

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



“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid
to take Mary your wife
into your home.”

MATTHEW 1:20

FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent December 18, 2022

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Photo: melastmohican/Adobe Stock

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

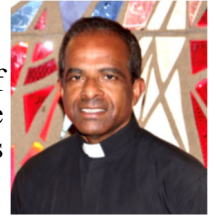
Livestream Links

Can be found at ctkph.org

“TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

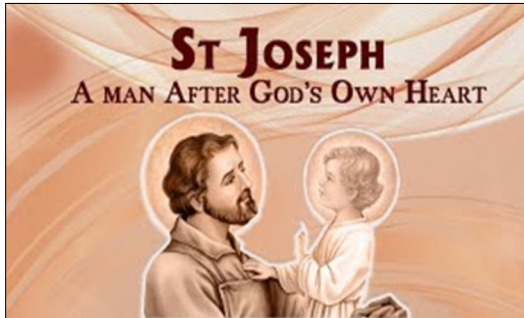
Dear Friends,

This weekend is the fourth and last Sunday of Advent, before we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas. This fourth Sunday carries the theme of love which can be seen as the culmination of what we learn about God throughout this season. When the Father sends his own Son to us, we are given a revelation of who God is in his inner being. “God is Love.”



The statement that “God *is* love” means that God, in his very being and character, is love and the very source of love. There is no other source of love to draw from. Joseph takes center stage this Sunday, and he shows us how this love of God, this non-judgmental love of God can be lived in our lives.

When Mary became pregnant with Jesus, it was surely a terrible shock to Joseph. Though he and Mary were betrothed, meaning they had given public and binding vows to each other, they had not yet lived together as man and wife. The only logical conclusion Joseph could reach on his own was that Mary was pregnant by another man – in other words, that she had committed adultery.



Proved adultery was punishable with death by stoning under the Mosaic law. The Gospel of Matthew explains that Joseph was a “righteous man, yet unwilling to expose [Mary] to shame” so he decided to “divorce her quietly.” This indicates that although Joseph generally respected the law, he did not want to subject Mary to derision, judgment, and possible death. Though we

don’t know a lot about the logistics of what it means to divorce someone “quietly” at this time, it presumably means that Joseph intended to dissolve their union with as little fanfare as possible. It’s clear that he had no desire to see her publicly humiliated or put to death for what he believed to be her transgression.

Catholics don’t seem to use the word *righteous* much. You rarely hear us talking about striving to be righteous or admiring someone for his or her righteousness. Yet Jesus talks about righteousness quite often. In the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:3), in fact, he all but dwells on it: “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,” and “Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.” Later, Jesus says, “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:20), and “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Mt 6:33).

For Joseph, righteousness was not just about doing the right thing, but also about doing it the right way. In this one brief statement about Joseph, who decided to send Mary away without disgracing her, we find the essence of what it means to be righteous. It turns out that righteousness, far from being a cold, calculating devotion to justice, is a warm, faithful virtue that always seeks merciful justice and just mercy.

In years past, there was a bumper sticker I saw fairly frequently, “Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty.” I don’t see it as much as I used to. This season of love calls us to compassion and kindness. **Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, considerate and treating people with respect.** The opposite of kindness is someone behaving in a way that is mean, selfish, rude, disrespectful, or violent. Let us practice random acts of kindness in commemoration of our God of Love. God shows his love, not with great speeches, but with simple, tender acts of charity.

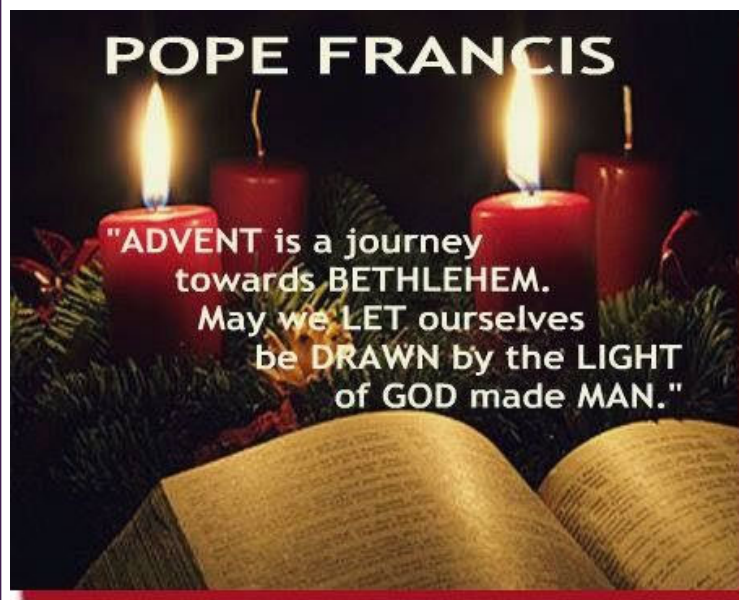
“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”
Dalai Lama.

Fr. Paulson



CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 19	Mon.	9am	Jack Viani † Rogelia Lapuz †
Dec. 20	Tues.	9am	William Radding †
Dec. 21	Wed.	9am	Taylor Faith Almeida †
Dec. 22	Thurs.	9am	Maury Huguet †
Dec. 23	Fri.	9am	Brian Orpiano † Leopoldo Lejano Sr. †



The readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent challenge us to look beyond our own understanding and have faith. The first reading foretells that a virgin will give birth. The psalm praises the wonders of God. The second reading speaks of the promises of God through the ages and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the gospel we hear how an angel appeared to Joseph and he did as the angel told him.

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Candle Meaning



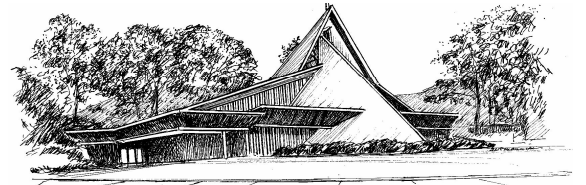
On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

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

Dec. 17	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen Parishioners
Dec. 18	Sun.	9:30am	Carol Ricci †
Dec. 24	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen Parishioners CTK Parishioners
Dec. 25	Sun.	9:30am	Saint Stephen Parishioners

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Join us after Mass this Sunday, Dec. 18, to help decorate for Christmas. Many hands are needed, especially a few strong people for setting up our tree and nativity.

It is not too late to pick up a gift tag from our Advent Giving Tree. Remember to return your layette items wrapped in plain tissue paper by December 23.

Christmas Masses are at our regular Mass times - Christmas Eve at 5pm and Christmas Day at 9:30am.

Celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen with us on Tuesday, December 27 at 5:30pm for Mass, followed by a pot-luck, giving you a chance to use up your Christmas leftovers, and caroling. Note that the date has changed from Monday, the 26th to Tuesday, the 27th. If you would like to join us but don't like to drive at night, contact our office and we will see if we can connect you with someone to give you a ride.

For those of you using our donation envelopes, remember to pick up your 2023 box from the back of the church.

Save the Date: Join us for Fr. Timoney's 92nd Birthday Celebration with Mass at 5:30pm on Thursday, January 12 at St. Stephen followed by Wine Tasting in our hall. See the flyer on the bulletin boards for more information. Again, if you would like to attend but don't drive at night, contact our office to connect you with someone to drive you.

Office hours - Monday & Wednesday 11am-2pm

You are invited to attend our
Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 19 at 7:15pm

Come and experience the healing power of the
Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare our
hearts for Christmas.



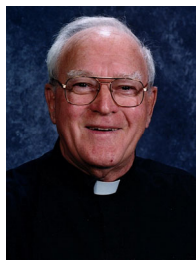
USHERS



Ushers for Christmas Needed!

If you are able to help out with ushering
at our Christmas Eve or Christmas Day
Masses, please contact Sr. Dominic Ma-
rie at sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com

Save the Date!



Your are invited to Fr. Timoney's
92nd Birthday Celebration!

Thursday, January 12th

St. Stephen Church and Parish Hall
5:30pm Mass

Followed by Wine Tasting
Call the CTK Parish Office to
Purchase tickets 925-682-2486



SIMBANG GABI -- The Filipi-
no Society of Christ the King
cordially invites you to join
in the celebration of
"Simbang Gabi", a **nine-day**
novena in preparation for
the birth of Jesus, at Christ

the King Church from December 15th to the 23rd.
Mass begins at 6:00 p.m. every night. Mass on Thursday
Dec. 15, will be held in the parish hall. A celebration of
gratitude will be held after the last mass on the 23rd in
the parish hall. For those who are unable to attend,
each of the masses will be livestreamed. For additional
information, please contact Maritess Baula (925-899-
9078) or Imelda Santos (925-623-7340).

HOLIDAY Mass Schedule

©LPI

Christmas Eve Masses

Saturday, December 24

3pm - Outdoors-Children/Family Mass

4:30pm - Indoors & Livestreamed

8pm - Indoors

12 Midnight - Indoors (Carols begin at 11:30pm)

St. Stephen Church - 5:00pm

Christmas Day Masses

Sunday, December 25

7:30am - Indoors

9am - Indoors

10:30am - Indoors & Livestreamed

No 4pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 9:30am

The outdoor 3pm Christmas Eve Mass will
take place on the lawn. Please dress warm
and bring your own chairs.

If it rains we will bring mass inside the
church and gym.

Masks are encouraged *inside*.

Drive Through Communion

Christmas Day - 11:30am to 12:00pm

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31

Vigil for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Time: 4pm (*reception to follow*)

St. Stephen Church - Mass Time: 5:00pm

New Year's Day Sunday, January 1

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Times: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am & 4pm

St. Stephen Church - Mass Time: 9:30am

Livestreaming of Masses

Visit our website at ctkph.org for direct links to
Facebook or YouTube

OUR GIFT TO YOU!

Scan to Register



For Free

We are excited to offer **FORMED** to our entire parish for free!

FORMED, an on-demand guide to our beautiful faith. Get thousands of Movies, Programs, Audio, And Books Instantly. Watch anywhere.

To register for your free account and claim our gift to you:

1. Visit signup.formed.org
2. Enter our parish zip code or name.

We pray this gift will bless you!



Poinsettias In Memory of a Loved One

We would be very grateful if you would donate some larger poinsettia plants in memory of a loved one for our church decorations. Please drop them off during the week of December 19 and bring them to the church. You may put the name of your loved one in our Remembrance Book.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Communion in Care Facilities

Currently, CTK is getting a number of requests for ministers to tend to care facilities. What has been working well is that the Catholic residents are brought together in one room on a Sunday morning. There they watch the Mass being live streamed. Our ministers would simply be present for the online Mass and at Communion time - they would distribute the Eucharist.

Communion to the Homebound

Frequently we receive requests that Communion be brought to people who are homebound and cannot come to church. This would entail setting up a day and time that works for the person as well as for our CTK minister. It could be a weekly visit or whatever the two parties arrange. Basically, it is a short visit and a time of prayer and reception of Communion.

If you feel called to minister in this way ~ which is currently a great need ~ please contact Sr. Dominic Marie at 925-246-1122 or sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com



Do You Buy Things On Amazon?

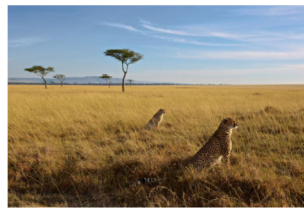
Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Support Christ the King Church this holiday season by shopping online at [Amazon Smile](https://smile.amazon.com).

Visit smile.amazon.com. Sign-in with your Amazon.com normal sign-in.

Select your charity by searching for Christ the King Church Pleasant Hill.

Start shopping!



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.



Second Collection Today - December 10/11

Our second collection this weekend supports Retired Religious. Elderly religious have offered a lifetime of service. Now they need your help. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious this weekend.

Upcoming Second Collections

Dec. 10/11 - Retirement for Religious

Dec. 17/18 - Christmas Flowers

Dec. 24/25 - Christmas



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

DECEMBER 18, 2022

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."*

MATTHEW 1:23

TRUE GRATITUDE

Advent's four Sundays each have their own focus: "Stay awake!" (First); John the Baptist (Second); Rejoice! (Third); Joseph/Mary (Fourth). We might need to have a little pity on the Fourth Sunday, however, since the hectic realities of the secular calendar can overwhelm it, particularly in those years when there are only one or two (or zero!) days before Christmas. This year we have the luxury of a whole week! What shall we do with this gift from God? Perhaps a bit more charity or social action on behalf of God's poorest. Maybe take some time to listen for the voice of God in our dreams, as Joseph did. Attend daily Mass, Advent reconciliation, or pray the "O" antiphons (which began this Saturday evening). As with every gift, we show true gratitude by using it. Let us do so, as Paul tells us in Romans, for the sake of the name of Jesus, whose coming we await.

WHOSE HOUSE?

Interest in genealogy is much, much older than current fascination with using DNA analysis to trace our heritage. Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Abraham, Israel's father in faith. This is what immediately precedes today's Gospel reading, and is crucial to how we hear the opening sentence: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." It's not so much as a starting point, but a pivot point that places Jesus firmly in the "house of David" through Joseph (in first-century Judaism, lineage and heritage was traced solely through males). An essential understanding of the Messiah was that he would come from the house and lineage of King David. For those of us who follow Jesus in faith, it's important to recall that it was through Joseph that Jesus both came from the house of David and was made a son of the covenant of Moses.

WHOSE HOME?

Matthew's Gospel also contains an angelic annunciation scene; we hear from it today. Another pivot point is presented, when the angel says "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." As with most angelic appearances in scripture, the angel provides an instruction not to fear. More importantly, Joseph is instructed by God's messenger to take Mary into his home. When Joseph and Mary were betrothed, they were officially constituted as husband and wife; the next step—approved by an angel—would have been for Joseph to take Mary into his home. So he provided a safe place for a young woman in a troubled pregnancy, and offered her child a home, a heritage, and a lineage. This rather difficult and risky move on Joseph's part might inspire us in this season to seek out and help out in those places where people are longing to have a house and—more importantly—a home.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10–14
Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6
Romans 1:1–7
Matthew 1:18–24

MOULDING MASTERS

FAMILY OWNED FOR 21 YEARS

MARK BENDA, USHER
925-689-7322

1070 Detroit Ave., Concord, CA
ACROSS FROM COSTCO | OPEN 7 DAYS

WE SELL:

Crown Moulding • Base Boards
Door & Window Casing • Mantels
Assorted Trim • Chair Rail • Pre-Primed

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY OF PLEASANT HILL

Amybeth Harmon, D.D.S.

Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry



First checkup at first birthday

phkidsdentist.com

2710 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (925) 947-1188

catholicmatch®
California



CatholicMatch.com/myCA



THE MAHER LAW GROUP

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

VINCENT R. MAHER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

CERTIFIED CRIMINAL LAW SPECIALIST

www.themaherlawgroup.com

Tel: (925) 489-1500 | vince@vincemaherlaw.com

724 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533

Advanced Eyecare Optometry

ROBERT TURCIOS JR., O.D.

PARISHIONER

Comprehensive Eye Exams

LASIK Consultation

Fashion Eyewear Boutique

Contact Lenses

(925) 676-8365

advancedoptometry.net

395 Civic Drive, Suite G,

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



All Insurance Claims Welcome

• Autobody • Refinishing • Frame • Glass

1581 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill

Protecting **Seniors**
Nationwide



Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608



**Get this
weekly bulletin
delivered by
email - for FREE!**



Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

✓ Ambulance 24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

✓ Police ✓ Fire

FREE Shipping

Solutions as Low as

✓ Friends/Family

FREE Activation

\$19.95

a month

NO Long Term Contracts

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

MDMedAlert

Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!

"I have peace of mind... Mom remains independent."



Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection

Nationwide, No Land Line Needed

EASY Set-up, NO Contract

24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

Life Matters

For more information go to www.usccb.org/respectlife

LOU AGGETTA INSURANCE

AUTO • HOMEOWNERS • LIFE • BUSINESS • HEALTH • LONG TERM CARE

VERY COMPETITIVE RATES

• MANY COMPANIES

2637 Pleasant Hill Rd. • Pleasant Hill • 945-6161

Denia Aggetta Shields, Parishioner

Diablo Valley
CREMATION & FUNERAL SERVICES
Cremation From \$1495
& Burial From \$1795

925-998-0303
www.DVCFS.com
Concord • Antioch • Pinole

Heating & Air Conditioning

COMPARE
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1963

Sales & Service
(925) 686-1366

Mark Fraschieri, Parishioner • Contractor's License #220289

OUIMET BROS. FD1006 **CONCORD FUNERAL CHAPEL**
Serving Concord and the surrounding area since 1958

Cremation and Burial Services

4125 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521
925-682-4242 • www.ouimetbrothers.com

Pleasant Hill Villa Home Care

Pleasant & Comfortable Home Atmosphere for the Elderly
We are Affordable, Flexible and Negotiable
Personalized & Family Oriented
Non-Medical Assistance Services
Various Services Available
Choose from our 3 locations
3021 Putnam Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Call us now at (925) 949-8959
Ask for Glecly
Fac. Lic#079200569

FINDaPARISH.com
Check It Out Today!

The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes

JENNIFER MARTIN, D.D.S.
ORTHODONTICS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
Please Call For Complimentary NEW Patient Examination
(925) 676-8485
401 Gregory Lane, Ste 126 drjennifermartin.com

OAK PARK HILLS Chapel
Funerals and Cremations
925-934-6500
www.OakParkHillsChapel.com
"Serving Catholic Families Since 1961"

KEN SMITH ROOFING
All Your Roofing Needs
New Roofs • Re-Roofs • Repairs
20 Years Experience **925-788-0262**
Lic #645964 • Bonded

Oak Park Hills Chapel
Funerals and Cremations
925-934-6500
www.OakParkHillsChapel.com
"Serving Catholic Families Since 1961"

Sunwise Clinical Research, LLC
The bright spot in clinical trials

Sunwise is seeking volunteers for the following studies:
• Adolescent Migraine
• Alzheimer's with Agitation & Now enrolling for an Eczema Study & Depression Study
Volunteers will be compensated for their time.
If you are interested call or visit our website!
925-298-5147 www.sunclin.com
911 Moraga Rd., Suite 201, Lafayette, CA 94549

OUR EMPHASIS IS ON CARING AND PERSONALIZED SERVICE.
Investment Management • Financial Planning • Retirement Planning
Portfolio Reviews • Retirement Income Strategies • Long-Term Care

Frank X. Aceves, Jr., CFP®
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ | President | Wealth Advisor | LPL Registered Representative
Parishioner since 1996
925.357.8320 Ext. 103 www.oakwmm.net

Frank X. Aceves, Jr. is a Registered Representative with, and offers securities through, LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Strategic Wealth Advisors Group, A Registered Investment Advisor. Oak Wealth Management, LLC and Strategic Wealth Advisors Group are separate entities from LPL Financial.

State Farm™
You never know who you're going to run into.

Christine Sampson
925.685.9752
1920 Oak Park Blvd.
HOME • LIFE • AUTO • BANK

Ernie's **925-228-5242**
www.erniesplumbingandsewer.com
PLUMBING & SEWER SERVICE
Since 1965 Lic# 802333

**Plumbing • Trenchless Sewer Replacement
Drain Maintenance & Septic Service • Water Heaters**

Judy Mullen Olvera
Realtor, Windermere Diablo Realty
BRE Lic. #01332121 **(925) 323-3628**
Top Performer, Trusted Partner and 20 Years Experience

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

ONE PARISH
Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!

Download Our Free App or Visit <https://www.oneparish.com>

Oakmont Memorial Park & Mortuary
Start planning today
• Cemetery • Family Estates
• Cremations • Funerals
Call (925) 935-3311 to schedule a PARK TOUR!
Mention this ad and receive a **Promotional Discount!**
Flexible Financing Terms available!
= Hablamos Espanol =
2099 Reliez Valley Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549

RKL BUILDERS Building Relationships
RON LUCIDO General Contractor Parishioner
Kitchens, Baths, Additions, New Homes, Windows, Doors, Trim
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL
Cell 510-453-6547 Phone/Fax 925-685-2031
We do Handyman & Plumbing repairs too
RKLBuilders.com Over 30 Yrs. Exp! • Lic# 1012424

MARK ROLANDELLI CONSTRUCTION
New Homes • Kitchens • Baths • Additions
Home Improvements • Repairs • Remodeling
Ins. Work Lic. #507081 **(925) 935-3100**

Linda Bachini
REALTOR
DRE # 02098856
925-335-3198
lbachini.realtyone@gmail.com
200 Pringle Ave., Ste. 100., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

JACK'S RESTAURANT & BAR

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER • DRINKS

60 Crescent Drive | Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 | (925) 849-6195
ILOVEJACKS.COM