



Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish

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

Christ the King Church
195A Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
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

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

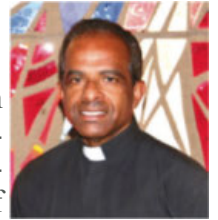
Monday & Wednesday 11am to 2pm



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



Dear Friends,



Welcome to the Season of Advent! I love this season in spite of how busy it can be. Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP, describes these four weeks before Christmas as a “time for holy listening” as we await the coming of Jesus in our lives and our world. “Advent is our introverted season,” she wrote in her little Advent booklet. “The world around us does a lot of chatting, chattering, and contesting. Advent gives us a space for holy listening.”

Advent is a time when we, like the shepherds, keep watch, waiting with anticipation in the cold and lonely dark. Or like the three magi journeying toward Christ with their hearts set on more than what they could see with their eyes. My suggestion this Advent is to slow down as much as you can. Walk slower, don't talk as much, read the daily Mass readings, the Advent booklet and listen. Manage your gatherings so that they can be celebrated, not overwhelming. Rethink your "commitments" so you can be present to the peace of Christ awaiting you.

This Advent, your parish will be giving you a special gift of a book, titled “Beautiful Eucharist.” We are in the Eucharistic Revival Year, and nothing can change your life more than a personal contact with Jesus in the Eucharist. When we meet Jesus, he transforms us in strong and unexpected ways. “Beautiful Eucharist” is a breathtaking compilation of life-altering reflections on Jesus, who is genuinely present in the Eucharist and gloriously present in our lives.

There are quite a few important (and fun) feasts and celebrations during the Advent season. Look ahead to see what's coming up so you can plan small celebrations throughout the season. Here are a few that you can prepare for and if your schedule allows you, attend church as well:



December 6 | Feast of St. Nicholas: Saint Nicholas, a bishop who lived during the third century, is the original “Santa Claus.” On the feast of St. Nicholas, children leave their shoes by the door for St. Nicholas to fill with candy. This tradition recalls the story of how St. Nicholas secretly provided the dowry for young maidens so they could get married. This feast day is also a good opportunity to tell kids the true story of “Santa Claus.”

December 8 | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation in the United States, commemorates the immaculate (“stainless”) conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

December 12 | Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: We will celebrate it on Sunday, December 10th at the 4pm Mass with Mariachi. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of the Americas. Please join us.

December 13 | Feast of St. Lucy & December 14 | Feast of St. John of the Cross.

December 15: We begin the Christmas Novena with our Filipino community celebrating Simbang Gabi every evening at 6.00pm. Simbang Gabi, which means "Night Mass," in Filipino, is a novena — a nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas and to honor the Blessed Mother. Our Filipino society prepares meticulously for this Novena.

May this season of Advent be a time of peace, joy and devotion!

~ Fr. Paulson



UPCOMING CTK MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 4	Mon.	9:00am	David Baer † Rogelio Barajas † Rachal Mello
Dec. 5	Tues.	9:00am	Poldi Moore †
Dec. 6	Weds.	9:00am	Leonora Mendoza † Spencer Swann
Dec. 7	Thurs.	9:00am	Josephine Crespi † Christian C. Anicoche †
Dec. 8	Fri.	9:00am	Augustine Amalraj † Shane Roche
Dec. 9	Sat.	9:00am	Petra Targa †
Dec. 9	Sat.	4:00pm	Francis, Vilda, Vincent Coutinho † Gregorio Asuncion † Leonardo Vocalan † Gerald McGhee Wanda Dallas
Dec. 10	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza † Mariano Cauilan † Juliana Chuvala
Dec. 10	Sun.	9:00am	Clyde Miles †
Dec. 10	Sun.	10:30am	Jeff Brogan † Max Lutter † Amy Guarino † Louis George †
Dec. 10	Sun.	4:00pm	Jose M. Lozano †

UPCOMING SS MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 2	Sat.	5:00pm	CTK-SS Parishioners
Dec. 3	Sun.	9:30am	Jim Vranesh †
Dec. 4	Mon.	8:00am	Chris & Neil Veterana and Tess Dunn, Healing
Dec. 8	Fri.	8:00am	Robert H. Haines †
Dec. 8	Fri.	6:00pm	Alberto Moises and Agapita Moises †
Dec. 9	Sat.	5:00pm	CTK-SS Parishioners
Dec. 10	Sun.	9:30am	Michael J Millek †

HOLIDAY FAMILY MINISTRY

Young Families Ministry



When: Sunday December 10th, 2023 at 11:30am

Where: Christ the King — Ministry Center

Who: Young families from Christ the King—St. Stephen Parish

What: Come meet other young families from our parish! For our December event, we will enjoy a **Holiday movie** while also supporting our community!

1. We have **sponsored a local family** through St. Vincent de Paul, who needs support this holiday season. We will be collecting and wrapping gifts to give them! Please reach out if you would like information on how to donate a gift.

2. During our event, we will help our children create holiday cards for the youth at **UCSF Benioff's hospital!**

We will have cocoa, coffee, and more! Please feel free to bring a roll of wrapping paper or a favorite holiday treat to share!

Why: Join us in celebrating the holiday season!

RSVP: YoungFamiliesCTK@gmail.com

Advent Begins Today Sunday, December 3

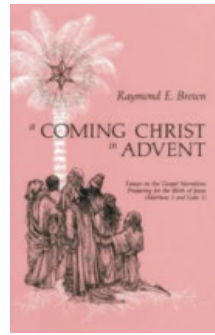


Finding Treasure in the Waiting Time Practical Preparation for the Advent Season

**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



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 at CTK.**

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.



SIMBANG GABI -- The Filipino Society of Christ the King/St. Stephen Parish 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 6:00pm every night, except Dec. 16, 17 and 23 when mass will start at 4:00pm. A celebration of gratitude will be held after the last mass on the 23rd in the gym. For additional information, please contact Maritess Bau-la (925-899-9078) or Imelda Santos (925-623-7340).



CTK Youth Music Ministry Christmas Concert Tuesday, December 12 at 7pm in the Church at CTK

You are all invited to a Christmas Concert by CTK's own youth music ministry from our Sunday 4pm mass and children of CTK-SS. This concert is free and all are welcome! Let's start our holiday with a festive night of music and songs.

If you are ages 5-12 years old and would like to sing with other CTK-SS children for the Christmas concert, please attend the practice on Tuesday December 5 from 6pm to 7pm in the church at CTK.

We will be singing easy Christmas songs. Please call or text Nelson at 925-375-9608 if you plan to participate or have any questions.



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. \$1 donation is appreciated.
Or you can pick one up at the CTK or SS parish office.



Advent Reconciliation Service

CTK:

Saturday, December 9 at 3pm or
Monday, December 11 at 6pm

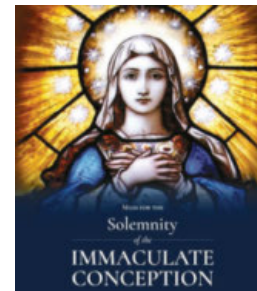
St. Stephen:

Friday, December 15 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 the weekend Masses - Sat.-Sun. 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!



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

Friday, December 8

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

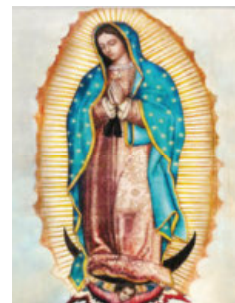


**2024 Calendars are here!
They are available today in the
back of the church.**

**Our Prison ministry is collecting
2024 calendars for the incarcerated.**

If you have calendars you are not using please drop them off at CTK's Parish Office. Those with beautiful scenery are especially welcome.

If you know of someone incarcerated who would like to receive spiritual support through a monthly mailing, please let us know.



**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!**



St. Stephen's Giving Tree

The St. Stephen St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be sponsoring an Advent Giving Tree for the benefit of Hillcrest Congregational Church Layette Program in Pleasant Hill, CA. For over 60 years Hillcrest has been providing basic layette supplies to families with a new baby via the Contra Costa Public Health Organizations.

This program currently resources 25-30 layettes a month throughout the year and depends entirely on donations from groups, organizations, churches and individuals.

Advent is the season in which we watch and wait and then joyfully celebrate the birth of Jesus, a loving gift from God to our world. Every day of the year parents throughout our country and specifically Contra Costa County await the birth of their baby.

During Advent December 1-23; St. Stephen's will be sponsoring a Giving Tree which will benefit the Layette Program at Hillcrest Congregation Church. The Giving Tree will be in the back of the church at St. Stephen. The Giving Tree has Christmas gift tags, each with a suggestion for a layette item. Please take as many tags as you like and return your gift items wrapped in white tissue and place them under the tree by December 23nd; or you may place the gifts in the boxes placed around the Giving Tree.

Your generosity is appreciated and may your Advent Season be filled with Joy and anticipation as we await the birth of our Lord.

Upcoming Second Collections

**Dec. 2/3 - Catholic Education
Dec. 9/10 - Retirement for Religious
Dec. 16/17 - Christmas Flowers
Dec. 24/25—Christmas
Dec. 30/31—St. Vincent de Paul**

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we
shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading:

The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord
Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel:

"Watch, therefore;
you do not know when the lord of the house is
coming." (Mk 13:35)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for
praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special
work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show
Him you are listening.

Observances for the week of December 3, 2023

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of
the Church
Wednesday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
Thursday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of
the Church
Friday: The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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