

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are the
poor in spirit,
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3

JANUARY

29
2023



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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

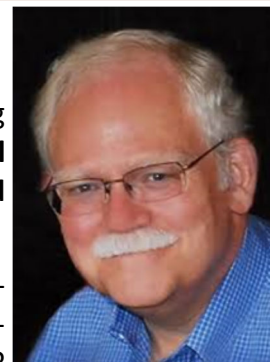
Livestream Links

Can be found at ctkph.org

"TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

Dear Friends,

It's easy to think of our Finance Council in the simple terms of reviewing and reporting on numbers - what comes in; what goes out. This is one function, but **the traditional role of a Finance Council is to provide oversight to the processes, procedures, and controls around handling money and spending for the parish.**



At CTK & St. Stephen our focus is more broadly one of stewardship and the careful application of a few guiding gospel principles. Are we judiciously using the funds so graciously donated to our parishes? Are we supporting the needs of our various ministries? Are we treating our dedicated staff fairly? Are we properly maintaining our physical plant to support the many activities of our parishes? Are we participating in the life of the universal church through our financial support and charities? Are we addressing the needs of the poor? Are we following best practices for the management of parish business?

Canon Law and the Diocese require each parish to have a Finance Council. Perhaps surprisingly this is the only committee each parish must have, and the Diocese requires this committee to formally review and approve the annual parish budget.

When St. Stephen was rolled under the leadership of our pastor, we combined Finance councils so that there is one group with financial oversight of both parishes. Now that a full merger of our parishes is on track, there is work to do in 2023 to fully combine finances and processes.

At CTK and St. Stephen, Fr. Paulson has opted for full transparency to financial data and decisions and has asked us to fill a larger role in the review of donations and spending. We assist our pastor in applying the gospel principle of stewardship of our funds. We'll be adding a monthly report in the bulletin.

Our role starts with a review of the safe and secure handling of donations from the collection basket or online giving to the bank. We review parish financial statements each month and oversee financial processes. We periodically review payroll and benefits as well as the pension billing. With capital projects, we review the contract, the progress reports, and costs. If questions are raised by any of these reviews, we bring them to our pastor's attention for clarification, understanding, and corrections as needed. We prepare the annual budget and an annual written financial report and presentation to the parish. Every three years, we participate in the diocesan mandated parish financial audit, which will occur for us later in 2023.

The financial accounting and bookkeeping function for CTK is performed by an outside firm, Armanino. While Finance Council members have insight to all financial data, our members are advisory only and financial transactions are left to the Pastor and authorized staff members.

The CTK and St Stephen Finance Council meets about ten times a year, however a monthly report is prepared by our Finance Council and reviewed with our pastor. Members serve on the Finance Council for three-year terms that can be renewed by the pastor. New members are interviewed by select Finance Council members and our pastor who then appoints new members.

Please include our CTK and St Stephen Finance Council in your prayers, that they continue their faithful stewardship. Our focus is on the faith-filled, judicious use of our generous donations, by careful stewardship, in service of the needs of our ministries, our staff, the care of our physical plant, the universal church, and the poor.

Thank you for your trust!

Richard Bertrand
Member of the Finance Committee

UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 30	Mon.	9am	Jane O'Neill † Sally Tongson †
Jan. 31	Tues.	9am	Viromy Gunosema (Birthday Blessings)
Feb. 1	Wed.	9am	David Baer † Harry McElroy † Rose Marchiano †
Feb. 2	Thur.	9am 6pm	Loren & Austin Calise Family Jaime Laico † Edward & Jane Rudolph † Pauline Cardoza †
Feb 3	Fri.	9am 6pm	Maury Julie Pacis † Cecelia Quyen Nguyen Christina & David Calise Auroar Diaz Family †
Feb. 4	Sat.	9am	Grace Rulow †
Feb. 4	Sat.	4pm	Alice Gates † Diamantino Fernandes † Lorenzo Vercels †
Feb. 5	Sun.	7:30am	Armando Vasquez † Natalia Laurel † Terese Paoli † Jack Cordoza †
Feb. 5	Sun.	9am	Emili Amalraj (Birthday Blessings)
Feb. 5	Sun.	10:30am	Fr. Brian Joyce † Jaime (Chico) Laico † Aurora Diaz † Ezra Omole - Healing
Feb. 5	Sun.	4pm	Fr. Declan Deane †

FIRST FRIDAY



**Join us for our monthly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday, February 3**

5pm to 6pm

This will be a time for quiet prayer.

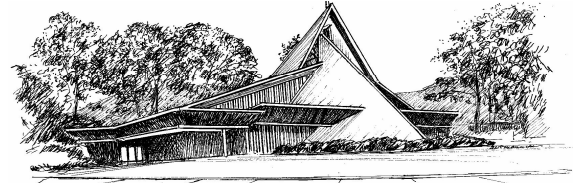
Mass to follow at 6pm

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

Jan. 28	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen Parishioners
Jan. 29	Sun.	9:30am	Robert Van Slambrook †
Jan. 30	Mon.	8:00am	Fr. Ronald Calhoun †
Jan. 31	Tues.	8:00am	John George, Healing
Feb. 1	Weds.	8:00am	Gayle Haux, Healing
Feb. 2	Thur.	8:00am	Franklin Knight, Healing
Feb. 3	Fri.	8:00am	Peggy Gemmell, Healing
Feb. 4	Sat.	5:00pm	Nicodemo Mammola †
Feb. 5	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Next Sunday, February 4, we will be celebrating Scout Sunday at the 9:30 am Mass. A group of scouts will be helping with the different aspects of our Mass. As a special treat, we will be having Coffee & Donuts after Mass that day.

Reminder - if you haven't picked up your offering envelopes for 2023, please contact our parish office to arrange a time to pick up or have delivered to you.

Office hours - Monday & Wednesday 11am-2pm.



Christ the King 2022 Financial Summary (Preliminary)

Here are the preliminary financial results for December and 2022. Results are very positive. We will publish a more detailed report in February and offer a hybrid (in-person / Zoom) presentation on our 2022 - 2023 Financial picture in March. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to Christ the King Parish. Any questions can be directed to the office or by email to finance@ctkph.org.

	Actual	Budget
Income as of December 31, 2022		
December	\$210,414	\$184,546
Year End 2022	\$1,574,792	\$1,499,639
Expenses as of December 31, 2022		
December	\$133,725	\$181,734
Year End 2022	\$1,345,102	\$1,499,639
Net Results		
December	\$76,689	\$2,812
Year End 2022	\$229,690	\$0

CTK STAFF CONTACTS

CTK Office: office@ctkph.org
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2022 Annual Giving Statements

Annual Giving Statements that show your contributions for the year ending 2022 were sent by email (if we have your current email address in our new 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.

Tour with Fr. Paulson to Africa

Incredible Tour of
Africa
Cape Town, Victoria Falls, Nairobi, Lake Nakuru, & Masai Mara
June 12, 2023 to June 25, 2023



At A Glance

June 12	Depart from San Francisco
June 14	Cape Town
June 15	Cape Town
June 16	Cape Town
June 17	Cape Town
June 18	Victoria Falls
June 19	Victoria Falls
June 20	Nairobi
June 21	Masai Mara
June 22	Masai Mara
June 23	Masai Mara
June 24	Lake Nakuru
June 25	Departure



Tour with Fr. Paulson, Mundanmani of Christ the King Church

Join Fr. Paulson on an incredible tour of Africa (Cape Town, Victoria Falls, Nairobi, Lake Nakuru and Masai Mara National Park).

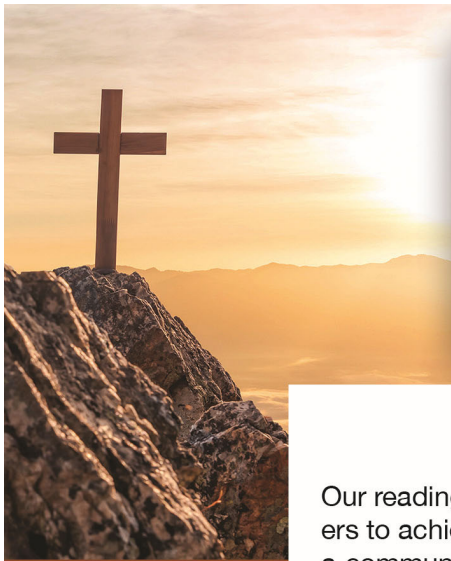
There is an additional package of Madagascar for those who want to continue for another 7 days. The trip will take place in June, 2023. For more information please contact the Parish Office at 925-682-2486.

ST. STEPHEN STAFF CONTACTS

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Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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925-274-1341

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Bookkeepersp@gmail.com



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for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven."**

Matthew 5:3

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**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

GOD'S REIGN HERE AND NOW

Our readings this week all speak of the distinctive characteristics of the people God gathers to achieve God's purposes. The deep communion of love that God envisions requires a community that is humble and lowly, as Zephaniah describes. God chooses the weak and foolish to reveal God's strength and wisdom, as Paul says. And in the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches that a people who know their weakness and vulnerability can most fully place their trust in God and work for a just world. As Christians, we believe God will fully heal our world when Christ returns. But Christ also invites us to experience a foretaste of this future right now, through our life in Christian community, and in our work of peacemaking and justice-seeking in the world. Our poverty in spirit can enable us to be both recipients and instruments of the "kingdom of heaven" here and now.

THE BLESSED COMMUNITY

We turn to the first action of Jesus' public ministry described by Matthew—Jesus preaching to the crowds in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon begins with today's Gospel passage, the Beatitudes. Having just called his first disciples to form a community, Jesus begins to spell out what this community is all about. The Beatitudes lay the foundation, describing the primary values and practices, and the core identity of this community.

Jesus tells his followers, first and foremost, that they are blessed by God. The community will reveal its blessed character through its humility, meekness, and hunger for justice. Knowing they are loved as God's children, they will have open and pure hearts, free to be merciful, and they will be able to endure suffering gracefully. Listening anew to the Beatitudes, we remember how far we fall short of Jesus' vision. But we know God has gathered us, and continues to transform us, to receive the fullness of blessing.

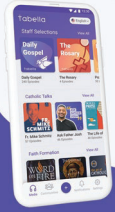
WHOM GOD HONORS

In Jesus' time, honor and shame were key markers for who is up and who is down in their society. Typically, those with wealth and power over others were to be honored. And in our own time, often we find ourselves drawn strongly toward having more abundance, control, and options to choose from. We avoid vulnerability and limitations. But Jesus says in the Beatitudes that the poor and meek are truly blessed, that is, honorable and privileged by God. How can this be?

Perhaps Jesus is first exposing the opposites to the poor and meek, the "rich in spirit." These develop such confidence in themselves, based on achievement or inherited privilege, that they isolate themselves from God, and either ignore or exploit others. Jesus also knew that the humble in heart realize that they cannot build an illusory self-affirmation, so they can be most open to God's affirmation of them. They can then become more deeply empowered to participate in God's work. God blesses and honors the open-hearted.

TODAY'S READINGS

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12–13
Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10
1 Corinthians 1:26–31
Matthew 5:1–12a

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