

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

(925) 682-2486 ctkph.org

(925) 274-1341 saintstephenparish.org

MAGI FROM THE EAST ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM, SAYING,
"WHERE IS THE NEWBORN KING OF THE JEWS?"
WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING
AND HAVE COME TO DO HIM HOMAGE."

MATTHEW 2:1-2



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SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 28 9:00 am Madeline Gomes †
Jan. 3 9:30 am Jim Vranesh †
Jan. 7 9:00 am Michael Millek †

***CTK Parish Office is open
Mon-Fri ~ 9 am to 1 pm***

**Our offices will be closed
12/31/20 & 1/1/21**

Religious Education: (925) 686-1017
Youth Ministry: (925) 676-0979
CTK School: (925) 685-1109

CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 4 9 am Remigo Tan †
Jan. 5 9 am The Higdon Family
Jan. 6 9 am Cecilia Nguyen †
Yvonne Perera
Jan. 7 9 am Higdon-Lopez-Cannon Families
Jan. 8 9 am Fr. Brian Joyce †

Saturday, January 9 and Sunday, January 10
Christopher Wijekoon
CTK & SS Parishioners
Stan Rasmussen †



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a blessed and joyful New Year celebration. Looking ahead to 2021, let's hope and pray that the COVID-19 vaccines will be quickly produced, distributed and administered across our country and around the world. When that happens, the craziness called 2020 will quickly become just a distant memory. Isn't it funny that a year with such "focused" numbers, (20-20, as in vision), was such a blur!

I also wish you a Happy Epiphany! On Epiphany we remember the visit of the magi to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. The "wise men" are rather mysterious figures, only mentioned in Matthew's gospel. We don't definitively know who they were or where they were from, only being told that they were "magi from the east." The "east" could have been anywhere from Persia to China, but no one really knows their place of origin. As I suggested in the past, *Revelation of the Magi*, by Brent Landau, is a fascinating read on this subject. Although it is drawn from an apocryphal text, it reveals what many people in the early Christian community thought about the magi. Again, the source requires that we take this information with a grain of salt, but it is fascinating, nonetheless. Assuming that I make it to heaven, I'm definitely going to ask God who the wise men really were! (I'm hoping for an introduction!)

So, with Epiphany here, is the Christmas season all but over? Well, it depends on who you ask. Some say the Christmas season runs from Christmas Eve evening through the day before the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. That's always the Sunday after Epiphany. So, if that's how you define it, we have less than a week left in the Christmas season.

However, many churches and families define the Christmas season as continuing through February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. If you want to be "in sync" with the Vatican, I read that their Christmas tree and nativity scene stay up until then. So, take your pick, knowing that whatever you decide will dictate when you can take down and put away your Christmas decorations.

While calendars are important, the most crucial principle for us to remember is that, however we define the season, Christmas is meant to live in our hearts every day of the year. Christmas is the season, and the spirit, of love, generosity and selflessness. When we contemplate the God who loves us so much that He became one of us, we can't help but be awed! Our challenge is, in some small way, to reflect the love that He shares with us, with everyone we encounter. That's a tall order for us in our humanity. But we can trust that God is always present, making up for whatever we lack, if we give it our best effort. Remember, what the angel Gabriel told Mary: "Nothing will be impossible for God!"

So, may each of us live and reflect the love of the Christmas season all year long, and may you have a blessed, happy and healthy New Year. And again, Happy Epiphany!

Deacon John

The Epiphany of The Lord January 3, 2021

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who lived after the Jews returned from exile. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. But with great faith the prophet envisions a wonderful future for Jerusalem.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

The Ephesians were a community in which Jewish converts to Christianity lived side by side with the Gentile converts. The author of this letter confirms that God's saving grace is available to everyone, whatever their background.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

CTK: Monday - Saturday:

9 am Mass ~ Live streamed from our chapel 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 in front of the church.

Saturdays ~ 4 pm Vigil Mass Drive-In/Lawn (note time change)

**Sundays ~ 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am and 4 pm
drive-in/lawn mass**

12:00 noon Spanish drive-in/lawn mass

Note: While communion will be available at all the Outdoor Masses, we will also offer Drive through Communion from 11:30 am - 12 pm Sundays in front of the church.

Saint Stephen Weekends

Sunday Mass ~ 9:30 am Outdoor Mass

**Communion only - please arrive at the end of mass,
approximately 10:10 am.**

St. Stephen Corner

Start the year off right by scheduling your special Mass Intentions. Right now you are "almost" guaranteed to get your preferred date. Email or call the parish office with your requests. When you leave Mass on Sunday, ask for the current 2021 calendar. We also have a number of donation envelopes still waiting to be picked up. You can always contact the office to find an alternate way of receiving your envelopes.

Because we don't know when things will "return to normal" we have decided to make a limited number of "Breaking Bread" Missals available for you to take home and bring with you every Sunday. Because of the limited number, we are asking each family to share and take home only one copy.

Next Sunday's (January 10) second collection will be for the Seminary. Please be generous and use the envelopes provided in your packet, or clearly note Seminary in the subject line of your check.

Blessings to Fr. Paulson on the 30th

Anniversary of his Ordination - January 1, 2021



*"Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
'Now I have put my words in your mouth.'"*

-Jeremiah 1:9

*A note from Fr. Brian Timoney:

Dear friends,

I had a call from **Fr. Tom Burns** asking me to write you on his behalf. He wants to thank all who sent Christmas cards and gifts. He would wish to thank each one of you individually but feels overwhelmed by the task. So here is his Thank you, Thank you and his prayers and blessings to you for a joyful and peaceful Christmas

Fr. Tom is doing well, gets a walk in every day, otherwise confined to his room, with all meals being served there.

May I take this opportunity to likewise thank all who sent me Christmas cards and gifts. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are beyond telling. Like Fr. Tom I too am overwhelmed by the task of sending out cards, so I have not done so, even to my family. So please accept my most sincere thanks and best wishes for a Christmas full of happiness and joy. I appreciate all the cards that I have received, again, Thank you.

I take this opportunity to thank Frs. Paulson and Lee for taking good care of me at this time of Covid. Blessings to all.

Fr. Brian Timoney

Are you or anyone you know, curious about the process of becoming Catholic? The program is called Rite of Christian Initiation, or RCIA. As an adult, you receive Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. There is no commitment, simply come and see! During the pandemic we are meeting through email. Contact: Mary McCarthy (maryjane.mccarthy@gmail.com).

2021 Calendars are here! You can pick one up in the CTK office M-F from 9 am to 1 pm. They are also available from the Ushers at mass.

The 2021 Mass book is also available for your mass intentions. You can stop in the office to request your mass intention and mass card.

January						
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

A **huge thank you** to all our parishioners who have continued to support Christ the King and St. Stephen during this Covid-19 pandemic. We very much appreciate you.

There are many ways to donate including text giving. Text giving is fast, easy and versatile. Give in the moment - all in a matter of seconds.

- Easy card registration on your phone
- Option to make your gifts recurring

To give, text the dollar amount to
833-361-4156



You can also scan this QR code on your phone to connect with our donation site. Thank you for your continued generosity!

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