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Christ the King - Saint Stephen

Christ the King-St. Stephen Catholic Church

Christ the King | 195A Brandon Road | Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
St. Stephen | 1101 Keaveny Court | Walnut Creek, CA 94597

NOVEMBER 15, 2026 | THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Welcome!

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses -CTK

Saturday | 4pm Vigil also livestreamed
Sunday | 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm
10:30am Mass is also livestreamed

Weekend Masses -St. Stephen

Saturday | 5pm Vigil
Sunday | 9:30am

9am Daily Mass Schedule

St. Stephen
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Christ the King
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

Confession

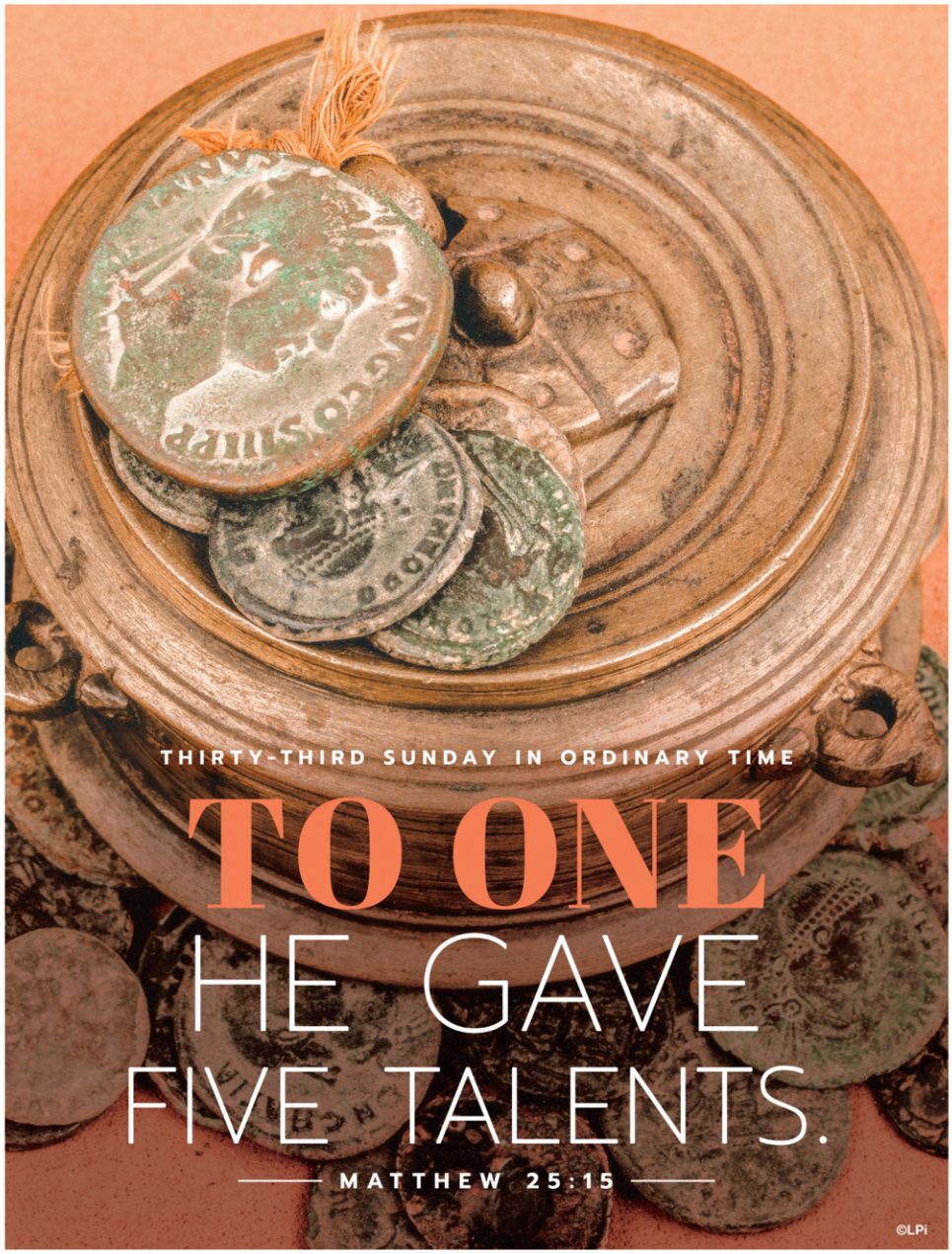
Christ the King | Saturday 3pm-3:30pm
St. Stephen | Saturday 4:30pm
Or | By Appointment

GET IN TOUCH

Christ the King | 925-682-2486
Office Hours Mon. - Fri. 9am to 5pm
ctkph.org
St. Stephen | 925-274-1341
Office Hours Mon. & Weds. 11am -2pm
ctkph.org

DONATE ONLINE

Donating online is easy! Just aim your phone camera at the QR Code and follow the link. Thank you!



Our Mission Statements

To Hear the Gospel and Make A Differnce
To Live and Love In Christ

Before the Last Leaf Falls

Dear Friends,

There is something beautiful and deeply moving about autumn. Trees that were full of life and color just a few weeks ago are slowly becoming bare. Some leaves cling stubbornly to their branches, while others surrender gracefully to the wind. And before long, the last leaf will fall.

I sometimes wonder what a tree would say if it could speak. Would it be frightened to lose its leaves? Would it desperately try to hold on? Or would it simply trust that what appears to be an ending is part of the mystery of life?

Nature seems to understand something we human beings struggle to accept: to live fully, we must also learn to let go. We spend much of our lives holding on—to people, places, possessions, memories, and sometimes even hurts that should have been released long ago.

Autumn teaches us something else. ***The tree that loses its leaves is not dead. It is preparing for another season.*** Beneath its bare branches, life continues quietly. What looks like an ending may also be preparation for renewal.

The prophet Isaiah offers us an even more powerful image: ***"A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse"*** (Isaiah 11:1). Imagine that—a stump! A tree cut down, stripped of its branches, apparently lifeless. Yet from that very stump, a tiny green shoot emerges. What everyone thought was dead still held the promise of life. Where we see a dead end, God sees the possibility of a new beginning. A broken relationship, a shattered dream, a painful loss, a situation that seems beyond repair—none is beyond God's power to bring forth new life.

Jesus takes this mystery a step further. He tells us: ***"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit"*** (John 12:24). Jesus is not simply speaking about physical death. He is inviting us to die to ourselves—our pride, our selfishness, our resentments, our need to control everything—so that something new can be born within us. Sometimes a relationship can come alive only when our pride dies. Forgiveness becomes possible when resentment dies. Peace begins when we let go of the need to have the last word. ***We cannot rise to new life while stubbornly clinging to everything that keeps us from living it.*** This is the paradox of the Gospel: sometimes we must lose something within ourselves to discover something far greater.

So, before the last leaf falls this autumn, let us ask ourselves: Is there someone I need to forgive? Someone I need to thank? A relationship I need to repair? A word of love I have been meaning to say? What within me needs to die so that something better can come alive?

We cannot stop the leaves from falling,
but we can choose how beautifully we live before they do.

And when the last leaf finally falls, may we trust the God who brings a new shoot from an old stump, who brings hope to seemingly hopeless situations, and who promises that beyond every winter there is a spring, and beyond death there is life.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Paulson

MASS INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 16
9:00am | Mandio Vas Concelos ✝
9:00am | Virginia Fundano ✝
9:00am | Nicholas Tabou Dal ✝
9:00am | Patricia Taboada
9:00am | Helen Mary Stein

Tuesday, November 17
9:00am |Richard Noel De La Fuente✝
9:00am | Tayte Ross ✝
9:00am | Alisha Iovenitti ✝
9:00am | Gerard Dooher

Wednesday, November 18
9am | James Edward Richie ✝

Thursday, November 19
9:00am | Violet de Borja ✝

Friday, November 20
9:00am | Gladys Rufinelli ✝
9:00am | Kevin Vesley

Saturday, November 21
9:00am | Violet de Borja ✝
9:00am | Robin Gabriel Ramirez

Saturday, November 21
4:00pm | Amy Decena ✝
4:00pm | Jim Scott ✝
4:00pm | Donald Wijekoon ✝
4:00pm | Corazon Kwek ✝
4:00pm | Alisha Iovenetti ✝
5:00pm | (SS) Ralph Wade ✝

Sunday, November 22
7:30am | Jack Cardoza ✝
7:30am | Renato Alfonso ✝
7:30am | Norman & Connie Deam ✝
9:00am | Joseph Vinh Lam ✝
9:30am | (SS) Roselle Sevilla
10:30am | The Family of Steve Williams ✝
10:30am | Joan Irene Butterfield ✝
4:00pm | Elizabeth Sinh Nguyen ✝
4:00pm | Joseph Go-Alcantara ✝



NEED PRAYER?

Confidential Prayer requests can be sent to:
prayerline@ctkph.org

NEWS AND EVENTS



Please join us in supporting a new initiative in our diocese, which will provide grants to worthwhile organizations in the Bay Area that directly address the root causes of poverty here and that are true to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

November 15 - Diocese Justice & Hope Collection

November 22 - Hungry & Homelsss

November 29 - St. Vincent de Paul

December 6 - Catholic Education



Book of Remembrance

In front of the church at CTK (near the Baptism Font) we have our Book of Remembrance.

You are invited to write in it the names of your deceased loved ones.

NEWS & EVENTS



Join us next weekend at CTK for the Feast of Christ the King!

Bishop Michael Barber will join us at the 10:30am Mass and officially bring our Jubilee Year to a close.

This will be a beautiful opportunity to celebrate 75 years of Christ the King and 60 years of St. Stephen with hearts overflowing with gratitude!

Reception to follow on the patio.



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 26 at 9:00 am

Christ the King Church

Will you and your family be attending Mass on Thanksgiving Day?

We are looking for families who would bring forward a symbol in the offertory procession. All will be prepared for you. Please consider this simple way to participate in a meaningful liturgy in our Jubilee Year!

Contact Sr. Dominic Marie at
srdominic@ctkph.org

Join our own Fr. Lee in a Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines in Portugal, Spain and France

September 12-23, 2027

For a brochure and details contact:
olga@poblete.org or 510-502-2437



Children can join us for our Children's Liturgy of the Word

at the 9am Mass on Sunday, November 22

Ages 4 to 4th Grade
No Registration Necessary

NEWS & EVENTS

Save the Date

Healing Mass

Saturday, December 5
10:30am

St. Stephen Church

Participants Needed

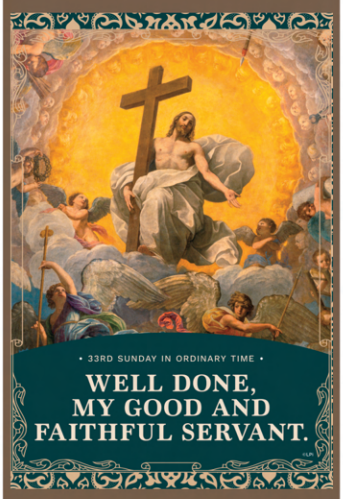
Feast of Christ the King

November 21–22

We are looking for parishioners—individuals, couples or families—who would like to carry a banner in the opening procession for the great feast of Christ the King.

If you are interested, please contact
Sr. Dominic Marie
srdominic@ctkph.org

We need people at every Mass.
Please consider participating in our patronal feast!





Faithfulness to the Suffering Messiah:

Reading the Gospel of Mark Today

Join us for our last remaining class.

As we prepare for a year of listening to Mark every Sunday at Mass, exploring his insights on Christology (who is Jesus?) and Discipleship (what does it mean to follow Jesus?).

Bringing your Bible is encouraged.

All are welcome!

CLASS DATE & TIME

Tues, November 17
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Classes will be livestreamed

Christ the King Church



Speaker: **Zach Flanagin**
Professor of Theology & Religious Studies at Saint Mary's College (23 years), and director of the Bishop John S. Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture, and Action.



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for Hungry and Homeless

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"I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35

Learn more: **loavesfishescc.org** | **nourishinglivescampaign.org**

CTK GRIEF GROUP

Friendsgiving

Monday, November 23rd
12:00 Noon
Christ the King • Parish Hall

A Thanksgiving Potluck
Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish.
Come for fellowship, food, and fun!
Contact: Donna Bradshaw 510-381-3615

Join the Simbang Gabi Choir!

Celebrate the beauty and joy of the Simbang Gabi tradition through music! We invite all parishioners who love to sing to join our Simbang Gabi Choir as we prepare for this beautiful Filipino tradition.

Practices:
Dec. 2 & 10, 2026 * 7:00–9:00 PM * CTK Chapel

Whether you are an experienced singer or simply have a desire to share your gifts in worship, we would love to have you join us.

Interested? Email Deacon Nelson at ngonzales@ctkph.org

Sewing Ministry

Wednesday, November 18
9:00 am–Noon • CTK Parish Hall

Cutting and ironing, serging and sewing,
Dresses and shorts to children in need they are going. Come one and come all from 9:00 to noon,
We hope to see you soon!

Wednesday, November 18th we'll meet in
CTK's parish hall,
A great way to spend a day in fall.

Traveling to places where clothes you might take?
Please let one of our lovely Pams know,
Plans with you they will make.

New cotton fabric we happily take,
Beautiful dresses and handsome shorts it soon will create.

New members please come and join in the fun,
We sew during wind, pouring rain or sun.

Pambeil@yahoo.com
pdeber@hotmail.com



CTK STAFF CONTACTS

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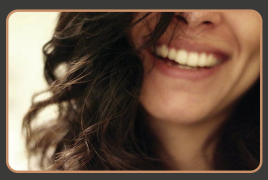
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