



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 EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD**

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



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

Tuesday—January 5th

7:00AM Geraldine J. Hayford (mem.) req. of The Rushton Family

Wednesday—January 6th

7:00AM Patricia Daly (mem.) req. of family

Saturday—January 9th

8:00AM James H. Connolly (mem.) req. of The Rushton Family
4:00PM Marvin Degon (1st anniv.) req. of family

Sunday—January 10th

7:30AM Dennis Ferrante (mem.) req. of a friend
9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King
11:00AM Rev. Robert E. Maloney, SJ (60th anniv.) req. of family

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **John P. Sulkoski**, **Helen M. Vanasse**, the mother of Robert Vanasse, **Mary L. Covello**, **Rev. William Barry, SJ**, the brother of Sister Mary Barry, RSM, and **Charlene S. Snipes**.

Confirmation Program Set to Begin with In-Person Classes

Our Confirmation candidates will begin to have in-person classes, the first of the year, beginning next weekend. Up until this time the class has had remote-learning only, led by Judi Brennan. Monsignor Sullivan will teach the in-person classes and will do so in the Johnson Room. We divided the class into two halves to accommodate social distancing. The first groups will meet next Sunday, January 10 (6:00-7:15 pm) and Monday, January 11 (7:00-8:15 pm). The candidates will be the only people in the church building at these times. There is no plan at this time for in-person learning for other grade levels.

DIAPER PROGRAM THANKS

At the beginning of November *Christ the King's Knights of Columbus Council (#12691)*, working in collaboration with *Catholic Charities Worcester County*, resumed our annual Diaper Program. Our goal was to raise \$5,000 to enable Catholic Charities to purchase and distribute thousands of diapers in the year ahead. Let us express our thanks! We raised **\$5,120**. Again, many thanks to all of you.

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 celebrate **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious** (Monday); **St. John Neumann, Bishop** (Tuesday); **St. André Bessette** (Wednesday); and **St. Raymond Peñafort, Priest** (Thursday).

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 23**, all we can report are the offertory and donations made up through **December 19-20**. They are below:

Offertory: \$7,105.00; **Online Giving:** \$1,580.00;
Mass Stipends: \$10.00; **Fuel:** \$45.00; **Christmas Flowers:** \$76.00; **Human Development:** \$10.00; **Christmas:** \$2,645.00;
Religious Retirement: \$500.00; **Immaculate Conception:** \$55.00; **All Souls:** \$30.00; **All Saints:** \$25.00; **Donation to Music:** \$150.00; **Donation:** \$250.00; **Solemnity of Mary:** \$55.00.

Total: \$12,536.00

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 TODAY with Children Required Meeting By ZOOM

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

Welcome Father John Gavin, S.J. !

Father John Gavin, SJ, will be celebrating our 11:00 am Mass today.

***'Three Kings' Seek, Find,
and Worship the Lord***

The story of the "Adoration of the Wise Men" is one of the best known in the life of the Lord and a favorite subject in religious expressions of art. The star that guided the Magi has become an example of the Gospel proclamation to all people. The brief story in Matthew's Gospel, which says that Wise Men from the East, guided by a star, arrived in Bethlehem to worship the newborn Child, was well-known from the Church's beginnings. These men of high rank arrive from the East following a star. They've also been called "astrologers," Magi and the "Three Kings." Their coming from the "East" makes one think of Persia, where the Parsee priests of Zoroaster encouraged the interpretation and importance of stars.

The Wise Men symbolized strangers, foreigners or pagans, hence, completely diverse people. Yet they received salvation, just like the People of Israel. Their search, discovery, worship and belief in Jesus filled them with "great joy." Obedient to a warning, they returned to their own country "by another way." The homage that the first representatives of paganism, henceforth kings, paid to the King of Kings enabled them to share in the divine Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The Magi who came from the East, important figures, were men of their time who asked critical questions and sought meaning for life. They asked seriously, they sought tenaciously, and they set out readily. By asking and seeking, the Wise Men discovered and encountered the Lord. They felt "great joy." This "joy" is the peace that God has bestowed upon us through the Incarnation of the Son.

The Magi fell down on their knees, prayed and offered their gifts. Adoring God thus means giving oneself totally to him and professing him. Through his Incarnation, his death and his Resurrection, Jesus revealed to all humanity the total gift of himself.

**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.

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.

Our Christmas Thanks Repeated!

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.

**Thanks from the Executive Director
of Catholic Charities
for the 'Diaper Drive' Success**

Dear Parishioners,

Since almost immediately after this pandemic began, the need for food, diapers, utility assistance as well as other basic necessities has been overwhelming at our four emergency service offices. I must say Catholic Charities, through the efforts of Maydee Morales and her team we have been at the forefront in Worcester County in addressing this need, as is our mission.

Given so many challenges, foregoing this year's diaper drive was certainly an option, but it is not the route you chose. Under the steadfast leadership of Monsignor Sullivan, the hard work and persistence of the Knights of Columbus, and the incredible generosity of the parishioners of Christ the King, the drive not only went on, but exceeded any reasonable expectation. Catholic Charities as well as so many moms and babies owe you a debt of gratitude.

Thank you for being such incredible parish!

Merry Christmas!

Tim McMahan
Executive Director
Catholic Charities Worcester County

(Tim grew up in Christ the King Parish. His father is Ed McMahan and his sister is Kathy Johnson)

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 **33 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, January 2

1:00 pm - Wedding

Sunday, January 3 - Epiphany

12:00 nn - Rel. Ed. classes by Flipgrid

3:00 pm - First Penance Meeting by ZOOM

Wednesday, January 6

7:00 pm - Knights of Columbus, Johnson Room

Saturday, January 9

9:30 am - First Penance Celebration, Church

Sunday, January 10 - Baptism of the Lord

12:00 nn - Rel. Ed. classes by Flipgrid

6:00-7:15 pm - Confirmation Class, Johnson Room

Monday, January 11

7:00-8:15 pm - Confirmation Class, Johnson Room

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.

SUCCESS AND THANKS FOR THE BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

We recently 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.

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.

The Year of Saint Joseph

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph.” It began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this past December 8th and will extend until the same feast in 2021. Pope Francis has described Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, the Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the lime-light, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St. Paul VI. And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people.” In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized. “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us.” Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ [‘yes’] he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St. John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together: ***“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.”***
