

Christ the King Church

199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 925-682-2486

Second Sunday

OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9, 2018

*John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.*

Luke 3:3

| Week At A Glance | Upcoming Mass Intentions | Schedule of Masses |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Sunday, 12/9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE 3yr., Pre-K, K sessions 9:15 am • Clow • ICF Potluck Party, Hall 1 pm <p>Monday, 12/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Grades 1-5, Older Sacraments • Parish Reconciliation, 7 pm <p>Tuesday, 12/11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Grades 1-5 & Grades 7/8 • Perpetual Help/Rosary, Church 7 pm <p>Wednesday, 12/12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Grades 1-5/RE Grade 6 <p>Thursday, 12/13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Group, St. Stephen 7 pm <p>Friday, 12/14</p> <p>Saturday, 12/15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd grade Reconciliations, 10/11 am <p>Sunday, 12/16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE 3yr., Pre-K, K sessions 9:15 am • Clow • Youth/Simbang Gabi Mass 6 pm • Confirmation, Church 6 pm | <p>12/10 8 am - Juvenal Figueira † 12/11 8 am - Freddie Go, Sr. † 12/12 8 am - Mary Telucci † 12/13 8 am - Mercedes Fernandez 12/14 8 am - Martin Soriano</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, 12/15</p> <p>8 am - Simon Khiem Tran † 5 pm - Mary Telucci †</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 12/16</p> <p>7 am - CTK Parishioners 8 am - Damiano Serafini † 9:15 am - Sarah Costanza † 10:45 am - Annie Ralletta † 12:15 pm - Moriano Cauilan † 6 pm - Simbang Gabi Mass</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Monday - Friday, 8:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday - 8:00 am, 5:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Masses: 7 am, 8 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am, 12:15 pm, 6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confessions: Saturday, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm</p> <hr/> <p>Parish Office: 682-2486 www.ckph.org</p> <p>Religious Education: 686-1017 www.ckreligiouseducation.org</p> <p>Youth Ministry: 676-0979 www.ckym.org</p> <p>CTK School: 685-1109 www.ckschool.org</p> <p>Facebook: Christ the King Catholic Community of Pleasant Hill</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Stephen Catholic Church 1108 Keaveny Ct, Walnut Creek 925-274-1341</p> |

In his November 25th Bulletin letter Fr. Paulson quoted Pope Francis's Advent invitation to make space in our lives "to have a little silence" and to "listen to the language of the Lord" and hear it. On this second week of Advent, we'd like to offer a path to that silent reflection through today's gospel and some questions for personal reflection during the coming week.



Advent isn't about visions and great manifestations of divine power. Nor is it about human acts of heroism. Rather, Advent is about the grace of waiting. It's about a pregnant mom readying herself to receive her newborn into her arms. It's about a dad's anticipation and self-questioning: "Will I be (am I) a good father?" It's about each of us searching out what our God wants *for* us and *from* us today and as we go forward in our lives. **Reflect** (1) How do I identify with this very human aspect of Advent? What new insight does it give me about the value of "humdrum" tasks in my daily life? (2) In what respect has my life changed since Advent a year ago (loss, gain, joy, sorrow)? (3) If life forced me to change course in some way, how did I deal with that "interruption"?

Listen to Luke 3:1-6 "The word of God came to John in the desert. He proclaimed a baptism for repentant people to obtain forgiveness of sins. It was just as is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: 'Listen to this voice crying out in the desert: prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight.'" **Reflect** (1) Who prepared the way for me to find Jesus? (2) Can I recall a time when I made a conscious effort to "prepare the way of the Lord" in someone's life (spouse/partner, child, student, friend, relative, coworker, etc.)? What form did this "preparing" take?

The words of John the Baptist echo today: "Make straight the way of the Lord. Clear him a straight path." So, the torch is in *my* hands now. Listen to Caryll Houselander (*The Reed of God*), "Sometimes it may seem that there is no purpose in our lives, that going day after day for years to this office or that school or factory is nothing but waste and weariness. But it may be that God has sent us there because, but for us, Christ would not be there. If our being there means that Christ is there, that alone makes it worthwhile." Yes, a smile, a promise of prayer, an encouraging word, a hug, a random act of mercy, performed with love and with faith that Jesus acts through us, can change the course of another person's life. We may never know the effect we had. No matter, God knows. **Reflect** (1) How does Houselander's statement, "God has sent us there because, but for us, Christ would not be there," make a difference in how I might see the routine dailiness of my life during the coming week? (2) How might I turn ordinary encounters into works of mercy and compassion?

Have a joyful, reflective Advent.

Al Garrotto

Second Sunday of Advent December 9, 2018

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

The setting for today's reading is the time when the Jews were captives in Babylon. The author writes of a bright future when they will return with joy to their homeland. In this passage, Jerusalem is pictured as a mother who puts on her finest clothes and goes to a high hill to see the wonderful sight of her children coming home.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Of all the communities Paul founded, the one at Philippi was especially dear to him. Wherever he was, they sent him moral and financial support to carry on his work. Now confined to a prison cell, Paul writes to them like a proud parent.



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**CTK Parish
Reconciliation
Service:**

Join us on Monday, December 10 **RECONCILIATION** at 7 pm for our Advent Communal Penance Service.



Spirit of Giving 2018: CCIH is prepping for another successful season of Spirit of Giving! Contact Gloria at Gloria@ccinterfaithhousing.org if you can help in making this coming holiday season a memorable occasion for the vulnerable people Contra Costa Interfaith Housing serves.

All members of our CTK branch of the **Italian Catholic Federation** are reminded to attend our Pot Luck Christmas Party this Sunday afternoon, Dec. 9 in the parish hall. Set up is at 12:30 and the party starts at 1 pm. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share and we will provide drinks and plenty of Christmas cheer!

Concern America Craft Sale: Next weekend, volunteers for Concern America will hold a craft sale featuring unique, quality handcrafts that provide us with the opportunity to purchase conscientiously. The gifts we find are an exchange of caring with impoverished communities in developing countries. When a Concern America product is purchased we are providing a source of income to materially poor communities.

How Will the Church in California Meet the Challenges of the New Year? Join Catholics@Work on Tuesday, December 11 for their breakfast meeting, 7 am at Crow Canyon Country Club. The speaker will be Andrew Rivas, the Exec. Director of the CA Catholic Conference. Bishop Jaime Soto says Rivas "knows CA politics, he knows Washington politics and, more importantly, he is devoted to the mission of the Catholic Church in CA." Register at Catholicsatwork.org.

SIMBANG GABI -- The Filipino Society of Christ the King invites you to join in the celebration of "Simbang Gabi", a nine-day novena in preparation for the birth of Jesus, at Christ the King Church from December 15th to the 23rd. Mass begins at 6:30 p.m. every night (**except** Sunday, Dec. 16, and Sunday, Dec. 23, when mass begins at 6 p.m.). Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 18, will be held in the gym. Light refreshments in the parish hall will be served after each mass. Then join us for a nice celebration and dinner after the conclusion of mass on the 23rd. For additional information, please contact Imelda Santos (623-7340) or Maritess Baula (899-9078).

The Knights of Columbus **2019 Basketball Free Throw/ 3 Point Competition** will be held on January 27, 2019 in the gym. No fee required. Girls and boys ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate. Young ladies and men ages 15-18 are invited to the 3 point shooting contest. Competition will be held from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. Contact Roberto at 899-7782 or rbracamontes@mac.com for questions.

Why not get involved in **CTK Festival Planning Committee** this year? You will have fun, meet a terrific group of CTK Parents and Parishioners, and help create a memorable and meaningful event for our kids and our community. Meetings are held in the Media room from 7 pm to 8 pm on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is Dec. 10. christthekingfestival@gmail.com for more information.

Make plans to join for the last **Taize Prayer Around the Cross** for 2018. Resurrection Episcopal Church, 399 Gregory Ln, PH. Join us at 7:30 pm for an hour service of quiet chanting, a psalm, readings and silence. Taize is the name of the village in France, where the Brothers of an ecumenical community reside.

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.

Upcoming Christmas Concerts!

The CCOP Music Ministry will offer "**We Wait For the Star**", Dec. 14 7:30 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Free-will offering.

"Mystery and Joy: A Christmas Miracle", a concert of medieval and renaissance music, will be held Dec. 22, 8 pm at St. Mary Magdalen Parish, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley. Tickets range \$15 - \$35. The evening begins with a pre-concert talk by John Prescott at 7:30 pm. For more information, call 510-526-4811.

Last Chance for Christmas Wreaths! Boy Scouts will be selling **fresh Christmas wreaths** outside of church after all masses. There is not much time left, so get yours today.

This weekend we have a second collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. This fund distributes direct care, planning and implementation assistance from the fund to religious institutes. Thank you for your support. **Next weekend we will take up a second collection for the wildfire relief efforts.** You can find envelopes in the vestibule for next weekends collection.

Forgot your cash, check-book or donation envelope? Scan this QR code to connect with our donation site.



Simbang Gabi

Christ the King Church
199 Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

December 15-23, 2018

6:30 PM

Sunday 12/16 & 12/23—6:00 PM

All masses celebrated at the church except 12/23, which will be held at the gym.

Light refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall except on 12/23, which will be followed by dinner celebration.

Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24

3:30pm Children's Liturgy (Church)
3:45pm Family Liturgy (Parish Gym)
5:30pm Children's Liturgy
8:00pm Christmas Liturgy
11:30pm Carols and prayers – Choir
12:00 Midnight – Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25

8:00 am 9:15 am 10:45 am & 12:15 pm



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