



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

PHONES

Parish Office 508-754-5361
Parish Fax 508-753-0448
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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.

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)



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” - Mt 1:21

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

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CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—December 21st

4:00PM Deceased Members of the Coles, Halloran and Provencher Families

Sunday—December 22nd

7:30AM Norman Fortier (mem.) req. of family
9:00AM Claire McMahon (3rd anniv.) req. of family
11:00AM Ruth Terrill (mem.) req. of The Cousineau Family

Monday—December 23rd

7:00AM Rev. Matthew O'Connor (mem.) req. of Jack and Julie O'Connor
5:30PM Health, protection and deliverance of Gail McAuliffe

Thursday—December 26th

7:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

Friday—December 27th

7:00AM Health, protection and deliverance of Gail McAuliffe

Saturday—December 28th

8:00AM Richard and Frances Oliver (wedding anniv.) req. of family
4:00PM Mary Law (mem.) req. of family

Sunday—December 29th

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King
9:00AM Andrew Black (18th anniv.) req. of family
11:00AM Antonio Irragarri, Sr. (mem.) req. of family

Low Gluten Hosts Available for Holy Communion

For several years we've been offering 'low-gluten' hosts for those who cannot tolerate gluten. These hosts meet the requirements of the Catholic Church for Holy Communion in terms of ingredients and gluten content. The Holy See and the American bishops have endorsed certain breads that are low in gluten content. The hosts we use have gluten content of less than 0.01%. It is important for the person requiring this special host to speak to Msgr. Sullivan prior to Mass so that we can offer this special host to you.

USE OUR PARISH WEBSITE

A great deal of work has gone into updating our parish website. You can easily find it at www.ctkworc.org.

Christmas 4:00 pm Vigil Mass to be Telecast to Johnson Room

Due to the substantial overflow crowds at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve we will continue what we inaugurated a number of years ago. We will telecast the Mass into the Johnson Room, where extra seating will be provided for 200 people. The doors to the Johnson Room will remain open during this time. Holy Communion will be brought to those in the room. This will be safer and will provide for a more dignified distribution of Communion.

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses (M-F, 7:00 am and Saturdays, 8:00 am). The Mass brings many special graces! It is a wonderful way to begin the day. This week we celebrate the feasts of **St. John of Kanty, Priest** (Monday ~ Masses at 7 am and 5:30 pm); **Last Mass of Advent** (Tuesday morning at 7:00 am) **Christmas Eve Masses** (Tuesday: 4 pm, 6 pm, 10 pm); **Christmas Day** (Wednesday: 8 am, 10 am); **St. Stephen, the First Martyr** (Thursday); **St. John the Apostle, Evangelist** (Friday); and **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (Saturday).

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

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.

Final Weekday Evening Mass!

It has been great seeing parishioners at our evening Masses this Advent. **The final one will be celebrated tomorrow, Monday, December 23.** All are welcome.

Extra Christmas Confessions

Confessions will be heard **Monday afternoon, December 23, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm** and **Monday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**. Please come and experience this Sacrament of forgiveness, healing and peace as you prepare for Christmas.

***A Christmas Message from
Monsignor Tom***

The angel of the Lord proclaimed to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11). If we listen, as did the shepherds of old, we too will hear the great throng of the heavenly host praising God and singing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all who enjoy His favor.” (Luke 2:14)

How much we need to hear the good news of Christ’s birth once again! We must grasp this sacred moment with all its beauty and cherish it as we live it in our lives. This is true because most of us share deep concerns over the escalation of problems at home and abroad. We have our personal sorrows as well.

Indeed, the angel’s hopeful words too often seem part of another time and place. But, today, his words bring light into whatever darkness we might experience. To make a difference in our lives we must, in faith, move to embrace the great event of Bethlehem. The star, which arose over the City of David, will bring us hope as we come to believe that God has entered into our lives.

God’s love given to us in the Christ Child brings us reassurance, renewal and courage.

This Christmas rejoice in God’s greatest gift to us, the birth of His only Son. Come to Mass and share in the Eucharist. Sing hymns of Christmas joy with the Church. Renew and strengthen the ties of family and friendship. Don’t let Christmas pass without knowing the joy of the newborn infant we call *Emmanuel* - God-with-us - and realize that He has come to give us His peace.

On behalf of our entire parish staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Monsignor Tom Sullivan

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

This Montessori-based educational program for preschoolers is a phenomenal way to give children a strong faith base on which to grow. In very simple and beautiful ways, it opens the children to understand deep mysteries of our Catholic faith. CTK will be opening an “atrium” for this program next September, but there is much to do in preparation, as we make the materials the children with whom we will work. The Knights of Columbus have already started planning the construction of some of the materials but there are other materials that need to be sewn, 2 & 3-D materials to be created and painted, and calligraphy to be done. If you or someone you know is handy with these creative methods and would like to help, please contact Judi Brennan. For more information about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program please go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfg9RfBk-fy>

**Prayer Partners Needed
For 2nd grade students**

Judi is looking for 23 adults or older teens to pray for the students in 2nd grade as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion in May. Prayer Partners will be asked to write a letter of introduction to the child, committing to some form of prayer for the child through May, then coming to a Mass and dinner after Mass to meet the child and the families. This Mass will be held on Saturday, May 16th at 4:00 pm and the dinner will follow immediately thereafter. It is vital to be able to come to this Mass and dinner.

Prayer Partners is a fantastic way for the parish to show their support of the young families. It not only brings the children back to Mass to receive the Eucharist again, but families get to know others in their parish. Parishioners influence the lives of the children and their families; sometimes even become life-long friends together. If you would like to be a Prayer Partner to one of our young students, please contact Judi Brennan at 508-754-5361 or ctkedu1052@gmail.com. Once each student has a Prayer Partner, Judi will send letters to the adults to let them know who they are praying for and what to do next. She hopes to be able to do this by mid-January.

Bishop McManus’ Christmas Message

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas brings joy to the world and joy to our hearts as we contemplate and celebrate Christ’s birth at Bethlehem. We can readily appreciate Mary’s joy as she gazed on the beauty, mystery and wonder of her newborn Son. It is a joy all mothers experience and one fathers and families share as they welcome and appreciate the gift of new life.

Mary’s joy was deepened by the wondrous knowledge that the Child she bore was also God’s Eternal Son who, through her, took on a human nature to be with us and to save us. That presence brought joy to a cold and drafty cave where Mary and Joseph took shelter with animals. Christ’s presence brings joy to us no matter what our circumstances. We marvel not only that God’s Son took on our human nature, but that we, through the baptism Jesus instituted, also gain a share in God’s divine life. Jesus is God’s Son by nature. Through baptism we become God’s children by adoption. And just as God was truly in Mary’s arms in the Infant Jesus, so too, though in a different way, God is with us in our souls through baptism. Our God is not distant, indifferent or detached from our lives. He is with us. He is Emmanuel.

The Christmas Season begins with the birth of Christ and ends with the Feast of His baptism. The Season with all its beautiful liturgies, traditions and customs will quickly pass. However, for those who have become God’s adopted sons and daughters through baptism and who remain in His grace, God does not pass from us. We have His presence, strength and peace with us always. Like Mary and Joseph we will face uncertainties, disappointments and unexpected trials, but we do not face them alone. We are aided by a strength greater than our own.

May the enduring presence of Christ to you and all the baptized extend the joy of Christmas and the blessings of God throughout the New Year and all of life.

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus

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.

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.

Monsignor Sullivan is a Notary Public

Monsignor Sullivan is a notary public. Should any parishioner need to have a document notarized you are welcome to call upon him. There is no fee. Just call the rectory should you need this service.

'March for Life' Registration Info!

Plan now to attend the 47th annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, Jan. 24, 2020! Buses will leave from St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, January 23 following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m., and will travel to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., in time for the Friday morning Mass ~ followed by the March for Life at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March, arriving back at St. Paul's at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 25. The cost is \$80 per seat for registrations postmarked by December 31, and \$95 thereafter. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis until all seats are full, or until January 13, whichever comes first. For more details and to download registration forms, visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311 or email ale-doux@worcesterdiocese.org. If you can't attend this year but want to help please consider making a donation that will help defray expenses for our students who want to attend but might otherwise find it difficult to do so. Thank you!

Would You Like to Join Our Parish?

Please contact Monsignor Sullivan at 508-754-5361. Or, you can email him at tsullivan5@mac.com and he will respond.

Highlights of the Week Ahead

Sunday, December 22 - Advent IV

Afternoon - church decorated

Monday, December 23

Masses: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

3:00-4:00 pm - Confessions

7:00-8:00 pm - Confessions

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Last Advent Mass: 7:00 am

Christmas Eve Masses: 4, 6 and 10 pm

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas

Masses: 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Thursday, December 26

Mass: 7:00 am

Friday, December 27

Mass: 7:00 am

7:30-9:00 pm - AA Meeting, Lower Rectory

Sunday, December 29 - Holy Family

Masses: 7:30 am, 9 am, 11 am

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...

There are **no classes scheduled today, Sunday, December 22nd** because of Christmas week. **Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5.**

The Christmas Creche

The origin of our Christmas *creche* rests with St. Francis of Assisi. In the year 1223, Francis, a deacon, was visiting the town of Greccio, Italy, to celebrate Christmas. This small town overlooked a beautiful valley. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan Brothers would be too small to hold the local congregation for Midnight Mass. So he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up an altar. He prepared a manger, and brought hay and an ox and an ass. The people were summoned and the night was made glorious by many lights and psalms of praise. Francis stood before the manger bathed in tears and radiant with joy, and chanted the Holy Gospel. Then he preached to the people, embracing an infant as he did so, and spoke of "the Babe of Bethlehem." May we embrace the Babe of Bethlehem with the same love as St. Francis.

Christmas and St. John's Prologue

One magnificent passage is found in the beginning of St. John's Gospel heard on Christmas morning. The essential meaning of Christmas is contained in his beautifully crafted lines.

It starts, "In the beginning was the **WORD**..." St. John is telling us that the story he will unfold is the tale of a new creation, a new beginning. The **WORD**, he tells us, was not only with God from the beginning, but indeed was God. God, the perfect creator of the universe, is able to speak himself in one great **WORD**, the whole of his being. This is why we say that Jesus is "God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God." Then we hear that through this **WORD** "all things came to be." The **WORD** of God is nothing other than the mind of God.

Next, we are told of a "man sent by God" whose name was John. The Baptist came, St. John tells us, "as a witness to speak for the light," for he was not, himself, the light. God had sent messengers many times before. All of them were witnesses to the light. But the one to whom the Baptist bears witness is not one of many bearers of the Word but **the WORD** himself.

"He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him." Here we find the whole tragedy of sin. But then comes the good news: "To those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God." A human being can become something higher through God's power. God became human so that humans might participate in the divine nature. We can become children of God because God reached down to us and became one of us.

The entire prologue comes to its climax with the phrase, "the **WORD** was made flesh and lived among us." Real Christians know that the **WORD** of God took to himself a human nature and thereby elevated all of matter and made it a sign of the divine presence. When we say the **WORD** "lived among us" we literally mean God "pitched his tent among us." In the flesh of Jesus, God has established his "tabernacle" among us. What great news for us at Christmas!
