CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY
199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill

SCHEDULE OF Masses
Daily Masses:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am

Saturday Masses:
8:00 am & 5:00 pm

Sunday Masses:
7 am, 8 am, 9:15 am,
10:45 am 12:15 pm

Confessions:
Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Parish Office: 682-2486
www.ctkph.org

Religious Ed: 686-1017
www.religiouseducation.org

Youth Ministry: 676-0979
www.ctkym.org

CTK School: 685-1109
www.ctkschool.org

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2014

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 11/30
- First Sunday of Advent
- No RE classes
- No Youth Group
- Scout wreath sales

Monday, 12/01
- Bible Study A & B, 8:30-10:30 am
- Older Sacraments A/B 4:00 pm

Tuesday, 12/02
- Legion of Mary, Min.Ctr; 8:30am
- RE Grades 1-3; school
- Grades 4-5; Parish Hall
- RE Grades 7/8; 7 pm Parish Hall
- Rosary&Perpetual Help;Church 7pm
- Spanish Prayer, Church, 7:30pm
- Knights Columbus MinCtr 7:30 pm

Wednesday 12/03
- RE Grades 1-3 ,school
- Grades 4-5; parish hall
- RE Grade 6; 7 pm parish hall
- 9:30 Sewing Ministry- Min. Ctr
- SVdPaul; Min Ctr-Chapel 7pm

Thursday, 12/04
- RE Grades 1-3; School
- Grades 4-5; Parish Hall
- Centering Prayer; Min Ctr 10:00 am
- RCIA Min Ctr -Chapel, 7pm
- Job Networking 6:30 Parish Hall

Friday, 12/05
- Garden Café, Ministry Ctr 7:30am

Saturday, 12/06
- Men's Fellowship Chapel; 7:30am
- Secular Franciscans Min. Ctr 9am

Sunday, 12/07
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word 9:15
- 3 yr.olds Rm D 9:15 mass
- PreK; parish hall 9:15 mass
- K; school 9:15 mass
- RE Older Sacs RE office 10:30
- Confirmation; 11-1:30 Parish Hall
- ICF 2:30-5:00 Parish Hall
- Youth Group; 7 pm Church
- Taize Prayer ;7pm Church

To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference
Welcome to the season of Advent! Last week we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King and the last Sunday of the outgoing Church year. Today is the First Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new Church year. It is also the beginning of a new cycle of prayers and Scripture readings.

Why are these four weeks before Christmas called “Advent”? The term comes from a Latin word (adventus) meaning ‘coming, arrival’. We immediately think it refers to the coming of Jesus at Christmastime and that is correct. But it is not the whole story. In fact, we can speak of three comings of the Lord and all are referred to in the Scripture readings today.

The First Reading from the prophet Jeremiah refers prophetically to the coming of Jesus, our King and Savior: “I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land.” That is the coming of the Child Jesus in Bethlehem, which we anticipate and prepare for in these four weeks. That is what we may call the First Coming. The Gospel speaks in ominous terms of the end of the world and what we refer to as the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of time. “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

However, there is still a third coming, which forms an important and indispensable link between the First and Second Comings. That is what is spoken about in the Second Reading. It is the welcoming of Jesus into our lives in the here and now. This is something, which takes place every day. By it we both acknowledge the First Coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and prepare for the Second Coming at an unknown future date.

It can be a real challenge for families to make Advent meaningful, especially when the secular world works so hard to draw us into parties and pandering and away from the prayerfulness, penance and almsgiving prescribed by the Church. “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor’s birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: ‘He must increase, but I must decrease,’” states the Catechism of the Catholic Church (524).

That means we have to resist the temptation to indulge in Christmas celebration and instead do all we can to center ourselves on Christ in preparation for his coming. In order to do that, we have to find ways to make Advent’s message alive in our families through customs and traditions that stimulate our minds and awaken our hearts to true Advent longing. Speaking of children, they have great expectations and hopes during Advent – usually associated with Christmas presents, Santa Claus, holiday celebrations, and so forth. Rather than discouraging these hopes, I would urge parents to help their children get the “feel” of Advent by relating their hopes to biblical hopes associated with coming of Jesus. Lighting of the advent candles with children at home is one way of awakening the hearts of children to advent longing. The candles have different meanings, each based upon the Bible. These meanings help us understand how special the birth of Jesus is for us. On the flap of this bulletin, the meaning of the wreath and the candles are revealed. We shall post an Advent wreath Candle lighting liturgy on the website that you can follow in your families.

For adults, I would strongly recommend using the little Blue book (6 minute reflections on the advent/Christmas season weekday Gospels). These books will be available to you on the first Sunday of advent. Take this book as your advent companion helping you to sanctify each day with the Word of God.

Advent challenges us to be ever more alert for signs of God’s presence. As a Franciscan nun once said, “God comes every day. Advent is a time to fine tune our senses.” Even if we are experiencing an end time – the end of a relationship, the end of a journey, even the end of our lives – Christ is with us. God hears our hopes and fears, God is ready to make a new beginning with us, God is giving us gifts and allowing us opportunities, if we are open to them. Happy Advent!

Fr. Paulson
Coming in 2015, JustFaith and GoodNews People! Are you ready to live more deeply with a greater sense of purpose? Then contact our Pastoral Associate, Kate Doherty, for more information about JustFaith and GoodNews People. JustFaith is an intense and transformative 24 week small faith journey that will help you to hear the gospel and make a difference. GoodNews People is a 14 week program that will open your eyes and call you to follow Jesus in a way you have never been called before. This is not a bible study, this is a crash course in discipleship. A wonderful way to start the new year.

Taize Prayer Around the Cross December 7th at 7pm, here at Christ the King.
Each month five Christian Churches of Pleasant Hill sponsor an hour of devotional prayer in the spirit of Taize (the ecumenical community in Southern France). The prayer time (one hour) rotates on the first Sunday of each month through each of the five Christian churches. Plan on joining us at Christ the King for a

Job Networking: Thursday December 6th at 6:30 in Parish Hall
Ever apply for a job online only to have your resume seemingly vanish into a void? Whether you are conducting an active job search, or passively keeping an eye on the current market, this important seminar will offer something for everyone! Learn what goes on behind the scenes from two members of our Parish, experienced recruiting leaders, Jeff & Bernadette Todd, as they offer no nonsense insights in a practical, straightforward and fun talk, “Behind the Black Hole—Understanding the Recruiting Process from a Recruiter and Hiring Manager Perspective.” You are certain to learn a thing or two that will advance your job/career search, avoid common pitfalls, and land the job!

Don’t forget to help our annual food collection for both St. Vincent DePaul and Monument Crisis Center. Food can be dropped off through the weekend of December 8th. If you took a Monument Crisis box, please drop it off by Dec. 1st. Thank you for your generous support.

The Little Blue Books are available for Advent this weekend. They are free of charge but a donation of $1 would be appreciated to help defray the cost. Thank you.

You decide where your donation goes: Save the date for December 11th’s Thirsty Thursday. At this meeting, all the candidates to receive Christ the King’s January justice collection, will share who they are and why they would like Christ the King’s support. All who attend will be able to offer feedback on who they would like to see represented this January. Thirsty Thursday is every second Thursday of the month in the parish hall at 7pm. Please bring a snack to share.

Concern America volunteers will be here December 13/14 with unique, quality handcrafts that provide us with the opportunity to purchase conscientiously. By your purchase of these gift items, you support the work of Concern America and help to provide a fair and just wage for many materially poor families. Look for their tables next weekend.

Ruby Slippers: Join us for Contra Costa Interfaith Housing’s annual gala, Ruby Slippers, on January 31, 2015 at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Proceeds from this fun event directly helps end poverty and homelessness in our local community. If you would like to donate an auction item to benefit Ruby Slippers, there is a giving board in the vestibule. Items must be returned to Kate Doherty by Monday December 29th. Please take a tag and be sure to write your contact info and tag number on sign up sheet. For more information contact Kate Doherty at katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com. If you’d like to sponsor our event or buy tickets, please visit www.ccinterfaithhousing.ejoinme.org/rubyslippers to learn more.

Christ the King’s CYO CRAB FEED - January 31, 2015
Great food, great friends and great music- all to support a great cause
Full tables are currently on sale ($500 for a table of 10) Tables available until Dec. 15, then individual tickets for $50.00 can be purchased. Contact Lori Martin - lori@7martins.com or (925) 849-5105. This year, we are limiting attendance to 400 people. The 2015 CYO Crab Feed will sell out quickly, so get your table together and get ready for a great time!

Thank you! The Filipino Society of CTK would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all those who supported our October 26 Piano Concert. Proceeds from this successful fundraiser will benefit the many projects of Christ the King.
For many Christians, **Advent Wreaths** are a favorite way to celebrate the month of December leading up to Christmas Day. The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God the Father and eternal life. The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles, which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world’s Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament.

The first Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet’s Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
The second Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
The third Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd’s Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
The fourth Sunday symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Next weekend there is a second collection for Catholic Education.

Thank you for your generous support.