Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24
Dear Friends,
The recent devastating storm in Texas, natural disasters and the terrorist acts around the world certainly bring this question to our minds. If God really loves us, why does He allow us to suffer? Why does He permit natural or man-made disasters to occur? In Texas, people are still struggling to come to terms with the storm and the rain, which have caused terrible misery and pain. In times like these, many people find comfort in their faith. But disasters can also challenge long-held beliefs. “How could God let this happen?”

Rabbi Harold Kushner, author whose books include “When Bad Things Happen to Good People” has a Biblical perspective. “Whenever a disaster like this occurs, I go back to the Bible, to the First Book of Kings. Elijah, in despair over the situation in Israel, runs to the desert, back to Mt. Sinai to find the God of the Revelation to Moses.”

"And lo, the Lord God passed by. There was a mighty wind, splitting mountains and shattering rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. There was an earthquake but the Lord was not in the earthquake.” This is the key: the Lord was not in the earthquake.
Natural disasters are acts of nature, not acts of God. God cares about the well-being of good people; Nature is blind, an equal-opportunity destroyer.
Where is God in Houston today? In the courage of people to carry on their lives after the tragedy. In the resilience of those whose lives have been destroyed, families swept away, homes lost, in the goodness and generosity of people all over the world to reach out and help strangers who live far from them, to contribute aid, to pray for them.
How can people do such things if God were not at work in them to lend a counterweight to a natural disaster? While the world reels from terrorism, natural disasters and division, God weeps with those who suffer and offers the hope of a future full of joy and consolation, Pope Francis said.

Priests’ Retirement 2nd Collection, September 9 & 10
Next weekend, we will be having a second collection for the benefit of the retired priests in the diocese of Oakland. This collection will mean a lot to our parish as we benefit from the ministry of four retired priests – Fr. Brian Joyce, Fr. Brian Timoney, Fr. Tom Burns and Fr. Mike Dibble. "The priests of the diocese have taken care of our parishioners, providing pastoral and spiritual care and the Sacraments. Help me in taking care of these priests in their retirement as they have provided for you," asks Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ.

As of Jan. 1, 2017, there were 57 retired priests in the diocese — these are diocesan priests. Religious order priests are provided for separately by their respective congregations. Many more retirements are expected in the coming years and the number of retired priests may jump to 70 priests by 2025, according to Eric Waldschmidt, vice president at Nicolay Consulting Group, San Francisco, actuaries and retirement plan administrators serving the diocese.

When priests retire, they must provide their own housing. Most have two options. Father Vassar, who heads the Retirement Board in the diocese explains: If they saved and have the resources, they may find their own living situation. Or, if they can arrange it, they can live in a rectory and pay $600 a month for room and for whatever food is available in a rectory situation, which in today’s context is minimal. Priests who maybe haven't saved enough to afford that modest amount, he said, can provide commensurate services in lieu of payment in parishes by saying Masses and working part time at a parish.

Thank you for your generous support of our retired priests. I would like to thank our four retired priests for their ministry in our midst. They are awesome.

Paulson

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9 Jeremiah often anguished over the difficulty of being a prophet. Proclaiming God’s message made him very unpopular. Today we hear why he still felt compelled to keep on doing it.
Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2 Toward the end of Paul’s letter to the Romans, he deals with the moral demands made on those who follow Christ. In today’s reading, Paul reminds us that living a Christian life - which so often includes sacrifice - is like an act of liturgical worship in which we offer ourselves to God.
Beginning this Sunday, September 3, our youth mass returns to its regular 6 pm time slot!

USHERS for 9:15 am mass are very much needed. If interested, please contact Jack Murphy (head usher) at 925-375-0850/ jmurph818@aol.com. If you wish to become an Usher at a different mass, you may also contact Jack.

Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers Fall 2017 Program - The GG Boys Choir and Bellringers celebrate 30 years of music and voice training for bay area youth! Fall membership is open for new boy singers ages 6 to 12 with unchanged voices. No experience necessary. Weekly rehearsals in 3 locations. Visit www.ggbc.org or call 510-887-4311 for information.

Dress A Child Around the World sews dresses and shorts at Christ the King for impoverished children around the world. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month in the parish hall. The fall session will begin September 6th from 9 am until noon. All are invited! For more information, call Carol Vogl at 925-288-0488.

R.E. Catechists Needed! Catechists needed for our 3 and 4 year old program during Sunday 9:15 mass. Also grades 1-5, Mon., Tues., or Wed. from 3:30 - 5 pm and grades 7/8 on Tuesday evenings 7 - 8:15 pm. Contact Sr. Maureen at 686-1174. Come, Hear, Decide.

21st annual Monsignor Wade Golf Tournament will be on Monday, Sept. 11 at beautiful Oakhurst Country Club. Single golfer $195/ Four-some $780.00. There are also sponsorship opportunities. For more information contact Leo Lopez at golf@ctkschool.org.

FINAL FAITH FORMATION (RE) REGISTRATION. If you missed registering for your Faith Formation sessions, the final opportunity will be September 5-7 from 10 am to 5 pm in the RE office (facing Gregory Ln). For more information, please visit our website at www.ctkreligiouseducation.org.

Calling all Knitters who love to Pray! CTK’s Grief Ministry team needs your help. We will be collecting Prayer Shawls to be given to our grief support participants. When you knit a prayer shawl you spend time praying for its future recipient for healing, comfort and strength. Shawls can be knitted using any kind of yarn or pattern. Shawls can be dropped off at the parish house through September. Please contact Kate Neal at 925-738-2125 for more information.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) Grades 1-3. CLOW will resume during the 9:15 am mass on September 10th. All parish children in grades 1-3 may participate. (due to lack of participation in grades 4/5, we will only offer grades 1-3). No registration required. After celebrating their own Liturgy of the Word together, they return to the assembly for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Have you lost someone you love? Are you looking for support? Our Christ the King Grief Support Workshop is a 7 week program that creates a safe and welcoming space for those experiencing the pain that comes with the death of a loved one. The sessions will be held Tuesday nights from 7 - 9 pm at Queen of Heaven Cemetery’s new chapel, beginning September 12. Carpools from CTK will be available. Register by calling the parish office at 925-682-2486. For more info contact Kate at katen@cfcsoakland.org or 925-738-2125.

SEARCHING FOR A SPIRITUAL HOME? Our “no strings” catholic inquiry sessions resume Monday, Sept. 11. Ideal for learning about our faith community; also for Catholic adults who have not yet completed their sacraments. New inquirers welcome. Contact Al Garrotto (925) 849-6319 or algarrotto@comcast.net.

From our Faith in Action team: IF YOU CAN. These are dangerous times and great moral leadership is demanded on the part of all leaders. Dangerous times can disable us. But do not let the World around you become the World within you. IF YOU CAN, march in the streets. IF YOU CAN, pray for justice and the courage to cause it. IF YOU CAN, elevate the conversation with others beyond the partisan to the moral and responsible. IF YOU CAN, be the sanity you seek. IF YOU CAN, transform the world with your love and understanding. - Interfaith Peace Project Director, Rev. Thomas P. Bonacci, CP.

Next weekend we will have a second collection for Diocesan Priest Retirement. Thank you for your continued support.

Forgot your cash, checkbook or donation envelope? Scan this QR code to connect with our donation site.
Youth Group

Youth Group is open to all high school students. Youth group is an amazing way to meet other teens, talk about issues important to you such as stress, social media, and love and relationships (to name a few). It is a place where you can openly discuss faith! Aside from that, if you want to get confirmed at Christ the King after your freshman year, we require one year of involvement with youth ministry and the youth mass.

Youth group meets every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Parish Hall. We will kick off the year with a trip to Discovery Kingdom for NorCal OnFire on Saturday, September 16th. We’ll celebrate mass with 4000 other teens from parishes all over California. It will be a day filled with many amazing speakers, friends, and most of all RIDES! More information will be made available on our website at www.ctkym.org.

Important Dates

Parent Teen Meeting will be Sunday, September 10th @ 7pm in the church.

Our first night of youth group is on Thursday, September 28th in the Parish Hall.

Registration forms and a full calendar can be found in the vestibule or online at www.ctkym.org

Confirmation

Who Can Register?

Ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation? Our Confirmation classes are open to sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school who have been active within our youth ministry program for at least a year.

How do I register?

Please pick up a registration packet in the vestibule or find it online at ctkym.org. Confirmation registration will close Sunday, September 10th.

What if I haven’t completed one year of youth ministry?

Contact Rick (information below) and we will discuss your options.

Mandatory Parent/Teen meeting—Sunday, September 7th @ 7pm in the church

Questions:

Contact Rick Lejano at 925-676-0979 or ctkyouthminister@gmail.com