

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

(925) 682-2486 ctkph.org

(925) 274-1341 saintstephenparish.org



**The people were exceedingly
astonished and they said,
"He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and
the mute speak."**

Mark 7:37

Twenty-third

Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 5, 2021

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CTK WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

CTK: Monday - Saturday:

9 am Mass ~ Live streamed on facebook/YouTube

6 pm Thursday Mass ~ includes devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Christ The King Weekends:

Saturdays ~ 3 pm - 3:30 pm Private Confessions are available.
Please meet inside the church.

Saturdays ~ 4 pm Vigil Mass (live-streamed)

Sundays ~ 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am (live-streamed), and 4 pm Mass.

We also offer Drive through Communion from
11:30 am - 12 pm Sundays in front of the church.

All Masses are now indoors!

Per Contra Costa Health Orders, August 2, 2021, face coverings are now mandatory in all indoor areas regardless of vaccination status. Thanks for your cooperation.

Dear Friends,

We continue to pray for a successful evacuation of all American citizens and our allies from Afghanistan. May God bless our men and women in the armed forces, who have sacrificed so much for peace in our world. I have one good news to share with you as we witness the chaos of evacuation and withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Christ the King Church was asked by Catholic Charities East Bay to host a family from Afghanistan for a period of 18 months to two years, or until they could be independent. It was a Muslim family of eight: father, mother with six children, ages 5-16. One of the daughters, Madina, remained in Kabul to care for the grandmother who was having surgery; and when the grandmother recovered, Madina would come to the U.S. and join her family here. When she was ready to come, the administration then stopped Muslim immigration to our country. So Madina went on a list to evacuate and remained on the list for five years.

Finding housing for a family of eight was very difficult. CCEB found them a two-story apartment in Oakland, which worked well because the entire top floor was one large room, and Kate from CTK's staff purchased three bunk beds so all the children had a bed. The parents were downstairs. But it was infested with roaches. We would pray at daily Mass that we could find suitable housing for our Afghan family. One day Dan Crespino was at Mass and told me that he owns a 3-bedroom condo in the garden district of Walnut Creek and would be willing to rent it to the family at a cost that they could afford. Dan had just updated and painted it to be like new. The family was delighted to move into this excellent housing. Daud, the father, did not want to send the monthly rent check by mail; he asked Dan to come in person to pick up the check each month. Dan was very gracious about this request. The children loved Dan's visit because he brought ice cream for them.

Once the family was settled in their new home, members of our Immigration Subcommittee assisted with: Finding which school each would attend and how they would get there. Daud, the father would drive them to each school on his way to work in Alameda; arranging for Karima, the mother, to attend English language classes after the older children came home from school to care for the younger children. Some children of our community would organize soccer matches with the Afghan children to provide fun for them; others would advise them how to shop for food and other necessities; and tutoring was found for the students, if needed.

For five years the family gathered each night at bedtime to speak with Madina via zoom, and they all cried. Madina suffered from depression several times during the five years she was in Afghanistan without her family. The Intezar family asked us at CTK if we could help arrange for Madina to be given the status of "Evacuee with Priority" as the US was transitioning from Afghanistan by August 31, 2021. Gwen Watson contacted our U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. Gwen worked with three of his aides who said Mark would send the request under his name to the U.S. State Department. Madina went to the Kabul Airport every day accompanied by her uncle and a cousin. After more than two weeks of daily trips to the airport, her name was called out for evacuating Afghanistan on Sunday, August 22, and she was flown to Qatar on Monday, August 23, to stay at a US Military Base until her case can be cleared for her to be able to go to a Military Base in Virginia or Washington, DC, to be picked up by her family and brought to Walnut Creek to be with her family after five years. Thank you CTK for sponsoring this family. We are grateful that we all could be part of a good story.

Fr. Paulson

Robin Morley will retire as the Office Manager of CTK mid-September 2021, and will transition to a life of ease and peace with her husband Mike, who has also retired after four decades in law enforcement. Robin is one of the smartest employees I have worked with, and CTK owes her a HUGE debt of gratitude. On behalf of our parish communities, I would like to wish Robin the BEST that retirement can offer. *"Because of your experience, your skill, your preparation, your sacrifice, your kind heart, and being faithful to your calling, our lives are better. And we are deeply, deeply grateful."*

Blessings.

Fr. Paulson



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 5, 2021

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

This section of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet spoken to God's people exiled in Babylon. He encourages them that one day they will be free to return home to Jerusalem. This journey will be through the desert, but God will transform this barren wasteland to ease their passage home.

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

The letter of James was written approximately 50 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was addressed not to a particular community, but to Christians everywhere. Because of this, it is part of a group of New Testament letters called *catholic* - that is, universal - *epistles*. One of the trademarks of the epistle of James is the need to *act* on God's word, not just *listen* to it.

CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Sept. 6 Larry Menzhuber †
 Sept. 7 Samuel & Scott Gilbert
 Sept. 8 Frank O'Neil †, Vivian Kisiluk †
 Orlando Villanueva †, Jewish People
 Sept. 9 Katherine & Lawrence Attard †
 Sept. 10 Achiel Wanket †
 Sept. 11 Diane Duque

Saturday, Sept. 11 and Sunday Sept. 12

John Pelosi †
 Maria Ausberta Morgan †
 Christina Iorfida †
 Guise & Trung Nguyen †
 Dita Ramos †, Joe Ramos †
 Jerry Verceles †

HAITI SPECIAL COLLECTION

The 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti's southern peninsula on Aug. 14, reducing towns into rubble and leaving nearly 2,000 people dead. Countless others have been recovered with life-threatening injuries. Disasters of this magnitude also expose Haitians to the threat of deadly cholera outbreaks, a disease endemic to the island nation that quickly infects communities as infrastructure and clean water supplies are compromised. **St. Stephen and CTK will have a second collection on September 18/19.** You can send in your donations early to the office marked for Haiti. We will keep you posted on how your donations are distributed. Thanks for your generous donation for the most vulnerable population.

Healing Mass, September 18 ~ 10:30 am

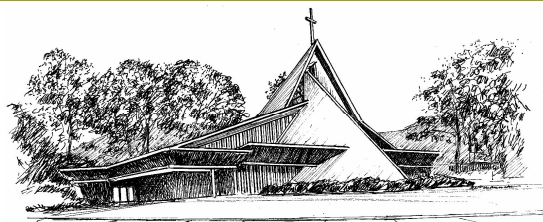
We invite you to bring your loved ones to our next Healing Mass on **Saturday September 18 at 10:30 am.** This is a parish Mass during which we celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: intended especially for the elderly, those with chronic illness, upcoming surgery or any kind of physical or mental illness. Everyone will be required to wear a mask and to be socially distanced from those you do not live with ... we also seat people in every other pew. People may choose to sit outside on the patio in front of the church; please bring your own chair.

ST. STEPHEN CORNER

St. Stephen Church-Mass Times

Saturday - 5pm ~ Indoor

Sunday - 9:30am ~ Indoor



SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Sept. 4 St. Stephen & CTK Parishioners
 Sept. 5 Jim Vranesh †
 Sept. 11 St. Stephen & CTK Parishioners
 Sept. 12 St. Stephen & CTK Parishioners

Have you noticed how our music interacts with our readings each week? Maria does an excellent job of integrating the music with the mass. If you are on her monthly newsletter, she breaks down the music for the month allowing you to listen before the weekend to help enhance your mass experience. If you do not receive her monthly newsletter, you can find it on our St. Stephen website under the "Music" tab.

Next weekend our 2nd collection is for the Diocesan Priest Retirement; this is an opportunity for parishioners to thank our faithful and dedicated priests. There will only be one pass of the collection basket, so please use your donation envelope and drop it in with the regular collection. If you are not using donation envelopes, please write Diocesan Priest Retirement in the subject line of your check, or use a plain envelope with the 2nd collection clearly labeled on the outside.

We welcome Salvador Benitez as our new facilities/maintenance person to our St. Stephen staff. Those of us that have volunteered to step up and help with cleaning and gardening are especially thankful.

Ushers for funerals

If you would like to occasionally serve as an usher at a funeral here at Christ the King ~ we could use your assistance. Ushering at funerals involves welcoming guests and showing them to a seat, handing out programs and clearing up the pews afterwards. Questions? Or, if interested contact Sr. Dominic Marie at sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com; 925-246-1122.



St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County The 2021 Friends of the Poor Walks

September 25 The Friends of the Poor Walks
gather Vincentian volunteers from across the Country in a day of unity, to raise funds for the assistance programs that help our neighbors in need! To register to walk, or to support a walker near you please visit: FOBWalk.org!

You're Invited to Our Annual Fall Auction!



San Damiano Event: "Evening under the Stars" Reception & Auction

We welcome you back to San Damiano for our annual **Evening Under the Stars Fall Auction**.

This year, we are forgoing the sit-down dinner in favor of a festive reception with wine, plentiful and delicious appetizers and a live auc-

tion. Enjoy the music of Brian Judd and the Home Grown Bluegrass band. Register at sandamiano.org or call 925-837-9141.

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Let Jesus the healer, heal any disappointments in your marriage. Strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. Both Virtual and In-Person Experiences are available. **The next in-person Experience in the Oakland Diocese is Nov. 5-7, 2021. Go to www.wwme.org to find the Experience that is just right for you!**

There are many ways to donate to Christ the King or St. Stephen. Scan this QR code on your phone to connect with our donation site.

Thank you for your continued generosity!



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