

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

Christ the King Church

195A Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
ctkph.org

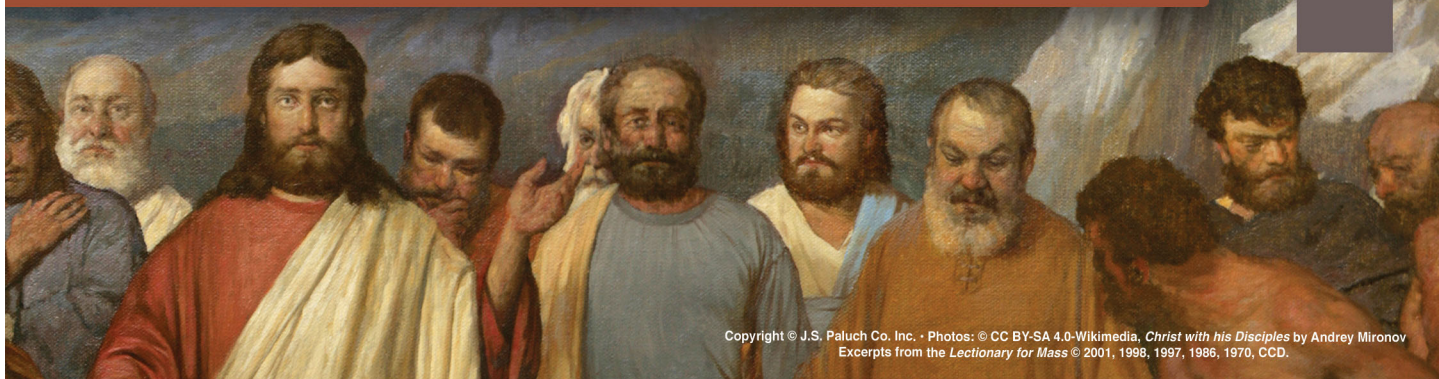
St. Stephen Church

1101 Keaveny Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925-274-1341
saintstephenparish.org

**"Will not God then secure the rights
of his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?"**

Luke 18:7

October 16, 2022



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Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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,



During this month, you will be witnessing people taking the October count. According to Gallup, almost four in five Americans (79%) state that their lives are at least somewhat if not completely back to a pre-pandemic normal. As I traveled last month, it was interesting to observe that hardly anyone wears masks either in the airport or on the flight, that the streets are filled with people, and life goes on normally almost everywhere.

Despite this growing return to normalcy, church attendance has not fully rebounded yet. We are probably around 60% of pre-pandemic levels both at St. Stephen and CTK. As we reopened for service, I said to myself, our folks will come back may be in the spring, after Easter, after summer vacation, when the mask mandate is fully lifted, when all restrictions are lifted, when kids are back in school fulltime. And now, almost three years into the pandemic, the slow realization is finally happening: **Maybe they're not coming back. Not now, not tomorrow, not ever.**

Yet at the height of the pandemic, churchgoers said they planned to return. In a February 2021 Lifeway Research study, 91% of U.S. churchgoers said they planned to attend in-person worship services at least as often as they did before the pandemic. Few said they planned on attending less than before (6%), rarely attending (2%), or not attending in-person at all (1%).

Many of our parishioners who attended mass regularly are yet to return and I believe that their absence is not so much an intentional decision. Rather, it's the unintentional creation of a new habit. They've gotten out of the practice of churchgoing and haven't made a decisive act to restart. For the most part, the engaged return. The disengaged didn't return. There are some who are still fearful, and who attend mass online on a daily or weekly basis. Our livestream and drive-through communion numbers corroborate this fact.

The unintentional absences of churchgoers mean we must take intentional actions. Jesus said the shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to go after the one sheep that is lost. We are missing more than one sheep from the flock since COVID. And bringing them back will probably take meeting them where they are. Restarting lost habits can take work, but that work is easier when you have others walking beside you to encourage you. So, I am inviting you to engage with folks you know, the folks that you don't see at church and take some active steps to bring them back. We are in this mission together. I personally believe that we are never going to be at pre-pandemic levels. I hope and pray that I am wrong.

After my last presentation on Pope Francis' last apostolic letter, there was a great interest in learning about the four constitutions of Vatican II. I will offer two presentations on *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) on October 20th at 10.30am at St. Stephen (in person) and via zoom at 7.00pm.

In order to understand the recent revision of the *Roman Missal* and the reasons for certain modifications and changes in the *General Instruction of the Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia*, it is necessary to take as a starting point the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. In the Apostolic Letter commemorating the twenty fifth anniversary of the promulgation of the Conciliar Constitution His Holiness Pope John Paul II stated that the principles which underlie the Council's great liturgical charter are of "enduring value" and remain relevant in the development of the Church's worship. I invite you to attend either of the two sessions offered.

Fr. Paulson

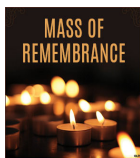
CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Oct. 17	Mon.	9am	Sr. Marilyn Murray, RSM - D
Oct. 18	Tues.	9am	Marlene Moeller †
Oct. 19	Wed.	9am	Joselito Asuncion †
Oct. 20	Thurs.	9am	William Kisiluk †
Oct. 21	Fri.	9am	Elsy Anthony †
Oct. 22	Sat.	9am	Dell Rulow †
Oct. 22 & Oct. 23	Week-end	All-Masses	John Robert Keating† Primo Maliwanag † Ruth Brogan † Sulachini Daryanani †



VOTE "NO" ON PROPOSITION 1 Proposition 1 is a worst-case scenario for abortion in California. It is an expensive and misleading ballot measure that allows unlimited late-term abortions — for any reason, at any time, even moments before birth, paid for by tax dollars. Prop 1 isn't needed. Sadly, California already has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the nation that would remain in effect without the amendment, including our current limit on late-term abortions that are permitted only for the life and health of the mother. Prop 1 destroys this common-sense limit. California does not limit state spending on abortion, and with thousands more traveling from other states, the cost will be in the hundreds of millions. Don't hand lawmakers a blank check to pay for abortions, and don't let them make California an "abortion sanctuary." To learn more, visit www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE



Saturday, November 5 at the 4pm Mass

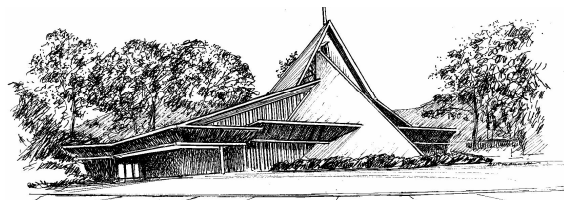
A special **Mass of Remembrance** will be held on **Saturday November 5 at 4 pm**. At that Mass we will pray specially for all who have died during this past year and whose funeral was held at Christ the King. (Do you have a loved one who died during the past 12 months? Were they not buried from Christ the King Parish? Would you like their name included? Please call the parish office at 925-682-2486 and leave their name. Deadline to submit names is the 25th of October.) (Questions? Sr. Dominic Marie at 925-246-1122.)

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

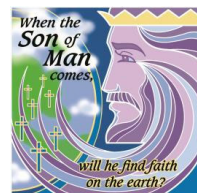
Oct. 15	Sat.	5:00pm	Kathleen Flemming †
Oct. 16	Sun.	9:30am	John Smith †
Oct. 17	Mon.	8:00am	Robin Gigoux, Healing
Oct. 18	Tues.	8:00am	Jim & Jeanie McGraw †
Oct. 19	Wed.	8:00am	Pasqualina Mammola †
Oct. 22	Sat.	5:00pm	James Kurpinsky †
Oct. 23	Sun.	9:30am	A Special Intention

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Next weekend our 2nd Collection will be for the World Mission Sunday and the Catholic Home Mission Appeal. We are called to offer our prayers and financial help for the Church's missionary work throughout the world. If you are not using donation envelopes, you will find envelopes for this appeal on the counters in the back of the church. Please be generous.

Volunteer opportunity - join the men and women of St. Stephen that are part of our St. Vincent de Paul Society as they assist the needy on a person-to-person basis. Emergency food, clothing and other services are provided. Our Society is dwindling in numbers, yet the need for their services is strong. Please consider becoming part of our Society.

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





**Saturday, October 29 at 5pm
CTK Church Grounds**

On behalf of the Young Families Ministry, we would like to invite all young families to pizza and beer (and wine) on Saturday, October 29, at 5:00 p.m. (immediately following the 4pm Vigil Mass). The event will be held on the grass near the playground on church grounds. If you and your family would like to attend - and so that we have an accurate headcount - please respond to rezaei.ryan@gmail.com by Saturday, October 22. Additionally, if anyone is willing to let us borrow any outdoor games (such as cornhole!), please let us know.



We are so excited to have Fr. Francis, the Mission Procurator Don Bosco Bangalore, India with us from the 20th of this month for a week. Fr. Francis will share the ministry of the Salesians as they transform the lives of so many street children and youth in India. He is the Director of BREADS (Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society), an organization that protects children and youth especially on the streets of major Indian cities. You can read more information on <https://breadsbangalore.org>.

Please plan to join us on October 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. after the 4.00pm Mass, in our Parish Hall. There will be a video presentation. Refreshments and appetizers will be served.

JOIN US FOR CTK/ST. STEPHEN MEN'S RETREAT

COMING HOME TO CHURCH
MEN SHARING THEIR FAITH AND HOPE
DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

**OCTOBER 22, 2022
9 AM TO 3:30 PM
CTK'S PARISH HALL**

RETREAT LEADER: FATHER PAULSON

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

SOCIAL HOUR WILL FOLLOW THE RETREAT

SIGN UP BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AT CTKPH.ORG



**ICF Pot Luck Picnic
And Bocci Ball
Sunday, October 16 at 1pm
Rodgers-Smith Park**

All parishioners of Christ the King and St. Stephen churches are welcome to join us for a pot luck picnic and short ICF meeting on Sunday, October 16 at 1 pm at Rodgers-Smith Park bocce courts. Families and people of all ages are welcome. If you don't know how to play bocce, come anyway to socialize and just watch! For further information contact Ann Consul ann_consul@yahoo.com.



Today's Second Collection

is for the Emergency Disaster Fund to support those affected by Hurricane Ian. Donations will support the emergency responses of our partners at Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church.



Registration for this year's Christ the King Monsignor Wade Golf Tournament is now open!

Join us on Friday, Oct. 21 at Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek for our annual scramble, which raises money for the Father Declan Emergency Fund, a tuition assistance program established to assist Christ the King school families should a need arise during the school year. The proceeds also support our school enrichment programs such as community science workshops, foreign language enrichment programs, technology education and more.

Sponsorships are still available; your donation is not only a great marketing opportunity for your business, it is a valuable investment in our community

Visit www.cktgolf.org for more details.



**Carondelet and De La Salle
High School's 22-23 Admissions
Season is open!**

The application deadline for both schools is Dec. 9, and Financial Aid applications open on Dec. 1. To learn more about Carondelet, come to our Open House on November 6 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. De La Salle will be hosting an Open House from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on November 6th as well.

To register for Open House, find out more about both schools, and apply, visit carondeleths.org and dlshs.org.

Upcoming Second Collections

October 23 - World Mission Sunday
October 30 - St. Vincent De Paul

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