SECOND SUNDAY
OF Advent

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4

Christ the King Church

DECEMBER 10, 2017

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 12/10
- CLOW, 9:15 am Mass
- RE 3yr., Pre-K, K sessions 9:15am
- Confirmation, Parish Hall 6 pm

Monday, 12/11
- RCIA, Parish Hall 7 pm
- RE Grades 1-5 & Older Sacraments

Tuesday, 12/12
- RE Grades 1-5 & 7-8
- Perpetual Help Devotion, Church 7 pm

Wednesday, 12/13
- Sewing Ministry, Hall 9 am
- RE Grades 1-5 & Grade 6
- Young Adults, Youth House 7 pm

Thursday, 12/14
- Youth Group Christmas Party
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 pm

Friday, 12/15
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 pm

Saturday, 12/16
- 2nd Grade Reconciliations
- Men’s Fellowship, Rm D 7:30 am
- Secular Franciscans, Rm D 9 am
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 pm

Sunday, 12/17
- CLOW, 9:15 am Mass
- RE 3yr., Pre-K, K sessions 9:15am
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6 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

Simbang Gabi Masses
Dec. 15 - Dec. 23
6:30 pm

199 Brandon Rd.
Pleasant Hill
www.ctkph.org

Religious Ed: 686-1017
www.ctkreligious
education.org

Youth Ministry: 676-0979
www.ctkym.org

Facebook: Christ the King
Catholic Community of
Pleasant Hill

Upcoming Mass Intentions

12/11 8 am - Griselda Martinez+
12/12 8 am - Mary Telucchi+
12/13 8 am - Victoriano Abelgas+
12/14 8 am - Martin Soriano+
12/15 8 am - Simon Khiem Tran
  Saturday, 12/16
  8 am - Soloman Riveras+
  5 pm - Hildegard Menzhuber+
  Sunday, 12/17
  7 am - Francis O’Conner
  8 am - Domiano Serafini+
    Mario & Enis Paoli+
  9:15 am - Anita Ralleta+
  10:45 am - Herbert Trautner+
  12:15 pm - CTK Parishioners
    6:00 pm - Charlie Welsh+
Dear Friends,

I would like to inform you that last weekend, Fr. Vince Cotter announced to the Church that he would be retiring in July 2018 at the age of 65. It has been a pleasure having Fr. Vince here at CTK. He has been like an older brother, who has always been a positive influence in my ministry. Let us keep Fr. Vince in our prayers. We will be having a retirement party for him in the summer after the school graduations. He will definitely stay engaged with CTK.

I would like to present to you a summary of ctkALIVE pilot program completed a month ago. I would like to thank our Leadership Team of ctkALIVE for their dedication to this all important program.

Fr. Paulson

Dear Christ the King Community Members,

First and foremost, the ctkALIVE! Core Team would like to thank everyone who participated in the pilot program this Fall. You may remember that Fr. Paulson spoke about ctkALIVE! in September and called upon a group of brave and thoughtful parishioners to test out the program and provide valuable feedback for improvement (prior its official launch during Lent 2018). We are happy to report that about 60 parishioners participated weekly in the program.

Participants gained a deeper knowledge of current Catholic theology; explored and engaged in prayer experiences; and used this new knowledge and experiences to engage in challenging social justice discussions regarding how to become, as we are called to be, “missionary disciples.” Overall, the response to the program was positive, and the Core Team is currently working to integrate the participants’ feedback into the next round. Below are a few impressions of the outcomes witnessed by the Core Team:

Our Church is ALIVE and PASSIONATE about deepening our understanding, practice, and experience of faith. Our community is craving CONNECTION, meaningful DISCUSSION, and social ACTION. Our parishioners want to join ministries and have a more visible impact on the inner workings of our church and community. A participant said this of the program, “I praise and thank God that I got to participate, because it brought a deeper sense of calm and grace in my life that I realized has been slowly influencing the way I listen and try to be present, especially to my family. I am learning more about myself and areas I need to improve on to grow and deepen myself as a Christian (wife, mom, daughter, in all my roles and being).”

Moving forward, we are excited about offering ctkALIVE! again this coming Lent, in both morning and evening sessions. We already have about 115 people who have expressed interest in participation, and we would love to have every member of this church community respond to the call to experience this renewal opportunity in the coming years. Thank you for your openness and willingness to join us in awakening and deepening our call to live the Gospel. May your Advent and Christmas seasons be full of reflection, connection, and renewal.

Your ctkAlive! Core Team

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Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2017

First Reading:
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

This passage from the book of Isaiah begins with God calling upon the prophet to encourage the Jewish people who are in exile. The prophet is to tell them that they will be turning home soon, and the road of the return will pass through the desert. We will also hear God call the people to proclaim from a mountain-top the goodness of God.

Second Reading:
2 Peter 3:8-14

The second letter of Peter was written nearly 100 years after Jesus’ death and resurrection. At an earlier time, Christians had expected the Lord to return quickly. But by this time, they had lost confidence that the Lord would return in glory at all. The author does not want people to abandon this hope, and gives a positive interpretation to this delay.

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Thinking About a New Year Resolution? Fr. Padraig Greene has just completed his first 6 months as Catholic Chaplain at John Muir, Concord and the Regional Medical Ctr, Martinez. During those months he has discovered a need at both hospitals: an urgent need for more Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick. He hopes to expand teams at both hospitals. What about a resolution to give a few hours monthly to bring Holy Communion to the sick? Think about it, then bring it to prayer. This ministry is open to all active Catholics. Fr. Padraig will plan orientation and formation as well as supervise and support the teams in the future. Contact Fr. Padraig Greene at pgurnett6@aol.com.

The next Taize Around the Cross prayer service will be on Sunday, December 17 at the Church of Resurrection at 399 Gregory Lane. Join us for a quiet, prayerful, gentle and refreshing service.

Ruby Slippers - There’s No Place Like Home: Contra Costa’s Interfaith Housing’s 10th annual auction gala is February 3rd at the Blackhawk Auto Museum and they need help in making this night the best yet! They are accepting a variety of item donations: wine and spirits, themed baskets, concert and sports tickets, etc. Help make a tangible difference in the community. To learn more call 925-944-2247.

Siybhang Gabi - The Filipino Society of Christ the King invites you to join in the celebration of “Siybhang Gabi”, a nine-day novena in preparation for the birth of Jesus. Celebrated at Christ the King from December 15-23. Mass begins at 6:30 pm every night (except Sunday, Dec. 17 and Monday, Dec. 18, which begin at 6 pm). Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 19 will be held in the gym. Light supper in the parish hall will be served after each mass. Then join us for a nice dinner after the last mass on the 23rd. For additional information, contact Rudy (372-6227) or Imelda (623-7340).

If you would like to help our environment committee decorate our church for Christmas, including flowers and Christmas trees, please consider donating using our Christmas Flower offering envelopes. You can find the envelopes in your boxed set or in the back of the church.

ctkALIVE! Follow-up Faith In Action Networking Event, December 16th from 10-12 in the Parish Hall. Please join us to think through and plan social justice activities for the upcoming year. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome!

Christ the King’s annual auction, Under The Stars, will be held Saturday, February 10. Registration information can be found at www.bit.ly/ctkauction. To ensure the night is a huge success, please consider donating an item, sports tickets or a restaurant gift card. Cash donations are always appreciated as well. Donor forms can be found in the school office. Thank you for your support!

Capital Campaign - Gym, Kitchen Update: We currently have 48 families pledging $85,705.00. Thanks to those 48 families! Please pick up a pledge sheet and consider helping renovate these much used facilities.

Church Support 12/3/17 $24,621.00(plate collections $19,203 + online giving $5,418)
As I sit comfortably in my warm and cozy room watching television, I am bombarded with news reports of starving refugees landing in flimsy rubber boats on the Greek coast, people fleeing for their lives from Myanmar, naked and starving children around the world, their huge eyes staring at the camera and asking us, “Don’t you care?” A deep sadness overwhelms me. It is now 72 years ago in the winter of 1945 in Germany and I still remember…

A long and brutal war is finally over. Seven months of “peace” have not brought much relief to my part of the world. The Christmas Season has not been very joyful for the hungry and poorly clothed refugees standing in snow and sleet for hours to get a loaf of bread or bottle of milk. I was one of these people in one of those long, sober lines. It was Christmas Eve and it was very cold. We were not welcome in the town in which our family found itself, but it had always been our tradition to attend Christmas Eve church services. For refugees with very few possessions, our memories and traditions were about all we had that year with which to celebrate Christmas. On this evening the church doors were open to all and we went in. The church was full of people and candlelight. It had been a long time since I had felt so warm and safe. Singing well-known carols and hearing the familiar Christmas Story made me forget, for a short while, the desperate situation we were in and my despair was replaced by a feeling of Hope and Joy.

During this Christmas Season when our thoughts and minds are filled with “us”, let us take some time to think of “them”, the homeless, the hungry, the outcasts, the refugees. Let us see the need. It is time to open our hearts and minds and help.

Grete R.
(parishioner)