

# Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

(925) 682-2486 ctkph.org

(925) 274-1341 saintstephenparish.org

As high as the heavens  
are above the earth,  
so high are my ways  
above your ways  
and my thoughts  
above your thoughts.

ISAIAH 55:9

TWENTY-FIFTH  
SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 20  
2020



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## SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Sept. 19 5 pm Joselito Asuncion †  
Sept. 20 9:30 am Nick & Pasqualina Mammola †  
Sept. 21 9 am Frank Norris †  
Sept. 24 9 am Madeline Gomes †

**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

Sept. 14 9 am Antonietta Merlotti †  
Sept. 15 9 am Ardith Kroner  
Sept. 16 9 am John & Kathy Mullane †  
Sept. 17 9 am Karen O'Keefe  
Sept. 18 9 am Florencia Florentino, RN †  
Eduardo Del Corto & Wife  
Gustalo Rodriguez & Family

### Saturday, September 19

9 am James Spurs †  
5 pm Carondelet High School

### Sunday, September 20

7 am Joseph Piermattei †  
8 am Lina & Damiano Serafini †  
9:15 am Cecilia Nguyen †  
10:45 am Crisologo & Neme Navarro †  
12:15 pm CTK & SS Parishioners

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

Tom Peters, a management Guru wrote a series of books on leadership and one of his first was *The Tom Peters Seminar: Crazy Times Call for Crazy Organizations*. He writes his theses in these words: “And if times are crazy, well, then, what makes sense than crazy organizations? But if you grant me that premise, then you have to conclude that our principal organizational problem today is the lack of craziness. In short, we are trying to use sane organizations to cope with an insane business world”. I have always kept these words close to my heart.



**It is so hard to navigate through these unpredictable times, and I want to thank you for your understanding and patience.** Last weekend is a great example of how topsy-turvy times can be. I was looking forward to the weekend of masses, music on the Lawn, celebrating jubilees of the sisters and an Inter-Faith music liturgy on Sunday evening after confirmations. And we had to cancel all of them and opt instead for the safety and good health of all of us.

An important asset during this turbulent time is managing our human imagination to bring relevance to our faith, imagination as a bridge to the sacred. Samuel Coleridge described the creative imagination as, among other things, the threshold between self and not-self, between mind and matter. It is therefore the source of wholeness in the spiritual life. St. Ignatius teaches us that our imagination can actually help us pray when we purposefully engage our senses. No matter where you are, use the God given gift of imagination to discover the glory of God in His sanctuary, which is the beautiful world around us. Jesus taught and prayed sometimes the entire night on the hills. Let us not bemoan what we are missing, but be delighted in what we are discovering each day, using our imagination to reach God.

Catholic church has rarely embraced the concept of human imagination in its life and worship, as we are very much defined by our traditions of 2000 years. In his book, *The Circle of Innovation*, Tom Peters has attention-grabbing chapter titles that remind us of how we should deal with our times: “We are all Michelangelo's,” and “You can't live life without an eraser.”

In this time of chaos and rapid change, church leaders are feeling lost, and are trying to bring back the normal, that I believe is probably 2 years away. This week, Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect general for Divine worship and the Sacraments sent a letter to the presidents of bishops' conferences worldwide stating, "As soon as circumstances permit, however, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist." I can feel a sense of urgency in his tone, and nostalgia to return to what was normal.

The Archbishop of San Francisco has called Catholics to participate in Eucharistic processions across the city on Sept. 20, and to attend socially distant Masses outside city hall - in part to protest the city's revised limits on public worship. Cordileone said the archdiocese has ordered 100 banners in English, 15 in Spanish, and 5 in Chinese that read: “We Are Essential: Free the Mass!” I hope and pray that San Francisco Catholics can find a way to worship God and celebrate sacraments in a way that is safe and reverent. And I pray for that gift for each one of us. I know God is in control and I am not afraid.

“Think about it: The coronavirus may be the biggest religion story of our lifetime. It raises metaphysical questions: Why is this happening? How did it happen? What does it mean? The virus has steered many people of faith to prayer. The virus also confronts us with moral decisions every time we walk out of the house: Do I wear a mask? Should I go to the supermarket? How can I help my neighbor and not endanger myself?”

There are great examples in history that would help us in these topsy-turvy times. The church historian Eusebius describes a fourth century epidemic that swept through the Roman Empire. Far from fleeing the cities or shutting off their homes from others, Eusebius records that all day long Christians tended to the dying and to the burial, countless numbers with no one to care for them. Others gathered together from all parts of the city a multitude of those withered from famine and distributed bread to them all. As a result, Eusebius concludes, “[the Christians'] deeds were on everyone's lips, and they glorified the God of the Christians.”

This is our moment. Let's show who we really are, as Christians in our day. I believe serving and loving others as Christ himself has served us through his death and resurrection is central to our faith — even when it involves personal risk and cost.

*Fr. Paulson*

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**CTK: Monday - Saturday:**

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

**6 pm Thursday Outdoor Mass includes devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.**

**Christ The King Weekends**

**Saturdays ~ 3 pm - 3:30 Private Confessions are available. Please meet in front of the church.**

**Saturdays ~ 5 pm Vigil Mass Drive-In/Lawn**

**Sundays ~ 7:30 am outside on patio in front of church**

**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.**

## St. Stephen Updates

Still need a **Mass Intention** for a deceased loved one? Or possibly for an anniversary or birthday blessing - or some other special occasion? A number of times are available for the remainder of 2020. Contact the parish office. The quickest way to get a response is by emailing the office at

[saintstephenwc@gmail.com](mailto:saintstephenwc@gmail.com),

you can also call and leave a message at 925-274-1341, or you can call Chris Lang directly.



### A Note From the Staff:

*In last week's newsletter Fr. Paulson expressed his appreciation for our parish staff - for our flexibility and continuing work over the past months. We – as a staff – wish to express our deepest gratitude to Fr. Paulson for his outstanding leadership in shepherding our parish communities during this most challenging time.*

*From the beginning of the 'shelter in place' to the present day (and continuing) our pastor has put the 'good of the people' as his highest priority. He has made every effort to keep informed by public health officials. He has been untiring in his efforts to keep us safe, constantly reminding us of the protocols – and at the same time has found new and creative ways to provide spiritual nourishment for our communities – keeping parish life alive as much as can be done. Daily liturgies, rosaries and devotions to Mary, celebration of the sacraments, speaker series, support of our school and our St. Vincent de Paul ministry ... upgrading technology so all can stay connected ... and the list goes on and on.*

*The needs of the people come first for Fr. Paulson. We cannot imagine the extent of the pressure and stress it has been for Fr. Paulson to make so many important decisions – dealing with constant changes from one moment to the next. He has been selfless in serving the needs of our people and has not counted the cost to himself.*

*On behalf of Christ the King and St. Stephen Parish communities ~ the parish staff wishes to express our deepest gratitude to Fr. Paulson for his generous and incredible leadership. We are blessed to have you as our pastor!*

## Contribution Envelopes are here!!

For those parishioners using contribution envelopes, they are in our office! Please, please come by and pick yours up or have someone pick up for you. Just give us a call M-F 9 am to 1 pm (925-682-2486) and we can have your boxed set ready at the front desk. If you know you are attending one of our outdoor masses, call us and we can leave your boxed set of envelopes on the porch outside our ministry center office. PLEASE pick up your box!

You can also help us update our parish registry by updating your information on our website at [ctkph.org](http://ctkph.org).

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.

There are many ways to donate including text giving. Text giving is fast, easy and versatile. Give in the moment - all in a matter of seconds.

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You can also scan this QR code on your phone to connect with our donation site. Thank you for your continued generosity!



## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20, 2020

### First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

The prophetic words in today's reading were spoken during the Israelites' exile in Babylon. Earlier, the prophet had proclaimed that God was looking mercifully upon them and would soon free them. In today's reading, the prophet points out that they now have a window of opportunity and should take advantage of God's willingness to forgive.

### Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27

For four weeks, our second reading will be taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

When Paul wrote this letter, he was in prison for preaching the Gospel, and he faced the possibility of execution. A person in those circumstances tends to think long thoughts about death, and death is what Paul is wrestling with in today's passage.

## PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

**Fr. Paulson Mundanmani,**  
682-2486

[paulson.ctl@gmail.com](mailto:paulson.ctl@gmail.com)

**Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP,**  
246-1122

[sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com](mailto:sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com)

**Joe Silveira, Principal**  
685-1109

[jsilveira@ctkschool.org](mailto:jsilveira@ctkschool.org)

**Deacon John,**

Dir. Faith Formation

[faithformation@ctkph.org](mailto:faithformation@ctkph.org) 686-1017

**Phyllis Gurnett, Music Director**  
[pgurnett6@aol.com](mailto:pgurnett6@aol.com)

**Robin Morley, Office Mgr**  
682-2486

[ctl.robin@gmail.com](mailto:ctl.robin@gmail.com)

**Helen Christian, Office**  
682-2486

[hchristian326@gmail.com](mailto:hchristian326@gmail.com)

**Kathy Ridgway, Office**  
682-2486

[kridgway02@gmail.com](mailto:kridgway02@gmail.com)

**Nelson Gonzales, Youth Minister**  
[ngonzales@ctkph.org](mailto:ngonzales@ctkph.org)  
686-1017

**Rosa Panelli, RE Office Staff**  
[Rpanellictkre@gmail.com](mailto:Rpanellictkre@gmail.com)

**CTK Office:** [office@ctkph.org](mailto:office@ctkph.org)

## ADDITIONAL ST. STEPHEN CONTACTS

**SS Office:**

[saintstephenwc@gmail.com](mailto:saintstephenwc@gmail.com)

**Chris Lang, Bulletin Info.**  
274-1341

**Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich**  
[Bookkeeperssp@gmail.com](mailto:Bookkeeperssp@gmail.com)

**Maria Calderazzo, Music Director**  
274-1341

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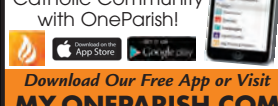
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