My steps have been steadfast in your paths, my feet have not faltered. I call upon you, for you will answer me. O God. Psalm 17:5–6

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
NOVEMBER 10, 2019

MASSES
Monday - Friday
8:00 am
Saturday - 8:00 am & 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses
7 am, 8 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am
12:15 pm, & 6 pm
Confessions
Saturday - 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

MISSION STATEMENT
To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference

UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS
Nov. 11 8 am - Martin & Anna Dias †
Nov. 12 8 am - Richard Ang †
Nov. 13 8 am - Therese Lukens
Nov. 14 8 am - William & Nancy De-Cruz †
Nov. 15 8 am - The Steffen Family †

Saturday, Nov. 16
8 am - Willard Ashmore †
5 pm - John J. Batten †

Sunday, Nov. 17
7 am - Terry Pearce †
8 am - Dinh & Mai Tran †
9:15 am - Jayne Frigon †
10:45 am - Jeff Brogan †
12:15 pm - Manuela Cauilan †
6 pm - Lon Allison †

Week at a Glance

Sunday, Nov. 10
- Christ Light Weekend
- Knitting Group, Youth House 2 pm

Monday, Nov. 11
- Veteran’s Day
- Parish Offices Closed

Tuesday, Nov. 12
- Bible Study, Min. Ctr, 9:15 am
- Perpetual Help Rosary/Church 7 pm
- Bible Study, Min. Ctr, 7:15 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 13
- Welcome Card Ministry, Min. Ctr, 9:30 am

Thursday, Nov. 14
- Centering Prayer, Min. Ctr, 10 am
- Youth Group, Parish Hall 7 pm
- RCIA, Chapel 7 pm

Friday, Nov. 15

Saturday, Nov. 16
- Men’s Fellowship, Min. Ctr, 7 am
- Secular Franciscans, Room C 8:30 am

Sunday, Nov. 17
- ICF, Parish Hall 1 pm
- Confirmation, 6 pm Mass/7 pm Parish Hall

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Religious Education: (925) 686-1017
Youth Ministry: (925) 676-0979
CTK School: (925) 685-1109
St. Stephen Church: (925) 274-1341
(Our Sister Parish)
Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for your prayers and wishes during the past weeks. It has been a difficult time, and exhausting to say the least. I was eager to get back as I felt my real family was here, where I feel loved and energized in ministry. Thank you.

It has been a tough time for the State of California with the devastating fires that have literally changed our landscape and destroyed people’s lives, their dreams and hopes, for some forever. This time, the fire came dangerously close to some of our homes and neighborhoods. I am so grateful they were contained fast, and we are all safe. I asked myself, “If I had ten minutes to evacuate, what are the essential things that I would pack up and leave? On a practical note, it is good to think about the essential things that one would carry in case of a disaster like the one we are facing from time to time, to keep them organized and easy to pack in a few minutes.

It is also important to embrace a new perspective in the context of natural or man-made disasters. California fires are probably insignificant when compared to the misery and destruction in our world today. We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record in our world. An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also millions of stateless people who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. In a world where nearly 1 person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution, governments need to work together. Churches and religion should redefine their priorities based on ground realities and embark on ‘New Pathways.’

The recent Amazon synod was considered controversial by many, because the challenges posed by the realities that the synod fathers were addressing seemed to threaten the foundations of our faith and doctrine. Unfortunately, some were only worried about change of traditions and doctrines as we have come to know them over many centuries with no regard to the suffering of peoples or the very survival of faith in these far-flung areas without priests. Rabbi Alan Lurie remarked, “There seems to be a belief that ‘faith’ is the rejection of the world as it is; a retreat into fantasy and wishful thinking.” Nietzsche wrote, “Faith means not wanting to know what is true.”

Even though it has become common to think about faith in this way, Pope Francis is challenging us to embrace Jesus’ perspective. In the first century, the historical Jesus’ outlook on realities and traditions caused chaos and uproar, which eventually lead to his death on the cross. In his classic book, “Stages of Faith” James Fowler provides a deeper insight: “Faith is a person’s or group’s way of moving into life. It is our way of finding coherence in and giving meaning to the multiple forces and relationships that make up our lives.” From the beginning of his papal ministry, Pope Francis has emphasized the Church’s need to move forward. “The Church cannot remain inactive within her own closed circle, focused on herself, surrounded by protective walls and even less can she look nostalgically to the past. The Church needs to throw open her doors, knock down the walls surrounding her and build bridges, going out into the world and setting out on the path of history. In these times of momentous changes, the Church must always walk next to everyone and especially those living on the margins of humankind; an “outgoing” Church.” (Cardinal Hummes, Amazon Synod)

That is why the Church prays using the words, “Send forth your spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.” So we must not fear newness, we must not fear Christ, the new. As a Church, we should always be in search of ‘New Pathways.’

Paulson
Knitters Workshop!
Please join other knitters in an effort to knit blanket squares for the Welcome Blanket Project (welcomeblanket.org), a gesture of hand knit love and welcoming for refugees and other immigrants. Our knit workshops are the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Our next workshop is this Sunday, November 10 at 2 pm in the Youth/Knights House. No experience required and knitters willing to share their skill is much appreciated. For questions or donations of yarn, please contact: pattiknitslewe@gmail.com.

ctkAlive! Scripture Study—Join us for an in-depth, prayerful exploration of the Advent/Christmas Scriptures. The six weekly sessions begin Tues., Nov. 12 in the Fr. Joyce Rm, Ministry Ctr. Choose either 9:15 am -10:30 a.m. or 7:15 pm - 9 pm. Facilitator Al Garrotto. Preregistration required at algarrotto@comcast.net

The next ICF General Meeting will be on Sunday afternoon, November 17 at 1:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Set up is at 1 o’clock. This is our Thanksgiving luncheon and election meeting so be sure to join us! Our branch will supply the turkey and gravy and members bring your favorite Thanksgiving sides and desserts. If you have been thinking about joining the ICF (Italian Catholic Federation) you are welcome to join us. Catholics of any ethnicity and of all ages are welcome to be a part of ICF. We celebrate the diversity of our Catholic Faith by engaging in fellowship and service to our community.

The Book of Remembrance is in the front of the church near the baptismal font. All are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones. This book will remain there for the month of November - the month of All Souls.

Parish Works! Do you have a need that requires Divine intervention? Let us add our prayers to yours. Send confidential prayer requests to: prayerline@ctkph.org. Then, please let us know when to begin our thank you’s for answered prayers.

Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:15am. 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.

Join us for Taize Prayer Around the Cross. We welcome all who wish to gather in prayer and in a spirit of Ecumenism. Taize Prayer consists of quiet chanting, a psalm, reading and silence. The next Taize Prayer is November 17 at 6 pm at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill.

St. Vincent de Paul furniture ministry! The furniture ministry is part of our food pantry program here at CTK in which we provide families in need with furniture, beds and household items as they struggle to make a home for their families. We would like to thank Mary Jo Robinson as she steps down, and welcome Mary McGrath, who along with Kathy Loss will work together to carry on this most important mission. We are always looking for volunteers who have trucks and or can lift items such as queen mattresses. Please contact Kathy at 925-935-5259 or Mary at 925-683-7756 if you have any questions or something to donate or can help with picking up and delivering furniture.

Parish Works! Do you have a need that requires Divine intervention? Let us add our prayers to yours. Send confidential prayer requests to: prayerline@ctkph.org. Then, please let us know when to begin our thank you’s for answered prayers.
Are you an adult who is interested in being baptized? Were you baptized in a non-Catholic Christian denomination and are thinking about becoming Catholic? Are you a Catholic who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Contact Father Mario for more information fmario@ctkph.org.

**Weekly Offering: Nov. 2/3**
- Church Support: $23,795.50
- Plate Collections $19,297.50 + Online Giving: $4,498

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**Carondelet High School's Open House** for interested 6th, 7th and 8th-grade girls and their parents/guardians, will be held on Sunday, November 17th from 1-3 p.m. at 1133 Winton Drive (corner of Treat Blvd.) in Concord. We also have shadow visits, tours, and HSPT Test-Prep courses available. To register and find out more about these events, please visit carondeleths.org/admissions.

**Grief Retreat - San Damiano Retreat Center**
November 22-24, 2019
Presented by Sandy Heinisch
The loss of someone you love changes you forever. Whether that loss is through death or divorce, the journey of recovery is long, difficult and unique. This retreat will help you better understand the journey. It will give you hope, spiritual tools, peace and guidance on this grief path.

**Calling all Women!** Magnificat SOTI, a Ministry for Catholic Women invite all to join them at their Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, December 7 at 9:30 am. Please join us for a morning of Praise, Prayer and Inspiration as we celebrate Advent and prepare for the coming birth of our Lord. 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord. Call Kim Sullivan at 925-683-8220 for tickets or more information.

**Hungry and Homeless Collection**, sponsored by The Faith in Action Committee will be on November 17. This year, our annual collection for the hungry will be split between these three places: The Monument Crisis Center, The Homeless Shelter in north Concord, and the refugee family we are currently sponsoring. Thank you for your generosity to these places that serve the hungry and the homeless. They will be most grateful for your support.

**Sign up for electronic giving!** Look for the gold online giving icon on our website at ctkph.org Just follow the instructions. It’s easy - and you can manage your electronic giving online with security and convenience. If you are not using online giving to make your church donations, please consider it. If you have any questions, please contact Robin in the parish office 682-2486.

**Did you know we have another option for online-mobile giving?** Just scan this QR code to connect with our donation site. You can give anytime, even if you’ve forgotten your cash or checkbook!

As always, we thank you for your generosity.

This weekend our second collection is a triennial collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services. This collection was first taken in 2013, again in 2016 and now 2019. The AMS strives to bring the good news of Jesus Christ, the sacraments and other Catholic services to those who serve in the military or once did. Your donation will help to bring pastoral programs for military Catholics and their families that strives to meet the same spiritual needs that your home parish does. Thank you for your support.
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