NEW YEAR’S EVE MASSES
12/31/14  8 am and 5 pm
(reception after 5 pm)
NEW YEAR’S DAY MASSES
1/1/15  8 am and 9:15 am

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.ctkreligiouseducation.org

Youth Ministry: 676-0979
www.ctkym.org

CTK School: 685-1109
www.ctkschool.org

Facebook: Christ the King
Catholic Community
of Pleasant Hill

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 12/28
• No Religious Ed Classes
• New Year’s Masses sign-ups

Monday, 12/29
• No Religious Ed Classes

Tuesday, 12/30
• Legion of Mary, Min.Ctr; 8:30am
• No Religious Ed Classes
• Rosary&Perpetual Help;Church 7pm
• Spanish Prayer, Church, 7:30pm

Wednesday 12/31
• New Year’s Eve Masses 8am & 5pm
• Reception following 5pm mass
• No Religious Ed Classes

Thursday, 1/01
• Happy New Year 2015!
• Mass 8 am & 9:15
• No Religious Ed Classes
• Centering Prayer; Min. Ctr 10:00 am

Friday, 1/02
• First Friday Masses 8am & 7pm
• Exposition of Sacrament 12 noon

Saturday, 1/03
• Men’s Fellowship Chapel; 7:30am

Sunday, 1/04
• 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
• Un-decorating Party 2:30

To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference
Dear Friends,

The Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are put before us by the Church this weekend as a model for our families. On the occasion of this feast, I would like to quote Pope Francis, who has initiated a universal survey on the family in the Church. He said:

"Dear families, you know very well that the true joy which we experience in the family is not superficial; it does not come from material objects, from the fact that everything seems to be going well... True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons, something which we all feel in our hearts and which makes us experience the beauty of togetherness, of mutual support along life’s journey. But the basis of this feeling of deep joy is the presence of God in the family and his love, which is welcoming, merciful, and respectful towards all. God alone knows how to create harmony from differences. But if God’s love is lacking, the family loses its harmony, self-centeredness prevails and joy fades. But the family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is the leaven of society."

We call the family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary “The Holy Family” but that does not mean that they did not have problems. Just as every family has to face problems and overcome them, or to put it another way, has to carry a cross, so also The Holy Family had to carry crosses. Their many crosses come to mind as we read the Scriptures.

- We can easily imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been when Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Their story would never be believed.
- Even Mary herself had it very rough early in the pregnancy when Joseph was planning to divorce her before the angel intervened in a dream.
- When the time for Jesus’ delivery came it took place in an animals’ shelter since Bethlehem was already so crowded.
- Then the family had to flee to Egypt as refugees because Jesus’ life was in danger due to Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war-torn countries are now entering many western countries.
- Mary and Joseph suffered the awful experience of losing Jesus for three days when he was twelve years old and the only satisfaction they got from him was that he had to be about his Father’s business.
- We do not hear of Joseph any more so we presume that before Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee Joseph had died - The Holy Family suffering the greatest pain of all families, the pain of bereavement and separation through death.
- Jesus’ public ministry must have taken its toll on Mary. Simeon had predicted in the Temple that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary’s soul. We can imagine one such occasion as we read in Mark 3:21 that when Jesus returned to Nazareth one day his relatives came to take him by force convinced that he was out of his mind. Not a very pleasant experience for any family, no matter how holy.
- And there was the growing hostility to Jesus by the Jewish authorities that must have caused huge pain to both Mary and Jesus, especially as it became increasingly obvious that Jesus would have to pay for his mission by dying.
- The saddest moment of all came when Mary watched her son die on the cross.

What kept The Holy Family together and sane throughout all of these trials and crosses? The answer is ‘Love for each other and God’. Jesus’ love for Mary and Mary’s love for Jesus, and the love of both of them for God the Father. We can see Jesus’ love for his mother when he was dying on the cross and was worried about leaving her behind so he asked his close friend and disciple John to look after her, saying to Mary, ‘Woman behold your son’, and to John ‘behold your mother’ (John 19:26-27). What holds our families together also in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, even if for a while love may have to take the form of some honest talking. When discipline needs to be given, if it is not given in love it is reduced to abuse. If ever our families fail in any way, it is because of a lack of love on someone’s part. Whenever our families are successful, it is because they are places of love. I believe that the greatest threat facing families now is simply that we don’t spend enough time together. We are so busy working, or socializing, or watching TV that we have less and less time for each other. May God bless every family at Christ the King. Let us keep our Church in prayer as it gears itself for the Synod on the family.

Fr. Paulson
Ireland trip 2015! Sister Joanne is planning a trip to Ireland, beginning July 20 to July 31, 2015. For the past twenty years she has been leading groups to Europe and invites you to join her this year. The trip includes flying into Dublin, traveling to Kildare, Kilkenny, Cork, Killarney, Adare and ending in Limerick. If you wish more information, please contact Sr. Joanne at 246-1125 or 989-3832.

New Taize Prayer schedule and time - Beginning in 2015, Taize will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 7:30 pm. The first date will be January 18th here at Christ the King. If you haven’t attended before, give it a try - you will find it relaxing and peaceful!

Slavery behind walls: Prison Labor in the U.S. “Thirsty Thursday”, January 8th in the parish hall at 7pm. Join us for a Justice and Peace Prayer Service and Fellowship followed by a presentation from Gail Williamson of the National Equal Justice Association (NEJA) who will give us some insight into prison labor and its human costs.

Reflections on Sunday Readings:

First Reading:
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3  In ancient Near Eastern culture, it was thought essential to have a male descendent to carry on the family line and inherit all that his parents had worked for. But the elderly Abraham and Sarah were still childless, which seemed to contradict God’s earlier promise to them. Today’s passage will tell us how this problem is resolved.

Second Reading:
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  The author of the letter to the Hebrews frequently held up Old Testament heroes as models of faith. He did this because he was writing to a community whose faith was wavering. Today, he presents, as examples, Abraham and Sarah whose faith had survived severe testing.

Are you ready for Good News People? Sign-up Sunday, January 18th after all masses. Good news people is a life changing crash course in discipleship. It will reconnect you in your daily life, with what it means to live out the Gospel message of service to the poor, care of creation, and solidarity with those who suffer. It will introduce and connect you to local and international justice organizations and help you move forward with your personal and spiritual goals. The cost of the program is just $20 and it kicks off on Sunday, February 1st with an opening assembly. There will be several day/time options for weekly meetings to suit your schedule. For more information, contact Kate at 682-2486 or katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com.

New Year’s Mass sign-ups are in the vestibule. Please help us by signing up to assist at one of our masses.

Are you being called to the diaconate? A new deacon formation class is starting in the Diocese of Oakland. For more information, interested men and their wives are invited to attend an informational meeting. The first meeting is at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Pleasanton on Tuesday, January 6, at 7:00 pm. Call the Department of Clergy Services at 510-267-8348 for other January class dates. The discernment sessions will allow interested men to explore the call to diaconal ministry and gain understanding of the requirements, the process and the commitment involved in becoming a deacon.

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS
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Chris Caban, Principal 685-1109 ccaban@ctkschool.org

Next weekend there is a second collection for Catholic Education.

Thank you for your generous support.
GIFTS FOR ST. BONIFACE!

The San Francisco Police Department once again collected gifts from the Christ the King school children for St. Boniface Parish in the Tenderloin district in San Francisco. The SFPD were on hand to load up the gifts and deliver to the less fortunate adults and children of St. Boniface. They also brought along a police dog and treated the students to a great demonstration.

Ms. Radich along with Fr. Tommy and Sgt. Yamaguchi.

A group of second graders bringing gifts!

The eighth grade class with presents to share.

*all pictures courtesy of Karen McMillan