

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

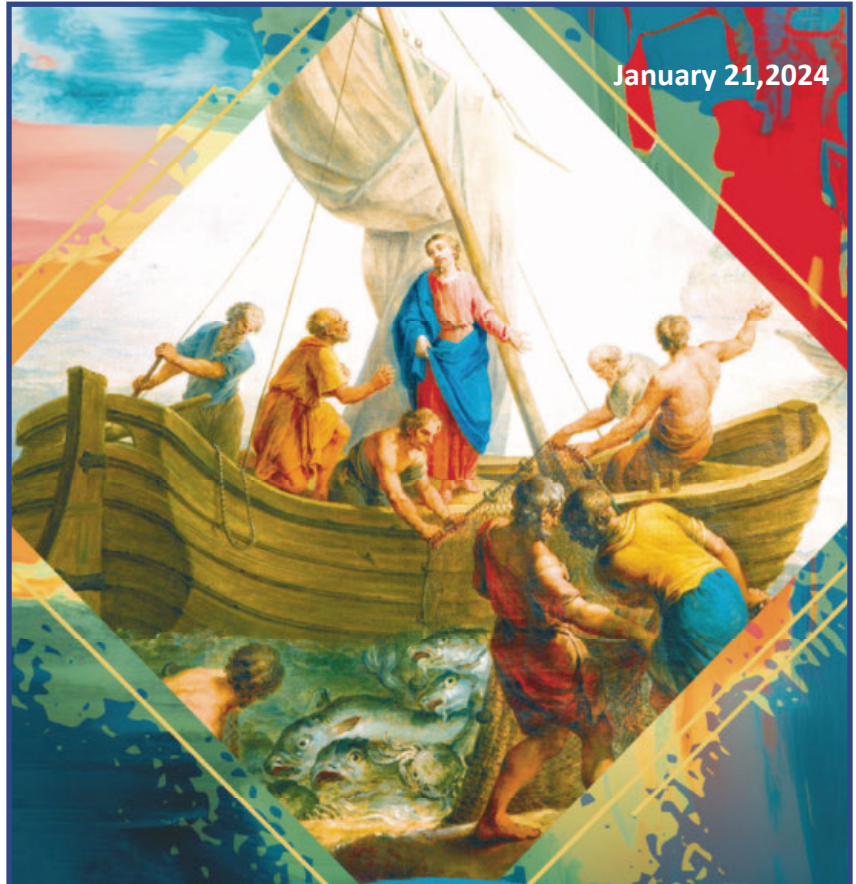
St. Stephen Church

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



January 21, 2024

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."
- Mk 1:17

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

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



Dear Friends,

Pope Francis has declared Year 2024 as a Year of Prayer, in preparation for the Jubilee that commences this coming Advent. He has asked us to focus on our prayer life, especially the Our Father. In the next few bulletins, I will be addressing the prayer Jesus taught us, which is often called “The Lord’s Prayer.”



The Lord’s Prayer is understood to be the most important prayer given to us by Jesus, but it’s more than that. One of the church fathers, Tertullian, called it a “summary of the gospel,” and Thomas Watson, called it a “body of divinity.” James Packer, an evangelical theologian said the Lord’s Prayer is “a key to the whole business of living,” adding, “What it means to be a Christian is nowhere clearer than here.”

In the gospel of Luke, the disciples made an interesting request of Jesus. Of the many things they could have asked Jesus to teach them, they requested that he teach them how to pray. I am sure Jesus’ heart was glad when he heard that request, and so he began to teach them. The first words out of his mouth were, “Our Father.”

Prayer is not ritual, it is relational. The heart of this relationship can be found in the opening phrase, “Our Father Who art in heaven ...” (Matthew 6:9). In those first words Jesus establishes the foundation for our prayers: a relationship with God as our heavenly Father. God wants us to relate to Him as children to a Father.

With the Our Father, Jesus made a huge difference when it comes to prayer. We can address God in our prayers with a word of intimacy, Father. In the Aramaic that Jesus spoke, that would be ‘Abba’, Jesus’ own characteristic address to God. Nobody had ever addressed God like that. St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians states that in calling God as Father, we are given a new identity:

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. Galatians (4: 4-7)

Addressing God as Father, implies access. We can have an intimate personal love relationship with God because He is our loving Father, and we are His adopted children. Sons and daughters have family rights that guarantee them access to their fathers. That’s a big part of what being a father is all about. Your children don’t need an appointment to see you as their father, and you don’t need an appointment to see your Heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit compels us to cry out “Abba, Father!”

Jesus transferred the Fatherhood of God from a theological doctrine into an intimate relationship, and He taught his disciples to pray with the same intimacy. And that is what He does for us. Does it undergird your prayer life? Is a sense of God’s intimate Fatherhood profound and growing in your life?

~Fr. Paulson



UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 22	Mon.	9:00am	Conrado de Guzman † Mariano Machate † Sr. Immaculee Marie Thinh & Thuyet Nguyen
Jan. 23	Tues.	9:00am	Steven Feeley † Tuke Family † Sr. Immaculee Marie Thinh & Thuyet Nguyen
Jan. 24	Weds.	9:00am	Fe Sison † Plutorco Reyes † Alwin & Steffi Vincent Joan McCormack Spencer Swann
Jan. 25	Thurs.	9:00am	Remedios R. Hernandez † Mary P. Ang † Denham Family † Rudy Bautista † Manel Wijekoon
Jan. 26	Fri.	9:00am	Humberto Agustin † Raymond Deocareza †
Jan. 27	Sat.	9:00am	Frank O'Neill †
Jan. 27	Sat.	4:00pm	Lois Gandolfo †
Jan. 28	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza † Sarah Costanza † Sr. Mila Soniel Lumosac
Jan. 28	Sun.	9:00am	Children of Christ the King School †
Jan. 28	Sun.	10:30am	Gloria Maliwanag †
Jan. 28	Sun.	4:00pm	Jane Matthews †

UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 20	Sat.	5:00pm	CTK-SS Parishioners
Jan. 21	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †
Jan. 27	Sat.	5:00pm	Francis Ah Yee †
Jan. 28	Sun.	9:30am	Gus Perscheid †

To the St. Stephen Parishioners,

The St. Stephen St. Vincent de Paul Conference in coordination with the Layette Team of Hillcrest Congregation Church wants to thank each and every person who participated in the generous response to the 2023 holiday Giving Tree benefiting Hillcrest Congregation Layette Program. A total of 80 gift tags were put on the tree. We received a total of 93 items: including warm jackets, sweatshirts, 2 & 3 piece long sleeve outfits for boys and girls, onesies, long pants, micro fleece sleep and play stuffed animals and a few board books along with some socks and a few blankets. WE ARE ALL OVERWHELMED WITH YOUR GENEROSITY.

Our inventory was depleted of warm clothing items in early December. Thank you for helping fill our bins and help us continue to provide Layettes to those in need. May all of you receive many blessings in 2024.

In Gratitude, *St. Stephen St. Vincent de Paul and The Layette Team at Hillcrest Congregation Church*
(Cheryl, Jan, Sharon and Phyllis)



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Catholic Schools Week Mass & Open House

Next Sunday, January 28th, we will kick off Catholic schools week with the 9am mass followed by an Open House in the school from 10am to 12pm.

We will join Catholic Schools across the nation in celebrating National Catholic Schools Week which takes place from January 24 to February 2.

Catholic Schools provide a learning space where Gospel Values are celebrated and students are provided opportunities to participate in traditions of rich academics.



SINULOG DANCE PRESENTATION

JANUARY 28TH, SUNDAY
AFTER THE 10:30AM MASS
CHRIST THE KING-ST. STEPHEN PARISH
199 BRANDON RD., PLEASANT HILL, CA

BRING YOUR STO. NINO STATUES FOR BLESSING AFTER THE DANCE

*The Sinulog Festival is held every 3rd Sunday of January in Cebu City, Philippines to commemorate the 1521 event of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan presenting the statue of the Santo Nino or Baby Jesus to Cebu's Chieftain, Rajah Humabon and his wife. This eventually led to their conversion to Christianity.



The Knights of Columbus 2024 Basketball Free Throw/ Competition

**Sunday, February 4th in the
Christ the King Gym-7:30am-11:30am**

No fee or preregistration required.

Registration forms will be available on the day of the event. Girls and boys ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the Free-throw competition. Questions? Contact Roberto Bracamontes rbracamontes@mac.com

Prizes for this competition donated by Nadine Masarweh,
Realtor with Compass Realty
www.compass.com/agents/nadine-masarweh/



ICF Meeting Sunday, Jan. 21 at 1pm CTK Hall - Room A/B

All parishioners are invited to attend the first meeting of the new year of the Italian Catholic Federation on Sunday afternoon, January 21 at 1 o'clock pm in the Christ the King hall Rooms A and B. Come and find out about all the fun activities we have planned for the year! We will start with a pot luck soup and chili lunch. Following a short business meeting, we will have a presentation by one of our members, Daniella Franchini, an Italian attorney, who will speak briefly about the Italian Constitution. All are invited and you don't have to be Italian to come! Contact Juliette Cote for cotetj@yahoo.com or call 925-899-3673 for more information.



CTK-CYO Crab Feed Saturday, March 2 CTK's Gym

Don't miss out on a CYO favorite! Secure your tickets today for our annual CTK CYO Crab Feed on Saturday, March 2! We will have delicious crab courtesy of Fuget About It Catering, dancing, raffle prizes and more! Registration is now open - secure your tickets today at our early bird prices until January 31!

Tickets and sponsorship information can be found ctkph.org and any questions, please contact cyo@ctkph.org.



Thank you for your donations and generosity throughout the year!

We have an easy way to give! You can scan this QR Code and it will take you to our safe and secure Realm Site where it will lead you to a convenient way to give.
Or you can text CTKPH to 73256.



Upcoming Second Collections

Jan. 21 - Social Justice Project

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

60th Birthday CELEBRATION

FOR

Fr. Paulson

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024
5PM TO 8PM**

**CHRIST THE KING'S GYM
FOR APPETIZERS AND DRINKS**

**RSVP BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
CTKPH.ORG**



For your convenience you can scan the QR code to
RSVP to Fr. Paulson's Birthday Celebration.

(Psalm 25)

**TEACH ME
YOUR WAYS, O LORD**

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SPEAKING PRO-LIFE IN WORD AND ACTION

AN EVENING OF INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

St. Isidore Catholic Church | Thursday, February 1, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Admission
FREE

FREEWILL
OFFERING

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



REVEREND WALTER HOYE II is the president and founder of the *Issues4Life Foundation*, as well as other Civil Rights and Pro-Life organizations. In 2008, the Reverend was arrested and jailed for exercising his right of free speech and peaceful protest against abortion. Reverend Hoye will speak about the effects abortion has had on the Black American population, close to the point of irreversible damage, and what we can do to effectively reach out to Black women who are seeking abortion.



VALERIE HILL serves as Chief Executive Officer for RealOptions Pregnancy Medical Clinics. She also oversees various outreach programs serving high schools, colleges and communities in the area. She will tell us about the services RealOptions provides and educate us on the abortion pill and the affects it has on women, countering the misinformation put out by various sources.



ANDREA WALLE is a Patient Service Assistant Manager for the Oakland Clinic, Community Outreach Eastbay Manager, and Education team lead for RealOptions Obria Medical Clinic. She will provide education on the Abortion Pill Reversal and tell a few glory stories.



40daysforlife.com/WalnutCreek | Questions: FriendsForLifeTriValley@gmail.com



Saint of the week

St. Juliana of Cornillon, also known as St. Juliana of Liège, is remembered for her steadfast devotion to the Eucharist and her instrumental role in establishing the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Prayer of Discipleship

Dear Jesus,

When you call to me, help me to listen. Give me the courage to respond bravely and boldly to your invitation for my life. Amen.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out. (Jon 3:10)

Psalm:

Teach me your ways, O Lord. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

For the world in its present form is passing away. (1 Cor 7:31)

Gospel:

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:14-15)

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Denia Aggetta Shields, Parishioner

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