



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
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.

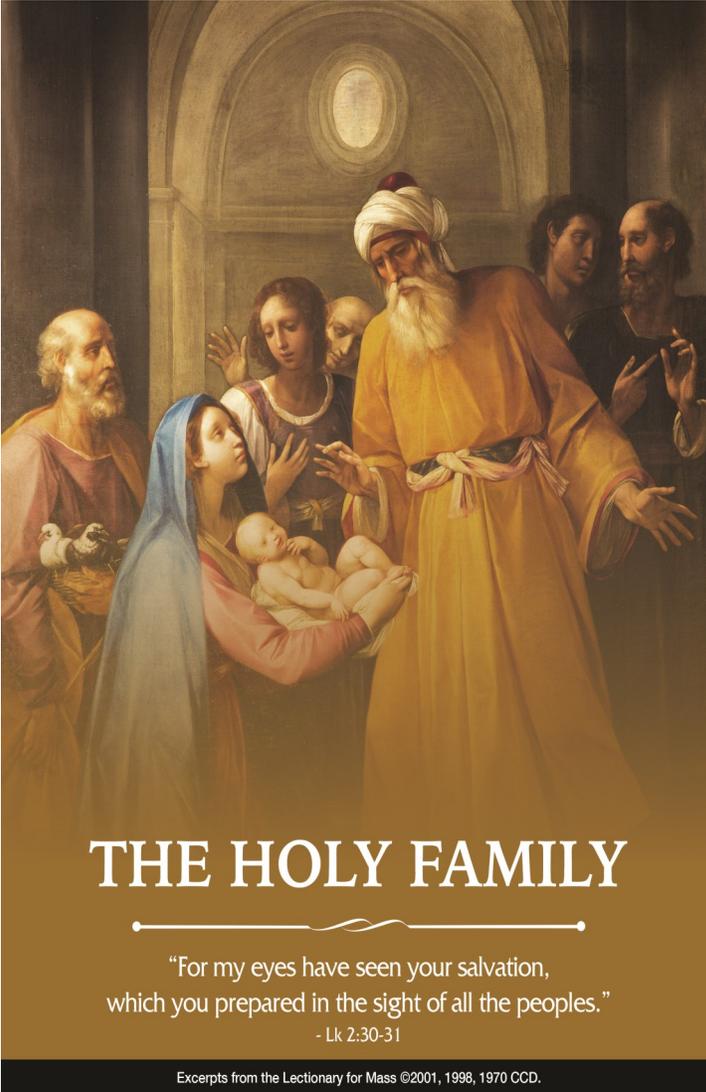
PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

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.

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)



THE HOLY FAMILY

“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.”

- Lk 2:30-31

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

CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—December 26th

4:00PM Charles and Mary Hanson (mem.) req. of family

Sunday—December 27th

7:30AM Catherine Warner (mem.) req. of Fran and Betty Ann Warner

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Fred and Betty Domenick (mem.) req. of Margaret Abboud

Monday—December 28th

7:00AM Richard and Frances Oliver (wedding anniv.) req. of family

Tuesday—December 29th

7:00AM Norman Fortier (mem.) req. of family

Wednesday—December 30th

7:00AM James Connolly (mem.) req. of a friend

Thursday—December 31st

4:00PM Bruce Foley (birthday) and George DePasquale (birthday) req. of Mauro and Tracy DePasquale

Friday—January 1st

8:00AM Paul Francis Thomas (mem.) req. of family

Saturday—January 2nd

8:00AM Mary "Peg" Shea (birthday) req. of family

Sunday—January 3rd

7:30AM Helen Foley (mem.) req. of Renee Johnson

9:00AM Charles E. Patrock, Jr. (3rd anniv.) req. of family

11:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the soul of **Paul Carmody**, the brother of Cornelius 'Neil' Carmody.

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

On New Year's Day, Friday, January 1st, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a holy day.

Masses will be celebrated as follows:

Vigil Mass, Thursday, December 31
Mass at 4:00 pm

Friday, January 1
Masses at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses (7:00 am all year; Saturdays 8:00 am all year). The Mass brings many special graces! This week we The **Feast of the Holy Innocents** (Monday); **St. Thomas Becket** (Tuesday); **St. Sylvester, Pope** (Thursday); the **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God** (Friday) and **Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church** (Saturday).

Offertory Donations

Thanks for your continuing donations at Mass, through the mail, dropping them off and online (at ctkworc.org). You can make donations in the foyer of the church before Mass begins in the large donations basket there. Ushers are not permitted to pass the baskets at this time. **Since this bulletin had to be submitted to the printers on Wednesday, December 16**, all we can report are the offertory and donations made up through **December 12-13**. They are below:

Offertory: \$8,239.00; **Online Giving:** \$1,695.00;
Mass Stipends: \$45.00; **Fuel:** \$25.00; **Christmas Flowers:** \$160.00; **Christmas:** \$435.00; **Religious Retirement:** \$1,505.00; **Immaculate Conception:** \$601.00; **Religious Education Registration:** \$150.00.

Total: \$12,855.00

BAPTISM PREP SESSIONS & CELEBRATIONS

We continue to celebrate all requested baptisms. Each family celebration is separate. Please call Monsignor Sullivan to inquire about baptisms and discuss your hopes and arrangements - at 508-754-5361 - or email him at: tsullivan5@mac.com.

"FIRST PENANCE" PARENTS MEETING with Children By ZOOM Required Meeting Next Sunday

A required Parents' Meeting is planned for next **Sunday, January 3, at 3:00 pm**, for one parent and one child in the class - to prepare for our celebration of First Penance on the following Saturday, January 9th at 9:30 am. Both Monsignor Sullivan and Judi Brennan will be online for the Zoom meeting. You will be sent the Zoom invitation link by Judi. Monsignor Sullivan will guide the children in the format used for making a first confession.

New Year's Resolutions

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective."...
G.K. Chesterton

**How to Put
'The Priest Retirement Fund'
in Your Will**

After providing for your family and loved ones, you may wish to put *The Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund* in your will, thus assuring the care of our 50 retired priests. Bequests are free of estate tax and can substantially reduce the amount of your assets claimed by the government. You can give needed support for *The Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund* by simply including the following words in your will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to *The Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund*, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609 (insert amount being given here) to be used to support our retired diocesan priests." A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. You can also name *The Diocese of Worcester* as a contingency beneficiary in the event someone named in your will is no longer living. It is recommended that an attorney help in drafting or amending a will.

Thanks for the Church Sanitizing

As we have said numerous times the church is being sanitized after each Mass. In a special way we want to thank those three families who have been doing it on weekends: the Zamarros, the McDonalds and the Pennys. What a great effort they've made these three months after all the Masses. Msgr. Sullivan, Thaddeus Iwueke, our custodian, and Jim Hanlan, a volunteer, have been doing it during the week. Please feel safe in coming to Mass.

**SUCCESS AND THANKS
FOR THE BABY BOTTLE DRIVE**

We have just learned that CTK's participation this fall in the Baby Bottle drive was a great success. Our efforts have raised **\$4,375** thus far. Donna Byrnes has just reported this to us. As you know, these proceeds help the young mothers and newborns at Visitation House. Thanks to all of our parishioners who made donations to this important annual fundraiser.

Our Christmas Thanks!

The parish family is very grateful to so many hundreds of parishioners who make our shared experience of the Lord's birth so wonderful. We are very grateful to our music leaders, Jonathan Bezdegian and Alana Kearney who played and sang at all five Christmas Masses. Thanks, as well, to the lectors, extraordinary ministers and servers who graced our altar. We appreciate all those who decorated the church so beautifully and for those who helped seating guests at our Christmas Masses, those who received tickets at the reserved seating Masses and those who repeatedly sanitize our church in between our Masses. We thank all those who gave to the annual Giving Tree initiative. We are grateful for those donations given to the parish and/or to its staff. We have so many reasons to know we are blessed. God bless you and thanks.

UMASS-MEMORIAL HOSPITAL VISITS

Msgr. Sullivan is honored to support you and your family during times of illness by visiting the hospitals. NEVER DO UMASS OR MEMORIAL HOSPITALS PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT PATIENTS' RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. SO YOU MUST CALL US TO LET MSGR. SULLIVAN KNOW THAT A LOVED ONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL. Call AT 508-754-5361.

**Solemnity of Mary
Holy Day of Obligation
January 1st**

The *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God* is a liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated by the Catholic Church on January 1st, the Octave Day of Christmas.

The feast was celebrated in the East before it was in the West, but by the 5th century it was celebrated in France and Spain on the Sunday *before* Christmas. In Rome, even before the 7th century, January 1st was used as a celebration of the Maternity of Mary. In the 13th and 14th centuries, the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ had come to replace the Marian feast on January 1st. Following the Second Vatican Council in 1974, however, Pope Paul VI removed the Feast of the Circumcision from the liturgical calendar, and replaced it with the *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*.

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek: *Theotokos*, "the God-bearer." The term was adopted at the First Council of Ephesus as a way to assert the Divinity of Christ, from which it follows that what is said of Christ is said of God. So, if Mary is the mother of Jesus, she is also the Mother of God. Therefore, the title "Mother of God" and the "Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God", which celebrates her life under this title, are at once both a tribute to Mary and a tribute to Christ.

You Who Are Weary

"Every religion, every program, every self-help book is about steps you have to take. Jesus is the only One who becomes the step - *to take you*...Christ becomes the one step we can never take - and takes us. He comes to us not in spite of our failings - but precisely because of them. Ours is the God who is drawn to those who feel down. Ours is the God who is attracted to those who feel abandoned. Ours is the God who is bound to those who feel broken. Everywhere stairways for the sinners, everywhere ladders for the lost, everywhere gateways to God. This is grace."

Excerpt from **Ann Voskamp**, *The Greatest Gift: Unwrapping the Full Love Story of Christmas*.

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.

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).

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

Confessions are offered **indoors** on Saturday afternoons, from **2:45 to 3:45 pm in the Johnson Room**. You have the option of going to confession anonymously (behind a screen) or face-to-face. Please wear a mask. We keep social distancing. If someone is in the Johnson Room ahead of you please wait until that person leaves the room and then enter.

Coming to Mass...

We've had a safe re-opening Mass experience for the past **31 weeks**. We are regularly celebrating confessions, baptisms and other sacraments in addition to all our Masses. Persons who are ill should not come to Mass at this time. Family members may sit together in the same pew. With the exception of your own family members you must sit at least six feet apart from others. Social distancing is required. Every alternate pew is left empty. We've marked off those pews with tape. All people must wear a mask throughout the Mass with the **following exceptions...**(1) children under the age of 2 **should not wear** a mask; (2) parents will use their own discretion for those children between the age of 2 and 5 years old; (3) if a person has a medical or disabling condition they are not required to wear a mask.

Making Parish Donations Online

Use: ctkworc.org

Even though we're abiding by the firmest regulations of social distancing ever asked, the parish is not asleep. A great deal of work is being conducted. During this unusual period you can help our parish maintain its financial obligations because they remain the same (staff salaries, insurances, heat, etc.). If your family finances are stable at this time we would ask that you please continue your support of the parish offertory. You can mail us a check or your parish offertory envelopes. Or drop them through the mail slot at the rectory's front door. Or donate at Mass. And you can donate online. Please go to our website, ctkworc.org. Either click on the tab at the top of the page or the button in the middle of the page called '**CTK Online Giving**.' There you will be able to make a donation to the parish using your credit card or use the "check" option to transfer funds directly from your checking account. Many thanks for your continuing generosity.

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

Saturday, December 26 - St. Stephen
Masses at 8:00 am and 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 27 - Holy Family
Masses at 7 am, 9 am, 11 am

Thursday, December 31
7:00 am - Final Mass
4:00 pm - Holy Day Vigil Mass

**Friday, January 1 - New Year's
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**
Masses: 8:00 am and 10:00 am
4:00 pm - Wedding Rehearsal
7:30-8:30 pm - Men's Prayer Group

Saturday, January 2
1:00 pm - Wedding

Sunday, January 3 - Epiphany
Masses at 7 am, 9 am, 11 am
3:00 pm - First Penance Meeting by ZOOM

FLOCKNOTES MESSAGES! Are you Hearing from Us?

We certainly hope that you are receiving our Flocknotes messages. It is the primary way that we are communicating with our parishioners at this time. If you are not receiving them please contact either Monsignor Tom Sullivan (tsullivan5@mac.com) or Kris Correia (krisedpa@live.com) to have your name and email address added to our growing list. God bless!

TELEVISED MASSES

WCCA TV, Spectrum Cable **Channel 194** in Worcester now airs the Daily Mass from St. Paul's Cathedral from Monday to Friday at 9am. WCCA TV Ch. 194 will also air the Sunday Mass in Spanish on Sundays at 8:00 am and the Mass in English at 10:00 am. All Masses will also stream live at those times at wccatv.com.

Men's Prayer Group This Friday

This is just a reminder that our Parish Men's Prayer Group will meet this Friday, January 1st, from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the church. All men and their sons are welcome.

Welcome Father John Gavin, S.J. !

Father John Gavin, SJ, will be celebrating our 9:00 am Mass today.

Be Joyful this New Year!

William Knight wrote, “Joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts announcing that the King is in residence today.” This statement may seem a bit odd to American ears. But, in Britain, when her Majesty, the queen, is in her residence, the royal flag is raised and flown over the castle, signifying her presence. For British residents, knowing the Queen is in her castle gives the citizens a sense of safety, protection, and fulfillment. Likewise, Knight, a poet, is suggesting that for the believer in Jesus Christ joy comes in knowing Jesus resides in our hearts. When he is resident, we fill a sense of calm, peace, and tranquility. Joy comes through a relationship with Jesus. To know joy, we must know Jesus. We must be in a relationship with him.

So how can we know Jesus and thus experience his joy?

Knowing Jesus, entering into this relationship with the King of Kings, doesn't happen by accident. We are not born a Christian nor are we a Christian because of our family heritage. Being a Christian is not like being British. Becoming a Christian requires a conversion of the heart. When the King resides in our hearts, then the heart reflects authentic joy. St. Paul described how to know Jesus in one of his first letters. First Thessalonians was written about eighteen years after Jesus' resurrection; therefore, it provides a glimpse into early Christian life. It shows the initial Christian understanding of what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. The phrase “he has chosen you” speaks of the sovereign grace of God in salvation. God chose us to have a relationship with us. If he had not chosen us, we would never have been in a relationship. Sometimes we speak of “finding” the Lord, but if he had not found us first, we would never have found him at all. Salvation begins with God, not with us. God takes the initiative with our freedom to choose. He chooses us, and then we believe. In putting the matter that way, salvation is all by grace, all of God, all the time.

A Christian, then, is a person who has been called and chosen by God himself. Being a Christian is not a personal accomplishment but an act of God's free grace. God loves us and desires a relationship with us.
