Jesus observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.

Mark 12:41-42
Dear Christ the King Parishioners,

The month of November has us preparing for one of the most holy seasons of our liturgical year. From All Saints and All Souls Day Masses, to Veteran’s Day, and Thanksgiving we are called to give glory and thanks to God. What does God request from us? God yearns for a loving relationship. This relationship is fueled and nourished by the sacraments, His holy word, and prayer. So many blessings come from God. Often times we find ourselves fixating on the perceived and real challenges in our lives, and miss the wonderful opportunities to continually thank God for His abundant blessings….that fall from heaven like the autumn leaves that are so colorful and compelling this time of the year.

Personally, I lose sight of God in my life, and oftentimes find that I have missed morning prayer, or the reflective words of hope, from Sarah Young’s Daily Prayer Book, that sits upon my desk at school. The days that I am in continual prayer with God are the days that I clearly see his hands and feet working in my life and the lives of others. I find during these days, it is far easier to thank God for his tremendous care and grace. Why do I lose sight? Is it the busyness of the day? Is it the comforts that give way? The diversions that keep me swirling? Or, simply the innocence of meeting the challenges and joys of life head on each day?

What truly grounds me are the continual examples and reminders from others to walk by faith, see by hope, and hear and feel by God’s unending love. One such example is a beautiful email that I receive twice a month from Steve and Ana Shawl who live in Chicago. Their ministry being to send Mary’s beautiful message from Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, to many people throughout the world via their website and email distribution listing.

Mary continues to appear to Mirjana in apparition on the 2nd and 25th of each month. Our Holy Mother’s simple yet beautiful message always steers me back on track. Here is an excerpt from Mary’s November 2nd message, “My children, the spirit is mightier than the flesh and carried by love and actions, it overcomes all obstacles. Do not forget: my Son has loved you and loves you. His love is with you and in you when you are one with Him. He is the light of the world and no one and nothing will be able to stop Him in the final glory. Therefore, apostles of my love, do not be afraid to witness the truth. Witness it with enthusiasm, with works, with love, with your sacrifice, and above all, in humility.”

Mary’s message gave me, via the phone this weekend, perspective and strength to listen and pray for a beloved friend of our family, Fred Crowell. Fred is a husband, father, grandfather, Christian author, retired president of NBC Sports, and a man who loves God with an unquenchable thirst. Fred has been a great mentor to our son, Joseph, and has led countless individuals to follow in the footsteps of Christ. As Fred awaits an important operation in early January at his hospital and home in Spokane, Washington his unwavering faith and love for God inspires me most.

Fred has embraced the Protestant faith with open arms toward his journey with God. What truly amazes me is that he has just completed a 30 day silent, Saint Ignatian, retreat and tells of his longstanding spiritual mentor, a Catholic priest from the Monterey Diocese, who has been ravaged by the disease of Multiple Sclerosis, as giving him the strength and perspective to live life to its fullest and conquer the odds.

Our hope and great anticipation is to have Fred present his beautiful faith and testimony to our CTK and Saint Stephen’s men’s group in the latter part of January. As we approach Thanksgiving, may we silence our hearts from the clamor in our lives, knock down the bowling pins that blur our vision, and see clearly the blessings that God has so lovingly bestowed upon each of us. In turn, may we fill our hearts with gratitude and joy, as we await the innocence of the baby Jesus, and respond with a perpetual thank you and resounding, Amen! Abundant blessings to you and your loved ones,

Joe Silveira
Principal, Christ the King School

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### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11, 2018

**First Reading:**

1 Kings 17:10-16

The prophet Elijah lived about 800 years before Christ. After predicting a drought which did, in fact, take place, he fled to a place where God provided for his needs. Later, God directed him to the city of Zarephath, which is across the northern border of Israel in the pagan territory of Phoenicia. The drought had led to a famine and we see its effects in today’s passage.

**Second Reading:**

Hebrews 9:24-28

On Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), the high priest sacrificed a goat on the altar in the temple. Then he took some of the blood into the holiest place in the temple sanctuary where only he was allowed to go. There, he sprinkled that blood as a renewal of the blood covenant made at Mt. Sinai, and prayed that God would forgive all the sins the people had committed during the previous year. This ritual is the backdrop for today’s reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

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Healing Mass ~ Anointing of the Sick: Saturday Nov. 17 at 10:00 am.

Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the Church and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14).

All are welcome to join us for a parish Mass and celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Bring relatives and friends from local care facilities – those who are able to come. A simple reception will follow the Mass. Questions? Sr. Dominic Marie 925-246-1122.

Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:15 am: All are invited to join us and celebrate the great feast of Thanksgiving! There will be a special blessing over bread and wine...so bring the bread and wine that you will share at your table on that day.

Impact Forum on Homelessness: An Evening Conversation with Local Community Leaders. Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 pm. Come to listen, come to learn, come to share your concerns and your faith values. Panelists include Fr. Paulson, along with representatives from the Pleasant Hill PD, and the County’s Health, Housing, and Homeless Services and C.O.R.E. Homeless Outreach Program. Moderated by Ken Carlson, Vice Mayor of PH. Sponsored by City of PH and the Pleasant Hill Clergy Grp. Hillcrest Congregational Church, 404 Gregory Ln.

Book of Remembrance is in the front of the church near the baptism font. All are welcome to write in the names of your deceased loved ones. These people are especially remembered during the month of November - the month of All Souls.

Join us Nov. 18 at 7:30 pm for Taize Prayer Around the Cross. St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive in Pleasant Hill. Quiet, refreshing, peaceful.

"Praise Night II" will be hosted on Friday, November 16th at 8pm in the church. Please join us for a night of Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship music, and fellowship following adoration. We had a great turnout for the first Praise Night, but would love to see more people! Spread the word! The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered as well. All are welcome!

Are young Catholics losing their faith in college? Maybe not - college ministry is a huge success. Come Tuesday evening, Nov. 13 at 7 pm to hear the remarkable success of FOCUS, a Catholic apostolate which brings the hope and joy of the Gospel to college students and energizes them for the lifelong Catholic mission. Sponsored by Catholics at Work. St. Joan of Arc Church, San Ramon, doors open at 6:30 pm.

San Damiano Retreat Center weekend retreat “Remember the Pain Will Not Last Forever”, Nov. 16-18 facilitated by Fr. Padraig Greene. This retreat is strategically planned to minister to those with broken hearts as they approach the holidays. This year the retreat is expanded to also include divorced people grieving the death of their marriage. Call 837-9141 for more information.

It’s not too late to buy an engraved brick! Landscaping for the Ministry Center has started, but we have a chance to include additional engraved bricks as part of the Brandon Street entranceway. Buy an engraved brick by November 18th and your brick will be included. Engraved bricks are a beautiful and long-lasting way to commemorate a loved one. Order forms are available in the back of church or on-line at www.ctkph.org. For questions, contact Greg at gmthornbury@outlook.com.

Do you have young children? Are you hoping to grow in your faith as a family? Are you looking to connect with other families and serve your community? If so, join us for Young Families Ministry - small groups that meet once a month to promote social connection, faith development, family support and service within CTK. Email us at YoungFamiliesCTK@gmail.com.

A very special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Kristy Keilen for their substantial tree work at Christ the King Church. They are the owners of Woodchuck Tree Care, and their daughter, Jaden, is a kindergartner at CTK School. Their pro bono project, conscientious work ethics, generous ways and kind hearts will be long remembered.

Christian Meditation Day Retreat: Silence & God’s Unconditional Love is Available for Each of Us: November 24, join us as we practice and learn about Christian meditation, Psalm 62 and Lectio Divina. Sponsored by Catholics at Work. St. Joan of Arc Church, San Ramon, doors open at 10:00 am.

The Crafty Ladies of St. Mark’s Lutheran in PH invite you to their annual Holiday Crafts Faire and Lunch. Sat. Nov. 17 - 9 am to 2 pm at 3051 Putnam Blvd, Pleasant Hill.

Next weekend we have a second collection that supports three important ministries, Monument Crisis Ctr, What If? Foundation and Shelter, Inc. that Christ the King has supported over the last years and they look to us for continued financing and volunteering. Read about the three groups on the bulletin flap. Thank you for your generous assistance.

Forgot your cash, checkbook or donation envelope? Scan this QR code to connect with our donation site.
Concerned about Hunger and Homelessness?
Next weekend, November 17/18, we will have the opportunity to support 3 wonderful organizations through our 2nd collection that are responding to humanity’s most basic needs - the need for food and shelter.

The Monument Crisis Center’s (MCC) mission is to provide food, education, tools & assistance, and resources for families, seniors and individuals in crisis situations, and to promote community awareness of hunger and poverty challenges in Contra Costa County, thereby providing a strong path to independence, health, safety, sustainability and stability. We operate a comprehensive family resource center for extreme low income residents living in every city in Central and East Contra Costa County.

Shelter, Inc. is a non-profit organization with a goal of alleviating Contra Costa’s homeless crisis. Our mission is to prevent and end homelessness for low-income, homeless, and disadvantaged families and individuals by providing housing, services and support that lead to self-sufficiency.

The What If? Foundation has been providing nutritious meals to impoverished children in the Ti Plas Kazo neighborhood of Port-au Prince, Haiti since 2000. What started as a modest program serving 500 children once a week, has expanded and serves more than 5,000 meals every week. The backbone of the program is the community meal distribution that served about 2500 meals each week to hungry boys and girls from the neighborhood. The What If? Foundation is deeply grateful to Christ the King for its generous support, both past and present. Haiti’s needs are as great as ever and it is a privilege to respond to those needs in partnership with your parish community.
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