

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

(925) 682-2486 ctkph.org

(925) 274-1341 saintstephenparish.org

A VOICE CRIES OUT:
IN THE DESERT PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED IN,
EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW.

ISAIAH 40:3-4



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 6, 2020

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SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 5 5:00 pm John Patrick Connolly †
Dec. 6 9:30 am Jeanie McGraw †
Dec. 12 5 pm Audrey Ostberg †
Dec. 13 9:30 am Danny Mullins †

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

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

Religious Education: (925) 686-1017
Youth Ministry: (925) 676-0979
CTK School: (925) 685-1109

CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 7 9 am Baby Anne Marie Borlongan †
& Family
Dec. 8 9 am Orlando Villanueva †
Anna Mangini †
Eugene Mangini †
12 pm Amalraj Augustine †
6 pm Salud Vallejo Mendoza †
Dec. 9 9 am Gerald McGhee †
Lesley Pley †
Dec. 10 9 am Edmond Balsdon †
Dec. 11 9 am Kay Tagle

Saturday, December 12 & Sunday, December 13

Jeff Brogan †
Leon DeJesus †
Sarah Costanza †
Joan Letizia †
CTK & SS Parishioners
Rufino Vivas Family †

Dear Parishioners,

The **Second Sunday of Advent** is filled with promises of hope and help. In the first reading from Isaiah, a voice cries out in the wilderness saying, **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."** Get ready: God is coming to save his people. In that same first reading, we are told that, when God comes, God will be like a good shepherd who will take care of his flock. He will gather the lambs in his arms and gently carry them home.

In the responsorial psalm, the psalmist says God will proclaim peace to his people. We must be steadfast, faithful, and work towards peace in ourselves and those around us through kindness and truth and justice.

This message of steadfastness is reinforced in the second reading, from the Second Letter of Saint Peter, he also speaks of awaiting God's coming and hastening the coming of the day of God by conducting ourselves "in holiness and devotion."

And then, who shall appear in the Gospel but John the Baptist proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He knows that there is one coming after him who is more powerful and who will bring fresh hope to the world. These messages of hope and commitment are a consistent theme of the Second Sunday of Advent.

We are living in the in-between times after the first coming of God in the person of Jesus Christ and before his second coming at the end of times – or, perhaps in the more immediate sense of our own death.

And so, we can ask ourselves, how do we prepare, and especially how do we do this in light of the COVID pandemic and all the restrictions we are under right now? Do we stop and look around to see what big problems we can solve? Probably not. Instead, we should be looking for the small opportunities that present themselves each day. We need to be watchful and attentive. How can I better watch out for my neighbor? How can I better care for those who are lonely? How can I care for the many who are hungry now in our county?

The needs can be overwhelming. The secret is to take time to get a plan of action that is actually doable during this unusual time. We can call a friend, write a note to someone, buy extra food for our local food banks, collect warm coats and blankets for those who are without. These acts of love can bring great hope to ourselves and to others during these trying times. In fact, we can be the hope for others by deepening our faith in the goodness of the Lord. We can be with hope by looking around us in nature and seeing the beauty the earth gives us daily. We can find hope by taking time to pray and to meditate on the readings during Advent. We can be hope both by faith and action. **We can "Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference."** Then will we be preparing the way of the Lord for all.

Kathy Gannon-Briggs

Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

This passage from the book of Isaiah begins with God calling upon the prophet to encourage the Jewish people who are in exile. The prophet is to tell them that they will be returning home soon, and the road of the return will pass through the desert. We will also hear God call the *people* to proclaim from a mountaintop the goodness of God.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

The second letter of Peter was written nearly 100 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. At an earlier time, Christians had expected the Lord to return quickly. But by this time, they had lost confidence that the Lord would return in glory at all. The author doesn't want people to abandon this hope, and gives a positive interpretation to this delay.

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



WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

CTK: Monday - Saturday:

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

6 pm Thursday 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 4 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 am - 12 pm 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

Saturday, Dec. 5 at 5 pm mass, join us for music on the grass featuring Christmas Carols.

Sunday, Dec. 6 our evening mass will be at 4 pm (instead of 6 pm) due to darkness. This is a permanent change until further notice.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 join us to celebrate the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** with masses in the chapel (on-line) at 9 am and under the tent at 12:00 pm and 6 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 12 at 5 pm mass we celebrate **Our Lady of Guadalupe** with a bilingual mass and Mariachi band!

Christmas Schedule

Friday, Dec. 11, Reconciliation Service streamed live on FB and YouTube only. Then join us for confessions on

Saturday, Dec. 12 from 3 pm to 4 pm outdoors under the tent.

Christmas Eve Masses: 1 pm, 3 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm with drive -thru communion at 2 pm to 2:30 pm.

Christmas Day Masses: 9 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm (bi-lingual mass) with drive -thru communion at 11:30 am to 12:00 pm.

St. Stephen Updates

Our **Advent and Christmas schedule** is now posted on the St. Stephen website. Currently, all activities are scheduled to be outdoors.

Our **winter altar** has been moved to the office side of the church, where there is a lot of flat area. When the weather is nice, some of the handicap spots are converted to make room for outdoor seating - bring your lawn chair and join us. The new arrangement makes Mass much more intimate. If you wish to stay in your car, plenty of space allows you to still have a great view of the altar.

Upcoming 2nd Collection - Dec. 13, Retirement Fund for Religious. As you may know, senior religious were instrumental in establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay. Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for a growing number of elder members. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care. Thank you for your generosity.

We also have **little blue books for advent** available in the office.

Advent-Lent Missals are available at the parish office in the ministry center, M-F 9 am to 1 pm. The Missals run until March 27, 2021.

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).

Christmas Masses: Help Needed

We are working together to help make Christmas a wonderful celebration for all! If you are able and willing ~ we would need USHERS at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. You would greet people, facilitate parking, take collections We would very much appreciate a few new people stepping forward to help on this special day.



SIMBANG GABI

The Filipino Society of Christ the King invites you to join in the celebration of "Simbang Gabi", a nine-day novena in preparation for the birth of Jesus, from December 15th to the 23rd. Mass begins at 6:30 p.m. every night (**except** on Sunday, Dec. 20, when it will start at 6 p.m.). Because of the situation we currently are in regarding the coronavirus pandemic, we will decide on how it will be celebrated as we get closer. Please contact Abe Miralles (925-381-5898) or Imelda Santos (925-623-7340) for more details.

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.

- Easy card registration on your phone
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To give, text the dollar amount to
833-361-4156

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



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