us what the Coming of our Lord means for us in America. It is our Blessed Mother who teaches us how immeasurably God loves us, treasures every human life, without exception or boundary. She draws us to Jesus Christ, her Divine Son, so that, through our union of heart with His Sacred Heart, we may know directly in our lives, especially through the Holy Eucharist, the love of God and become, with her, bearers of God's love to all our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable and those in most need.

In a special way, may our celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the title under which the Blessed Virgin Mary is the patroness of our nation, and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, inspire in us a new enthusiasm and a new energy to be the heralds of God's mercy and love to all our brothers and sisters.

**Happy Advent!**

**~ Fr. Paulson**





### UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

|         |        |         |  |
|---------|--------|---------|--|
| Dec. 11 | Mon.   | 9:00am  | Alfredo Carreon †<br>Kay Tagle<br>Diana Duque  |
| Dec. 12 | Tues.  | 9:00am  | Jeff Brogan †  |
| Dec. 13 | Weds.  | 9:00am  | Hildegard Menzhuber †<br>Spencer Swann<br>Diana Duque  |
| Dec. 14 | Thurs. | 9:00am  | Leon De Jesus †<br>Marie Del Rosario   |
| Dec. 15 | Fri.   | 9:00am  | Simon Khiem Tran †   |
| Dec. 16 | Sat.   | 9:00am  | Frank O'Neill †  |
| Dec. 16 | Sat.   | 4:00pm  | Vickie Menzhuber †   |
| Dec. 17 | Sun.   | 7:30am  | Jack Cardoza †<br>Nancy Delucci †<br>Sara Costanza †   |
| Dec. 17 | Sun.   | 9:00am  | Clyde Miles †  |
| Dec. 17 | Sun.   | 10:30am | Concepcion Guevarra †<br>Amparo Velarde †<br>Paul Pabelico †<br>Clyde Miles †<br>Adele Braselton |
| Dec. 17 | Sun.   | 4:00pm  | Michael Grey †   |

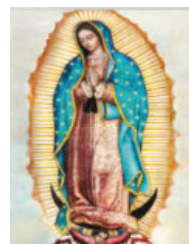
### UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

|         |      |        |                         |
|---------|------|--------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 9  | Sat. | 5:00pm | CTK-SS Parishioners     |
| Dec. 10 | Sun. | 9:30am | Michael J Millek †      |
| Dec. 16 | Sat. | 5:00pm | CTK-SS Parishioners     |
| Dec. 17 | Sun. | 9:30am | John Patrick Connolly † |



#### Help needed at St. Stephen Church

Help needed for preparing our church for Christmas. Join us after the St. Stephen 9:30am Mass on Sunday, December 17, as we set up our tree and manger. Then help again after Mass on the 24th as we do our final transformation to Christmas. Many hands needed, especially on the 17th.



#### The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Christ the King Church  
Sunday, December 10

Mass Time: 4pm (Spanish & English)  
With a Mariachi Band!

Join us after mass at CTK's Parish Hall  
for a reception with the Mariachi Band and tamales!



## Second Sunday of Advent



### Advent Reconciliation Service

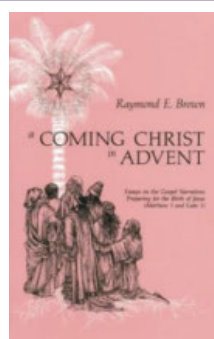
Come and experience the healing power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

**CTK:**

Monday, December 11 at 6pm

**St. Stephen:**

Friday, December 15 at 6pm



### Join us for a discussion of Raymond E. Brown's "A Coming Christ in Advent"

**on Mondays, December 11 and 18,  
at 10:30 am in the Ministry Center  
Chapel at CTK.**

Fr. Brown reflects on the annunciations in Matthew and Luke, on the Magnificat and Benedictus canticles, and on the "origins of Jesus" as given in the first words of the New Testament. For discussion purposes, the book will be divided into two sections: chapters 1-3 and chapters 4-6.



**SIMBANG GABI** -- The Filipino Society of Christ the King/St. Stephen Parish cordially 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 6:00 pm. every night, except Dec. 16, 17 and 23 when mass will start at 4:00 pm.**

A celebration of gratitude with entertainment will be held after the last mass on the 23rd in CTK's gym. For additional information, please contact Maritess Baula (925-899-9078) or Imelda Santos (925-623-7340).

### CTK Youth Music Ministry Christmas Concert Tuesday, December 12 at 7pm in the Church at CTK

You are all invited to a Christmas Concert by CTK's own youth music ministry from our Sunday 4pm mass and children of CTK-SS. This concert is free and all are welcome! Let's start our holiday with a festive night of music and songs.

We will be singing easy Christmas songs. Please call or text Nelson at 925-375-9608 if you plan to participate or have any questions.



### St. Stephen's Giving Tree

**The St. Stephen St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be sponsoring an Advent Giving Tree for the benefit of Hillcrest Congregational Church Layette Program in Pleasant Hill, CA.** For over 60 years Hillcrest has been providing basic layette supplies to families with a new baby via the Contra Costa Public Health Organizations. This program currently resources 25-30 layettes a month throughout the year and depends entirely on donations from groups, organizations, churches and individuals. Advent is the season in which we watch and wait and then joyfully celebrate the birth

of Jesus, a loving gift from God to our world. Every day of the year parents throughout our country and specifically Contra Costa County await the birth of their baby.

During Advent December 1-23; St. Stephen's will be sponsoring a Giving Tree which will benefit the Layette Program at Hillcrest Congregation Church. The Giving Tree will be in the back of the church at St. Stephen. The Giving Tree has Christmas gift tags, each with a suggestion for a layette item. Please take as many tags as you like and return your gift items wrapped in white tissue and place them under the tree by December 23rd; or you may place the gifts in the boxes placed around the Giving Tree. Your generosity is appreciated and may your Advent Season be filled with Joy and anticipation as we await the birth of our Lord. A list of what items are included in a complete layette is available at the Giving Tree. If you have further questions you may contact Phyllis Smith 954.7393.



## Christmas Season Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24 morning Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent: 7:30am & 9am - CTK

St. Stephen - 9:30am Mass

### Sunday, December 24

#### Christmas Eve Masses at CTK

3pm - Outdoors - Children/Family Mass

4:30pm - Indoors/Family Mass

8pm - Indoors & Livestreamed

12 Midnight - Indoors (Carols begin at 11:30pm)

### Monday, December 25

#### Christmas Day Masses at CTK

7:30am - Indoors

9am - Indoors

10:30am - Indoors & Livestreamed

No 4pm Mass

**The outdoor 3pm Christmas Eve Mass at CTK will take place on the lawn. Please dress warm and bring your own chairs. If it rains we will bring Mass inside the church and gym.**

### Feast of St. Stephen, Tuesday, December 26

St. Stephen Church - Mass Time: 5pm

Followed by a Potluck and Caroling in the Hall.

### Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 31

Mass Times: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am at CTK

4pm Mass (Followed by Refreshments for New Year's Eve) at CTK

St. Stephen Church - Mass Time: 9:30am

### New Year's Day, Monday January 1

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Time: 9am at CTK

St. Stephen Church - Mass Time: 9:30am





In Partnership with Christ the King - St. Stephen Church

### CORE Food Kits Program

Unity of Walnut Creek has committed to work with ICARE and is a Co-Sponsor for the CORE Food Kits program, focused on feeding the homeless in Contra Costa County. The program is an initiative of the InterFaith Council of Contra Costa County.

#### How to volunteer:

(Visit our table outside after all masses)

- **Give a monetary donation for the food kits.** \$5 will fund each kit but donations of any amount will help. Donations are accepted in the form of checks made to Unity of Walnut Creek (in memo field write: 'ICARE Food Kit'), via the Gyve app (in memo field write: 'ICARE Food Kit') or Cash
- **Volunteer to assemble or deliver food kits**, on Saturday 12/16/23 from 10am-2pm in the Community Room at Unity Church in WC. For more information or questions, contact Carolyn Peters at (925) 926-1035 or [peterscaja@protonmail.com](mailto:peterscaja@protonmail.com)



**Do you have a car, truck, RV or boat  
you would like to donate  
before the end of the year?**

Christ the King and Car Donation Services, located in Martinez have teamed up to provide an easy way to donate a vehicle (running or not). Proceeds from all vehicle donations will go to CTK. It will be a tax donation to you! Call 888-686-4483 or visit their website at: [www.cardonationservices.com](http://www.cardonationservices.com) to start the easy process. CDS takes care of all aspects of your car donations, allowing you peace of mind that the transaction will be completed efficiently and properly.



### Upcoming Second Collections

Dec. 9/10 - Retirement for Religious  
Dec. 16/17 - Christmas Flowers  
Dec. 24/25—Christmas  
Dec. 30/31—St. Vincent de Paul



## CTK STAFF CONTACTS

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