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

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sunday, Dec. 22**
- No Clow
- Simbang Gabi 6:00 pm

**Monday, Dec. 23**
- Simbang Gabi 6:30 pm
- Prayer Group/Min. Center 4:30 pm

**Tuesday, Dec. 24**
**Merry Christmas Eve!**
- See Mass Schedule inside

**Wednesday, Dec. 25**
**Merry Christmas!**
- See Mass Schedule inside

**Thursday, Dec. 26**
- Centering Prayer/Min. Ctr. 10 am
- No RCIA
- Parish Offices Closed

**Friday, Dec. 27**

**Saturday, Dec. 28**
- Men’s Fellowship/Min. Ctr. 7:30 am

**Sunday, Dec. 29**
- No Clow

**UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS**

**Dec. 23**
- 8 am Ann Oberschernings †

**Dec. 24**
- 8 am William Zelko †
- 12 pm Jim Ocheltree †

**Dec. 26**
- 8 am Rita Martin †

**Dec. 27**
- 8 am Vic Steil †
- Victoria Caro †

**Saturday, Dec. 28**
- 8 am Al Zamolo †
- 5 pm Mary C. Dudley †

**Sunday, Dec. 29**
- 7 am Jeff Brogan †
- 9:15 am CTK Parishioners
- 10:45 am Winifred Spurs †
- 12:15 pm Jeremias & Salome Romano †
- 6 pm Donica Huffman †

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference

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

Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter Dec. 1 on the meaning and importance of Nativity scenes, calling for this “wonderful sign” to be more widely displayed in family homes and public places throughout the world. In the opening lines of his letter Admira bile Signum, which means a Wonderful Sign, he stated, “the Christmas creche is part of the precious process of passing on the faith.” Pope Francis traveled to the Italian town of Greccio, where St. Francis of Assisi created the first Nativity scene in 1223, where the Pope signed the letter on the first day of Advent.

The letter details the story behind St. Francis’ first Nativity scene. The saint asked a friend 15 days before Christmas to help him prepare “to bring to life” the memory of Christ’s birth in Bethlehem by creating a crèche display. “When St. Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene.” The first biographer of St. Francis, Thomas of Celano, wrote that someone present had a vision of the Baby Jesus himself lying in the manger.

Here are some of the quotes from Pope Francis in this letter:

“In a particular way, from the time of its Franciscan origins, the Nativity scene has invited us to ‘feel’ and ‘touch’ the poverty that God’s Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the cross.”

“In front of the crib we discover how important it is for our life, so often frenetic, to find moments of silence and prayer — the silence to behold the beauty of the face of the Baby Jesus, the Son of God, born in a lowly stable.”

“From the shepherd to the blacksmith, from the baker to the musicians, from the women carrying jugs of water to the children at play: All this speaks of the everyday holiness, the joy of doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way, born whenever Jesus shares his divine life with us.”

“With this letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the Nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.” The apostolic letter contains a meditation on the meaning and symbolism of different elements found in a Nativity scene, including St. Augustine’s reflection on the significance of Jesus, the Bread of Life, being laid in a manger where animals feed: “Laid in a manger, he became our food.” Pope Francis encouraged parents to share this Nativity tradition with their children and said that one’s childhood memories of the joy and wonder of the Nativity help one to recall the “precious gift” of faith passed down within families.

On behalf of our clergy and staff, I would like to extend to each and every one of you, “Merry Christmas!” You are in my prayers this beautiful season. You have given me so much this year. I am grateful. May the New Born Babe of Bethlehem smile on our parishes and every family.

Fr. Paulson
No fee is required. Registration forms available at the day of the event. Girls and boys ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the Free-throw competition. 15 to 18 year-old youth (only) are invited to the 3-point shooting contest. The KoC PH council #5811 competition will be held on Sunday, January 26th from 7:30am to 11:30pm at the CTK Gym. Bring your own ball to warm-up: Ages 9, 10, 11 (Boys & Girls Competitions) use a women’s regulation-size basketball and shoot from a 12-foot foul line, Ages 12, 13, 14 (Girls Competitions) use a women’s regulation-size basketball. Ages 12, 13, 14 (Boys Competitions) use a men’s regulation-size basketball. The council champion from each division advances to the district competition to be held in February. Questions: Contact Roberto Bracamontes at 925-899-7782 or rbracamontes@mac.com.

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 at frmario@ctkph.org.

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.

Christ the King Parish Festival is back and better than ever!
Mark your calendar, dust off your cowboy boots and get ready for a knee-slappin’, buckaroo-ropin’, boot-scootin’ hootenanny of a good time!
This year’s festival will take place May 15-16, and our theme will be “CTK Round UP!” So saddle up! Our Festival Planning Committee invites YOU to join the fun! We are currently looking for volunteers in the following super fun areas:

- Margarita Booth
- Sponsorship
- Decorations
- Scheduling

Our next meeting will take place Monday, January 13 at 7 pm, so mosey on down to the school’s media room. Contact christthekingfestival@gmail with questions or ideas!

2020 CTK AUCTION NEWS

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.
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

---

**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.

---

**Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 25th!**
It’s the annual San Francisco Walk for Life.

**Be counted, Be there, Be Pro-Life!**
More information to come.

---

**Christ the King After School Drama Class Presents:**

“Disney’s Frozen, Jr.”

---

**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!

---

**Are you downsizing?** Are you cleaning your closets in preparation for the holidays?
**St. Vincent de Paul would be grateful for your items.** Repurpose, Reuse and Recycle with St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County! Drop your donations to:

**Pleasant Hill Thrift Store**
2815 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill
7 days a week: 9 am - 5 pm

Furniture will be picked up! Call 925-439-5060 to arrange for a pick up! Thank you!

---

**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