

# Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish

**St. Stephen Church**  
1101 Keaveny Court  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
925-274-1341  
[saintstephenparish.org](http://saintstephenparish.org)

**Christ the King Church**  
195A Brandon Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
925-682-2486  
[ctkph.org](http://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

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## 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

November 26, 2023



**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

**"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." - Mt 25:38-40**

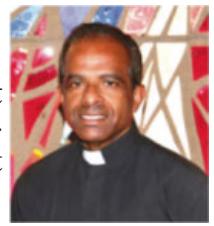
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**TO LIVE AND TO LOVE IN CHRIST  
TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



Dear Friends,

**On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King.** The feast was established in the 20th century and it was designed to give special recognition to the dominion Christ our Lord has over all aspects of our lives. Happy Feast to all of you! May He lead us!



When Cardinal Ambrogio Achille Ratti was elected pope and took the name Pope Pius XI, much of the world was in shambles. The year was 1922, and while the bloodletting of World War I (1914-1918) had ended, widespread peace and tranquility were not evident. The war to end all wars had been especially devastating to England and the countries of continental Europe. Additionally, the overthrow of the Romanov tsars by the Russian Revolution had created great upheaval in Russia and brought immense suffering. Governments were in economic chaos; unemployment was rampant and people in many places were literally starving to death.

Pessimism, a sense of helplessness compounded by hatred among the nations, was overwhelming. The time was ripe for the rise of tyrants, and rise they did. The festering philosophies of fascism, National Socialism (the Nazis) and communism now spawned the likes of Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin. In their distress, people clung to anyone who offered them hope, offered some kind of direction out of the chaos and promised to put food on their tables.

Many considered the basics of morality and the teachings of the Church to be out of date, no longer relevant in 20th-century society. Some political regimes advocated the banishment of Jesus altogether, not only from society, but from the family as well. As nations were reborn and governments restructured, their foundations, policies and laws were often being fashioned without regard to Christian principles.

In all these developments, the new Pope Pius XI saw that people were denying Christ in favor of a lifestyle dominated by secularism, material advantage and false hope created by the tyrants. He realized that he had to address the political and economic forces that were crowding out the kingship of Jesus.



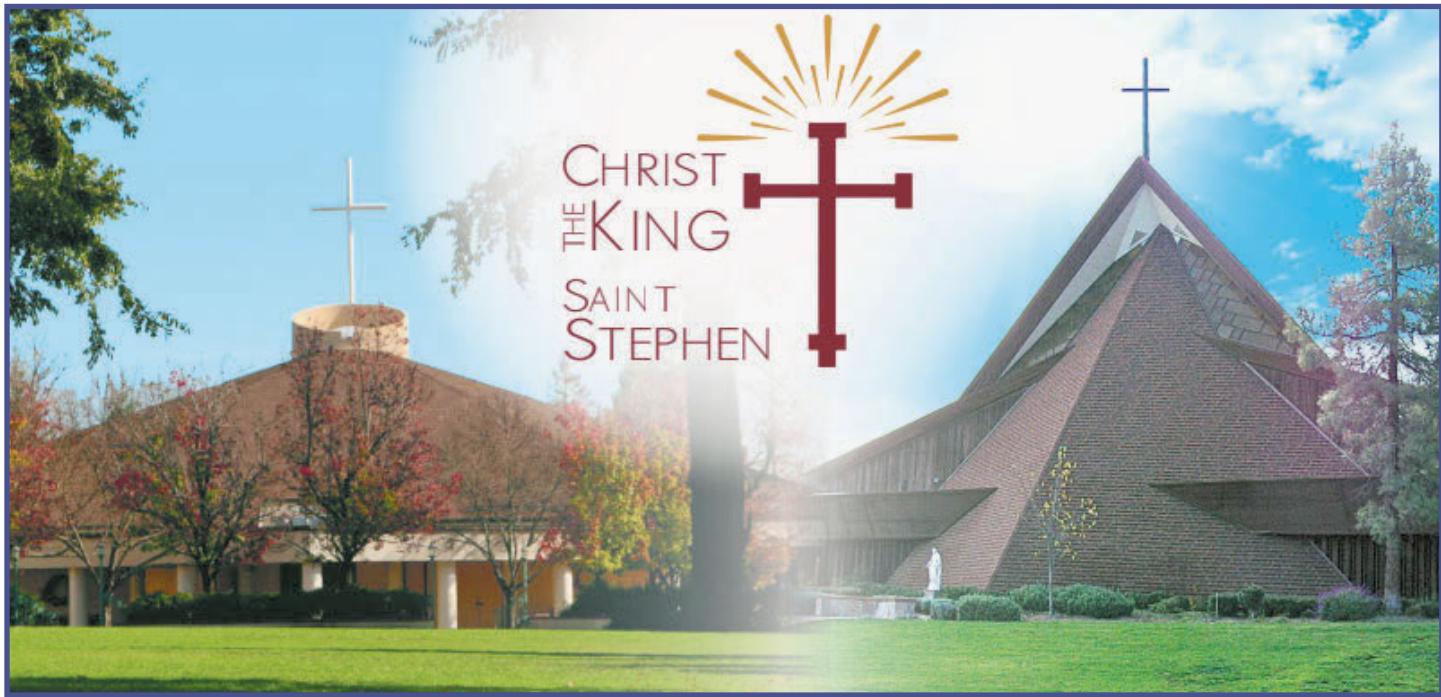
On Dec. 11 Pope Pius XI issued the encyclical *Quas Primas*, which added the feast of “Our Lord Jesus Christ the King” to the annual Church liturgical calendar. The encyclical provided for the feast of Christ the King to be held each year on the last Sunday of October. This date, a week before All Saints’ Day and four weeks before Advent, was carefully chosen: It reminded the people that Jesus Christ is not only King of this world, reigning among nations today; He is also the eternal King, glorified by the saints in heaven, who will one day come to judge all humankind.

In his encyclical, the pope noted that the continuing disorder of that era, what he called “the plague of society,” had long been festering and was the result of nations rejecting Christ. Later in the encyclical the pontiff pointedly reminded national governments, “Christ, who has been cast out of public life, despised, neglected and ignored, will most severely avenge these insults; for His kingly dignity demands that the State should take account of the commandments of God and of Christian principles, both in making laws and in administering justice, and also in providing for the young a sound moral education.”

In 1969, Pope Paul VI took several steps to enhance the witness of the feast day. To emphasize Christ’s universal reign, he changed the name of the celebration to the feast of “Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of All.” He also changed the date to the last Sunday in the liturgical year, emphasizing even more strongly the connection between Christ’s kingship and His second advent (coming) to judge the world. In addition, the pope raised the feast to the highest rank of celebration on the Church calendar, that of a “solemnity.”

**Today, peace still eludes us; social, political and economic orders are shaking; and the nations continue in many ways to reject the light of the Gospel. We can be grateful, then, for the chance to celebrate each year the Solemnity of Christ the King — for the world needs now, more than ever, our witness to His rule over all things.**

~ **Fr. Paulson**



## UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 27	Mon.	9:00am	Patricia Villarente † Tina Frial & Family
Nov. 28	Tues.	9:00am	Fe Ricafrente † Arturo & Evangeline Malibiran † Leonica Malijan †
Nov. 29	Weds.	9:00am	Spencer Swann
Nov. 30	Thurs.	9:00am	Francisco Laurel †
Dec. 1	Fri.	9:00am	Anna Khang † Jose Antonio Leitao † Jose Pendoza II † Cecelia Quyen Nguyen
Dec. 2	Sat.	9:00am	Vivian Kisiluk †
Dec. 2	Sat.	4:00pm	Luis Cruz Sisou Taggart Family
Dec. 3	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza † James & Jo Gentile †
Dec. 3	Sun.	9:00am	Michael Tu Troung †
Dec. 3	Sun.	10:30am	Marie (Intention)
Dec. 3	Sun.	4:00pm	Mary Ann La Vera Angel & Chel Astudillo

## UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 25	Sat.	5:00pm	CTK-SS Parishioners
Nov. 26	Sun.	9:30am	Siuta Moala †
Nov. 27	Mon.	8:00am	Jeff Ferrasci, Healing
Nov. 28	Tues.	8:00am	John George †
Nov. 29	Weds.	8:00am	Walter Lang, <i>Successful surgery</i>
Dec. 2	Sat.	5:00pm	CTK-SS Parishioners
Dec. 3	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †

There are still many Mass Intention spots available during our St. Stephen Masses for the remainder of the 2023 year. Contact the St. Stephen office if you would like to finish the year off with a special request or just get your 2024 request in early before the prime requested spots are taken. Call the SS Office at 925-274-1341.





### First Friday

Join us this Friday, December 1, for our Monthly First Friday

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
(A time for quiet reflection and prayer)

**Exposition at 5 pm followed by  
Mass at 6pm**

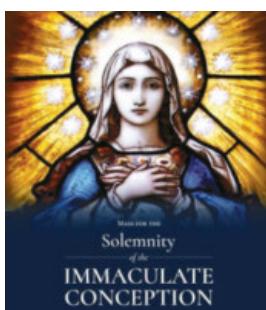


**Merry Christmas from  
Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish  
Cub Scout Pack 401!  
(At CTK & St. Stephen This Weekend)**

Our Cub Scouts are planning to sell Christmas Wreaths for our annual fundraiser after weekend Masses on Sat.-Sun. Nov. 25-26, and Dec. 2-3.

The cost is \$30 for a 22" Wreath. Please stop by and pick out a Wreath from your CTK - St. Stephen Cub Scouts!

## Celebrate Mass With Us



### The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (A Holy Day)

**Friday, December 8**

Mass times:

CTK: 9am, 12:05pm & 7pm  
St. Stephen: 8am & 6pm



### The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Christ the King Church  
Sunday, December 10**

**Mass Time: 4pm (Spanish & English)  
With a Mariachi Band!**

**Join us after mass at CTK's Parish Hall  
For a reception with the Mariachi Band and tamales!**

## Advent Begins Next Sunday, December 3



### Finding Treasure in the Waiting Time Practical Preparation for the Advent Season

**Monday, December 4**

at 10am and again at 7pm

**St. Stephen Parish Hall ~ Speaker - Kathy Roberts**

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, and it can often be a time of uncomfortable stress. Join us for an unrushed hour in which we'll explore real ways to find real treasure during the beautiful season of Advent. Treasure awaits... Register at [ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org)

### Join us for a discussion of Raymond E. Brown's "A Coming Christ in Advent"

**on Mondays, December 11 and 18, at 10:30 am in the  
Ministry Center Chapel.**

Fr. Brown reflects on the annunciations in Matthew and Luke, on the Magnificat and Benedictus canticles, and on the "origins of Jesus" as given in the first words of the New Testament. For discussion purposes, the book will be divided into two sections: chapters 1-3 and chapters 4-6.



### Little Blue Book for Advent

The little Blue Advent Books which consist of prayers, devotions and stories for Advent are available for pick up in the back of the church today both at CTK and St. Stephen.

## You are invited to attend our Advent Reconciliation Service

**CTK:  
Saturday, December 9 at 3pm or  
Monday, December 11 at 6pm**

**St. Stephen:  
Friday, December 15 at 6pm**



## ADVENT GRACES

Scripture and Music for the Season of Joyful waiting.

with  
Janet Sullivan Whitaker

Thursday, November 30th  
7:00pm  
Christ the King Parish  
195A Brandon Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA, 94523



### Adult Faith Formation Resources

During Lent, Terry Heywood and Fr. Paulson presented two sessions on Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina. Centering prayer emphasizes mindfulness with the intention of being more aware and open to the presence of the Holy Spirit. Lectio Divina is a traditional monastic practice of scripture reading, meditation, and prayer intended to promote communion with God. An excellent source for more information about Lectio Divina can be found at: <https://catholic.bible/lectio-divina-in-english/>

The complete Adult Faith Formation Resource List is now available on the CTK website. (ctkph.org) You can access it from the HOME page by clicking on FAITH FORMATION, then ADULT PROGRAMS. Select ADULT FAITH FORMATION, then MORE RESOURCES. The resource list will download automatically.

Or you can click the QR code above and then go to "view" files.

### CTK STAFF CONTACTS

**CTK Office:** office@ctkph.org  
195A Brandon Rd.  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

**Fr. Paulson Mundanmani**  
925-682-2486  
paulson.ctk@gmail.com

**Fr. Lee Chompochan**  
925-682-2486  
lleescj49@hotmail.com

**Deacon John Ashmore**  
925-686-1174  
faithformation@ctkph.org

**Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP**  
925-246-1122  
sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com

**Dr. Joe Silveira**, Principal  
925-685-1109  
jsilveira@ctkschool.org

**Helen Christian**, Office Manager  
925-682-2486  
hchristian326@gmail.com

**Kathy Ridgway**, Parish Office  
925-682-2486  
kridgway02@gmail.com

**Mike Aliscad**, Youth Minister  
925-246-1128  
maliscad@ctkph.org

**Rosa Panelli**, RE Office  
925-686-1017  
rpanellictkre@gmail.com

**Jennifer Bennett**, Music Ministry  
jenniferbennett1011@gmail.com

### ST. STEPHEN STAFF CONTACTS

**St. Stephen Office:**  
saintstephenwc@gmail.com  
1101 Keaveny Ct.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

**Chris Lang, St. Stephen Liaison**  
saintstephenwc@gmail.com  
925-274-1341

**Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich**  
925-682-2486  
Bookkeeperssp@gmail.com

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD,  
I will judge between one sheep and another,  
between rams and goats. (Ez 34:17)

### Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
(Ps 23)

### Second Reading:

When everything is subjected to him,  
then the Son himself will also be subjected  
to the one who subjected everything to him,  
so that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:28)

### Gospel:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory,  
and all the angels with him,  
he will sit upon his glorious throne,  
and all the nations will be assembled before him.  
And he will separate them one from another,  
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."  
(Mt 25:31-32)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

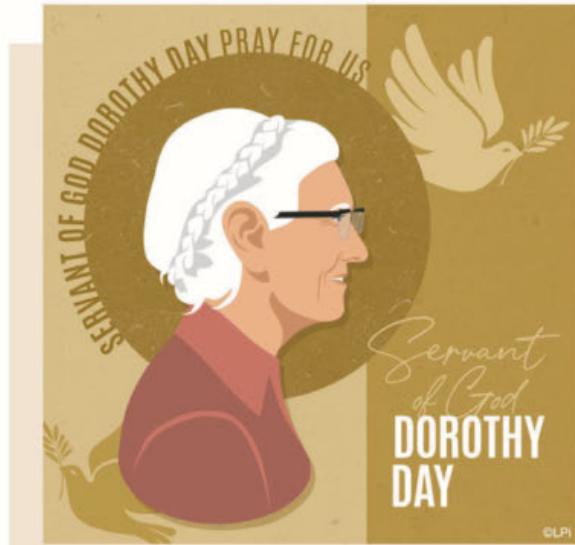
God is always closer to us than we suspect. He is in every need we encounter and every person we meet. Never stop seeking His face.

## Observances for the week of November 26, 2023

**Sunday:** Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe

**Thursday:** St. Andrew, Apostle

**Next Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent



### Saint of the week

Servant of God Dorothy Day was an American journalist, social activist, and Catholic convert who co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Her work inspired countless others and earned her recognition as one of the most influential Catholic figures of the 20th century.

### Prayer

Merciful God, You called your servant Dorothy Day to show us the face of Jesus in the poor and forsaken. By constant practice of the works of mercy, she embraced poverty and witnessed steadfastly to justice and peace. Count her among your saints and lead us all to become friends of the poor ones of the earth, and to recognize you in them. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, bringer of good news to the poor. Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://catholicworker.org/prayers-for-the-canonization-of-dorothy-day/>)

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