Christ the King Church
195A Brandon Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA
(925) 682-2486   ctkph.org

You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.
LUKE 21:17-18

November 17, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Monday, Nov. 18
- RE Prayer Service Gr. 1-5/4:30 pm Parish Hall
- Prayer Group/Min. Ctr. 4:30 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 19
- Bible Study/Min. Ctr, 9:15am
- RE Prayer Service Gr. 1-5/4:30 pm Parish Hall
- Perpetual Help Rosary/Church 7 pm
- Bible Study/Min. Ctr, 7:15 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 20
- Sewing Ministry/9 am Parish Hall
- RE Prayer Service Gr. 1-5/4:30 pm Parish Hall
- Grief Support/Min. Ctr, 7 pm

Thursday, Nov. 21
- Centering Prayer/Min. Ctr. 10 am
- Youth Group/Parish Hall 7 pm
- RCIA/Chapel 7 pm

Friday, Nov. 22
- Men’s Fellowship/Min. Ctr, 7:30 am

Sunday, Nov. 24
- No Clow/ No RE Classes
- Knitting Group/Room C 3 pm

UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Nov. 18  8 am - Nick J. Gomez Jr. †
Nov. 19  8 am - Robert Sholaas
Nov. 20  8 am - Karen Savignano †
Nov. 21  8 am - Catherine Costanza †
Nov. 22  8 am - Kieran Coyle †

Saturday, Nov. 23
8 am - Michael Mansfield †
5 pm - James F. Keane

Sunday, Nov. 24
7 am - Aurora Pamatmat †
8 am - Fr. Timothy Cullan †
9:15 am - Joseph Yinh-Lam
10:45 am - J.R. Santiago †
12:15 pm - Christ the King Parishioners
6 pm - Julia Carol White

MISSION STATEMENT
To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference

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

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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,

As I was leaving India for Pleasant Hill trying to put behind the sorrows of the loss of my friends, I was dealing with yet another adversity. My oldest brother, Jose was diagnosed with Lymphoma cancer. At that time, we were not sure of the extent of his sickness or the treatment. I was informed over the weekend that he has stage 4 lymphoma which means that cancer has spread to an organ external to the lymphatic system. My nephew called me yesterday from Sunshine Coast in Australia to let me know that he will be flying to India to be with his father for two weeks. According to him, the cancer has spread to the lungs and the liver. My brother has been experiencing fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, fever and other symptoms. I have not known anyone in my family with cancer before except for an uncle who had stomach cancer recently in his eighties. More and more, I have come to recognize the frailty of human life.

On my return from India, after completing a graveside service at Queen of Heaven cemetery, I decided to meet Donna Bradshaw, who is our parishioner and in charge of Grief Ministry at CTK. Donna works at the cemetery accompanying families who have lost their loved ones. It was important for me to confront my own mortality, and what I wanted when that happens. Recognizing mortality will help you to take stock of your life and open your eyes to the opportunities ahead. More importantly, it will help you to take care of the multiple paperwork such as your will, advanced medical directives and funeral.

I have decided that when I die, I would like to have a vigil with rosary followed by a Mass of Christian burial in a borrowed casket. After that I would like to be cremated and placed in a simple urn in one of the niches in the chapel at Queen of Heaven. Donna is a very compassionate and loving parishioner and she told me she will get back to me at the earliest with more information. Queen of Heaven cemetery has evolved into a sacred space with wonderful staff who understand the pain people go through. I know I am sharing with you very personal information, and that is because you are my family. Fr. Mathew had great plans about the future, and where and how he wanted to retire. It is truly revealing that God had a different plan for my friend. Over the years I have grown very comfortable with who I am and my own human frailties.

I can't begin to explain why your loved one passed away or why your child has cancer or why you or your loved one received such a dismal diagnosis. But I agree with you that it doesn't make sense, it doesn't seem right, and it certainly doesn't feel like God cares. But I know that when you believe in God, he can help you accept the adversity, and find comfort and meaning. In 2 Corinthians 4: 8-9, we are told, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” We are not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do. We are at times spiritually terrorized. But God hasn’t left our side. God is in control. The more we come to terms with this truth, the easier our struggle against serious or chronic illness will be. As Lynn Eib who had experienced pain of cancer in her own family remarked, “You can relax knowing Someone else is in charge – Someone much more intelligent, powerful and vigilant than we are or could ever hope to be.” I want you to know that’s exactly how I feel in my pain and struggle with my brother’s diagnosis and the loss of my friends.

In this context, I would like to inform you that we will be launching a new ministry at CTK – ‘Faith-Based Support Group for cancer survivors or their loved ones.’ It is scheduled to commence in January 2020, and this ministry will be led by a cancer survivor himself. Jim Weber, recovered from cancer and wants to help others who are struggling with similar situations. He attended a support group for years, and has worked with many cancer patients. More information will be in our bulletin in the coming days.

Thank you for being my family and praying for me.

Fr. Paulson

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

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First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20

The book of Malachi was written after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. Faced with problems on all sides, many in the community doubted whether God would ever again act on their behalf. In today’s passage, Malachi responds to these skeptics.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Second Thessalonians addresses concerns early Christians had about the coming of Christ in glory. Some were excessively interested in the day and hour of Christ’s coming. Others thought that his imminent coming was an invitation to idleness.


Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem, the persecution of his followers.
Parish Works! Do you have a need that requires Divine intervention? Let us add our prayers to yours. Send confidential prayer requests to: prayer-line@ctkph.org. Then, please let us know when to begin our thank yous for answered prayers.

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.

The next ICF General Meeting will be today, 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.

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 this weekend November 17 at 7:30 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 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 furni-

Please join us on Wednesday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 7th at 9:30 a.m. for our on-going CTK Grief Workshop. We will gather in the Fr. Joyce Room of the Ministry Center. CTK provides on-going peer ministry for all grieving people. All are welcome. Please call Donna @ 510 381-3615 for information.

In today’s mobile society, families are often separated during the holidays. If you find yourself alone on Thanksgiving, or you are grieving the loss of a loved one and need support on this day, Queen of Heaven Cemetery will welcome you with open arms as we gather together as one community on Thanksgiving Day for coffee and fellowship. Please join us on Thursday, November 28th from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the St Cecilia Chapel, 1965 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette. For information please call: 925 932-0900.

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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 contact frmario@ctkph.org.

**Weekly Offering:**

**November 9/10**

Church Support: $22,021

Plate Collections $13,780 + Online Giving: $8,241

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**Support Our Food Drives!**

**St. Vincent de Paul Annual Food Collection**

To support St. Vincent de Paul, please bring bags of groceries! Below are the requested items. Please only bring groceries from this list!

(normal sizes only—no giant sizes, no glass)

- Any kind of canned vegetables
- Any kind of canned beans
- Pasta, rice, dried beans
- Canned fruit, tuna, soups, tomato sauce, peanut butter and cereal

**We need grocery bags also**

Drop off bags in front of church through December 15th.

Thank you for your generosity!

**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.

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.

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**Monument Crisis Center HOLIDAY FOOD BOX 2019**

The weekend of November 23 & 24, members of our Faith in Action team will hand out boxes after masses. The boxes will have a list of food and directions for delivery. This program offers families the opportunity to enjoy the holidays without the worry of food insecurity.