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

**Sunday of Advent**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

Isaiah 11:1

December 8, 2019

**Week at a Glance**

**Upcoming Mass Intentions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Intent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Michael Clennell †</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Eileen Radding †</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>David Walters †</td>
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<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Kay Tagle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Jeff Brogan †</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Kathleen Fitzpatrick †</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 14</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Rita Martin †</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 pm</td>
<td>Edward T. Schubring †</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 15</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>CTK Parishioners</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Sarah Costanza †</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Karen Savignano †</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Simon Khiem Tran</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Jose Lozano †</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Simbang Gabi</td>
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**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

**December 8, 2019**

- **Sunday, Dec. 8**
  - Clow
  - Knitting Group/Youth House 2 pm
  - Wreath Sales after masses

- **Monday, Dec. 9 - Immaculate Conception**
  - Masses 8 am and 12:00 pm
  - Prayer Group/Min. Center 4:30 pm
  - Parish Reconciliation Service, 7 pm

- **Tuesday, Dec. 10**
  - Bible Study/Min. Ctr. 9:15am and 7:15 pm
  - Perpetual Help Rosary/Church 7 pm

- **Wednesday, Dec. 11**
  - No Greeting Card Ministry

- **Thursday, Dec. 12**
  - Centering Prayer/Min. Ctr. 10 am
  - Youth Group/Parish Hall 7pm
  - RCIA/Min. Center Chapel 7pm

- **Friday, Dec. 13**
  - First Reconciliation, 10 am and 11 am

- **Saturday, Dec. 14**
  - Men’s Fellowship/Min. Ctr. 7:30 am
  - Grief Support/Min. Ctr. 9:30am
  - Parish Reconciliation Service, 3:30 pm

- **Sunday, Dec. 15**
  - Clow
  - Wreath Sales
Dear Friends,

In today’s world, it is true to state that religion has either become irrelevant or a cause of conflict, rather than a source of idealism and reconciliation. Dr. Edwin McMahon and Dr. Peter Campbell, who are Catholic priests and psychologists of religion, in their book, Bio Spirituality: Focusing As a Way to Grow, state: "Today, more people want to understand the difference between religious practices that promote unity, peace, and community and those that easily become fanatical, deeply divisive, manipulative, and violent. In so many instances, the followers of religion seem pathologically addicted to the practices and outlooks that they so passionately espouse." As in the world of politics, so too in the realm of various faiths including our own, we see an inability to deal with real issues of our day: economic injustice and conflict among peoples. It is apparent that we do not know the God of the Bible nor have we experienced him deeply.

The Old Testament prophets, whom we hear during Advent, speak to us about God and how much he desires for our good. They had bad rulers; they experienced defeat; and they were taken into exile. The prophets excoriated their religious and political leaders, but they also offered hope and comfort to those suffering. The central message was, "God is on your side." This also is the central message of Advent and Christmas. It is the central message of Jesus. God loves you just as you are.

The season of Advent is an amazing opportunity to explore justice and God’s intention to make all things new in Jesus. We understand the incarnation of Christ better by leaning into the experience of Israel’s longing for the Messiah who would establish a Kingdom of righteousness, justice and peace. That historical longing helps us to tap into our own longings, for a world made right, for a deep sense of new life in the midst of death and destruction, chaos and turmoil.

When Jesus preached, he did not preach about himself, as today's politicians do. He preached about his Father and his Father’s love and mercy. He preached about the reign of God, the kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and mercy. Some of Jesus’ followers thought that his teaching foretold a political kingdom where they would all end up with cushy jobs with lots of money and honors — like people working in a political campaign. Later, Christians equated the kingdom of God with heaven, which meant ignoring injustice here on earth.

The challenge is steering clear of the sentimentalism that overwhelms us during this time of year. In each of our contexts, there is a particular human expression of injustice. These are the people, named and storied, that God calls us to stand alongside in the face of a world who refuses to do so. There will be current events, in our city and nation, which will provide opportunities to reflect, pray, lament and cry out Come Lord Jesus! Make everything new! in concrete ways. Turn away from what is fanatical, deeply divisive and hurtful to practices that promote unity, peace and a sense of family. Authentic spirituality does not divide us, it connects us to one another.

As we prepare for Advent reconciliation this Monday (12/09) and next Saturday (12/14) at CTK and Monday December 16 at St. Stephen, reflect and repent of those areas of our lives where we continue to ignore injustice, where our thoughts, words and practices lead to division and hurtful conduct.

Fr. Paulson
Support Our Food Drive!

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!

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Ministry Catalog Updates?

Ministry leaders, please review your current listing in the CTK catalog, by visiting the parish website at www.ctkph.org, then selecting ministry catalog and scrolling through to your ministry listing.

If there are updates, please email them to Welcome@ctkph.org by December 10.

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You shop. Amazon gives to Christ the King Church.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support CTK Church this holiday season by shopping online at AmazonSmile.

1. Visit smile.amazon.com and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
2. On your first visit, select your charity by searching for Christ the King Church 94523
   - Amazon Smile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.
   - Please note that the Amazon app and amazon.com do not qualify for donations so you must start at smile.amazon.com. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to shop and earn donations.
3. Start shopping!

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Time to Reconnect with your Catholic Faith?

Are you feeling like it may be time to re-engage with your Catholic Faith? Here’s a special opportunity just for you. LANDINGS is a 10 week program that offers a chance to reconnect. We hold discussion based sessions that are for listening and for being heard - for asking questions and finding answers.

We begin a 10 week program here at CTK on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 7 pm. Pre-registration is required. All are welcome and we look forward to hearing from you.

Interested? For more information, contact us at jwitherspoon@cfcsoakland.org.
Did you know we have another option for online mobile giving? Give in seconds with a text message! Text giving is fast, easy and versatile. Give in the moment - all in a matter of seconds.

- Easy card registration on your phone
- Option to make your gifts recurring

To give, text the dollar amount to 833-361-4156

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Please join Diablo Choral Artists on a musical journey to Christmas past and present as they celebrate "A Christmas Festival" with carol sing-alongs at St. Stephen Church on Sunday, December 15 at 4 pm followed by a reception in the parish center. They will also be performing at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Dr., Pleasant Hill, on Friday, December 13 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are $25 for adults, $15 for seniors 60+, and $5 for students. Children 5 – 12 are free.

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Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24
- 3:30 pm Children’s Liturgy (Church)
- 3:45 pm Family Liturgy (Parish Gym)
- 5:30 pm Family Liturgy
- 8:00 pm Christmas Liturgy
- 11:30 pm Carols and prayers
12:00 Midnight - Christmas Liturgy
5 pm – St. Stephen Church (4:30 pm Carols)

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25
- 8.00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am & 12:15 pm Masses
- 9:30 am – St. Stephen Church

December 26: Feast of St. Stephen
- 5:30 pm: Prayer Service followed by potluck dinner with St. Stephen Community
CTK parishioners are invited.

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Advent Reconciliation Services
- Monday, December 9 at 7 pm
- Saturday, December 14 at 3:30 pm
- Monday, December 16 at 6 pm – St. Stephen

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Join us in celebration of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a special mass at 12 noon on Monday, December 9th. (We also have our regular 8 am mass on Monday).

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Christ the King School Auction - The Roaring 20s

It’s the twenties again! Join us for a roaring good time at the 2020 Christ the King Auction on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 5pm at the Hilton Concord. This amazing community event raises funds for our Christ the King School, Religious Education and Youth Ministry. Tickets are on sale now for $100 each and can be purchased at www.ctkauction.com. VIP ticket options are also available.

Donations! We are looking for the following targeted auction item donations: STAYS: vacation home or timeshare, TICKETS: sporting (including H.S. or college), concert, or performance, TECHNOLOGY: game consoles, drones, speakers, headphones, etc., SKILLS: hobby or expertise instruction (e.g. cooking, etc.), EXPERIENCE: any unique item or VIP access you are able to share. Our 2020 Auction Donor form is on the website https://www.ctkauction.com/donate.html

For more information, contact your 2020 auction chairs at auction@ctkschool.org.