



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

February 4, 2024



5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

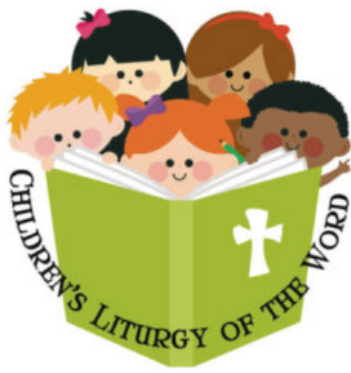
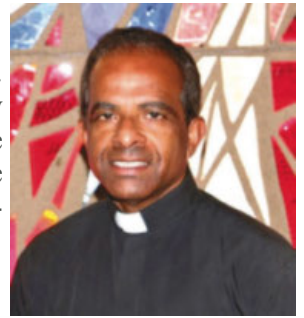
He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." - Mk 1:38

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



Dear Friends,

Our parish has been offering Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) for many years. During the pandemic (or prior to the pandemic) the program was dropped. I am happy to state that starting the second week of Lent, February 25th we will be restarting the program with a new set of teachers and volunteers. Heidi Nuti, from one of our active families at the parish and school will head the program with volunteers. I am so grateful to the many parishioners who signed up to help with CLOW.



The presider at the Mass invites the children to step forward towards the sanctuary after the opening prayer. He addresses them, and sends them with a blessing. Then, the CLOW leaders take the children to a special space prepared for them.

These sessions are not faith formation classes, arts-and-crafts activities, or babysitting during Mass. Rather, the children hear the same scripture readings as adults – but at their own age level. One benefit of CLOW is that, even when faith formation sessions end for the year, catechesis can continue during summer months.

The children return to the church and rejoin their families after the Prayers of the Faithful. One of the past teachers shared with me, “When I lead CLOW, I am amazed at the openness, the love, and the questions that the children bring, I absolutely adore sharing the word of God with children, and I especially like when the children pray for their family and friends.”

Liturgical Changes Beginning Ash Wednesday:

Bishop Barber has made the following changes in the Liturgy starting Ash Wednesday. For those who do not receive the Staying Connected Newsletter every week, I can make the Bishop's long letter available to you if you call the parish office. In obedience to our bishop, we shall be implementing these changes starting Ash Wednesday. I have already heard from some of you as to how you feel. I thank you for your honesty and willingness to share your sentiments.

1. All parishes are to follow a two-year program for youth preparing for Confirmation.
2. Confirmation and Baptism Sponsors should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. The Bishop wrote to us priests, “For sponsors coming from outside your parish, there is a form you may give them to have signed by their own pastor attesting they are practicing and in good standing.”
3. The Bishop has asked us to cease offering Communion Services in the parishes in the place of the Mass. Communion services to the sick may continue.
4. Only a priest or deacon with faculties may preach the homily following the Gospel at Mass. Non-ordained persons may be invited to speak following the communion prayer.
5. To kneel after the Lamb of God in order to prepare ourselves reverently for reception of Holy Eucharist. After reception of Holy Communion, each person may choose to stand, sit or kneel as they choose.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help:

We have been celebrating the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help with music at the 9.00am mass on Thursdays. Mary has blessed our community in so many ways especially during the pandemic. I would like to invite all those who can attend the Thursday Mass to come and participate. It would be so amazing to have a church full of Marian devotees. Don Bosco whose feast we celebrate on January 31st said: **“Trust in Mary and you will know what miracles are!”**

Fr. Paulson



UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Feb. 5	Mon.	9:00am	Fr. Brian Joyce † Nalatia Laurel † Roel Rivala† Emily Amalraj
Feb. 6	Tues.	9:00am	Marlene Moeller†
Feb. 7	Weds.	9:00am	Christian Anicoche † Bernel Hallera Antonio B. Posadas
Feb. 8	Thurs.	9:00am	Mario Tolentino †
Feb. 9	Fri.	9:00am	Sheila Roche
Feb. 10	Sat.	9:00am	Carlos Ricafrente † Albert Haggett †
Feb. 10	Sat.	4:00pm	Miguel Florencio † Gregg Richard Schoeller † The Moore Family
Feb. 11	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza † Eli Quichocho † Maria Quichocho †
Feb. 11	Sun.	9:00am	Jonelle Ng † Larry Cummings †
Feb. 11	Sun.	10:30am	Amy Guarino † Armando Vasquez † Rudy Abringe
Feb. 11	Sun.	4:00pm	Albert Haggett †

UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Feb. 3	Sat.	5:00pm	Blaise Russo †
Feb. 4	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †
Feb. 5	Mon.	8:00am	Nick & Pasqualina Mammola †
Feb. 10	Sat.	5:00pm	John George †
Feb. 11	Sun.	9:30am	Harold Ellis †

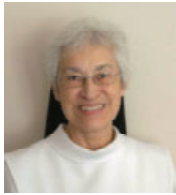
FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

There are many causes for celebrating the gifts of black Catholics today. One is simply the numbers that populate parishes across the country: the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops estimates that there are 3 million black Catholics in the U.S., and 798 predominantly African American parishes. While many black people are Baptist, the second largest religious group that black people belong to in the U.S. is the Catholic Church. There are 250 African American priests, 437 deacons, 75 men of African descent in seminary formation, 400 African American religious sisters, and 50 religious brothers. These numbers do not include missionaries from Africa who now serve in various ministries throughout the United States. Another cause for celebration is the inspiring list of black men and women whose causes for canonization are being advanced.

The historically black Xavier University of Louisiana (founded by Saint Katharine Drexel) announced that its Institute of Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) would support efforts toward the canonization of five black Catholics.



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Save the Dates! Parish Mission at CTK/St. Stephen

February 25 - February 29
"Come now, let us set things
right." *Isaiah 1:16*

(Monday through Thursday)

CTK: 9am Mass followed by reflection

St. Stephen: 6:30pm Mass followed by reflection
(repeat of morning session)

Sr. Cecilia Canales is a Dominican Sister of Mission San Jose. As well as teaching and administration ministry in our schools she has served as novice director and in Congregational leadership. She was part of the spiritual formation team and then director of human formation and the evaluation process at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo and served as Vicar for Women Religious. She most recently completed a sabbatical by volunteering with Sisters Walking with Migrants at the Kino Border Initiative. She is certified in retreat ministry and spiritual direction.



On February 5th, we remember the 5 year death anniversary of Fr. Brian Joyce.

*An excerpt from one of his 4 minute
homilies on November 4, 2001:*

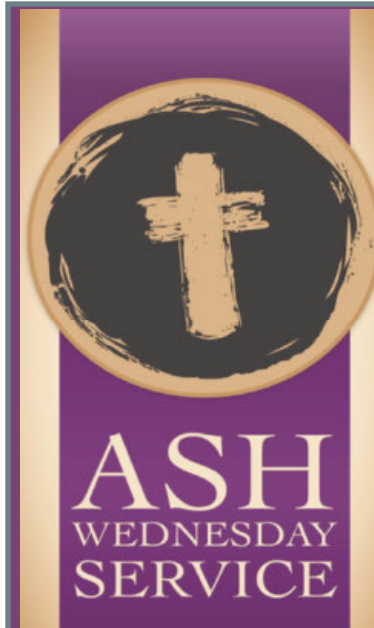
But have you noticed we Catholics still pray for the dead – why is that – I don't think it's really to get our loved ones an early pardon from purgatory or to help them escape from a divine "lock up."

-Praying for the dead is a Catholic way of saying that their life goes on;

-Praying for the dead witnesses to a communion and solidarity that we continue to gently hold on to one another even after death by faith and by prayer;

-Praying for the dead is both a human and Christian way of saying "we do not forget," "we will not forget;"

-And, finally if our day to day experience of life is any indication, whether before or after death, there is constant change, growth, ongoing dynamic blossoming – so we pray that our loved ones may continue to grow and to advance in bliss and in joy until one day, with their rough edges gone and our rough edges made smooth, **we will all meet again!**



Ash Wednesday February 14

CTK Mass Times:

7am

9:15am

12:05pm

7pm

RE Prayer Service:

4pm

St. Stephen Mass Times:

8am & 6pm



Healing Mass at St. Stephen Saturday, February 10 at 10:30am

All are welcome to join us for a parish Mass and celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Bring relatives and friends from local care facilities – those who are able to come. Questions? Sr. Dominic Marie 925-246-1122.



2023 Annual Giving Statements

Annual Giving Statements that show your contributions for the year ending 2023 were sent by email (if we have your current email address in our Realm system). These email addresses may not be the same as the one you use for our weekly newsletter.

If you did not receive an email statement, a physical statement will be sent to you via U.S. Mail. If you have any questions, please email us at office@ctkph.org.

Children's Stations of the Cross

Are you a 2nd through 8th grader who is looking for a way to grow in your faith this Lenten season? Participate in the parish Stations of the Cross!

When: Friday, March 8, 2024, Time: 6:30pm

Where: CTK Church

Who: 2nd - 8th grade boys and girls, **How:** read or sing
Please contact Lynn Guidi at lynnoguidi@gmail.com to sign up and for more information. Deadline to sign up is Mon, Feb. 26.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

60th Birthday CELEBRATION

FOR
Fr. Paulson

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024
5PM TO 8PM

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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.

Sunday, February 4th is the last day to RSVP!



CTK-CYO Crab Feed
Saturday, March 2 in 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.

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

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February Fellowship Event

Christ the King—St. Stephen Parish
Young Families Ministry

When: Saturday February 10th, 2024 at 10:30am

Where: Christ the King — Playground
(in the event of rain, we will instead meet at the Ministry Center)

Who: Young families from Christ the King—St. Stephen Parish

What: Come meet other young families from our parish! For our February event, we will enjoy a morning at the playground. We will have light snacks and drinks! We will also provide information regarding the upcoming discussion series of "The Catholic Parent" FORMED series, that the YFM will be hosting during the Lenten season. See separate flyer for more details.

In preparation for the Super Bowl, please come dressed in your favorite team's colors!



Why: Join us in fellowship with other young families from our parish

RSVP: YoungFamiliesCTK@gmail.com



Better with Friends
Better with Family
Better with Faith



Saint of the week

St. Hyacinth of Poland's devotion to the Christ in the Eucharist ignited a missionary fire that spread the Gospel across Central and Eastern Europe. He established Dominican communities all over Poland and is the patron saint of the pierogi!

Prayer for God's presence

Dear Jesus,
Reveal yourself to me! When I am alone and in darkness, fill me with your light. I want to know you, I want to experience your healing. Be with me, Lord.
Amen.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. (Jb 7:4)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! (1 Cor 9:16)

Gospel:

He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons. (Mk 1:34)

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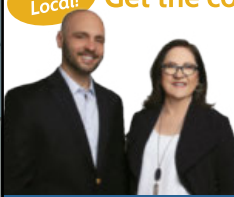
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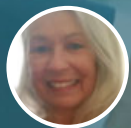


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