



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

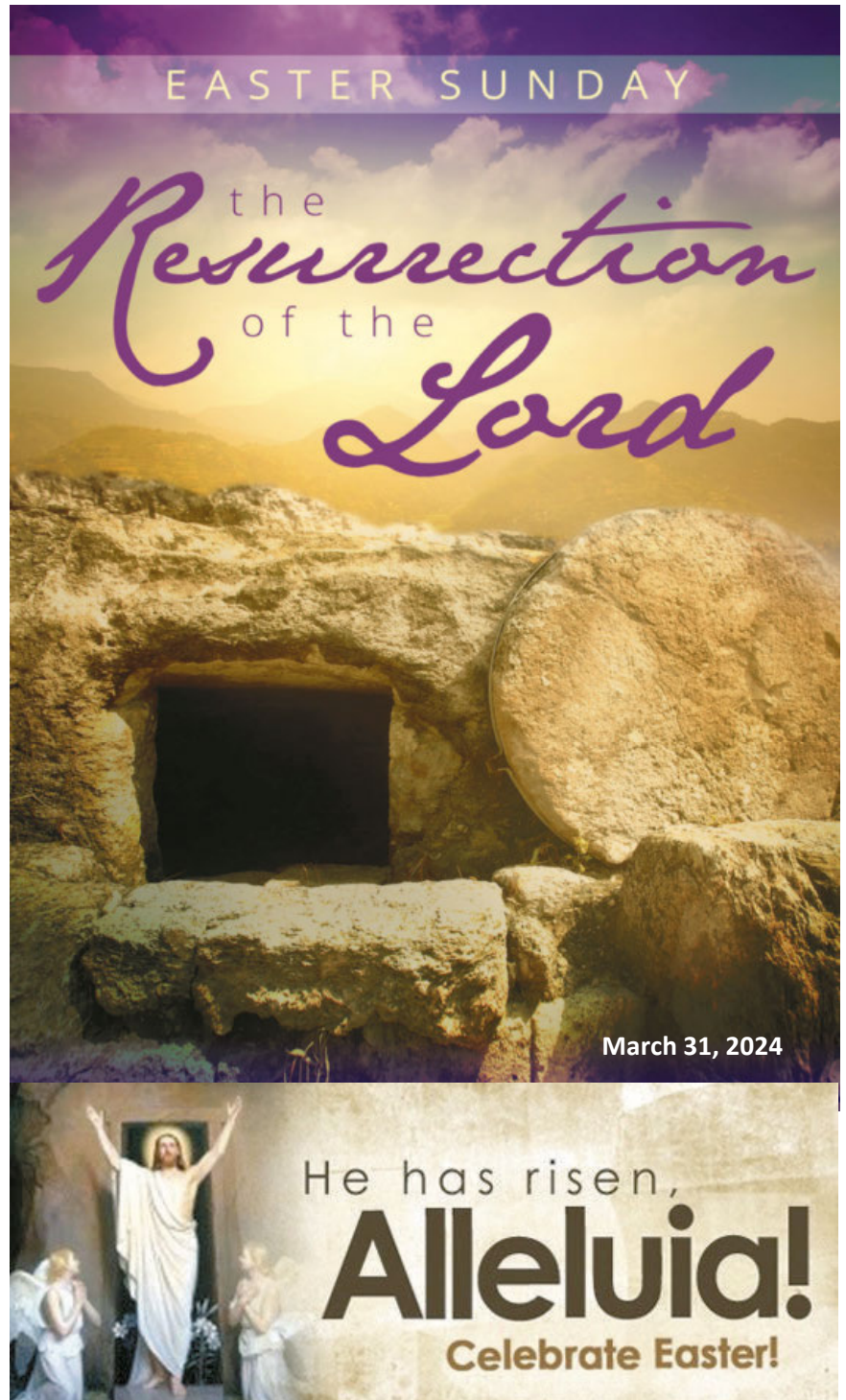
Saturday: 5pm Vigil
Sunday: 9:30am

Private Confessions

Saturday Before the 5pm Mass

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 11am to 2pm

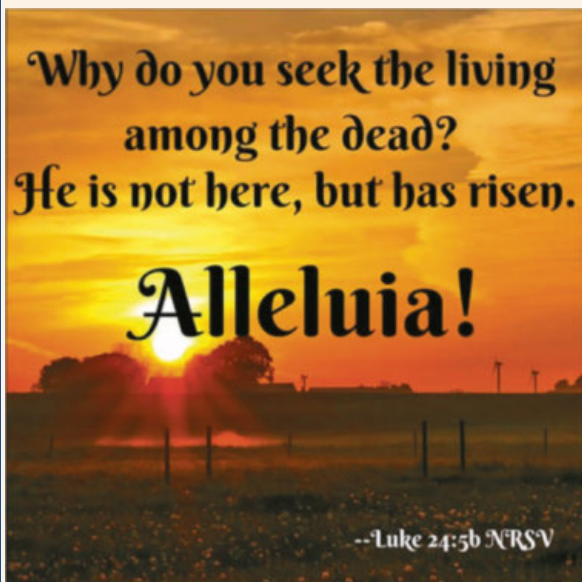


Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! I am so grateful to see all of you this Easter. Because we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.



We have been through a lot these past few years. We are still living through Covid even though we know how to manage it better. The war in Ukraine and the Middle East is looming over the world. There is so much uncertainty about the hostages still living through their nightmare in the dungeons of Palestine or beyond, and the fear of famine and disease in war-stricken areas of our world. I am sure there are things going on in our lives that are beyond our control. Death has cast its shadow over us in unexpected ways. Can faith still sustain us in the face of such challenges?



“Why do you seek the risen one among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised” (Lk.24:6). These women were shaken by recent events. All the disciples were shaken by the happenings of the last three days. The same was true of the men on the Emmaus Road. Ironically, so-called current events had them locked in the past and unaware of the future.

We can be like that, too. All we see is what has happened lately. We start to sound like Janet Jackson, saying to God, “What have you done for me lately?” But then comes God’s question back to us: “*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*” It’s a question that reorients us from current events to God’s providence.

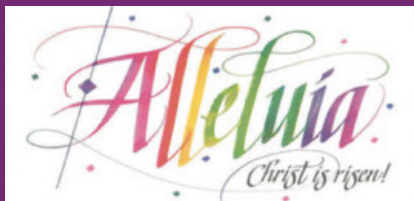
Providence teaches us that history is not a blind, aimless march into nothingness and meaninglessness. Looking to His providence reminds us that current events and history are going somewhere. God is up to something good! The greatest proof of that is Jesus is alive not dead! Because Jesus Christ has conquered death in our human flesh, we have hope that we will share his victory through faith.

“*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*” It’s a question that reorients and redirects everything. It **redirects us from grief to joy**. If Jesus is alive and is not dead, then all who trust in Him have the supreme reason to rejoice. As Peter 1: 3-4 states:

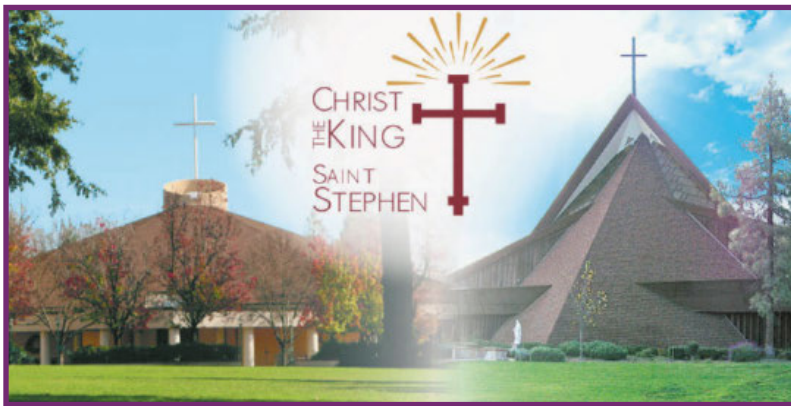
“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead....”

I invite you back to the church every week to continue celebrating the New Life of Easter during this season. God loves you.

~ Fr. Paulson



On behalf of our Parish Clergy and Staff, we would like to extend to each and every one of you “Happy Easter” and Many Blessings of the Season.



Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish

On April 23, 2023 Christ the King Parish in Pleasant Hill officially merged with St. Stephen Church in Walnut Creek. We officially became one parish called, **“Christ the King-St. Stephen Parish”** One parish with two campuses.

Christ the King Celebrates Its Very First Mass On Easter Sunday, 1951

The three Masses on that memorable Sunday, were thronged with people clad in their Easter finery. Gingerly, they picked their way through weeds and mud to see how a place of worship had been contrived out of what two short months ago had been an almond orchard. They found the little white cottage had been converted into the “Chapel of Christ the King” replete with altar, communion rail, a handful of pews and kneelers and one confessional. Attached to the chapel was a long, striped awning that covered a cleared area where some 50 pews had been placed. Here the majority of parishioners would watch the celebration of the Latin mass through the windows of the cottage kitchen from a makeshift tented assembly area known as the “Annex.”

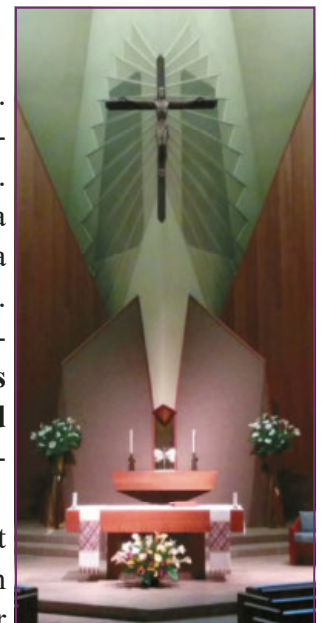


St. Stephen was founded on July 1, 1966

It was established by Bishop Floyd L. Begin, Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, and comprised of segments of St. Mary, Christ the King and St. Perpetua parishes on a portion of Sousa-Silva ranch grazing land. The founding of St. Stephen Parish was assisted by a gener-

ous gift of \$50,000 from St. Mary and Christ the King parishes. **The church was designed by Aaron Green, student and eventual partner of Frank Lloyd Wright.** The design process took over a period of more than two years. The original master plan included a school, convent and rectory.

The first Mass was celebrated on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 1966, at temporary “St. Thrifty’s” in the Palos Verdes Shopping Center. Church construction began in 1970 and the first Mass celebrated in the church took place on September 11, 1971. Father Joseph F. Keaveny was the first pastor at St. Stephen.



Congratulations to our Newly Initiated

A warm and joyous welcome to the adults who celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation at our Easter Vigil.

Amber Balestrieri, Maria Brady, Alexa Castillo, Antonio Castillo, Patricia Castillo, Valentina Castillo, Clara Chan, Megan Denny, Jayme Gayer, Ava Hempfling, Kristy Keilen, Ian Keough, Payton Locatelli, Shaye Locatelli, Erika Marchiano, Janay Mora, Mauricio Munoz, Tyler O'Neill, Sean Overman, and Sean Ryan



Welcome New Parishioners!



Christ the King - St. Stephen Parish uses REALM - our parish management system. With REALM we are building a stronger church by becoming a closer community through better communication.

To register, go to ctkss.org

New parishioners begin by clicking "I'm New" to receive a welcome email.



CTK's Weekly E-Newsletter "Staying connected"

Do you receive our weekly newsletter from our parish? It is called "Staying Connected."

We send out a Wednesday Newsletter delivered straight to your email (only once a week). You will not receive any other email from us. Keep up to date on all the important events at Christ the King-St. Stephen Parish.

Consider Becoming Catholic?

Have you considered becoming Catholic but are not sure how to proceed? Or have you just wondered what the process might be? Possibly married to a Catholic or have children in Christ the King School – or just looking to clarify your own faith journey? Investigate our RCIA program, which facilitates your consideration of baptism or conversion. Learn more at our RCIA information session on Wednesday, May 15 at 7pm. Interested? Email Tom Bobich at RCIA@CTKPH.org



Second Annual Parish Picnic - Save the Date

Sunday, October 20, 2024 - CTK Campus
Food, Fellowship and Fun!

Cinco De May Celebration - Sunday, May 5

CTK Campus
Mexican Cuisine, Margaritas, & A Live Mariachi Band!
Buy tickets at ctkss.org

Easter Donations

We have an easy way to give!

You can scan this QR Code and it will take you to our safe and secure Realm Site where it will lead you to a convenient way to give. Or you can text CTKPH to 73256.



Thank you for your generosity!

Presentation of "Our Father" By: Fr. Paulson

In this presentation Fr. Paulson examines the six petitions of the Lord's Prayer. This series is specifically designed for the Catholic community and will provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of this important prayer.

On Thursdays:

April 18, 25, May 2, 9 and 16.

St. Stephen Parish Hall 10am and
CTK Church - 7pm

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 - *WE OFFER ON-GOING ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**
 - *CHILDREN CAN LEARN TO BE ALTAR SERVERS BEGINNING 5TH GRADE**
 - *WE BAPTIZE 100 INFANTS EACH YEAR**
 - *WE HAVE A BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY FOR PEOPLE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE**
 - *WE HAVE MINISTERS WHO VISIT/BRING HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND AND TO LOCAL CARE CENTERS**
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 - *WE HAVE A SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP CALLED FAITH IN ACTION**
 - *WE HAVE A VERY ACTIVE FILIPINO SOCIETY AND ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION**
 - *WE HAVE A PARISH PRAYER LINE AT PRAYERLINE@CTKPH.ORG**
 - *WE HAVE A MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND ANNUAL MEN'S (AND WOMEN'S) RETREAT**
 - *OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY REACHES OUT TO 20,000 PEOPLE A YEAR**
 - *WE HAVE A GROUP OF TEENS PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**
 - *WE HAVE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FROM K-8 WITH OVER 300 STUDENTS**
 - *WE HAVE A SEWING MINISTRY THAT HAS MADE THOUSANDS OF DRESSES/SHORTS FOR CHILDREN IN POOR AREAS**
 - *ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH, THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IS EXPOSED AND MASS FOLLOWS**
 - *OUR MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED**
 - *WE HAVE CLASSES FOR ADULTS WHO WERE BAPTIZED, BUT NOT CONFIRMED**
- AND MUCH MORE!**

**ALL THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT:
CTKSS.ORG**

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

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

CTK STAFF CONTACTS

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925-274-1341

Fr. Brain Joyce, Pastor Emeritus of Christ the King, from 1986 to 2014, who was called home by God on Feb. 5, 2019 shared this in one of his Easter bulletins.

"Describing the Catholic Church, James Joyce once said, 'Here comes everybody.'

Yes. That says it.

Here comes Peter, the denier and Thomas the doubter, and the converted pagan Augustine. Here come the soldier Ignatius, and the scholar Aquinas, and the tent maker Paul. Here comes Catherine of Sienna and Therese of Lisieux. Here comes Francis preaching to the birds.

We are all that and more. We are monks who copied scripture onto parchment, and preserved God's word. We are priests and nuns who could barely speak the language, but came to an unruly place called America and created the most extensive parochial school system on earth, passing on what they knew, and what they believed.

We are the laborers from Italy and Poland and Germany who arrived in Brooklyn with nothing and left behind towering temples of stone and glass in what we call a City of Churches.

We are Chesterton and Merton and Hopkins. We are Bob Hope and Newt Gingrich, John Wayne and Oscar Wilde, Tony Blair, and Fulton Sheen.

We are Oscar Romero and Bobby Kennedy and Caesar Chavez and Mother Angelica.

We are the soldier in Iraq praying the rosary, and the immigrant in the barrio with Our Lady of Guadalupe tattooed on his back.

We are saints. We are sinners. We are everybody. We are the body of Christ. Bruised. Broken. But resurrected and given new life and new hope. Changed forever...

We are people who live in the resurrection. We are men and women and children who hold the light.

This Easter, keep the flame burning. Remember all who came before us, and all who are joining us today -- by one count 150-thousand in the United States alone.

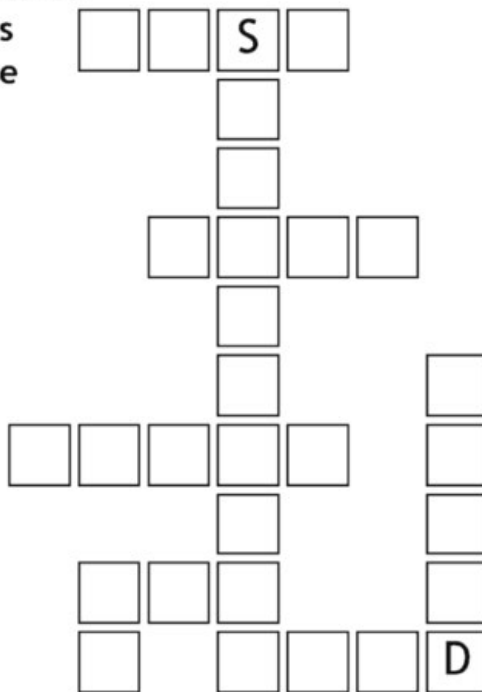
150-thousand more people to hold the candle, and to spread the light, and to proclaim not just the good news -- but the greatest news in all human history:

'He has been raised.' Alleluia!

Kids Corner

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

The Scriptures
said Jesus
would rise
to life.



Sharing the Gospel. It was very early in the morning on Sunday. The tomb stone was rolled away. Jesus was gone. All that was left inside were the strips of linen cloth. When John and Peter saw it, they were amazed. They did not understand all the promises the prophets wrote about Jesus yet. However they knew he was alive. He had risen from the dead! **Now color the picture!**

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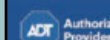


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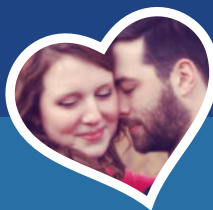
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