

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

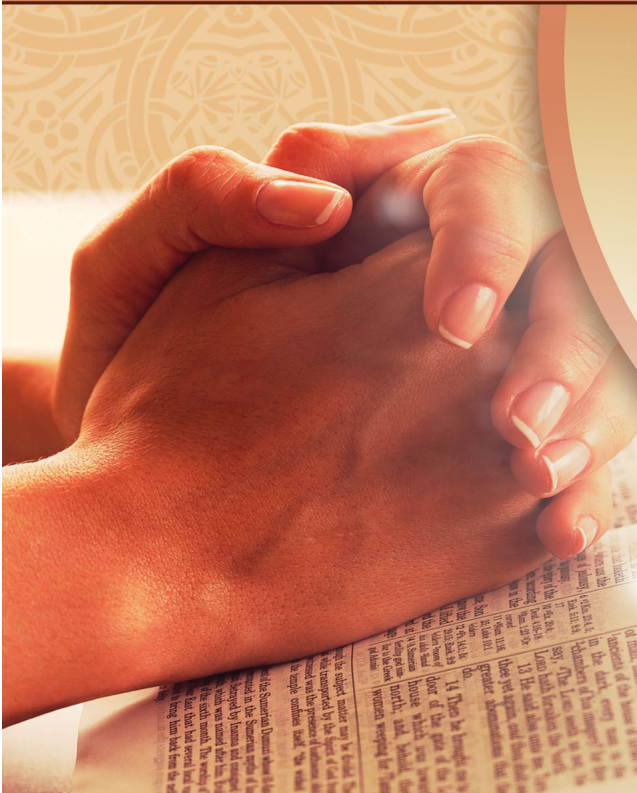
Christ the King Church

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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*Heaven and earth
will pass away,
but my words
will not pass away.*

MARK 13:31

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Daily Mass Monday-Saturday

9am (Livestreamed)

Thursday

5:40pm Rosary, 6pm Mass
(Livestreamed)

Livestream Links

Can be found at ctkph.org

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday

4pm Vigil
(Also Livestreamed)

Sunday

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm
(10:30am-Livestreamed)

Masks are required in the church.

Daily Rosary

5:40pm on Facebook

Private Confessions

Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm

Drive-Thru Communion

11:30am to 12 noon
In front of the church

St. Stephen Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00pm and Sunday at 9:30am
Monday - Friday 8am

“To hear the gospel and make a difference.”

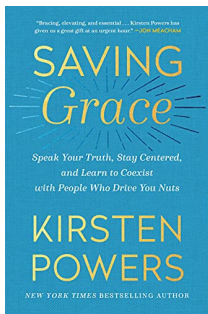
Dear Friends,

I would like to recommend a book for all of us to read as we move into the holiday season, a season of grace and joy. From thanksgiving to Christmas and beyond, we reflect on God's saving grace in our lives. The book is authored by Kirsten Powers, and is titled: **"Saving Grace: Speak truth, stay centered, and learn to coexist with people who drive us nuts."** I am going to do 2 discussions on this book during the season of Advent, on Thursdays December 2 & 9, after the morning and evening masses. The following are excerpts from the book:



Grace is what the Franciscan priest and writer Richard Rohr calls "the 'x' factor." It knits families, friendships and countries back together after betrayal, hurt and even violence. It's the father running to embrace the prodigal son when he's starving, penniless and drenched in shame. It's refusing to reduce people to the sum of their worst actions. We see it in the humility of the utterance "There but for the grace of God go I."

"True grace is otherworldly. It goes against every instinct we have to seek revenge for wrongs or to shame and humiliate people who have acted immorally or unethically. It is what the theologian Dorothee Sölle, who grew up in Nazi Germany, called "borrow[ing] the eyes of God." It enables us to see the divinity in every person, no matter what they've done, what they believe or who they voted for. Grace is giving other people space to not be you."



"Grace is the original self-care. It shushes the hectoring inner critic that tells us we are too much, too little, too fat, too thin, too good, and not good enough. Grace invites us off the hedonic treadmill of relentless achievement and success, which never delivers the happiness it promises. Grace doesn't care what size your waist is and celebrates every new wrinkle as evidence of wisdom earned. Grace shrugs at your unachieved New Years' resolutions and teaches you to be kind to yourself, just because. Grace reminds you of the "love yourself" part of Jesus' command "Love others as much as you love yourself."

"Ungrace has become the lingua franca of our discourse. More often than not, it's the lens through which we view people who don't share our religious, political or moral values. Those people may be our leaders, co-workers, neighbors or, increasingly, members of our own families."

"Our lack and misunderstanding of grace and shrunken capacity to give grace is one of the things that makes the world such a brutal place," Lisa Sharon Harper, the writer and antiracism leader, told me in late 2020. "Discernment is necessary. Judgment is vanity." Details on how to obtain the book can be found on the next page.

We will be celebrating the feast of Christ the King on the weekend of November 20-21. The feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925. In 1925, the pope was upset because so many national governments were establishing themselves as explicitly secular. In the official letter that the pope wrote, instituting the feast day, he notes that everyone already thinks that Jesus is metaphorically a king, in our hearts and minds and wills, but that people need to learn that he is also literally the king of life, the universe, and everything. And if we really believe that, then a great deal is going to change.

The timing of this feast is particularly good this year as it falls on the same weekend as Thanksgiving and also comes at a time the pandemic, a time of loss and hardship for so many, and we do not seem to have any control at all. Jesus our King speaks to us in Matthew 25. At the last judgment scene, when Christ comes again as a King, we are judged on something entirely different. To be loyal to Jesus is to feed the hungry, quench the thirst of the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. There is no flag to wave, no literal battle to fight. It is entirely about meeting the needs of the folks. And that for me is to practice grace every day.

Fr. Paulson

**Thirty-Third
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
November 14, 2021**

Daniel 12:1-3

The book of Daniel was written 150 years before Christ, when the Jews were experiencing fierce persecution. The author wanted to encourage the people by telling heroic stories about a person named Daniel who lived many centuries earlier. For most of their history, Old Testament people believed only in, at best, a shadowy existence after death. Today's passage contains one of the earliest references to a growing belief in a more developed form of life after death.

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Scholars feel that the community for which the Letter to the Hebrews was written included Christians of Jewish origin. Since the letter was written after the Jewish temple was destroyed, they were pining for the old days when the high priest offered daily sacrifices in the temple. The author says they shouldn't feel sad. They no longer need a temple, sacrifices or priests because Jesus is all of these and more.



CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 15	Dianne Gagliano†
Nov. 16	Margo Schorno†
Nov. 17	Alfredo Quintans, Sr.†
Nov. 18	Wilma Victa-Birthday Blessings
Nov. 19	Robert Mroski†
Nov. 20	Narcisco Del Rosario-Birthday Blessings
Nov. 20 & Nov. 21	Michael Mansfield†
	John Canane†
	Catherine Costanza†
	Filomena Volpicelli
	Mila Quezon- Birthday Blessings



Thursday, November 25
You are invited to attend our
Thanksgiving Mass Celebration
At 9am

Bring for a special blessing the bread and wine you will be serving on Thanksgiving Day.



The Feast of Christ the King
Next Weekend November 20-21
All Masses

Join us for mass next weekend as we celebrate our Parish Feast Day!



CYO Mass-Sunday, November 21
12 noon

All CYO Participants and their families are invited to this mass.
(Parishioners are also invited to attend)



All interested parishioners of both CTK and St. Stephen's parishes are invited to the Italian Catholic Federation's annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and Elections meeting this Sunday, November 14 at 1 pm in Rooms A and B in the CTK parish hall. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will provide the turkey and gravy.

Also, remember that if you are planning on running for an office and are unable to attend, you need to send a statement in writing to the meeting with someone who will be there. We will use strict Covid guidelines: please wear a mask and the buffet will be served rather than help-yourself. Hope you can join us for a great afternoon! Please RSVP if you are planning on coming. Call or email Diana Mackinson 925-335-9712 or dijoed@comcast.net.

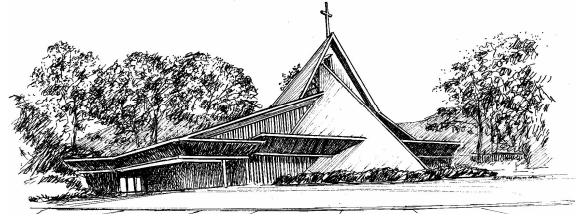
ST. STEPHEN CORNER "To Live and to Love in Christ"

St. Stephen Church - Mass Times

Monday - Friday 8am

Saturday - 5pm

Sunday - 9:30am



SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

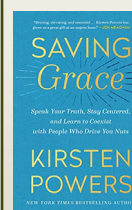
Nov. 13	Sat	5:00pm	St Stephen Parishioners
Nov. 14	Sun	9:30am	St Stephen Parishioners
Nov. 20	Sat	5:00pm	Brenda Ambrulevich †
Nov. 21	Sun	9:30am	Darleen Bliss †

St. Stephen News

For those of you using the weekly donation envelopes, your 2022 envelope box is now available in the back of the church for pickup.

The Little Blue Book with Advent and Christmas meditations is also available at the counters in the back of the church.

This week is your last chance to fill out the paper copies of the parish survey. The deadline for returning them is Thursday, the morning of the 18th. There is a box where you can place your survey - on the small table in the back of the main aisle. For those of you filling out your survey online (check out our website saintstephenparish.org for the link) the deadline is Monday, November 22.



Fr. Paulson's discussion, on the book: **"Saving Grace: Speak truth, stay centered, and learn to coexist with people who drive us nuts"**

Books can be purchased at the parish office for \$20. They also can be found on Amazon or Kindle.

Join us for both discussion sessions:

Thurs. Dec. 2-9:30am (In the church)

Thurs. Dec. 9 7pm on Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86748333751?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86748333751?pwd=QUw5SmthYnFIMVdxRGF6Y09LZTdldz09)
[pwd=QUw5SmthYnFIMVdxRGF6Y09LZTdldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86748333751?pwd=QUw5SmthYnFIMVdxRGF6Y09LZTdldz09)

Upcoming Second Collections

Nov. 21 - Hungry and Homeless

Collection for local agencies to help with food and homelessness.

Nov. 28 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than thirty-eight million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.CCHDEastBay.org.



CTK Cantor Ministry - Cantors Needed!

Do you feel called to share God's word through song? We are seeking strong and spirit-filled vocal leaders to join our Cantor ministry. Cantor responsibilities include proclaiming the Responsorial psalm and other responses and acclamations as needed, announcing hymns at various parts of the Mass, and occasionally leading hymns solo when the choir is not present.

If you'd like to learn more about cantoring and/or request an audition, please contact Jennifer Bennett at jenniferbennett1011@gmail.com. We'd love to add your voice to our vibrant parish music ministry!

JOIN US FOR A *Night of Music & Healing*

NOVEMBER 18TH | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP REQUIRED: (925) 932-0900

A candlelit music concert featuring our Parish musicians:

Christine Cosbey | Rick Flores | Wendy Tamis | Margaret Tong | Keith Cosbey | Christine Senavsky



Queen of Heaven Cemetery
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Queen of Heaven Cemetery

Night of Music & Healing

November 18th

6pm to 8pm

RSVP (925) 932-0900



Have you heard about Next Step Learning Center?

A small non profit founded by the Sisters of the Holy Names in 1994. Next Step is a place where education transforms life. We're located at 2222 Curtis St. in Oakland. We are a great group of staff and volunteers who help youth and adults reengage in education.

We are inviting new volunteer tutors with skills of all levels to join us.

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Times: Monday - Thursday, 1-2 hours, in person or online

Tuesday and Thursday evenings, online only.

PLEASE CONTACT SISTER MAUREEN VIANI AT: lvsviani@aol.com



Dress a Child Around the World Sewing Ministry

Is happy to announce completion of over 15,000 dresses and 4,000

pair of shorts for children here in the U.S. and around the world. Sewing sessions are resuming once again after the Covid 19 restrictions. We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9:00 am 'til 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Our dresses and shorts are donated to the poor, disadvantaged, and children affected by disasters in the U.S. and around the world. If you're looking for a worthwhile endeavor and have a few hours to do something for others, please join us. If you are not a sewer, join us anyway and we'll put you to work in other ways. Donations of cotton fabric, notions, sewing machines and trims are always welcome. For more information, call Carol Vogl at (925) 288-0488 or email: carolvogl@sbcglobal.net



CATHOLIC
WOMENPREACH

Catholic Women Preach presents Sr.

Christa Parra, IBVM for this weekend, the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time. She is a member of the Institute of the Blessed

Virgin Mary, an order founded in 1609 by Venerable Mary Ward. Sister Christa Parra is living the dream of loving and serving God and God's beloved people at the U.S./Mexico border. She is grateful to be part of an intercongregational intercultural community in El Paso, Texas. She feels blessed to accompany and serve our brothers and sisters who are migrants in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. To hear Sr. Christa Parra go the website www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/11142021

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