

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



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”
- Mt 21:9

April 2, 2023

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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,

Recently I received some very difficult news; difficult for me, for the CTK St. Vincent de Paul and for the poor. I was heartbroken and deeply saddened. The Superintendent of Schools wrote: "Bishop Barber has asked that I look into incidents at or around Christ the King Food Pantry that have, according to reports, been in proximity of school children as parents are picking up their children after school. The incidents described involve concerning behavior of food pantry patrons." And so, I was asked to suspend our St. Vincent de Paul operations at Christ the King and I have done so as of last Friday.



Over the past years, we have had folks walk onto our campus anytime of the day and behave aggressively. They are folks with mental, emotional, and other challenging issues. Last week we had two instances back-to-back. So, I understand the situation. Our children - and everyone - need to be protected. After I arrived here, I built a fence around the school, even against the wishes of some of our parishioners who said we were separating the school from the church. I did it because I do care deeply about protecting our children, not only from vagrants, but even from others who would want to disturb the school in any other way, including folks accidentally driving cars onto the lawn or the play area when children are outside.

I know this is not good news for our St. Vincent de Paul. We will explore with you and the St Vincent de Paul volunteers what we can do for the poor and the mentally/emotionally challenged. When one door closes, another opens. Please do not give up hope. It has to do with the poor, so please do not say, 'I can't serve outside our sacred grounds. 'True love, sacrificial love is borne out when we have to go an extra mile, and we are doing it to protect our children and to serve the poor.

We will explore other options including working with other Vincent de Paul Conferences in Concord, Walnut Creek and Pittsburgh. We will explore how we can continue to take care of the poor, mindful that we have about 22,000 visits every year. Thank you for generously donating \$235,000 last year to our St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you for donating nearly \$80,000 towards keeping folks in their own homes during the pandemic. My only desire is to do more in the days to come.

I am personally struggling as a pastor because it is hard for me to imagine a church community where the poor, the challenged have no access Monday through Sunday. Our nation has rejected them to the streets. Nobody wants them in their backyard. I see the cops removing them from shop fronts and parks. That is the reason why they often gravitate towards churches. Because they believe we won't throw them out. In this sense, it does pain me, and I am deeply broken. I trust in God, and He will show us a way to serve. We will work together as a parish community and we will thrive.

I want to share the story I told you this past Sunday:

We called him Stinky George. He was a homeless man, unemployed, and often sick. He would occasionally show up at church. He liked the air conditioning, the pot-luck lunches, and the communion wine. On this particular Sunday he sat down right in the front pew. "Do you smell it, too?" someone asked a neighbor. "Yes." "Well, what is it?" Gradually folks moved away, leaving him alone in the pew.

If I am honest, really honest, I would have said, "That is the smell of homelessness and poverty. That is the smell of hunger and loneliness. That is the smell of alcoholism and illness. That is the smell of one who has no place to bathe and in many ways no reason to bathe. That is the smell of mental illness. That is the smell of death.

Every day we smell death and every day we have the opportunity, by the grace of God, to change and be changed, to unbind and be unbound, to let go and be let go.

I sometimes wonder what happened to Stinky George. More often I wonder what would have happened if I had followed Jesus' words rather than my nose. What would have happened if I had invited George to lunch one day? What if I had helped George find an AA meeting, and the social services that could have provided medical care, a place to live, and food to eat. What if I had said, "George, tell me the stories you are always telling, but that I have never listened to. I want to know you and your life." What if when it came time to exchange the sign of peace I put my arms around him, pulled him close and said, "The peace of Christ be with you." I wonder what I would have unbound in George. I wonder what George would have unbound in me.

"Unbind him, and let him go. This is the holy work to which we are called. This is the joyful task set before us by Christ. No longer shall we be onlookers to death and destruction. No longer shall we be bystanders to bigotry or plight. Christ has called Love and Justice out of the tomb. It is up to us to unleash them in a world that yearns for healing and hope."

Fr. Paulson

UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Apr. 3	Mon.	9am	Brigid Rehme †
Apr. 4	Tues.	9am	Joseph Dinh †
Apr. 5	Wed.	9am	Fanny Miranda

LET'S CELEBRATE THE MERGER OF OUR TWO PARISHES!



Join us for the Official Merger of our two parishes Christ the King and St. Stephen

**April 23rd - 10:30am Mass - Outdoors
Bishop Michael Barber Presiding**

We will formally celebrate the merger of our two parishes!



Ushers Needed For Easter Services!
Thanks to Ushers who have already used the Sign-up Genius to sign up for the Lenten and Easter Masses.
We still need ushers for:

Holy Thursday: April 6th - 7pm Service;
Good Friday: April 7th - 6 pm service,
Saturday Easter Vigil Mass: April 8th - 7:30pm
Easter Day: April 9th - 7:30 am mass; 9 am both indoor and outdoor masses; and the 10:30 am outside mass.
(The outdoor masses especially need help.)

I've attached the link to the Sign-up Genius for you to use to sign up for the various Usher time slots mentioned above.

You can use the Sign-up Genius by typing in the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A9AB22A5FBCE9-usher>

Although the Sign-up Genius is the preferred method of enrolling for an open usher slot, if you're in need of assistance, I'd be happy to enroll you for the selected masses. Just email me with your preferred mass or masses.

Jack Murphy: jmurph818@aol.com

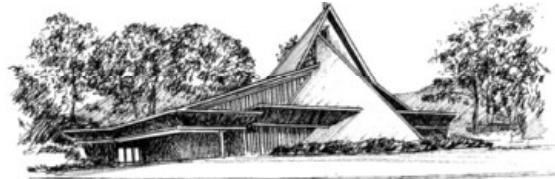


ST. STEPHEN CORNER "To Live and to Love in Christ"

St. Stephen Church - Mass Times

Monday - Friday - 8am

Saturday - 5pm and Sunday - 9:30am



SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Apr. 1	Sat.	5:00pm	St Stephen/ CTK Clergy
Apr. 2	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †
Apr. 4	Tues.	8:00am	Dick DuBeau †
Apr. 8	Sat.	7:30pm	St. Stephen Parishioners
Apr. 9	Sun.	9:30am	Eric Peare, Healing

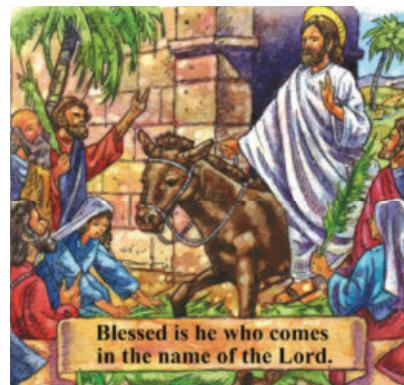
ST. STEPHEN NEWS

It is time to return your filled Rice Bowls. You can put them in the baskets in the back of the church or turn them into our office.

Holy Thursday our Mass is at 7:00 pm. We are encouraged to join Christ the King for all Good Friday Services, but we will have our 6:00 pm Outdoor Stations of the Cross led by Fr. Paulson at St. Stephen. Easter Vigil on Saturday night starts at 7:30 pm. Easter Sunday services are at our regular Mass time of 9:30 am.

Our Coffee & Donuts is back starting Sunday, April 16, then will continue weekly starting April 30.

Office hours - Monday & Wednesday 11am-2pm



EASTER EGG HUNT



Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8th on CTK's Lawn Area

The annual Easter Egg hunt is back again this year at CTK! The Knights of Columbus are holding their CTK Easter Egg hunt so come join us for a morning of fun and excitement on the lawn.

The Easter Bunny will be arriving at 10am and the Easter Egg hunt will follow our usual schedule: 10:15 am for 1-4 years old, 10:45am for 5-7 years old and 11:15am for 8-10 years old. Bring your Easter baskets, get a picture with the Easter Bunny, participate in the Easter Egg hunt, and enjoy some refreshments and games as we celebrate Easter weekend. Please bring a canned good to donate to charity. We look forward to seeing everyone!



Christ the King Church is excited to bring youth back into Our weekend masses!

as well as our Friday 8:00 am School Mass.

We invite boys and girls, 4th Grade through Teens, to join the Altar Server Ministry.

Father Lee will conduct frequent training sessions for new Altar Servers. We hope to have three or four Altar Servers scheduled for each mass. Altar Servers should be available to serve a minimum of one weekend mass each month.

If you are interested, please fill out the Altar Server Registration Form, and return it to Christ the King School office, or Christ the King Parish office. Found at ctkph.org

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Father Lee or Heidi Nuti. Registration forms can be found at ctkph.org. Or by contacting: Fr. Lee: llescj49@hotmail.com or Heidi Nuti: hnuti@ctkschool.org



Divine Mercy Novena

The Our Lord of Pardon Prayer Group will begin a 9-day novena during the month of April at 7:00 pm. The Divine Mercy Novena will begin on Good Friday, April 7, and end on Saturday, April 15. To obtain the zoom link and password, please contact Imelda Santos (925-623-7340) or Efrain Salvosa (925-698-6530). We hope you will join us at this novena.



2023 Bishop's Ministries Appeal

The Bishop's Ministries Appeal is an annual campaign to generate funds to cover the costs of the Diocese of Oakland's ministries, programs, and services. It is a direct appeal to the people of the diocese, urging their support in the form of a pledge or a gift to supplement the ministry budget. To pledge online go to ctkph.org.

Envelopes are available in the back of the church.



Join us for the CTK Book Fair – April 2nd - 6th

- Empower kids to become bolder, prouder & stronger readers
- Set up eWallet, a safe cash-free way for your child to shop



To learn more, visit our book fair homepage by scanning the QR code.

In the Parish Hall

Palm Sunday 4/2 9:45a to 12:30p

Mon, Tue, Wed 7:00a to 5:30p

Thurs 4/6 7:00a to 2:00p



WINTER NIGHTS Family Shelter

Winter Nights Family Shelter 2023

After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, the Winter Nights program is returning to CTK from Monday, April 17 to Monday, May 1.

WINTER NIGHTS The mission of Winter Nights is to provide shelter to homeless families and help families break the homelessness cycle. Learn more about Winter Nights at cccwinternights.org

We're looking for volunteers to donate their time and talent in several roles: set-up and take-down; dinner preparation and service; weekend breakfast preparation and service; tutoring; laundry; and other special skills. More information on these roles can be found here ctkph.org

Volunteer sign-ups are handled through REALM, the parish's online hub. Use the website ctkph.org to access REALM; there is a button near the bottom of the main page. If you don't already have an account on REALM, the set-up process is quick and easy.

The diocese requires that all Winter Nights volunteers complete online VIRTUS safe-environment training. This takes only about an hour. Instructions are here: virtus.org or contact the parish office at office@ctkph.org.

If you have questions about how you can help, or you encounter any obstacles in the sign-up process, please email us at; winternights@ctkph.org.

Wish List: Pillows, sleeping bags, gas cards, Wal-Mart cards, Target cards, twin size fitted sheets, Lysol, baby wipes, diapers (size 5 and 6) and Lysol disinfectant wipes.



CTK STAFF CONTACTS

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Bookkeeperssp@gmail.com



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday - April 6

7pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 7pm Mass

Good Friday - April 7

12pm - Taize Prayer Around the Cross

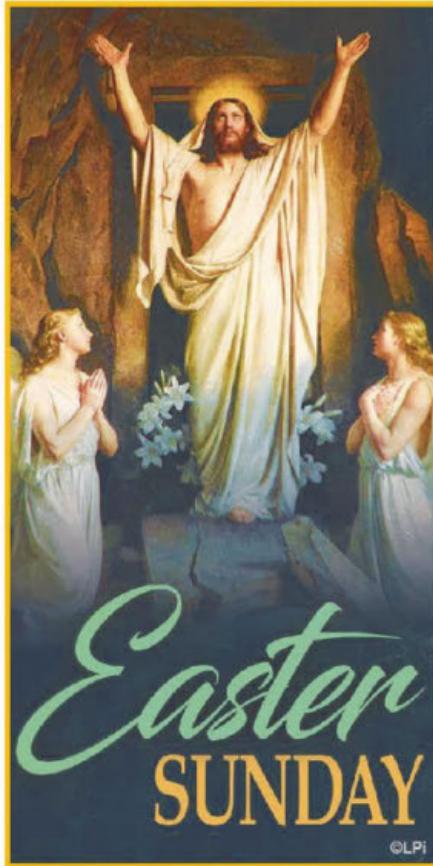
1pm - Stations of the Cross

1:40pm - Preaching on the Passion

2pm - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

6pm - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

St. Stephen Church - Stations of the Cross - 6pm



Easter Vigil Saturday - April 8

7:30pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 7:30pm Mass

Easter Sunday Masses - April 9

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am - In the church

9am & 10:30am - Children/Family Mass - Outdoors

No 4pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 9:30am

- ⇒ Please bring your own chairs for the outdoor masses.
- ⇒ Livestreaming links to our services can be found at ctkph.org.
- ⇒ 10:30am Easter Sunday Mass will be livestreamed

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