

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

Christ the King Church

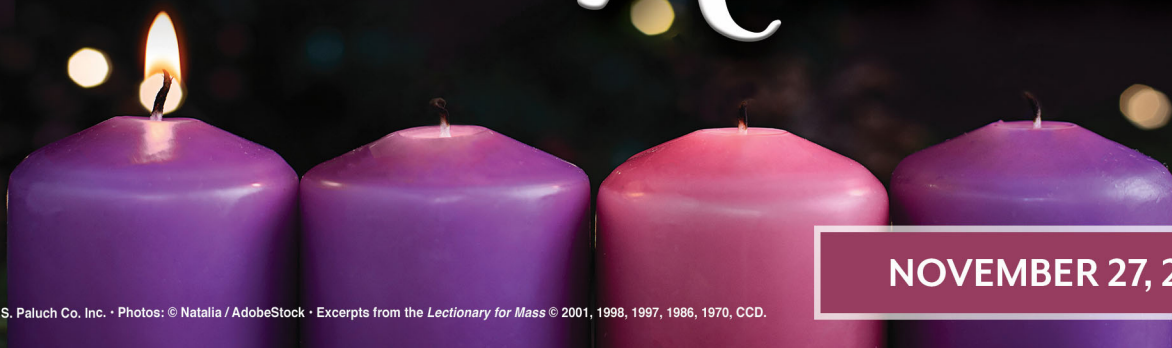
195A Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
ctkph.org

St. Stephen Church

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Advent



NOVEMBER 27, 2022

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“You also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

MATTHEW 24:44

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

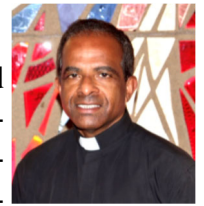
Livestream Links

Can be found at ctkph.org

“TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

Dear Friends,

This year 2022, Thanksgiving weekend also brings us to the First Sunday of Advent and a “new year” in our Liturgical (Church) Calendar. There are other names or descriptions for this time of year: many speak of the holidays, referring to the time between Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year’s Day; others speak of the Christmas shopping season. These descriptions can remind us that, while this is a very beautiful time of year and, for some, “the most wonderful time of the year,” these can also be days of distraction, pressure, or even sadness or loneliness.



In one episode of The Simpsons, Homer is sitting on the couch, throwing peanuts into his mouth. On his last throw, he misses, the peanut rolls under the couch, and he gets down on his hands and knees to reach blindly under the sofa. His hand touches something which he grasps and pulls out, and he opens his fist to reveal a hundred-dollar bill. His response is, “A hundred dollars!? But I wanted a peanut!”

This season leads us in search of the greatest gift ever given: the gift of absolute joy, absolute peace, absolute love, the gift of perfect unity with God. Let us not turn our back on this awesome gift because our hearts are distracted. One way to combat or deal with some of the distractions or temptations of this time of year is to make an effort to enter in to the “spirit” of the Advent Season. The cold and dark of winter is pierced by the lights and warmth of Christmas. We see such wonderful generosity at this time of year as so many people of faith prepare to celebrate the “true meaning of Christmas” by giving to and caring for others, especially those who may be lonely or in need. I would like to recommend 4 things as we journey towards Bethlehem.

1. **Read our Blue Advent book with your family to focus on the season together.** These books are beautiful daily reflections for the Advent and Christmas seasons designed to be insightful, inspiring, simple, and easy to read.
2. **Reach out to neighbors and friends who might be lonely.** The holidays can be a really hard time for people, for many different reasons. If you know of someone in your neighborhood or community who might be struggling, take some time to connect with them. Ask them out for coffee, have them over for a meal, or include them in some of your Advent plans.
3. **Sign up for a volunteer activity during the Advent season.** Another great way to serve others and give back to your community is to find a way to volunteer your time and services. You could work at a food bank, help run a toy drive, collect coats, gloves, and scarves for people in need, participate in Christmas-specific charities, or do anything else that you feel passionate about. Giving the gift of time is a perfect gift.
4. **Adopt St. Vincent de Paul this season and give gifts to families in need for Christmas.** If you’re interested in focusing on serving others, consider skipping buying gifts for yourself and your own family this year, and instead get everyone involved in donating money or needed items to St. Vincent de Paul. Check with St. Vincent de Paul ministry to find a list of needed items, and then shop for those items as a family and wrap the items yourself, which will then be delivered to the families in time for Christmas.

As we walk with Mary and Joseph on the road to Bethlehem, realizing that the road is, at times, long, busy (filled with holiday traffic), and dangerous, you know where the road and journey lead: to the joy and peace of Christmas. Happy Advent!

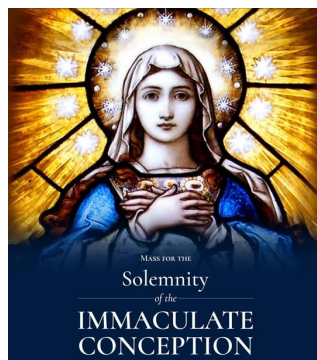
Fr Paulson



CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 28	Mon.	9am	Maryann Salm † Fe Ricafrente † Evangeline & Arturo Malibiran †
Nov. 29	Tues.	9am	Frank O'Neill †
Nov. 30	Wed.	9am	Betsie Miller † Francisco Laurel † Claro, Rosario & Anne Caraos †
Dec. 1	Thurs.	9am	Anna Khang † Jose Antonio Leitaos †
Dec. 2	Fri.	9am	Sandro Sandri † Dale Ambler †
Dec. 3	Sat.	9am	Wanda Byron †
Dec. 3 & Dec. 4	Week- end	All- Masses	Juliette Pasis† Jo & James Gentile † Rachel Mello (<i>Bday Blessings</i>)

CELEBRATE WITH US AT CTK



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8

Mass times:

7am, 9am, 12:05pm & 7pm

Coming Up....

First Friday

This Friday, December 2

Exposition 5pm to 6pm/Followed by mass at 6pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Sunday, December 11 at the 4pm Mass

Parish Advent Reconciliation Services

Saturday, December 17 at 3pm or

Monday, December 19 at 7:15pm

Simbang Gabi

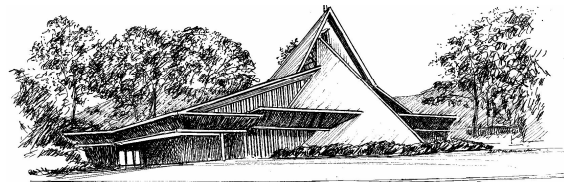
December 15 - December 23 - 6pm Daily Mass

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

Nov. 26	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen Parishioners
Nov. 27	Sun.	9:30am	Virgil Bolin †
Dec. 3	Sat.	5:00pm	Ted Aldrich †
Dec. 4	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Our Giving Tree is now set up in the back of the church. Please stop by and pick up a gift tag for a specific layette item and return it with the gift by December 23rd. You can wrap the gifts in simple white tissue paper and place them under the tree. More information is posted on the bulletin boards.

With the start of Advent we are bringing back a few of our pre-Covid traditions. You are still encouraged to wear masks and some of our pews will still be blocked off, but our 2023 Breaking Bread Missalettes are now available in the pews and do not need to be returned to the back of the church. We are also re-instating the offertory procession.

Next Sunday, December 4 at 4pm here at St. Stephen, Diablo Choral Artists will be having a Holiday Concert of Baroque choral music and carol sing-alongs featuring flutes and strings. A reception will follow the concert. General admission is \$20. DCA is requiring proof of vaccination and masks.

There are still a few Little Blue Books available. Pick one up before they are all gone.

Remember to pick up the picture of your deceased loved one as you leave Mass this weekend. Your boxes of donation envelopes are also available for you to pick up from the back of the church.

Office hours - Monday & Wednesday 11am-2pm



SIMBANG GABI -- The Filipino Society of Christ the King cordially invites you to join in the celebration of "Simbang Gabi", a **nine-day novena in preparation for the birth of Jesus, at Christ**

the King Church from December 15th to the 23rd. Mass begins at 6:00 p.m. every night. Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 15, will be held in the parish hall. A celebration of gratitude will be held after the last mass on the 23rd in the parish hall. For those who are unable to attend, each of the masses will be livestreamed. For additional information, please contact Maritess Baula (925-899-9078) or Imelda Santos (925-623-7340).



Knights of Columbus
Tuesday, Dec. 6 - 6pm to 9pm
Parish Hall - Rooms A/B

The CTK Council of the Knights of Columbus will be holding a council meeting on Tuesday, December 6 from 6-9pm in the Parish Hall (Room A/B), and it will be our annual holiday celebration. The event is open to all brother Knights and their families, along with any potential Knights that members of the council would like to invite. Please plan to join us for an evening of camaraderie and celebration of the holiday season! Kindly RSVP to Steve Zalewski (zalewski.steve@gmail.com) so we can get an approximate headcount for planning purposes.



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. Or you can pick one up at our parish office. \$1 donation is appreciated.



Ushers Needed

Do you have time on your hands and would like to help out occasionally at Christ the King Church?

We frequently have funerals during the week (mid-morning) and we have parishioners offer hospitality as greeters/ushers. Would you be willing to be part of a group of volunteers who welcome guests, hand out programs and straighten up the church afterwards? We give you a list of upcoming funerals and you can choose when to serve. Questions?

Sr. Dominic Marie at sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com



Merry Christmas from CTK Cub Scout Pack 401!

Our Cub Scouts will be selling Christmas Wreaths for our annual fundraiser after weekend Masses Today - Sat.-Sun. Nov. 26/27 and next weekend Dec. 3/4.

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



Book of Remembrance

In front of the church (near the Baptism font) we have our Book of Remembrance.

You are invited to write in it the names of your deceased loved ones.

This is the last weekend this book will be available.



Christ the King Youth Ministry and the American Red Cross are offering disaster preparedness for K-2nd Grade and their parents.

Friday December 2nd
3:30 PM - 4:15 PM

Two programs will be offered at the same time. "Prepare With Pedro" for Kindergarten - 2nd Grade and for the parents "Be Red Cross Ready: Emergency Preparedness." Parents drop your kids off in the Parish Hall and you head to Rooms A & B. Admission is FREE. Sign up on our web-site www.ckph.org

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**Nov. 27 - Hungry and Homeless
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