



# Christ the King Parish

**PASTOR**

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

**IN RESIDENCE**

Rev. Richard F. Reidy, Vicar General

**DEACON**

Joseph M. Baniukiewicz

**DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC**

Dr. Jonathan Bezdegian

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Judith L. Brennan

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Mindy A. Dulude

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR**

Deacon Joseph M. Baniukiewicz

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Weekdays 7:00 AM

Saturday 8:00 AM

Holy Day Mass Times 7:00 PM (vigil)  
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 6:00 PM (on the day)

**PHONES**

**Parish Office** 508-754-5361  
**Parish Fax** 508-753-0448  
**For an emergency** 508-450-2556

**Msgr. Sullivan:** tsullivan5@mac.com  
**Parish Office:** mindyd1052@gmail.com  
**Judith Brennan, DRE:** ctkedu1052@gmail.com  
**Parish website:** www.ctkworc.org

**HOURS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Monday—Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 2:45 PM to 3:45 PM or please call Msgr. Sullivan

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

Couples planning a Christian marriage should contact Msgr. Sullivan following their engagement.

**HOLY BAPTISM**

Baptisms take place at Sunday Mass once a month. Please see information inside this bulletin.

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK**

Please call Msgr. Sullivan for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or Holy Communion.

**WORSHIPING WITH US?**

We hope you introduce yourself and register in our parish. Please call the rectory to do so.



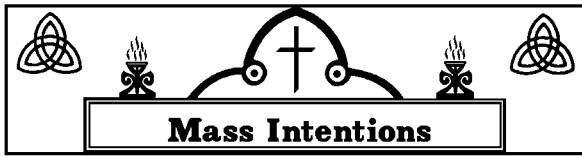
## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. - Mt 3:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

## CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



### Saturday—December 7th

4:00PM James Pappas (mem.) req. of family

### Sunday—December 8th

7:30AM Louise A. Dacri (5th anniv.) req. of James D. Brock

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Robert L. Conroy (birthday) req. of family

### Monday—December 9th

7:00AM Christopher T. Beyers (mem.) req. of James D. Brock

5:30PM Paul Thomas (mem.) req. of family

### Tuesday—December 10th

7:00AM Mr. Thu Ngo (mem.) req. of family

5:30PM Health, protection and deliverance of Gail McAuliffe

### Wednesday—December 11th

7:00AM Dennis O'Connor (mem.) req. of Jack and Julie O'Connor

5:30PM Louis Prestes (2nd anniv.) req. of daughter Donna and family

### Thursday—December 12th

7:00AM Carter Freije (mem.) req. of Jack and Julie O'Connor

5:30PM Cindy Donahue (mem.) req. of Mary Beth Thomas and Family

### Friday—December 13th

5:30PM Health, protection and deliverance of Gail McAuliffe

### Saturday—December 14th

8:00AM Madeline Letourneau (mem.) req. of Denise Bergeron

4:00PM Amos E. Wasgatt, III (mem.), Elizabeth "Betty" Wasgatt (mem.), Amos E. Wasgatt, Jr. (mem.), Kenneth Anderson (mem.), and Barbara Wasgatt (mem.) req. of family

### Sunday—December 15th

7:30AM The Hines Family

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Nancy LeHair (5th anniv.) req. of family

### REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Carter Freije**, the nephew of Richard Freije, **Janet A. O'Connor**, **Paula K. Hamann**, and **Rev. Michael P. Bafaro**.

### Thanks for Bequest

The Diocese of Worcester and the parishioners of Christ the King Parish are very grateful for the bequest of \$5,000 to the Diocesan Priest Retirement Program from the estate of the late Ronald E. Cloutier. Ron, who was a former lector here and a retired professor at Worcester State University and elsewhere, died this past June. He was very devoted to his wife, Donna, during her lengthy illness. She is also deceased. May they rest in peace.

### COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses (M-F, 7:00 am and at 5:30 pm each weekday during Advent, and Saturdays, 8:00 am). The Mass brings many special graces! It is a wonderful way to begin the day. This week most Masses are Advent weekdays but we also celebrate these special observances and feasts: **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Monday); **St. Damasus I, Pope** (Wednesday); **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (Thursday); **St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr** (Friday); and **St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church** (Saturday).

### Recent Offertory Donations

As we are very grateful for the time you share with Christ the King, and the abundance of your talents, so we are for your offertory gifts. Your donations from the weekend of **November 23/24** were as follows:

**Offertory:** \$9,196.00; **Mass Stipends:** \$50.00;  
**Fuel:** \$75.00; **All Souls:** \$25.00; **Solemnity of Mary:** \$20.00;  
**Propagation of the Faith:** \$5.00; **Christmas:** \$60.00;  
**All Saints:** \$5.00; **Christmas Flowers:** \$600.00; **Campaign for Human Development:** \$678.00; **Our Religious Education:** \$20.00; **Donation:** \$100.00; **Donation from Friday Night AA:** \$60.00; **Immaculate Conception:** \$30.00;  
**Religious Retirement:** \$10.00.

**Total: \$10,934.00**

### BAPTISM PREP SESSIONS & CELEBRATIONS

All parents (registered parishioners) must participate in a prep session, led by our trained team, if this is their *first child and/or if they do not worship at Mass here each Sunday*. Baptisms take place at Sunday Masses and parents choose the date (see available dates below). **PARENT PREP SESSION:** One session is required, and it takes place on select Sundays from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Rectory and church. **Upcoming 2020 Preparation Dates:** February 16, March 29, May 17 and June 28. **Upcoming 2020 BAPTISM DATES** at the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays (for prepared parents): *January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12 (Easter), May 3, June 14, July 12 and August 16*. For sign-ups please call Monsignor Sullivan at 508-754-5361 or email him at: [tsullivan5@mac.com](mailto:tsullivan5@mac.com).

### Advent Weekday Evening Masses!

Throughout the season of Advent Christ the King Parish offers a Mass at 5:30 pm (Mondays-Fridays). It's for those who wish to attend daily Mass during this season but who cannot do so in the morning. **These Masses continue through Monday, December 23.** All are welcome.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ADVANCE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24**

**4:00 pm Mass**

*(with overflow in Johnson Room for Telecast)*

**6:00 pm Mass**

*(9:30 pm Christmas pre-Mass Concert)*

**10:00 pm Mass**

**Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25**

**Masses at 8:00 am & 10:00 am**

### Catholic Girls Club

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from October to May from 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the Emmaus Center, 17 E. Main Street, Webster (across from Sacred Heart Church). Use the Day Street entrance. Girls 6 and up are welcome. Activities include discussion about a female saint or Marian feast followed by a craft or activity. There are no fees or long-term commitments. To sign up or for information contact Melissa McDonald at [kyleandmelissa2004@gmail.com](mailto:kyleandmelissa2004@gmail.com).

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> this Year**

**Masses at: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm**

In the United States, when this Solemnity (celebrated normally on December 8<sup>th</sup>) falls on a Sunday (like this year) the celebration of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to the next day, in this case to **tomorrow, Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. However, the faithful are **not obliged** to attend. Nevertheless, we will offer **Masses** for the Immaculate Conception at **7 am and 5:30 pm**. Msgr. Sullivan will also offer this solemn Mass at the Jewish Healthcare Center tomorrow.

The *Immaculate Conception* means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That's what 'immaculate' means: without stain. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

### HOSPITAL VISITS

Msgr. Sullivan is honored to support you and your family during times of illness by visiting the hospitals. **RARELY DO UMASS (LAKE) HOSPITAL OR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT PATIENTS' RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.** So, we are entirely dependent on information we receive from family or friends. **St. Vincent's Hospital's records are excellent, and "St. V's" provides current information in a timely way.** Please call the rectory to advise us that someone is in the hospital so that Msgr. Sullivan can visit that person.

### Religious Education Classes

*This Week & Next...*

**Religious Education classes** for those students in **Grades 1-6** will meet **today, Sunday, December 8**, from 10:00 to 11:00 am. **Grades 7-10** will meet **tonight, Sunday, December 8**, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

**Religious Education classes** for those students in **Grades 1-6** will meet **next Sunday, December 15**, from 10:00 to 11:00 am. **Grades 7-10** will meet **next Sunday, December 15**, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

### Retirement Fund for the Religious Second Collection Today

Today, our parishes in the nation will take the annual offering to support *The Retirement Fund for the Religious*. We encourage your generosity in today's second collection that assists our retired *religious priests, brothers and sisters* who have offered their lives in service to the Church. As we reflect on the role they've played in the Church, we are reminded of the myriad ways these dedicated women and men serve as bridges of faith. Through their service in Catholic schools and their corporal works of mercy, *religious* are bridges of hope, serving as instruments of God's love to the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the oppressed. Today, tens of thousands of these *religious* are now elderly, frail and in need of assistance. Their communities struggle to provide adequate care. Please be generous in this appeal. It represents an opportunity to bring together our diocesan family in support of those who have served the Church as well our local communities.

### Congratulations to the Recently Baptized!

Congratulations to **Zayne Allen Sritrai** who was baptized here on November 29th by Msgr. Sullivan, and to his parents **Asek Sritrai** and **Quynh Anh Pham-Sritrai**. May Zayne always live in the light of Christ!

### Handel's 'Messiah' Here Today ~ Sunday

**Today, December 8, at 2:00 pm** the choristers of Anna Maria College are sponsoring the world-famous Christmastime oratio, '*Messiah*,' composed by George Frederic Handel here at Christ the King in the church. Many will remember the large throng that came last year. This is a **free concert** and all are welcome to come and enjoy it.

### Advent Prayer Program

The Sisters of Saint Anne continue their annual Advent Prayer Program at Marie Anne Center at St. Bernard Church, 228 Lincoln St., Worcester on **Tuesdays, Dec. 10 and 17 from 10 - 11:30 am**. Remaining presenters are Mr. Ernie Rivard (Dec. 10) and Sr. Yvette Bellerose (Dec. 17).

### CHRIST THE KING PRAYER LINE

If you know of someone who could use our prayerful support please contact either Mindy at 508-754-5361 or by email at [mindyd1052@gmail.com](mailto:mindy1052@gmail.com).

### PLEASE USE OUR HOPE FOR HOUSING CARDS

Please purchase 'Hope for Housing' food cards. Here's how they work: (1) You purchase food gift cards in various amounts of \$10 to \$100; (2) You use the food cards for your grocery shopping; (3) You receive the full face value of the card you purchase; (4) What you don't spend remains on your card for later use; and (5) The supermarket donates 5% to 10% of what you spend to prevent family homelessness.

### Thanksgiving Day Gratitude

Many thanks to all those who brought canned goods for the needy at our recent Mass on Thanksgiving Day...and for your cash gifts that assist our St. Vincent de Paul Society outreach. We are very grateful for your goodness. And our thanks go to our CYC members for assisting with the food after Mass and for sponsoring our "Coffee and..." festivities in the Johnson Room following Mass.

### OPPOSITION TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Massachusetts Senate and House have introduced new bills to legalize Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS), an initiative that threatens our vulnerable elderly and disabled citizens. **H.1926** and **S.1208** are called "An Act Relative to End of Life Options." We must let our legislators know that we are opposed to PAS. Please contact **Representative John Mahoney**, the House Public Health Committee chairperson, and other legislators to let them know we don't want this legislation passed. You can contact Representative Mahoney at Room 443, State House, 24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133, call him at **617-722-2460** or email him at [john.mahoney@mahouse.gov](mailto:john.mahoney@mahouse.gov).

### USE OUR PARISH WEBSITE

A great deal of work has gone into updating our parish website. You can easily find it at [www.ckworc.org](http://www.ckworc.org).

### 'Giving Tree' Program Returns Today

All gifts are to be returned here today, Sunday, December 8. They are to be picked up shortly after noontime.

We hope you remembered **not to wrap any gifts or place them in decorated gift bags**. Please **do not enclose ribbon**, bows, or any external decorations. This will save about 2,000 rolls of gift-wrapping paper. Please **do not purchase gifts that require batteries**. Should a gift require them, please do not include batteries with the gift. The improper disposal of batteries is a major environmental hazard. **Do not include candy, cookies or foodstuffs** with your gifts. Because of the danger of contamination they are **unable to distribute them**.

## Highlights of the Week Ahead

### Saturday, December 7

8:00 am - Mass  
9:30 am - First Reconciliation, church  
CYC Retreat Continues, New Hampshire  
4:00 pm - Mass for Retreatants, NH  
4:00 pm Mass - Giving Tree Gifts Returned  
4:00 pm Mass - KofC Railers Game Sales

### Sunday, December 8 - Advent II

All Masses - Giving Tree Gifts Returned  
All Masses - KofC Railers Game Sales  
10:00-11:00 am - Grades 1-6 Religious Education  
11:00 am - Baptisms at Mass  
12:00 pm - CYC Retreat concludes  
2:00 pm - Handel's *Messiah*, church  
- Reception follows, Johnson Room  
6:00-7:00 pm - Grades 7-10, Religious Education

### Monday, December 9 - Immaculate Conception

Masses: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
10:45 am - Mass at Jewish Healthcare Center

### Tuesday, December 10

Masses: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
7:00 pm - Parish Council, Conference Room  
7:00-9:00 pm - AA Meeting, Lower Rectory

### Wednesday, December 11

Masses: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
7:00-8:30 pm - Boy Scouts, Hall  
7:30-9:00 pm - Folk Group Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 12

Masses: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
4:15-5:15 pm - Youth Choir Rehearsal  
7:30-9:00 pm - Festival Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, December 13

Masses: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
3:30-5:30 pm - Daisies, Hall  
6:30-8:30 pm - Cub Scouts, Hall  
7:30-9:00 pm - AA Meeting, Lower Rectory

### Saturday, December 14

7:05 pm - KofC at Railers Game

### Sunday, December 15 - Advent III

10:00-11:00 am - Grades 1-6 Religious Education  
2:00 pm - Mass for Audrey Santo  
6:00-7:00 pm - Grades 7-10, Religious Education

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY NIGHT

The Parish Council meets this Tuesday evening, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

## ***'THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION' ~ TOMORROW***

Someone once said that God's first thought in creating the world was to send Someone to us whose perfect love for all creation would be Jesus. His second thought was Mary. From all eternity, God chose Mary, a simple, Jewish girl to be the mother of His Son. Tomorrow, we celebrate the great gift of God's grace revealed in Mary.

We rejoice in her Immaculate Conception, which means her freedom from original sin, that sin which affects and taints all the rest of us from our birth. Mary was conceived in total purity in her mother's womb, the womb of St. Anne, so that she might be the worthy vessel to carry God's Son into the world. The gift of being conceived immaculately was a singular, unique gift to Mary. We rejoice in Mary's privilege.

And yet God's gift to Mary is also a gift to us. In God's plan, through the death and Resurrection of Jesus, we can be cleansed and admitted into the presence of God. So, we also celebrate that salvation possible for all of us. God's grace is a gift for all. In tomorrow's Gospel we'll hear the Angel Gabriel announce to Mary that she will be Jesus' mother. Her response was a resounding "Yes." Her "Yes" overthrows the "No" of Eve at the creation of the world. Her "Yes" undoes the disobedience of humanity in the Garden of Eden and makes Paradise possible for us once more. God sends the angel and gives the grace. Mary humbly receives this gift and lives by it.

The angel says to Mary that her son "will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." This is a beautiful description of God's peace. The Gospel connects Mary, filled with grace, as the perfect mother of the Prince of Peace because she lived by peace all her life. At the cross she didn't react to such a painful sight with retaliation. No, she forgave others and lived by hope. Both Jesus and his mother witnessed and endured tremendous injustice. They both saw their people suffer under the Romans. They both experienced extreme poverty. They both saw great death. In the face of these, both responded with peace.

We who receive grace are asked to do the same. The world would be quite different if we lived with that spirit of peace. We who carry the name of Jesus and Mary in our hearts must make peace our endless prayer and make loving God and one another our lifestyle. In the name of the Immaculate Virgin filled with grace let us live by peace, hers and that of her Son.

---