WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 12/13
- CLOW during 9:15 mass
- RE 3 yr old prgm, Rm D 9:15 am
- RE Classes, Hall/School 9:15 am
- RE Older Sac, Rm D 11:00 am

Monday, 12/14
- RE Older Sac, Rm A/B, 4 pm

Tuesday, 12/15
- 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

Tuesday, 12/15 cont.
- Simbang Gabi, Church 6:30 pm

Wednesday 12/16
- Sewing Ministry, Rms A/B 9:30 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
- Simbang Gabi, Church 6:30 pm
- St. Vincent DePaul, Min. Ctr 7 pm

Thursday, 12/17
- 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

Thursday, 12/17 cont.
- Simbang Gabi, Gym 6:30 pm
- RCIA, Chapel 7 pm

Friday, 12/18
- Simbang Gabi, Church 6:30 pm

Saturday, 12/19
- Men’s Fellowship, Min. Ctr 7:30 am
- Secular Franciscans, Min. Ctr 12:00 pm
- Simbang Gabi, Church 6:30 pm

Sunday, 12/20
- No RE classes
- Simbang Gabi, Church 4 pm
- Confirmation, 6 pm - 9 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.ctkreligioueducation.org

Youth Ministry: 676-0979
www.ctkym.org

CTK School: 685-1109
www.ctkschool.org

Facebook: Christ the King Catholic Community of Pleasant Hill

To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference
Dear Fellow Parishioners:

The long-anticipated Jubilee Year of Mercy began last Tuesday, December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In preparation for this worldwide call to compassionate living, Fr. Paulson asked our Parish Council to contact the leaders of our parish ministries. The idea was to spark a creative interest and response to this graced opportunity. The results have been encouraging and inspiring. Wonderful, imaginative ideas have surfaced. Our parish community has “hit the ground running” with ideas and works of mercy that will continue throughout the coming year. Here are just some of the plans and suggestions that have come in from our ministries:

- Our Choirs plan to organize nursing home trips, showing compassionate care for the residents and lifting their spirits.
- The Taize Prayer group plans to start next year with Bernardine Franciscan Sister Suzanne Toolan’s song, “Your Mercies are Never Spent,” composed specifically for the Year of Mercy. They will also invite local participating church congregations to suggest petitions with the theme Year of Mercy to include in their prayers.
- Both the Women and Men’s Retreat committees have chosen Mercy as a theme for 2016 retreats and days of reflection.
- Our Filipino Society will celebrate the Year of Mercy through prayer and acts of compassionate service. This Advent’s days of Simbang Gabi will feature the theme of mercy. Society members will also participate in divine mercy novenas and celebrations around the diocese. They will also volunteer for Winter Nights and collect warm clothing for the homeless. Their youth program, Maharlika Cultural Troupe, will entertain at nursing homes.
- Father Vince has an idea: organize a Mercy Flash Mob—at a local mall!

Here’s something each of us can start right now: perform “Random Acts of Mercy.” If you think it’s appropriate, share what you or others have done on Twitter (#ctkrandomactsofmercy) or on Instagram. Throughout the year, we will pass on to you ideas and stories of our community’s merciful deeds as they are shared with us. So, please start hashtagging and e-mail me (katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com) additional suggestions and plans for participation in Pope Francis’s wonderful theme.

May you enjoy a blessed and compassion-filled Advent and Year of Mercy.

Kate Doherty
The Taize Prayer Around the Cross will be held at 7:30 pm on Sunday, December 20th. The Taize Prayer consists of quiet chanting, a psalm, and most importantly, a scripture reading and silence. The service allows us to come to the cross for a moment to pray and bring our particular needs or burdens and those of the world, as we place our foreheads on the cross, committing to Christ Jesus all that is in our hearts. Church of the Resurrection, 399 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill.

Boy Scout Troop 401 of Pleasant Hill will be selling Christmas wreaths fresh from Oregon, before and after masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Please come and support parishioner scouts earn money for camp. Wreaths are $20. Handmade bows from a variety of ribbons will be available.

Our 11th annual women’s retreat will be January 8-10th at San Damiano Retreat House in Danville. The theme is “Pray it Forward During the Year of Mercy”. It will be directed by Sr. Carol Quilivan, CSJ. Registration can be completed at the Parish House. The last day to register is January 4, 2016.

Simbang Gabi - Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of a Filipino tradition called Simbang Gabi, nine days of consecutive masses, in preparation for the birth of Jesus. At Christ the King, we will celebrate Dec. 15th to the 23rd at 6:30 pm. Light refreshments will follow after every mass, and the last evening mass will be followed by dinner in the parish hall. Simbang Gabi is being sponsored by the Filipino Society of Christ the King. For more information, please contact Rudy Bautista at 925-372-6227 or Imelda Santos at 925-825-2317.

Environment Committee needs your help! Please join them on Sunday, December 20th from 1:30 pm to 4 pm for church decorating and again on Dec. 23 noon to 4:00 pm for decorating our gym! We also need your donations of poinsettias which can be dropped off in the church beginning December 20th. No experience necessary to help us dress up for Christmas!

The books are in! Fr. Brian’s new book, “The Catholic Parish Today” has arrived and is available for purchase outside of church. Normally the book is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble at a cost of $28.50, but since you are really the co-authors, it will be available at CTK for $20.00 per copy while supplies last. Also available, his previously published book, Soul full Emotions, plus a complete DVD of his Retirement Mass Celebration, including introductions by his sister, Mary, the homily by Bishop Barber, and final comments by Bishop Cummins. You can purchase the “whole works”, (new book, previous book, DVD) for $60.00. Any profits go to the Adult Education Ministry here at CTK. Due to Fr. Brian’s Parkinson’s Disease, he will be unable to personally sign the books.

All girls and boys ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the Council level competition for the 2015-16 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held on Sunday, January 10th from 7:30 am to 11:30 am at the CTK gym. Bring your ball to warm-up. There is no fee required. Contestants will be treated to pancake breakfast while supplies last. Council champion from each division advances to district competition. Last year more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in over 3,600 local competitions. In both the 2014 and 2015 Championships, children from CTK won the International Free Throw Championship! Questions? Contact Roberto Bracamontes at 925-899-7782.

Save the Date! CYO Crab Feed will be held Saturday, January 30th from 6:30 - 11:30 pm. Tickets are $55 each and will be available soon. New to the menu - tri-tip! Crab feed is open to all parishioners, not only CYO families. For more information, contact Allen Brezac at allen.brezac@comcast.com.

Save the Date! “Mercy and Compassion through the Lens of Les Miserables” - Al Garrotto will compare Pope Francis’s call for a Year of Mercy with major themes of Victor Hugo’s timeless story and apply them to the lives of Christians today. Friday, January 8th at 7 pm in the Parish Hall.

Caroling with LifeWorks! Join us in spreading Christmas cheer to the residents at the Chateau 3 in Pleasant Hill on Tuesday, December 22 at 6 pm. Bring your singing voices, simple instruments and cherubic children. Please RSVP to Kristin at lifeworksctk@gmail.com.

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PRAY FOR THE SICK
IN OUR PARISH:
Dioscoro Rodolfo, Judy Munson,
Patty Gross, Franz Villena, Sharron Torre, Anthony Schmidt.

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.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This week, our celebration of Advent makes a transition in ritual and texts. Beginning December 18, the countdown of nine days (a novena) to Christmas sees a heightened sense of expectation, and also a turning from the call of the Baptist in the wilderness to the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. In ancient Spain, December 18 was once celebrated as the “Feast of the Expectancy,” and customs grew up to heighten readiness in the homes.

Some customs arise from monastic life and practice and spill over into our parish life. Beginning tonight, those who pray Vespers will sing in the opening phrase a beautiful title of Christ. These titles belong to a collection of opening phrases called the “O Antiphons” after the awe-inspired “O” sung on the first note. There’s a playful code in the titles: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Flower of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dawn, O Ruler, O Emmanuel. When you take their Latin names—Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, and so on—the titles form an acrostic when you read them backwards: “ERO CRAS.” In Latin, that is translated as “I will be there tomorrow!” It’s as if Christ were answering the prayers of the waiting people in the words of the prayers themselves.

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