To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 11/29
- No CLOW
- No RE classes

Monday, 11/30
- No RE Classes
- Children’s Lit. Comm, RE Office 6 pm

Tuesday, 12/1
- RE Grds 1-3, School 3:40 - 5 pm
- RE Grds 4-5, Parish Hall 3:40 - 5 pm
- RE Grds 7-8, Parish Hall 7 - 8:15 pm
- Rosary & Perpetual Help, Church 7pm
- Spanish Prayer, Church 7:30 pm
- Knights of Columbus, Min. Ctr 7 pm

Wednesday, 12/02
- Sewing Ministry, A & B 9 am
- RE Grds 1-3, School 3:40 - 5 pm
- RE Grds 4-5, Parish Hall 3:40 - 5 pm
- RE Grd 6, Parish Hall 7 - 8:15 pm
- St. Vincent DePaul, Min. Ctr 7 pm

Thursday, 12/03
- Centering Prayer, Min. Ctr 9 am
- RE Grds 1-3, School 3:40 - 5 pm
- RE Grds 4-5, Parish Hall 3:40 - 5 pm
- RCIA, Chapel 7 pm
- Thirsty Thursday, Yth house, 7 pm

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,
6:00 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

CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY
First Sunday
OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2015

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

Luke 21:25, 28
Dear Fellow Parishioners:

The Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis begins next weekend. How appropriate to launch our highly anticipated journey of mercy during this holy season. Advent invites us to remember, celebrate, and believe in the Angel Gabriel’s announcement and Mary’s affirmative decision that brought into our human sphere of existence Mercy Himself in the person of the Word-Made-Flesh. Mercy is one of those familiar words we think we understand, but find difficult to define. I’m reminded of Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart’s 1964 statement about pornography. He admitted that obscenity was hard to define, but added, “I know it when I see it.” Mercy is like that, hard to define but we know it when we see it.

In one of his Little Black Book’s for Lenten reflection, the late Bishop Ken Untener retold a story about a newspaper photographer. In 1987, the man traveled to Ecuador to cover a devastating earthquake. In the midst of incredible suffering, he witnessed a scene that moved him deeply. Later, he wrote: “The line was long but moving briskly. In that line at the very end stood a girl about 12 years of age. She waited patiently, as those in front of the long line received a little rice, some canned goods or a little fruit. Slowly, she got closer to the front of the line, closer to the food. From time to time she would glance across the street. She didn’t notice ahead of her the growing concern on the faces of those distributing the food. The food was running out. Their anxiety began to show more and more, but she didn’t notice. Her attention seemed always to focus on the three figures under the tree across the street. At long last, she stepped forward to get her food. But the only thing left was one banana. The workers were ashamed to tell her that this was all they had left. She didn’t seem to mind. Quietly, she took the precious gift and ran across the street, where three small children waited—perhaps her sisters and a brother. Very deliberately, she peeled the banana and carefully divided it into three equal parts. She placed the precious food into the eager hands of the three youngsters—one for you, one for you, one for you. She then sat down and began to lick the inside of the banana peel. In that moment, I swear I saw the face of God.”

This Year of Mercy calls us not just to recognize the indefinable generosity of others, but to be the mercy we cannot explain, even to ourselves. Let our Advent prayer be: “Merciful Father, let your blessing come upon us, as we light the candles of our Advent wreath. May their light inspire us to bring positive change to our world through daily acts of mercy. We pray for the grace of merciful hearts through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Al Garrotto

Reflections on Sunday Readings:

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The prophet Jeremiah lived at a difficult time in Jewish history. Jerusalem, the beloved capitol city, had been destroyed, and most of the people taken captive to far-off Babylon, which is in present day Iraq. Despite this gloomy setting, Jeremiah expresses the conviction that the Lord will raise up a new leader from the line of David to restore and rebuild their native land.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

The date was some 30 years after Christ’s death and resurrection. The place was a city in northeast Greece called Thessalonica, where Christians were being persecuted. Paul, who had brought the Gospel there, heard positive reports about them and sent a letter of encouragement.
Are you in 5th through 8th grade? If so, would you like to try your hand at being an altar server? We are looking for interested students and we will provide significant training. You will serve about once a month at the mass of your choice. Talk it over with your parents and give Mary Jo Robinson a call or email at 925-285-4337 or maryjorobinson1941@gmail.com.

Boy Scouts will be selling fresh Christmas wreaths outside of church after all masses. Cash or checks accepted. Be sure to support the local Scouts while adorning your home for the holidays.

Carondelet High School's 26th Annual Visions of Christmas December 1st - 6th.
Kick off your holiday season by enjoying one of five holiday teas, a fashion show, a community open house, and breakfast with Santa. All events feature a beautiful boutique and silent auction. Don’t miss your chance to win one of five extravagant, spectacularly themed Christmas trees, with fabulous prizes. For more information and to register, visit www.carondelet.net/visions.

Attention families of 8th grade girls! Carondelet High School applications for the class of 2020 are due Friday, Dec. 4th! Learn more at www.carondelet.net or contact admissions@carondeleths.org.
San Damiano Retreat Opportunities:
Advent Day of Recollection, Prepare the Way of the Lord!
Wed. Dec. 2, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, $35.00
Silent Meditation Day, Preparing for Christmas.
Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm $55.00. More information can be found at sandamiano.org / 925-837-9141.

You are “Hearing the Gospel” - would you now like a way to “Make a Difference”? Our CTK St. Vincent DePaul parish chapter has a furniture ministry. We are in need of volunteers (of all ages) who have pick-up trucks and/or those who can lift. We don’t do large pieces of furniture, but we do have to contend with stairs often. We pick up from wonderful donors and deliver to a storage facility and ultimately to our clients in need. If you have a couple of hours to help each month, we and our clients would be eternally grateful. Please contact Mary Jo at 925-285-4337 or maryjorobinson1941@gmail.com.

Please Help! Projectionists are desperately needed at Sat. 5:00 pm and Sunday 8:00 am and 10:45 am masses. You will be given training and support to help our parish pray and sing more fully with the power point presentations used at mass. It's very easy and you would be a great help. Please contact MaryAnn Spicer at 935-5306 or marod61@att.net for information.

Save the Date! Our 11th annual women’s retreat will be January 8-10th at San Damiano Retreat House in Danville. More information will be coming. Put the date on your calendar!

Attention envelope users! Parishioners using the boxed set of unprint-ed envelopes, don’t forget to add your last name or ID # to your envelope before placing in the collection basket. This will help us with end of year donation totals. Thank you!

Come enjoy breakfast at our Garden Cafe this Friday, Dec. 4th from 7:30am to 9:30am.
Join your friends for a great homemade breakfast from our wonderful bakers as well as fruit, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

CTK School Auction News! On Saturday, February 27th, Christ the King School and Parish will host our annual auction. This year’s theme is A Day at the Derby and it will take place at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. The cost is $100 per person. Proceeds from the auction go directly back to the school and parish. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Carla Dias at Carla@watsonelectricine.com. We are reaching out to all families to donate to our largest fundraiser of the year. Your commitment to donate an item or experience is a crucial component to the success of our 2016 fundraising effort. We welcome gifts of cash sponsorship, goods, services, gift certificates that may be included in our live and silent auctions. As a bonus, all auction donations received by Dec. 7th will be entered into a raffle to win 12 beautiful Disney ornaments. Contact our procurement team at procurement@ctkschool.org for details, or pick up a flyer in the vestibule.

Christ the King Gives! This year Christ the King supported our brothers and sisters in need in so many ways:
* Our Hunger/Homeless collection raised $20,000! We sent $6,700 each to Monument Crisis, Shelter Inc., and What If? Found.
* We donated 250 holiday boxes to Monument Crisis Center.
* Our Faith in Action Group collected 25 turkeys at their turkey drive!
* Confirmation Class adopted 8 families from Contra Costa Interfaith and are supplying those families with 2 gifts for each member as well as a gift card to cover their Christmas meal.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Join us for First Friday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Friday, Dec. 4th, with exposition at 12:00 noon and First Friday mass at 7:00 pm.
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Advent is a time rich in family traditions. Many of them have been so effectively absorbed into our culture that their religious origins are hidden. Some of us will set candles in our windows tonight. The custom began in Ireland during the so-called “penal” days, extending from 1691 to the “Catholic Emancipation” in 1829 and beyond. There were harsh penalties and fines for not attending the government church. Priests were forced into hiding, but people were resourceful and determined in guarding their faith. At Christmas, Irish families, particularly in the countryside, placed a lighted candle in the cottage window and left the door un latch ed, hoping that a priest might come by and celebrate the Christmas Mass for them.

The possibility of the Mass coming into the family home gave rise to other Irish customs at the beginning of Advent. The cottage received a fresh coat of whitewash, the threshold was swept especially clean, and fresh curtains were hung in the windows. The house was scrubbed until it gleamed, including all the pots and pans, and all garments and table linens were laundered. The custom of the Irish window candle was so admired in Catholic Europe that it was widely copied there, and now finds a welcome in households that may not exactly expect a priest to wander in!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PRAY FOR THE SICK
IN OUR PARISH:
Aryn Turner, Tiff Garcia,
Maxwell McKilligan, Lennie Mariazeta, Eric Scott,
Ann Musick and Patty Gross.

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.