

Christ the King and St. Stephen Parishes

(925) 682-2486 ctkph.org

(925) 274-1341 saintstephenparish.org

Palm Sunday

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

When the centurion
who stood facing him
saw how he breathed
his last he said,

March 28, 2021

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"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:39

SS UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

March 28 **Theresa Narodzonek †**
April 3 **St. Stephen & CTK Parishioners**
April 4 **Jim Vranesh †**

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

Easter/Holy Week Schedule Inside!

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

CTK UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

March 29 **Edward Davone †**
March 30 **Leonila Benito †**
Hernando Tan †
March 31 **Cathy Struempf †**
April 1 **Holy Thursday**
April 2 **Good Friday**
April 3 **Holy Saturday**

April 4 **Easter Sunday Schedule Inside**

*Christ
is
Risen!*

Dear Friends,

Holy Week remembers and celebrates the final week of Jesus' life on earth, beginning with Palm Sunday, which marks his entry into Jerusalem. This is followed by the celebration of his Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday. Then concludes with his passion and death on Good Friday, and finally, as Christians believe, his resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. For Christians, there is no more significant week of the liturgical year. I would like to invite you to join us in person for the outdoor services. They will also be live streamed.



Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his Crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent, and the week in which Christians celebrate the mystery of their salvation through Christ's Death and his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The Jewish people most likely picked up from the Romans, the practice of using and waving palms in celebrations and coronations. The waving of palms was significant in those days in Jerusalem because the Romans used to give palms to those who were victorious in their games, i.e., chariot races, gladiatorial games, military conquests and the crowning of Caesars.

It is interesting historically and significant that we see the donkey playing a major role because people who would have received palms, the victors, would have ridden in on their horses or chariots, not on a donkey, which was used by simple country people. In fact that symbolizes not only the humility of Jesus, but peace. He did not come for war like warriors who waved palms. It really is ironic that during His last week on earth Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, which became the throne for our King, the Son of God. There is an important lesson to be learned from how Jesus was treated by the crowds. We must not forget about the fickleness of people. One minute they're praising Jesus as king and the next they want to exchange him for Barabbas and have him crucified on the cross.



Invitation to Celebrate Holy Week To me, the most comforting part of Holy Week is not the waving of triumphal palms on one Sunday morning, or the flowers and joyous hymns on the next. It's what happens in between. It's Jesus on Maundy Thursday sharing a table with the people he loved the most. It's him washing their feet, and showing that the mark of a true leader is whether they can serve others. And it is Jesus still loving those disciples even though he knew that, at best, they would abandon him, and at worst, they would betray him. And it is Jesus in the garden, alone, heart-broken, and struggling between what he wanted to do and what he knew he had to do.

And on Good Friday, it continues. The world turns against him, and the ones who cheered his entry in Jerusalem instead cheer his death. He suffers. He calls out to a God who does not seem to answer. He doubts. He feels pain, and loss, and grief. And in the end he loses the life he knew. I am sometimes asked by those who are going through a difficult time whether God is angry when they have doubts, or when they wonder why God doesn't seem to be answering prayers. They ask if God understands when we suffer, or when we feel alone. When they do, I point first not to the Christ of Palm Sunday or Easter, but to the Christ of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The one who lived as one of us. Who loved as one of us. Who doubted as one of us. Who suffered as one of us. And who died as one of us.

Fr. Paulson

Palm Sunday March 28, 2021

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Chapters 40-55 of the Book of Isaiah contain the message of a prophet who spoke to God's people during their exile in Babylon. Several times the prophet speaks about a servant who will one day deliver God's people. Because the Servant is portrayed as suffering, Christians have traditionally identified Jesus with him.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

We have in this passage one of the most beautiful sections of Paul's letter to the Philippians. He wants the members of the community at Philippi to work harder at unity and humility, and to teach this he quotes an early Christian hymn about Jesus.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

CTK: Monday - Saturday:

9 am Mass ~ Indoor (church) and live streamed on facebook/YouTube

6 pm Thursday Mass indoor (church) 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 ~ 4 pm Vigil Mass Outdoor (note time change)

Sundays ~ 7:30 am indoor, 9 am outdoor, 10:30 am outdoor, 12:00 noon Spanish outdoor and 4 pm outdoor 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.

Holy Week/Easter Services

Holy Thursday-April 1

CTK 6pm Mass – Outdoors

St. Stephen-6pm Mass – Indoors

Good Friday-April 2

1pm-Stations of the Cross

1:45pm-Reflection/Talk

2pm & 6pm-Liturgy of the Passion

7:30pm-Liturgy of the Passion (Spanish)

All Outdoors CTK

St. Stephen-Stations of the Cross-5pm – Outdoors

Easter Vigil Saturday-April 3

7pm Mass – Outdoors CTK

St. Stephen-7pm Mass – Indoors

Easter Sunday Masses-April 4

7:30am – Indoors

9am, 10:30am, 12 noon (Spanish), 4pm

All Outdoors CTK

St. Stephen-9:30am – Outdoors

St. Stephen Corner

**St. Stephen's Holy Week/
Easter Schedule:**

Holy Thursday

Thurs, April 1 at 6 pm - indoor

Good Friday

April 2 at 5 pm there will be a Stations of the Cross service outdoors; all other Good Friday services will be at CTK.

Easter Vigil

Sat. April 3 at 7 pm - indoor

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4 at 9:30 am - outdoor weather depending.

Be sure to monitor our website (<https://saintstephenparish.org/>) for any last minute changes.

Fr. Paulson, Fr. Lee, Fr. Timoney, and our St. Stephen staff wish each of you a Blessed Easter.

- Please bring your own chairs to all outdoor services. Masks and social distancing are required.
- If you prefer-stay in your car, tune into FM 106.7 and listen to mass on your car radio. Or bring tablet/smart phones to view live.
- Live streaming links to our services can be found at ctkph.org.



Sr. Joanne Gallagher was an elementary school teacher and principal for over 50 years in California. Then she was granted a one-year sabbatical and spent three months in England on a renewal program. She also visited various countries in Europe. Upon returning home Sr. Joanne served as an associate pastor. Her goal in life is to instill a genuine love for God and neighbor in everyone she encounters and to instill lifelong values in everyone.

Congratulations on celebrating your 70th Jubilee, Sr. Joanne!

Triduum Retreat - Live at San Damiano

San Damiano's Holy Week retreat returns for 2021. Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy & Fr. Charlie Smiech, the Gibsons, and staff of San Damiano welcome you.

It will be on-site at San Damiano and limited to 25 people due to Covid guidelines.

There will not be an on-line option.

Check-in is available beginning at 3:00 PM on 4/1. The retreat starts at 6:00 PM. We end with brunch on Easter.

You also have the option to add on Wednesday 3/31.

****If you prefer to pay your retreat using your credit card by phone or mail us a check, please call Kateri at 925-785-9850 or any questions. Thank you!**

Our CTK Office staff will soon be ordering our **next cycle of contribution envelopes**. If you currently get envelopes and would like to continue, you don't need to do anything. However, if you get them and you no longer use them, please send us an email at office@ctkph.org indicating that. Alternatively, if you do not receive them and would like to, please send an email to that effect at office@ctkph.org. Any questions, please call the office M-F between 9 am and 1 pm.

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!



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