

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 18, 2020

I have called you by your name,
giving you a title,
though you knew me not.

I am *the Lord*
**and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.**

Isaiah 45:4-5

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SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Oct. 18 9:30 am Jim Vranesh †
Oct. 19 9 am Joselito Asuncion †
Oct. 20 9 am Jeanie McGraw †
Oct. 22 9 am James Kurpinsky †
Oct. 25 9:30 am Natalie Russell, 93rd Birthday
Blessings

**All CTK Masses streamed live with videos
available to watch later**

Masses: Drive-in / lawn: schedule inside

Religious Education: (925) 686-1017

Youth Ministry: (925) 676-0979

CTK School: (925) 685-1109

CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Oct. 19 9 am Ernesto Badong †
Oct. 20 9 am Anthony Vincent Sanchez †
Oct. 21 9 am William Risch †
Oct. 22 9 am Jeremias & Salome Romano †
Oct. 23 9 am Ruth Brogan †

Saturday, October 24

9 am Renato Alfonso †
Constance Deam †
5 pm Kate Dickson & Ruth Brogan †

Sunday, October 25

8 am Cecilia Valenzuela †
9:15 am Cecilia Nguyen †
10:45 am Thomas Letizia †
6 pm Don Underwood †

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

Dear Friends,

I am happy to say that I have already voted. And I know that Fr. Brian Timoney has voted as well. Fr. Lee will vote in person on election day. In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life."



There is little to suggest that the 2020 presidential election will yield less tension and conflict than previous years. The current atmosphere of political toxicity should concern Christians. The current extreme political climate might tempt us to adopt its hostile rhetoric and dehumanizing tones, rendering us indistinguishable from the world. The stakes in our political rivalries may be high, but we must let our faith work through love (Galatians 5: 6).

We must put politics in its rightful place and not let it dominate our actions, relationships, or priorities. Political affiliation is not our identity. We are to be Christians first in thought, word, and deed. No matter how often you hear commentators declare 2020 "the most important election of our lifetime," don't buy into the perspective that the stakes of any one election are greater than the stakes of a compromised Christian life and witness. The sad story of our times is that some of us have let our political identity replace our Christian identity leading to polarization rather than communion.

Nowhere is the growing polarization of our culture more in evidence than in social media. And that's by design. In his new letter, Pope Francis reflects on how easy it is to be mean on social media sites, where people receive more attention for extreme opinions than fair commentary. "Things can be said there that would be unacceptable in public discourse, and people look to compensate for their own discontent by lashing out at others," the pope writes. "Catholic leaders aren't immune from the temptation to be rude, he explains, noting that "even in Catholic media, limits can be overstepped, defamation and slander can become commonplace and all ethical standards and respect for the good name of others can be abandoned." There are many well-funded Catholic sites and numerous Catholic blogs whose aim is often to slander and malign fellow Catholics.

Pope Francis encourages Catholics to be more mindful of how their online activities interfere with holiness. He reminds them to log off from time to time in order to draw closer to God and to look for ways to serve others, instead of searching for the perfect comeback. Pope Francis emphasized that social media does not replace the need in the human heart for authentic human community. "By virtue of our being created in the image and likeness of God who is communion and communication-of-Self, we carry forever in our hearts the longing for living in communion, for belonging to a community."

In conclusion, I would encourage you to engage with one another during this season with civility and love. Let your faith work through love. Remember that "civility is not something that automatically happens. Civil societies come about because people want them to" (Jimmy Bise Jr).

Let us pray for our nation during these days. Let us pray that we continue to witness love and peace. Our church will remain open for prayer from 5.30pm to 7.00pm Monday through Friday. **Vote!**

Fr. Paulson

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

When today's passage from the book of Isaiah was written the Jewish people had been held in exile in Babylon for more than 40 years. Cyrus, the pagan king of neighboring Persia, was preparing to invade Babylon. The prophet sees Cyrus as an instrument of God. Through the military victory of this pagan king, God will free his people and allow them to return home.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest of all New Testament writings, coming only about 20 years after the Resurrection of Jesus. Today's reading gives us the letter's opening words. In just five verses, we hear reference to God the Father, The Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and also to faith, hope and love. It indicates how quickly these essentials of our faith became part of our Christian Tradition.

Carondelet High School's 20-21 Admissions Season has officially opened! We have many virtual events and on-campus tours available (space is very limited). To register for events and find out more about our school, please visit carondeleths.org/apply.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

CTK: Monday - Saturday:

9 am Mass ~ Live streamed from our chapel on facebook/YouTube

6 pm Thursday Indoor 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 ~ 5 pm Vigil Mass Drive-In/Lawn

Sundays ~ 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am and 6 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 - 12pm 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.

CTK Mass Schedule Highlights

We will hold our weekly Thursday Mass (Honoring Our Mother of Perpetual Help) at 6pm indoors in the church. All other masses will remain outdoors. Please follow the direction of the ushers when you arrive. Those attending mass must wear masks and maintain proper social distancing practices. You are welcome to sit on the patio in front of the church and listen through the speakers.

CTK Church is open for private prayer, Mon.- Fri. 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Please enter through the side door closest to the rectory.

Please join Cancer Support Community for its

2020 Virtual Hope Walk!

Sunday, October 11 through Saturday, October 17. Register today at www.hopewalkbayarea.net. Walk wherever you are and any distance, in the safety of your neighborhood or community park. Registration fee is \$25 and includes an event T-shirt! Questions about the walk or the **FREE** services CSC provides to people who face cancer, please call Carol at 925-953-1209.

Join our Team: Christ the King

St. Stephen Updates

There are a couple of different ways you can remember your deceased loved ones this November.

First, you can include the picture of your loved one on our "Table of Remembrance" which this year will be on our website instead of the back of church. Contact Chris Lang or the St. Stephen parish office if you would like your loved one remembered on this virtual table.

Second, you can use the "All Souls Day" envelope in your packet to list your deceased loved ones. These envelopes will be placed on our altar throughout November. If you do not use envelopes, you can write their names on a small envelope and drop it in the collection basket.

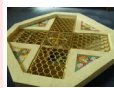
This Sunday is World Mission Sunday, please be generous with your support by giving to the Propagation of Faith during the 2nd collection.

Prayer Works!

Do you have a need that requires Divine intervention? Let us add our prayers to yours. Send confidential prayer requests to:

prayerline@ctkph.org





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).

Do you want to address racism in your community, but you don't know where to begin?

Presented through the lens of the Christian faith, JustFaith Ministries' **Faith & Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice and Restoration** is an eight-session program that guides participants in telling the truth about the history of racism in the United States that we might work toward true reconciliation.

At CTK we have just finished an eight week session on Faith and Racial Equity. Many of us are continuing on this journey. **We invite you to join us in our study and learning. Study includes reading, prayer and sharing.** One group will be meeting Fridays from 1-3 pm starting October 16. The other will meet Thursdays from 7-9 pm starting October 15. We are especially looking for members for the afternoon group but you would be welcome in either one.

Please call Maggie Chaffee 925-932-5087 or Mary Anne La Pointe 925-787-1422 for more info and to register.

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

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Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich
Bookkeepersp@gmail.com

Maria Calderazzo, Music Director
274-1341

How would you rate your marriage? You are eligible for a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** not because you need it, but because you and your marriage deserves it! It's a Weekend experience designed for married couples of all ages and backgrounds to enrich their marriage. Make this season special by devoting one weekend to your marriage. The **next Marriage Encounter Weekends** include: **Nov 20-22, 2020 in Virtual Weekend, CA and Feb 19-21, 2021 in DANVILLE, CA.** For more information and/or to register for a Weekend, visit our website at: oaklandwwme.org or contact **Ray & Roberta** at applications@oaklandwwme.org or 916-806-4601.

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.

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