

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

Christ the King Church
195A Brandon Road
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925-682-2486
ctkph.org

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



**"Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."**

MATTHEW 11:4-5

Daily Mass Monday-Saturday
9am (Also Livestreamed)

Thursday
5:40pm Rosary, 6pm Mass
(Also Livestreamed)

Every First Friday
5pm to 6pm Exposition
6pm Mass

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday
4pm Vigil
(Also Livestreamed)

Sunday
7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm
(10:30am – Also Livestreamed)

St. Stephen Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:30am

Private Confessions
Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm
In the church

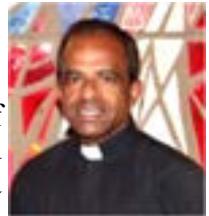
Drive-Thru Communion
11:30am to 12 noon
In front of the church

Livestream Links
Can be found at ctkph.org

"TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

Dear Friends,

We celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on Thursday December 8th, and I am so grateful for many of you who participated in the liturgies. Mary is our model of Christian discipleship during the season of Advent. We will join our Hispanic brothers and sisters who were with us during the pandemic. On Sunday December 11th we will celebrate a bilingual mass at 4.00pm. This will be a festive celebration with the music of Mariachi. Everyone is welcome! Join us for a reception afterwards in the parish hall.



The story of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe might be hundreds of years old, but the lessons we can draw from it apply to our lives today. First, a quick refresher on the story: in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared



to a young native Mexican peasant named Juan Diego. To provide evidence of the appearance, Mary filled Juan Diego's tunic with out-of-season roses. When he released the pile of roses in front of the local archbishop, a captivating image of Mary was revealed on his tunic: a dark skinned woman wrapped in a star-covered mantle, standing on a crescent moon and carried by an angel. This original tilma continues to be prominently displayed behind the altar at the Basilica in Mexico City for the millions of pilgrims who come to visit and pray.

Mary appeared to Juan Diego as a mestiza woman with a darker skin tone. The indigenous people could identify with this image of Mary. She even spoke to Juan Diego in his native language of Nahuatl. Mary came among them, as one of them. It gave the local people a sense of belonging. As a Church we need to reinforce this sense of belonging today. The feast invites us to create a place where people are included and respected, where everyone feels like they belong.

Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a native-born peasant. She didn't appear to the bishop, nor the colonial rulers. In fact, she visited Juan Diego four times, and her only other appearance was to his bedridden uncle. The poor, the sick, and indigenous communities deserve attention and support. They deserve a voice in our church. That is why I feel the synodality, initiated by Pope Francis is so paramount. It is primarily about learning to listen and dialogue with people in the pews, with those who are marginalized or wounded by the church. It is about a different model of building collegiality. This model is different from the one used in the U.S. and the world throughout the 20th century, which is a model that is indeed heavy on bureaucracy.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announced this feast as a day of prayer and solidarity with families of immigrants. So, it's worth reflecting on what we can learn from this popular devotion, especially in terms of God's inclusive love for all humanity especially the poor and the downtrodden. As we have learned time and time again, God works through the simple, the humble, and the marginalized to bring transformation into our world.

On Saturday, we celebrated First Reconciliation for 97 children. This is the first time the children encountered the merciful Lord in this sacrament. As a parent you will explain to your child the goodness of our God. As a parish, let us keep these children in our prayer.



This advent I would like to invite you to be present and be aware of what's happening around you and within you. Take a few moments daily, and sit in quiet meditation. Ask yourself: what are three things that have gone well for me today? In today's rush, we all think too much, seek too much, want too much and forget about the joy of just being.

Fr. Paulson



CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 12	Mon.	9am	Jeff Brogan † Esther Donlin †
Dec. 13	Tues.	9am	Hildegard Menzhuber †
Dec. 14	Wed.	9am	Jose Delfino Velez † Leon Dejeus †
Dec. 15	Thurs.	9am	Simon Khiem Tran † Maritess Tablane
Dec. 16	Fri.	9am	Joanne Kathryn Carroll †
Dec. 17	Sat.	9am	Concepcion Guevarra †
Dec. 17 & Dec. 18	Weekend	All-Masses	Vickie Menzhuber † Andrew Alatorre † Nancy Delucchi † Angela Backman † Jack Cardoza † Sarah Costanza Virginia Fundamo (Bday Blessings) Ferdinand Navarro (Bday Blessings)

"Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!"

POPE FRANCIS

www.universeoffaith.org

Third Sunday of Advent/Candle Meaning
It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached this midpoint of Advent.



ST. STEPHEN CORNER "To Live and to Love in Christ"

St. Stephen Church - Mass Times

Monday - Friday - 8am

Saturday - 5pm and Sunday - 9:30am



SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 10	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen Parishioners
Dec. 11	Sun.	9:30am	Virgil Bolin †
Dec. 17	Sat.	5:00pm	Saint Stephen Parishioners
Dec. 18	Sun.	9:30am	Carol Ricci †

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

We will be having our Advent Reconciliation Service on Friday, December 16 at 6pm. You will have an opportunity for individual confessions during this service.

As Christmas Eve and Christmas Day fall on a weekend this year, our Christmas Services will be at our regular weekend times - Christmas Eve Mass on Saturday, December 24 at 5pm and Christmas Day Mass on Sunday, December 25 at 9:30am.

Just in time for the holidays, there is a new book on our book table. "Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life" by Matthew Kelly. Some ideas are so powerful that simply becoming aware of them changes our lives forever. Holy Moments is such an idea. It is profoundly simple, astonishingly practical. This book is what the world needs right now. Come and claim a copy today.

Join us after the 9:30am Mass on Sunday, December 18, as we decorate the church for Christmas. Many hands are needed as we set up our Christmas Tree and Nativity scene.

Save the date: Celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen with us on Monday, December 26 at 5pm. We will have a potluck, giving you a chance to use up your Christmas leftovers, followed by Caroling. Plan on joining us.

Office hours - Monday & Wednesday 11am-2pm



Celebrate with us!

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sunday, December 11
Mass Time: 4pm (bilingual)
Reception to follow in the Parish Hall

Save the Date
Fr. Brian Timoney Turns 92!

Join us Thursday, January 12 at the 6pm Mass
Followed by a reception in the Parish Hall



You are invited to attend our Advent Reconciliation Service

Saturday, December 17 at 3pm or
Monday, December 19 at 7:15pm

Come and experience the healing power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.



SIMBANG GABI -- The Filipino Society of Christ the King 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 6:00 p.m. every night. Mass on Thursday Dec. 15, will be held in the parish hall. A celebration of gratitude will be held after the last mass on the 23rd in the parish hall. For those who are unable to attend, each of the masses will be livestreamed. For additional information, please contact Maritess Baula (925-899-9078) or Imelda Santos (925-623-7340).

Celebrate with us!

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HOLIDAY Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses

Saturday, December 24

3pm - Outdoors-Children/Family Mass

4:30pm - Indoors & Livestreamed

8pm - Indoors

12 Midnight - Indoors (Carols begin at 11:30pm)

St. Stephen Church - 5:00pm

Christmas Day Masses

Sunday, December 25

7:30am - Indoors

9am - Indoors

10:30am - Indoors & Livestreamed

No 4pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 9:30am

The outdoor 3pm Christmas Eve Mass will take place on the lawn. Please dress warm and bring your own chairs.

If it rains we will bring mass inside the church and gym.

Masks are encouraged *inside*.

Drive Through Communion

Christmas Day - 11:30am to 12:00pm

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31

Vigil for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Time: 4pm (reception to follow)

St. Stephen Church - Mass Time: 5:00pm

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Times: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am & 4pm

St. Stephen Church - Mass Time: 9:30am

Livestreaming of Masses

Visit our website at ctkph.org for direct links to Facebook or YouTube

You are cordially invited to

The first annual **CTK Christmas FAIR**



Monday, December 12, 2022
5:00pm to 7:30pm
CTK School Courtyard

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Amore Sweets
And more to come!

PROCEEDS FROM ALL SALES GO TO CTK SCHOOL

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Communion in Care Facilities

Currently, CTK is getting a number of requests for ministers to tend to care facilities. What has been working well is that the Catholic residents are brought together in one room on a Sunday morning. There they watch the Mass being live streamed. Our ministers would simply be present for the online Mass and at Communion time - they would distribute the Eucharist.

Communion to the Homebound

Frequently we receive requests that Communion be brought to people who are homebound and cannot come to church. This would entail setting up a day and time that works for the person as well as for our CTK minister. It could be a weekly visit or whatever the two parties arrange. Basically, it is a short visit and a time of prayer and reception of Communion.

If you feel called to minister in this way ~ which is currently a great need ~ please contact Sr. Dominic Marie at 925-246-1122 or sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com

Holiday FOOD DRIVE

St. Vincent De Paul Annual Holiday Food Collection

To support St. Vincent de Paul, please bring bags of groceries! Below are the requested items. Please only bring groceries from the list.

Normal Sizes only
No giant sizes, no glass

Any kind of canned vegetables
Any kind of canned beans
Pasta, rice, dried beans
Canned fruit, tuna, soups,
Tomato sauce,
Peanut butter and cereal

****We also are in need of grocery bags****

Drop off bags in front of the church through Friday, December 16.

Thank you for your generosity!



ICF Christmas Party December 11, 1pm/CTK's Parish Hall

All parishioners are invited to a Christmas Celebration with members of our Christ the King Italian Catholic Federation Branch 442. We will share appetizers and desserts. ICF will provide beer, wine, soda and water. Except for the initiation of our new members, we will not have a business meeting but just a fun time together! If you want to participate in our "white elephant gift exchange," bring an unused, wrapped gift that you may not want but that someone else will! We will sing Christmas songs and carols too! Join us for a festive afternoon at the CTK parish hall. RSVP to Diana Mackinson, dijoed@comcast.net or 925-519-4711.

Upcoming Second Collections

- Dec. 10/11 - Retirement for Religious
- Dec. 17/18 - Christmas Flowers
- Dec. 24/25 - Christmas



The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

ISAIAH 35:1-2

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December 11, 2022



GOOD NEWS

Good news is good news is . . . Today's messages from Isaiah (prophetic ancestor of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth) and James (spiritual offspring of John and Jesus) both have messages that resonate across the five centuries that separate them: hope in the coming power and presence of God. Isaiah was attempting to comfort and encourage the people of Israel in geographic and spiritual exile. Their exile will end, Isaiah says, with God's presence shown forth through spectacular occurrences in nature. James likewise has a community in need of encouragement and hope, since they despair over the delayed parousia, the final coming of God in glory. In the meantime, James urges patient endurance. Until Jesus returns, they ought to persist without complaint, with the lives of the prophets as their guide. Then will come the time of sight, and healing, and life and . . . Good News for the poor!

PATIENCE . . . NOW!

A friend walked me through his newly planted garden to help me see how it would look in spring. He finally stopped and said, "You can't picture any of this, can you?" I couldn't until I saw it in full bloom the following springtime. Then I could understand why he planted the seeds where he had. Then I saw the beauty and bounty that his planting represented. "Tell John what you hear and see," Jesus says to John's disciples. The signs of the Messiah proclaimed by the prophets are beginning to bloom. Look and see! Hear the singing of those once mute and the rejoicing of the crowds who witness these works. The beauty and the bounty of our generous God are all around.

JUST IMAGINE

James wrote to a community experiencing hardship, like the exiled Israelites in today's first reading. Isaiah and James exhort people to trust that they will see God's presence in their midst once again, so be patient. That's easier said than done, isn't it? Saint Francis de Sales says to be patient with everyone, and most of all with ourselves. Patience means accepting suffering and delay without becoming angry or upset. Easier said than done. Praying for this virtue each day, sometimes often throughout the day, does help. Breathe in the Spirit of God and say, "Give me patience, Lord." Then exhale anger, upset, and impatience. Staring at a garden won't make a shoot spring up any faster; however, giving thanks for the seed, the water, the soil, and the Giver of all life can deepen our trust that the garden will grow. So be patient. Rejoice always. See and be the signs of God's beauty and bounty in our world today.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

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