

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

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Twenty-Seventh

SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time

Once again,

O Lord of hosts,

look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your
right hand has planted.

Psalm 80:I5-I6

October 4, 2020

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SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Oct. 4 9:30 am Madeline Gomes †
Oct. 5 9 am Jeanie McGraw
Oct. 6 9 am Nagel Family
Oct. 7 9 am Fr. Marvin Levin
Oct. 11 9:30 am Paul Des Rosiers †

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. 5 9 am Pilar Vallejo Aczuna †
Oct. 6 9 am Alwin Amalraj
Oct. 7 9 am Cecilia Nguyen †
Oct. 8 9 am Orlando Villanueva †
Oct. 9 9 am Maria Durer †

Saturday, October 10

9 am Juvenal Figueiro †
5 pm Carondelet High School

Sunday, October 11

8 am CTK & SS Parishioners
9:15 am Dinh Tran †
12:15 pm Margarita Moreno †
6 pm Olga M. Prado †

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

Dear Friends,

This weekend, we will be celebrating the feast of St. Francis and you are welcome to join us outdoors with your pets for a blessing after mass. At the heart of his love for creation was an even greater love for its creator. He saw creation as a gift of God, and as a means of knowing God. In some forms of spirituality our eyes are closed to shut out any distraction from the created world, but in Franciscan spirituality our eyes are open wide to see everything which God has made, and to give thanks for everything. (Bonaventure, Francis' official biographer).



Francis wrote the *Canticle of Brother Sun* to be read, not only as a prayer and song of praise, but also as a discourse on the essential place within Christian theology for human responsibility to act in love and reverence towards all creation. In the words of Helen Hood, the most significant feature of the *Canticle of Brother Sun* is the way in which it expresses, through the use of the titles 'Sister' and 'Brother', Francis' perception of his own – and all others' – relationships at the deepest level with all 'creatures', that is everything that is created whether animate or inanimate. He saw plainly the inter-dependence of those creaturely sibling relationships, and how that inter-dependence was part of the all-embracing love of God who relates both to the whole family of creation and also to each individual member.

I find an excellent parallel to the *Canticle of Brother Sun* (which is given on the first page of this week's e-mail) in Gerard Manley Hopkins' "God's Grandeur" where the poet projects his sacramental vision of nature.

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not wreck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared, with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod. (God's Grandeur).*

Like Francis, in "God's Grandeur" Hopkins conveys his reverence for the magnificence of God and nature, and his despair about the way that humanity has seemed to lose sight of the close connection between God and nature during the Second Industrial Revolution. Sadly, sinful man does not acknowledge the Maker of the universe. Hence, Hopkins laments about the evils of Industrialism as 'all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil'. Nature has been disfigured and 'the soil is bare now'. But man cannot destroy the essence of God, which is expressed by the inscape of each thing in nature.

In his 2015 Encyclical *Laudato si*, a phrase taken from St Francis of Assisi's poem *Canticle of the Creatures*, in which God is praised for the different creatures inhabiting the Earth, Pope Francis asks us to reflect on the damage we have inflicted on our planet through the reckless pursuit of wealth, power, over consumption of the world's finite resources and irresponsible development. He says "The Earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone" but that, "The Earth our home is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."

In the wake of the fires ravaging through the west coast, a reminder of the fact that global warming and climate change are real, there is a need for dialogue on environmental policy in the international, national and local communities. Let the example of St. Francis remind us that we are all connected as God's creation and in honoring His creation, we honor Him who made it.

As some of you remember my friend, Fr. Thomas P. Joseph, has been battling cancer for over a year. The cancer has been spreading fast in his brain in spite of treatments. Recently, he moved to MD Anderson cancer institute in Houston as a research subject. The doctors have advised him to take this treatment as it offers 50% chance of survival as compared to 5% from chemo. Please do pray for Fr. Tom.

The 10th of October will mark one year since the fatal accident that took the lives of Archbishop Dominic and Fr. Mathew Vellankal. We will be honoring them at the 10.30am Mass on the 11th of October. I am grateful that Fr. Joseph Parekkatt, the Pastor of St. Anne, Rossmoor is in good health.

Fr. Paulson

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time October 4, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Today's reading begins with Isaiah singing a song to the people. He uses this song as a parable so that he can then speak to them about God's disappointment. God had lavished his loving care upon them...and their response was sin.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Of all the communities founded by Paul, Philippi was his favorite. While he was in prison, he wrote them a letter of gratitude and encouragement. In today's passage, we will hear Paul present a list of classical Greek virtues, and remind the people that he not only taught these virtues, but also lived them.

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 carondelethhs.org/apply.



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, 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

The Sunday Worship Aide and the weekend bulletin are always available on our St. Stephen website:

saintstephenparish.org

If you don't find them in our weekly email, you can always find them on the website.

This Sundays (Oct. 4) our second collection is for The Catholic Voice.

You are also welcome to bring your pets (leashed or properly caged) to Mass this Sunday. There will be a special blessing for animals right after Mass.

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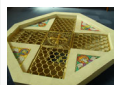
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Mass Schedule Highlights

October 3rd and 4th, we will celebrate St. Francis of Assisi with blessing of our animals! Bring your leashed pets to mass with you and our priests will bless them! Please make sure your pets are well behaved!



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 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.

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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PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

Fr. Paulson Mundanmani,
682-2486

paulson.ctl@gmail.com

Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP,
246-1122

sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com

Joe Silveira, Principal
685-1109

jsilveira@ctkschool.org

Deacon John,

Dir. Faith Formation

faithformation@ctkph.org 686-1017

Phyllis Gurnett, Music Director
pgurnett6@aol.com

Robin Morley, Office Mgr
682-2486

ctl.robin@gmail.com

Helen Christian, Office
682-2486

hchristian326@gmail.com

Kathy Ridgway, Office
682-2486

kridgway02@gmail.com

Nelson Gonzales, Youth Minister
ngonzales@ctkph.org
686-1017

Rosa Panelli, RE Office Staff
Rpanellictkre@gmail.com

CTK Office: office@ctkph.org

ADDITIONAL ST. STEPHEN

CONTACTS

SS Office:

saintstephenwc@gmail.com

Chris Lang, Bulletin Info.

274-1341

Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich

Bookkeepersp@gmail.com

Maria Calderazzo, Music Director
274-1341

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