

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

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WATCH THEREFORE;
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN
THE LORD OF THE HOUSE IS COMING,
WHETHER IN THE EVENING, OR AT MIDNIGHT,
OR AT COCKCROW, OR IN THE MORNING.

MARK 13:35



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 29, 2020



SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 28 5:00 pm Barbara Woodby †
Nov. 29 9:30 am Jim Vranesh †
Nov. 30 9 am Siuta Moala †
Dec. 1 9 am Kathleen Flemming †
Dec. 5 5 pm John Patrick Connolly †
Dec. 6 9:30 am Jeanie McGraw †

**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

Nov. 30 9 am Doug Cook †
Dec. 1 9 am José Antonio Leitao †
Dec. 2 9 am Juvenal Figuera †
Dec. 3 9 am Jeremias & Salome Romana †
Dec. 4 9 am Paul Sbragia & J.P. Sbragia-Zoricic †
Arturo Primitiva † &
Remedios Vallejo †

Saturday, December 5 & Sunday, December 6

Mary Taggart †
Melissa Abreu - healing
Frank MacNamara †
Cecilia Nguyen †
CTK & SS Parishioners
Ann McKilip †
Mariano Cauilan †
Michael Tu Troung †

Dear Parishioners,

I've decided it's time for me to resurrect—at least metaphorically--a **special Advent tradition** that my family followed for many years when I was growing up. You see, each year, Mom placed our family creche in the center of our Advent wreath, and in the center of that, Dad placed the tiny crib he had fashioned. At the start of each Advent, one of us kids were tasked with hiding the Baby Jesus until Christmas morning when the figurine would be retrieved from its hiding spot and placed in the crib. Then, we would sing Happy Birthday to Jesus before we opened presents.

However, prior to the day of Jesus' arrival, our parents had taught us that the crib was very hard, and that if we wanted Baby Jesus to have a more comfortable bed, there was just one way to do it! In keeping with our Advent tradition, we placed a pile of straw next to the crib. Then, during each day of Advent, when any of us felt we had done a good deed, we would privately add a piece of straw to the crib. Conversely, if we felt we had failed or missed an opportunity to be the best version of ourselves, we quietly removed a straw from the crib. Our hope was always that on Christmas morning, the crib would be ready--full of the straw of our good deeds, so Baby Jesus would have a soft bed on which to 'lay his sweet head.'

For me, this simple family tradition, is reminiscent of key themes in this week's readings. The first reading from the prophet Isaiah expresses hope that God "might meet us doing right...being mindful of God and His ways," and Paul's letter encourages the Corinthians to not be "lacking in any spiritual gift." These readings are followed by Jesus' exhortation in Mark's Gospel to "watch" and "be alert." These ideas sum up what our family's Advent tradition was about. Our goal was to be "alert" for opportunities to share our "spiritual gifts" of good deeds, ever "mindful" that we wanted the crib of our hearts to be full and complete upon Jesus' arrival.

So, what if we choose to feather Jesus' crib with the straws of our love this Advent? What if, in response to this crucible that we call '2020'—a year marked by suffering, discord, and death that only an unprecedented pandemic, over-the-top natural disasters, racial injustice, and contentious elections could bring--What if, in response to all that, we choose selfless love?

Of course, this involves more than just rising above the devastation and ugliness of this year--as commendable as that would be. It also involves being "alert" and "mindful of Him," "doing right," so we are not "lacking in any spiritual gift." It means not allowing the good of the season--the roasting of chestnuts and the flurry of family fun—to supplant what's essential—selfless, loving acts of corporal and spiritual mercy. These help us grow in love of God and others and make the world a better place (Yes, I had to look these up because I couldn't remember them all). So, as intent as we may be to shop for gifts, let's remember to be a gift of Jesus' generosity and joy. As delightful as it is to 'deck the halls with boughs of holly,' let's aim to 'deck our souls with mercy and forgiveness.' As much as we seek the flicker of Christmas lights, let's choose to be a light of Christ's peace for others...Let's choose the better part. Amen?

Julie Ashmore

First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:1, 2-7

The Israelites had just returned from exile and were suffering economic hardship and persecution. The prophet expresses their expectation that God will enter human history in a dramatic way and help them. At the end of this reading, we will hear a familiar image.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In the letter-writing style popular in Paul's day, writers would begin by extending greetings and then thank the gods for the blessings *they themselves* had received. But Paul begins his first letter to the Corinthians by thanking God for the blessings his *Corinthian converts* have received. (It may help to know that the phrase "day of the Lord" refers to Jesus coming again in his glory.)

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



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

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

Friday, December 4 is our First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. After the morning mass, we will expose the Blessed Sacrament from 9:30 am to 11 am in our chapel on Facebook Live. This will be a time for prayer and meditation in the quiet of your own home. We will have our First Friday Mass at 7:30 pm live streamed only.

Sunday, Dec. 6 our evening mass will be at 4 pm (instead of 6 pm) due to darkness. This is a permanent change until further notice.

Christmas Schedule

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

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

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

Christmas Day Masses: 9 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm (bi-lingual mass) with drive -thru communion at 11:30 am to 12:00 pm.

St. Stephen Updates

The **2nd collection this Sunday will be our 5th Sunday St. Vincent de Paul Collection.** With all 2nd collections, if not using an envelope please make sure your check is clearly marked in the subject line. Or better yet, take advantage of the on-line giving.

Our **St. Stephen Zoom Scripture Study** meets one final time this Monday, Nov. 30 at 10:00 am before taking a break during December. The group will start up again in January.

We still have a few **Advent Blue Books** available if you are interested in picking one up for daily Advent meditations. If you have not yet picked up your donation envelopes for 2021, please do so after Mass on Sunday. Otherwise, contact the St. Stephen office to arrange an alternate way to receive them.

There are still a few weekday spaces available in December for Mass **prayer intentions.** Call or email the St. Stephen office now to arrange an intention for December - or to get a jump on 2021 spaces.

Stay tuned for information about our **Advent Prayer Day of Reflection** scheduled for December 3! Details will be in next week's Staying Connected email.

Advent-Lent Missals are available after mass this weekend from the ushers, or available at the parish office in the ministry center, M-F 9 am to 1 pm. The Missals will run from November 29, 2020 to March 27, 2021.

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).



Calling All Women!
Magnificat SOTI, a Ministry for Catholic Women
invite all to a ZOOM Event!
Saturday, December 5th - 9:30 am

Please join us for a morning of Praise, Prayer, and Inspiration from the coziness of your own home!

Our speaker Dr. Cynthia Hunt will share with us her story of how her life as a physician, international speaker, and accomplished pianist has been transfigured through the continued love and mercy of our Lord. Cynthia has served the Church for the last 12 years in the Exorcist and Deliverance Ministry as a psychiatric consultant and is a secular Carmelite. She is a wife and the mother of three children.

For more information: <https://magnificat-ministry.net/ca-walnut-creekhe>

Email Magnificatsotirsvp@gmail.com for reservations or call Kim Sullivan at 925-683-8220 for any questions.

This weekend the **second collection** is for our **St. Vincent de Paul Ministry here at Christ the King**. Thank you for your continued support.



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.

- Easy card registration on your phone
- Option to make your gifts recurring

To give, text the dollar amount to
833-361-4156

You can also scan this QR code on your phone to connect with our donation site. Thank you for your continued generosity!



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