

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

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

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

January 15, 2023

*Now I have
seen and
testified that
he is the*

Son of God.

John 1:34

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Mass Monday-Saturday

9am (Also Livestreamed)

Thursday

5:40pm Rosary, 6pm Mass
(Also Livestreamed)

Every First Friday

5pm to 6pm Exposition
6pm Mass

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday

4pm Vigil

(Also Livestreamed)

Sunday

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm
(10:30am – Also Livestreamed)

St. Stephen Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 9:30am

Private Confessions

Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm
In the church

Drive-Thru Communion

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

Livestream Links

Can be found at ctkph.org

“TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

Dear Friends,

On Tuesday, January 10, Bishop Barber together with our Vicar General consulted with the Pastoral Councils of St. Stephen and CTK with regard to the merging of two parishes. Collaboration among the two communities calls for a new model of leadership that takes what is best in each of them, and works together to form intentional disciples. Let us continue to pray that both communities will grow and flourish in the years to come.



The **One Parish, Two Worship Sites** brings many blessings. One of the blessings is our ability to attend masses at any of the two beautiful churches and the multiple options with regard to timing. Today I want to highlight our daily masses. St. Stephen offers mass at 8 am in a beautiful chapel in an intimate setting. The Mass is early enough for those who want to leave for work by 8.25am. CTK offers daily Mass at 9.00am. While Mass on Sundays and holy days are an important ingredient of a person's growth in holiness, that shouldn't dissuade someone from attending daily Mass. In fact, when people get more seriously focused on their faith, daily Mass is one of the best ways for them to intensify their spiritual growth.

The Mass is the prayer of the Church par excellence, meaning, there is no greater prayer other than the holy sacrifice of the Mass. From the opening prayer to the closing prayer, the Mass is one continual offering to God the Father by making present the passion of his Son. Almost all of the prayers are addressed exclusively to the Father. We, as a community of believers, participate in this awesome drama that is relived every time the Mass is offered. We are not merely spectators but active participants in the Lord's passion.

We attend Mass because it's our loving response to the God who has loved us first. It is an active choice of the will to give of our time, treasure, and talent – knowing full well it will never amount to the sacrifice endured by our Savior. The Eucharist is Jesus' great gift to us, and the fulfillment of His promise to be with us always until the end of time. It is a central part of God's saving plan of infinite love for us. So I would like to invite more of you to consider attending mass daily, so that we can truly become a Eucharistic community.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta often spoke about how precious each Mass is. Frequently she would instruct newly ordained priests to "celebrate each Mass as if it is your first Mass, your last Mass and your only Mass." In other words, she implored priests never to take the celebration of the Mass for granted and let it become routine. The Body and Blood of Christ are given to us daily so that we ourselves will be transformed in our turn into Christ.

**CELEBRATE CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK 2023**
January 29 - February 3

Christ the King Catholic School offers a Christ-centered education that is academically excellent and empowers students to reach their full potential – spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and morally. We have an amazing leadership Team with Mr. Joe Silveira as our principal and a team of selfless and dedicated teachers and faculty. I am very proud of our School. On January 29th, Sunday at the 9.00am Mass

we will be celebrating our school with parents, teachers and students present. This is the kick-off to discover CTK Catholic School and I can't think of a better way to introduce new families to our wonderful school community. After mass attend the school's Open House, which is open to current families as well as new and prospective families. You will get a real sense of how great our school really is! Meet current students and their families, visit classrooms, meet our teachers and administration. Learn more about what is unique about Catholic Education and ask questions. I am looking forward to celebrating Mass and blessing our school community.

Fr. Paulson

CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 16	Mon.	9am	Jason Lucas †
Jan. 17	Tues.	9am	Bill Bradley
Jan. 18	Wed.	9am	Humberto Augustine
Jan. 19	Thurs.	9am	Frank O'Neill †
Jan. 20	Fri.	9am	Albert & Maxine Higgins †
Jan. 21	Sat.	9am	Marlene Moeller †
Jan 21 & Jan 22	Week- end	All Masses	Vincent Coutinho † Jack Cardoza † Reginaldo Cauilan † Joshua Ruelas † Jaime Laico † Patrick White † Terri White † Jason Lucas † Tran Ho Phan †

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Our parish office will be closed on Monday,
January 16
in observance of the
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

"DARKNESS CANNOT
DRIVE OUT DARKNESS;
ONLY LIGHT CAN DO
THAT. HATE CANNOT
DRIVE OUT HATE; ONLY
LOVE CAN DO THAT."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ST. STEPHEN CORNER "To Live and to Love in Christ"

St. Stephen Church - Mass Times

Monday - Friday - 8am

Saturday - 5pm and Sunday - 9:30am



SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 14	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen Parishioners
Jan. 15	Sun.	9:30am	Carl Nagel †
Jan. 21	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen/CTK Priests
Jan. 22	Sun.	9:30am	Saint Stephen Parishioners

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

We had a wonderful response to both setting up for Christmas and then taking everything down afterwards. I would like to thank everybody that helped and made both processes go both quickly and smoothly.

There are a number of available spots for your Mass Intentions, including prime weekend spots. Get your requests in now to claim your preferred dates.

Monday our office will be closed for the MLK Holiday.

The following thank you is from Hillcrest's Layette Team; as always, you stepped up and filled the need:

To the St. Stephen Parishioners: The Layette Team of Hillcrest Congregation Church wants to thank each and every person who participated in the generous response to the holiday Giving Tree benefiting Hillcrest Congregation Layette Program. A total of 90 gift tags were put on the tree. We received 42 outfits for boys, 20 outfits for girls, 35 onesies, 18 sleep and plays, 2 crib sheets, 2 boxes of wipes, 20 stuffed animals and a few board books along with 12 pairs of socks and a few blankets. WE ARE ALL OVERWHELMED WITH YOUR GENEROSITY. Our inventory was severely depleted in mid 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 2023. In Gratitude, The Layette Team at Hillcrest Congregation Church (Cheryl, Jan, Sharon and Phyllis)

Office hours - Monday & Wednesday 11am-2pm.



**Pope Francis' New Documentary on
Care for Creation
Thursday, January 19 at 7pm
CTK's Parish Hall/ The cost is free**

Join us on Thursday as we watch this amazing documentary. The Letter, a new full-length film focused on global solidarity and care for creation tells the story of Laudato Si' and how climate change is affecting the Earth and all those who inhabit it. The film follows four individuals from across the globe and brings together their unique experiences of the ecological crisis. The film was produced in collaboration with the Laudato Si' Movement and in partnership with the Vatican and calls all people to a new and profound awareness of what is happening to our common home.



**Christ the King's
St. Vincent De Paul
Sock Drive**

New socks for homeless men and women are needed for the homeless distribution bags. (only socks for adults/ not children) A bin is located in front of the church until Monday, January 30th where you can donate socks.



2023 Calendars are Here!

Please pick up your calendar today in the back of the church.

Or come by the parish office
Mon. - Fri. 9am to 5pm.



2023 Track Season

2nd - 8th Graders

Signup dates are here!

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 6 - 7 pm &

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6 - 7 pm,

Both sign up dates are in CTK's Parish Hall

<http://www.cktrack.org/>



**Do you feel called to share
God's word through song?**

We are seeking strong and spirit-filled vocal leaders to join our Cantor ministry. Cantor responsibilities include proclaiming the Responsorial psalm and other responses and acclamations as needed, announcing hymns at various parts of the Mass, and occasionally leading hymns solo when the choir is not present.

If you'd like to learn more about cantoring and/or request an audition, please contact Jennifer Bennett at jenniferbennett1011@gmail.com. We'd love to add your voice to our vibrant parish music ministry!



Save the Date!

We are BACK!
Come join us for the 2023 CTK
CYO Crab Feed!
March 11, 2023



**Do you receive our Weekly
Newsletter, by email
"Staying Connected?"**

Once a week on Wednesday,
it is emailed out.

Go to ctkph.org today to sign up!

Social Justice Collection - Today

**This year's social justice collection will be donated to
two amazing charities:**

Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong &
Homes of Hope India





**Italian Catholic Federation Meeting
Sunday, January 15 at 1pm/Parish Hall**

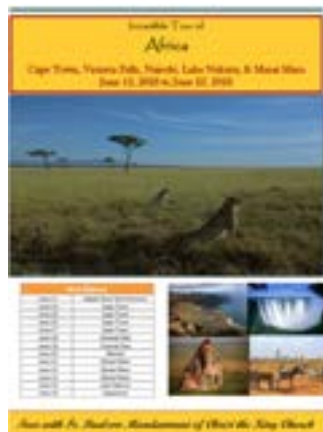
Our ICF branch will have our first meeting of the new year on Sunday afternoon, January 15 at 1 pm in the CTK parish hall. All interested in finding out more about the Italian Catholic Federation are welcome to come to our meeting. You don't have to be Italian to join. The ICF is a Catholic organization that promotes family, service and fellowship. For more information call or email Diana Mackinson: dijoed@comcast.net or 925-519-4711.



**Parishioners are cordially invited to join again this year:
Saturday, January 21**

The walk begins at the Civic Center Plaza at 12:30pm and after the Rally, will proceed down Market Street to Justin Herman Plaza.

For more information please visit www.WalkforLifeWC.com
This is America's second largest pro-life event.



Tour with Fr. Paulson to Africa

Join Fr. Paulson on an incredible tour of Africa (Cape Town, Victoria Falls, Nairobi, Lake Nakuru and Masai Mara National Park). There is an additional package of Madagascar for those who want to continue for another 7 days. The trip will take place in June, 2023. For more information please contact the Parish Office at 925-682-2486.



CTK STAFF CONTACTS

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January

15 2023

Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time



BAPTISM

As we the Church begin Ordinary Time, we reflect upon the Baptism of Jesus, and its significance in our own lives and communities. The Gospel of John does not narrate the Baptism like the other Gospels. Instead, John the Baptist gives testimony, emphasizing that Jesus has received the Holy Spirit. Jesus will go on to baptize with this same Spirit, as he did immediately after his resurrection (John 20). What might this mean for us, who share in this same Baptism? Today's reading from Isaiah suggests that we are to be a "light to the nations," a people proclaiming and sharing God's love. Paul's greeting to the church in Corinth reminds us that we are simultaneously God's sanctified people and yet continually called to become holy. Baptism begins our journey, where we know the Spirit dwells within, and the same Spirit summons us to full maturity in Christ.

LAMB OF GOD

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist names Jesus as the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This name "Lamb of God" is rich in meaning, and can be interpreted in various ways. From the Old Testament, it evokes the lamb of Passover, linked to God's rescue of the Hebrew people from Egypt. It is also an image of God's faithful servant, as in Isaiah 53 as a "lamb led to slaughter."

We can notice that here Jesus is the Lamb "of God." He is God's own Lamb, belonging to God. Jesus is not a cultic sacrifice to God, or a demand from God. John is presenting a traditional image in a new way. The Lamb "takes away" our sin, both exposing the reality of our sin to us (which we often hide from ourselves), and also forgiving us our sin. This same Lamb is filled with the Holy Spirit, and shares this Spirit to heal our troubled hearts.

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Today's first reading is taken from the second of four "Servant Songs" in Isaiah. This Song was written around the time that the people of Israel were near release from their exile in Babylon. Israel, and also the author, had been traumatized by their separation from Jerusalem and their seeming abandonment by God.

At this time of great vulnerability and despair, God gives them consolation and affirmation. God gives the exiles a vote of confidence and an expansion of vision. God will heal their hearts, and give them new energy to be "a light to the nations." Their purpose is not just survival, but to be the means by which God will bring the whole world into communion and harmony with God. For us today, when sometimes our parishes and communities face challenges of shrinkage and survival, perhaps God may similarly energize us, and remind us of the dignity and breadth of our mission.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

NOW I HAVE SEEN AND TESTIFIED THAT
HE IS THE SON OF GOD.

JOHN 1:34

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