



# 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

### Thursday

5:40pm Rosary, 6pm Mass

### Every First Friday

5pm to 6pm Exposition  
6pm Mass

### Weekend Mass Times

**Saturday:** 4pm Vigil

### Sunday

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm

### Private Confessions

Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm

### Drive-Thru Communion

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

### 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 5pm Mass

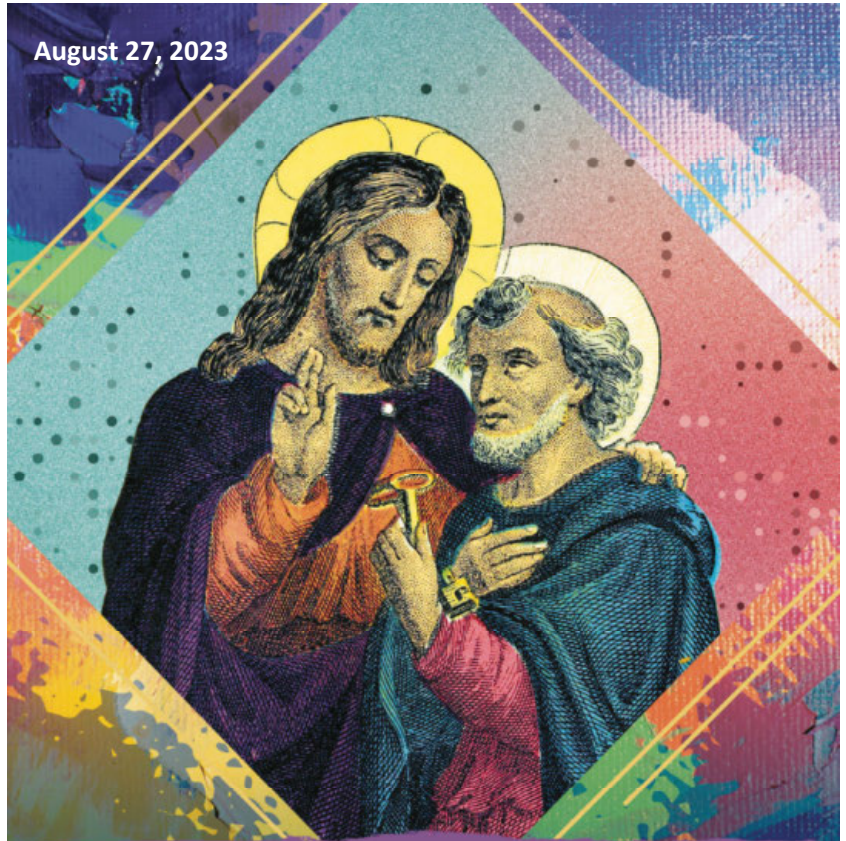
### Drive-Thru Communion

Upon Request

### Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 11am to 2pm

August 27, 2023



## 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

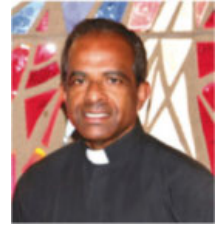
He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"  
Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ,  
the Son of the living God." - Mt 16:15-16

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,



**Recently I read an article by The Rev. Harold (Skip) Masback titled, “Twin Calamities: Declining Churches, Struggling Youth.”** He talked about two important challenges facing our congregations. He said, “Too many of our churches and our young are struggling. Too many of our denominations and congregations are struggling because they are failing to transmit the faith to a rising generation, and too many of our young are struggling because they lack the foundations that were traditionally supplied by communities of the faith. To paraphrase the lyrics of a great band from my “ge-ge-ge-generation,” neither the churches nor the kids are all right.”

According to Masback, what’s crucial is that these two dynamics, the trajectory of struggling churches and the trend of struggling youth, are related – and neither of them will be resolved until we deepen the faith, commitment, and professionalism with which we minister to our young.

We are facing both calamities in our Catholic world, and Christ the King -St. Stephen Parish is not immune from it at all, in fact, we are steeped in a culture of taking our faith and the religious formation of our children and young people for granted. Deacon John shared with me the current RE registration (Grades 1-8) statistics and it is appalling with a meager 127 students registered as of now.

Teaching religion lessons is different from teaching other subject areas, because in faith formation, we do not teach a subject, we facilitate an encounter with Jesus Christ! **Make this a priority.** While your children have many lessons they need to keep up on at home, do your best to make faith formation a priority by registering them for classes. At home, you can do this by **setting aside a separate time** from other lessons so that your children know that learning about Jesus is a priority.



**Set aside a space.** To reinforce that faith formation is unlike the subjects that children are studying, designate a separate space for working on religion lessons. Add a sense of the sacred by placing a Bible, a crucifix, a candle, or some other sacred object in this space.

The Yale University studies have established the declining mental health and well-being of adolescents today. The proof of correlation does not necessarily mean proof of causation. Still, there is a worrisome decline in adolescent well-being that parallels the decline in religious affiliation and connectedness. Studies on adults and one study on youth suggested that each successive generation since 1940 is at greater risk of developing depressive disorders and that these disorders have their onset at a younger age.

David F. White noted in “Practicing a Theology of Youth, Spirit and Vocation,” “In 1970, [of] entering college freshman 70 percent of them could talk about their hopes for a vocation that served a common good. Less than 30 percent lacked this sense of purpose. That statistic has flipped now.” He states that less than 30 percent of entering college freshman can talk about their hopes for a vocation that serve a common good; more than 79 percent report a lack of this sense of purpose. And that has so much to do with the lack of religious formation of our children and young people.

When the church ministers to its youth with passion, commitment, and professionalism, it provides the nurturing they require for human flourishing and reaps the fruits of their regenerative energies. When we as parents do not – because we’ve set other priorities, or don’t mobilize the resources, or undervalue the importance of religious formation – we set a stumbling block before our children. As we have seen, the consequences of this neglect are calamitous for both the churches and the children that we know and love.

*Fr. Paulson*



## UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Aug. 28	Mon.	9:00am	Rafaela Leon, Healing
Aug. 29	Tues.	9:00am	Michael Murphy † Donald Wijekoon † Pewee Abasolo †
Aug. 30	Wed.	9:00am	Cecelia Quyen Nguyen George Viani †
Aug. 31	Thurs.	9:00am	Spencer Swan
Sept. 1	Fri.	9:00am	Cecelia Quyen Nguyen Julie Pacis † Marie Del Rosario
Sept. 2	Sat.	9:00am	Myrna Delos Reyes †
Sept. 2	Sat.	4:00pm	Anatolia Morata † Milaria Morata † Paz Rubio † Teoto Morata † Mary Ann Reyes
Sept. 3	Sun.	7:30am	Damiano Sarafini † Michelina Serafini † Jack Cardoza †
Sept. 3	Sun.	9:00am	Michael O'Neill † Hanna O'Neill † Maureen O'Neill † Jenna Betti † Duncan Reeves †
Sept. 3	Sun.	10:30am	Virgil A. Lawrence † Rosina Biancanillo † Melchor Buenviaje †
Sept. 3	Sun.	4:00pm	

## UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Aug. 26	Sat.	5:00pm	St. Stephen Parishioners
Aug. 27	Sun.	9:30am	Yvette Cormier †
Aug. 28	Mon.	8:00am	Rosemary Koepke, Healing
Aug. 29	Tues.	8:00am	
Aug. 30	Weds.	8:00am	
Aug. 31	Thur.	8:00am	
Sept. 1	Fri.	8:00am	
Sept. 2	Sat.	5:00pm	St. Stephen Parishioners
Sept. 3	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †

*Dear Parishioners of CTK-Saint Stephen's.*

The Saint Stephen's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society extends a heartfelt THANK YOU to all individuals who donated items to the recent "Baby Shower" benefitting the Hillcrest Congregational Church Layette Program. Your generosity was BOTH touching and overwhelming. Over 400 items of new baby clothing were donated as well as \$40 in cash, baby wipes, and other incidentals used in our layettes. Additionally, the gently used clothing items were usable.

The handmade quilts, hand knit baby blankets and hats and diaper bags were clearly made with skill and love.

We are grateful for the support to the Hillcrest Congregational Layette program shown by Saint Stephen's Parishioners.

In Gratitude,

*Saint Stephen's St. Vincent de Paul Conference and Hillcrest Congregational Church Layette Team*





Scan the QR  
Code to RSVP

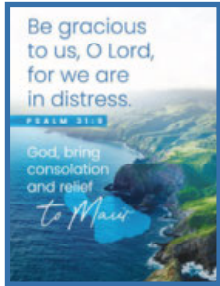
**You're Invited to our First Annual CTK-St. Stephen Parish Picnic  
For the Entire Family!**

**Sunday, September 17th - 1pm to 3pm**

**The picnic will be on the Large Lawn at CTK**

**BBQ Food, Fun, and Yard Games!**

**The cost is Free! But please rsvp at [ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org),  
call the CTK office or scan the QR Code.**



**Our Special Second Collection this  
weekend - August 26 and 27**

Funds will go to Catholic Charities in  
Hawaii to help with  
relief efforts in Maui.

Thank you for your generosity!

**Welcome for our Confirmation Candidates**

**First session: September 10th!**



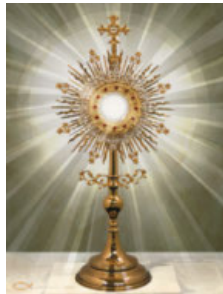
**Join us at the 4:00 PM Youth Mass  
Sunday, September 10th**

**As we welcome and bless this year's CTK  
- St. Stephen Confirmation Candidates.**

**Limited openings still AVAILABLE**

**Register online at [ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org)**

**Questions? Contact Mike Aliscad at [maliscad@ctkph.org](mailto:maliscad@ctkph.org)**



**CTK First Friday**

**This Friday, September 1st is our  
Monthly First Friday Exposition of  
the Blessed Sacrament**

Exposition: 5pm to 6pm  
This will be time for quiet prayer.  
Mass: 6pm in the church

**Register Today!**



**Faith Formation Registration**

**For the School Year 2023-2024**

**Registration is open for  
Kindergarten to 6th grade**

Please visit our website at [ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org) to register.

**Registration deadline is September 7**



**Join the CTK Family Choir!**

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday  
at CTK, singing is a family  
affair! Last year, we  
launched a Family Choir at  
our 9:00 mass, and we'd love to invite more families to  
join in the fun.

The Family Choir is open to children of all ages and  
their families (children must come with at least one  
adult), and is focused on familiar and learnable music.  
No formal musical training is necessary - just a love of  
music and the ability to either attend a bi-weekly re-  
hearsal or learn music at home.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up,  
please e-mail Jennifer Bennett at:  
[jenniferbennett1011@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferbennett1011@gmail.com). Thanks and hope to  
see you in the choir loft this fall!

**CTK Eucharistic Minister Training**

**Monday, September 11**



Would you like to participate in  
parish ministry without an extra  
time commitment? Join our minis-  
ters of the Eucharist – by helping  
to distribute Holy Communion dur-  
ing the weekend Mass of your  
choice. What a privilege it is to serve God and the com-  
munity in this way!

**Eucharistic Minister training on Monday, September 11,  
7:00 pm in the Church** with a greeting from Fr. Paulson  
and an introduction to the Eucharist by Sr. Dominic. Con-  
tact Kieran Chan, [kierankc@pacbell.net](mailto:kierankc@pacbell.net) with questions.

### Can you volunteer one hour a week?

## VOLUNTEER



We are still in need of ministers to go to local care facilities/assisted living facilities to bring Communion to the Catholic residents. If you have questions or are interested to serve in this ministry ~ please contact Sr. Dominic Marie at

[sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com](mailto:sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com) or 925-246-1122

## Adult Faith Formation

### Join us for a deeper look at the Gospel of Mark with Fr. Jose, PhD. Professor of Sacred Scripture

Mark presents the urgency with which Jesus ushers in God's kingdom. In the process, he organizes the 12 apostles to take forward his mission. Mark presents 7 phases in discipling:



**Phase 1** = the disciples are called

**Phase 2** = the disciples are chosen

**Phase 3** = the disciples are sent forth

**Phase 4** = the disciples return to Jesus

**Phase 5** = the identity of Jesus is revealed and an ongoing formation follows

**Phase 6** = the disciples journey to Jerusalem and they falter, they flee

**Phase 7** = the disciples return to Galilee and they are rehabilitated and sent forth

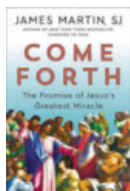
**St. Stephen Church - Chapel**

Thursday mornings at 10:00am

**CTK Ministry Center Chapel**

Thursday evenings at 6:30pm

**A discussion of Fr. James Martin's new book,  
"Come Forth: The Promise of Jesus's Greatest Miracle",  
will begin on Monday, September 18, at  
10:30 am in the CTK Ministry Chapel.**



The Lazarus story will be divided into 4 sections for discussions over 4 Mondays, with a final discussion of the entire book on October 16. Join us for deeper weekly discussions or for an overview on October 16. The book is available on Amazon and Thriftbooks, and as an ebook.



### "Wonderful Women of the Word"

**Mondays: September 18 - November 6**

**7:00-8:30 pm - CTK Parish Hall**

Kathy Roberts will present an eight-week study centered on some of the wonderful, wise, and even wicked women of the Scriptures. The format will include questions, discussion, and teaching.

Register at [ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org) or by scanning the QR code

## CTK STAFF CONTACTS

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925-274-1341

**Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich**

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# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open." (Is 22:22)

### Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

### Second Reading:

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)

### Gospel:

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 16:18-19)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Who do you say that I am?" Let our whole lives be the answer, given not in words, but in action. If the world looked at your life, your decisions, your words, and your deeds, would they conclude that you are a person who believes Christ is the son of the living God?

## Observances for the week of August 27, 2023

**Sunday:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**Tuesday:** The Passion of St. John the Baptist

**Next Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

Despite being forced into marriage at 16, Venerable Teresa Fardella de Blasi still pursued her heart's desire to serve the poor wherever she lived with her husband. Originally from New York, she founded and eventually joined the Poor Daughters of the Crowned Virgin in Italy.

## Prayer

O loving Jesus, please grant that Your servant, Venerable Teresa Fardella de Blasi, who worked selflessly for poor and homeless children and adolescents, may, through the intercession of Mary Queen of Heaven, be glorified by visible signs and miracles; so that for Your glory and salvation of souls, she may, by Your power, be declared Blessed. Amen.

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