

Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish

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

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

Christ the King Church

Daily Mass Times

Monday - Saturday 9am

Every First Friday

5pm to 6pm Exposition
6pm Mass

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 4pm Vigil
(4pm Mass is also livestreamed)

Sunday

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm
(10:30am Mass is also livestreamed)

Private Confessions

Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm

St. Stephen Church

Daily Mass Times

Monday - Friday 8am

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 5pm Vigil
Sunday: 9:30am

Private Confessions

Saturday Before the 5pm Mass

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 11am to 2pm

December 31, 2023



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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

TO LIVE AND TO LOVE IN CHRIST
TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Dear Beloved Community,



It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of an amazing year of grace and blessing for our community. We became a new entity as we lovingly merged with St. Stephen community. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to the mission of Christ the King – St. Stephen. We have witnessed God's faithfulness in abundance!

It is a new year, and it is my prayer for all of you — and for me, as well — that we can take new steps on our faith journeys, and seek new ways to live out discipleship and stewardship.

Pope Francis once commented on his perspective of our modern approach to life. He said, "Certainly, possessions, money and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want more, never satisfied. I have learned that the most important thing is to put on Christ in your life, place your trust in Him, and you will never be disappointed."

I would hope that we see this year as a time for opportunity, a time to deepen our relationship with Christ, and for that matter with one another. We are blessed with many opportunities in our parish to pray, but as much as it is important for us to take advantage of those, we also need to develop a strong personal prayer life. The attendance at our retreats has been great this year. Recall the young Samuel in the Bible, who was not quite sure what to do with his life, or what direction to go. When he finally settled on that one important prayer, "Speak, Lord, for I am listening," Samuel gives us the hint as to what we need to do. Prayer is a two-way street, and part of that is taking the time to listen to God. Let us develop listening skills especially in prayer.



I would ask you to focus on JOY this year. Christ certainly called us to do that. Pope Francis has had much to say about joy, as well. The Holy Father says, "Joy cannot be held at heel; it must be let go. Joy is a pilgrim virtue. It is a gift that walks — walks on the path of life, that walks with Jesus... proclaiming joy, lengthens and widens that path." We must seek that joy and then we need to share it.

It's easy to get mired down in "what's wrong". It's easy to be unhappy. It's easy to focus on what's hard and what's not going right and what could be better and be unhappy about it. But Joy...Joy is there despite how life unfolds. We only need embrace it.

A joy-filled heart makes a joy-filled home, because joy flows from the inside out, not the outside in. Joy is a choice. A joyful home is not made in one decision at the dawn of a new day; a joyful home is when decisions are made, moment by moment, to choose joy instead of something else. Each day is a new beginning and each moment is a new opportunity to change direction of that day.

The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul." - Gilbert K. Chesterton

Happy New Year!

~Fr. Paulson



UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

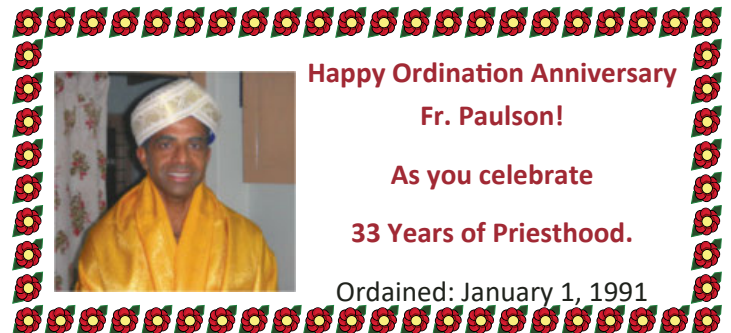
Jan. 1	Mon.	9:00am	Fr. Paulson Mundanmani (Anniversary of Ordination) Larry Cummings † Paul & Alison Young & Family
Jan. 2	Tues.	9:00am	Jesusa Gonzales Kristin Chimelarski Christopher & Jessica Young and Family
Jan. 3	Weds.	9:00am	Joshua Ruelas † Billy Joe Cosby Stephen & Lisa Young & Family
Jan. 4	Thurs.	9:00am	John Ahern † Thomas Frasier Lauren Calise Family
Jan. 5	Fri.	9:00am	Cecelia Quyen Nguyen † Yvonne Wingo † Christina Calise Family
Jan. 6	Sat.	9:00am	Marissa Bordou Megan Calise Family
Jan. 6	Sat.	4:00pm	Vilda, Francis & Vincent Coutinho † Rodolfo Mindanao †
Jan. 7	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza †
Jan. 7	Sun.	9:00am	Albert Haggett †
Jan. 7	Sun.	10:30am	Fr. Ramon Marrufo † Edward Mackinson †
Jan. 7	Sun.	4:00pm	Bishop Joseph Strickland Cardinal Raymond Burke

UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 30	Sat.	5:00pm	Robert Norris †
Dec. 31	Sun.	9:30am	CTK-SS Priests
Jan. 2	Tues.	8:00am	Larry Levin, Healing
Jan. 3	Wed.	8:00am	Austin Burns, Healing
Jan. 4	Thurs.	8:00am	Bill Pauplis †
Jan. 5	Fri.	8:00am	John Pauplis †
Jan. 6	Sat.	5:00pm	CTK-SS Parishioners
Jan. 7	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †



A special thank you to everyone that
helped prepare
St. Stephen for Christmas.
You did a wonderful job!



Join us after the 4pm Mass at CTK on
Sunday, December 31 for a reception
on the patio as we celebrate New
Year's Eve!

Feast of the Holy Family



First Friday
This Friday, January 5th is our
Monthly First Friday Exposition
Of the Blessed Sacrament at CTK

Exposition: 5pm to 6pm
This will be time for quiet prayer.
Mass: 6pm in the church



The Knights of Columbus
2024 Basketball Free Throw/
Competition
Sunday, February 4th in the
Christ the King Gym-7:30am-11:30am

No fee is required.

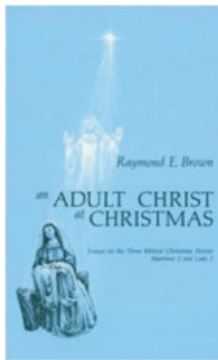
Registration forms will be available at the day of the event. No preregistration needed.

Girls and boys ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the Free-throw competition. Questions? Contact Roberto Bracamontes rbracamontes@mac.com



CYO CTK-St Stephen/St. Catherine
Track and Field Team Signups:
Thursday, January 11th, 6-7:00 pm
and Wednesday, January 17th
6:00pm -7:00pm in
Christ The King Parish Hall

Children in grades 2nd-8th from any school (public, private or home schooled) within the parish are welcome! More information and signup forms at ctktrack.org, or please email any questions to info@ctktrack.org.



Adult Education
Mondays, January 8 & January 15
CTK's Ministry Center Chapel -
10:30am

Although the Christmas season officially ends with the Epiphany and Ordinary Time begins on January 14th, we will take two sessions to discuss Raymond E. Brown's "An Adult Christ at Christmas: Essays on the Three Biblical Christmas Stories – Matthew 2 and Luke 2" on January 8th and 15th. Fr. Brown treats the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke as the entire Gospel story in miniature.

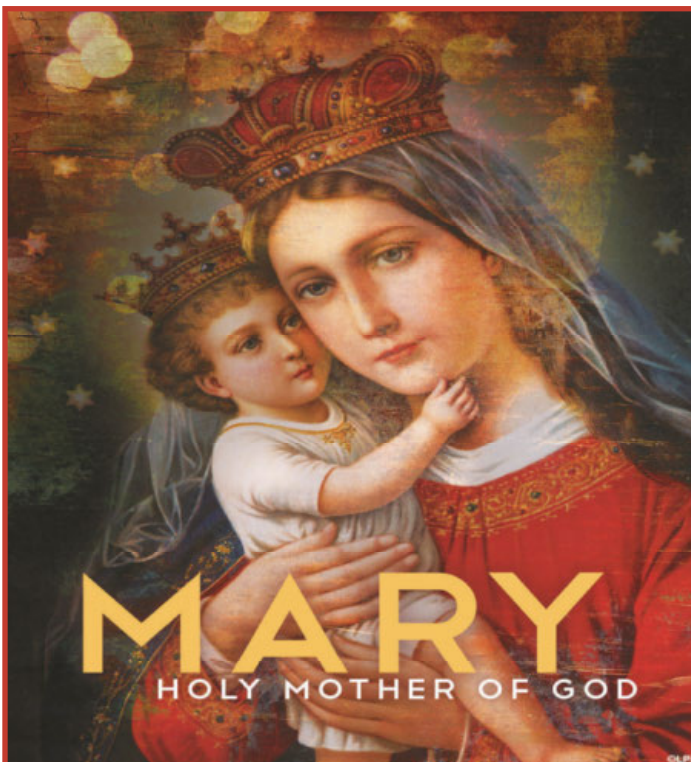


A big thank you to all participants
in the ICARE/CORE
Food Kit Program!

In two weekends, Christ the King-
St. Stephen parishioners donated
\$2500 and 30 volunteers signed up to help.

On Saturday, December 16th, Unity Church of Walnut Creek, our team partner, co-hosted the event at their church and 25 of their congregation joined 25 Christ the King/St. Stephen parishioners to assemble 290 bags of food for the homeless of Contra Costa County. We did it all in 45 minutes with great team work, great enthusiasm and lots of happy smiles! Kids from both churches were present making cards to insert into the bags.

Each kit cost about \$3.35. The total cost was \$1,834. Remaining funds are ear-marked for our next Food Kit Program to be held at Christ the King parish hall sometime in March during the Lenten season.



The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,
Monday January 1, (New Year's Day)

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



End of the Year To Do's Required Minimum Distribution

If you have an IRA, SIMPLE IRA, SEP IRA, or retirement plan account and are over the age of 72 (73 if you reached age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022), you are faced with a required minimum distribution (RMD) by the IRS. Your RMD is the minimum amount you must withdraw from your account each year to avoid significant tax penalties. The IRS has a qualified charitable donation rule that allows you to exempt your distribution from taxes. The significant advantage of this is that it lowers your adjusted gross income. The donation must be paid directly from the plan to the charity and the donor must be over 72. If you are in this situation, check with your tax advisor to see if it makes sense for you to apply this IRS rule and **direct your RMD to Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish.**



Do you have a car, truck, RV or boat you would like to donate before the end of the year?

Christ the King-St. Stephen and Car Donation Services, located in Martinez have teamed up to provide an easy way to donate a vehicle (running or not). Proceeds from all vehicle donations will go to Christ the King-St. Stephen Parish. It will be a tax donation to you! Call 888-686-4483 or visit their website at: www.cardonationservices.com to start the easy process. CDS takes care of all aspects of your car donations, allowing you peace of mind that the transaction will be completed efficiently and properly.



Thank you for your donations and generosity throughout the year!

We have an easy way to give! You can scan this QR Code and it will take you to our safe and secure Realm Site where it will lead you to a convenient way to give.

Or you can text CTKPH to 73256. Thank you for your generosity!

Happy New Year!



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Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich

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Bookkeepersp@gmail.com

Pasta feed fundraiser

PLEASE JOIN THE **DIABLO VALLEY LIONS CLUB** **JANUARY 13TH** 5pm to 7:30 pm

\$25.00 Per Person, (Youths) 12 and under \$10.00 Per Person

TO GO is available upon request at the event

Location: Christ the King Church 199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill

Meal includes: Pasta with beef meatballs & meat sauce with ground beef and pork
Meatless sauce also available (upon request)
Parmesan cheese, salad, rolls and butter plus dessert

★ **THERE WILL BE A DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE PRIZES TOO!!** ★

Purchase tickets by January 9th

Checks written to "Diablo Valley Lions Club"

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FOR THE "FISHER HOUSE" WHO HELP OUR VETERANS



Saint of the week

Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create new opportunities for black Catholics.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://nolacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-mary-lange#:~:text=Prayer,the%20poor%20and%20the%20sick.>)

Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



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Denia Aggetta Shields, Parishioner

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