

Christ the King Church

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

Third Sunday

OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16, 2018

*Whoever has two cloaks should
share with the person who has none.
And whoever has food should do likewise.*

Luke 3:11

Week At A Glance	Upcoming Mass Intentions	Schedule of Masses
<p>Sunday, 12/16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE 3yr., Pre-K, K, Clow 9:15 am • Youth/Simbang Gabi Mass 6 pm • Confirmation, Church 6 pm <p>Monday, 12/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Grades 1-5, Older Sacraments • Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 pm <p>Tuesday, 12/18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Grades 1-5, No Gr. 7/8 • Perpetual Help/Rosary, Church 7 pm • Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 pm Gym <p>Wednesday, 12/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Grades 1-5/No Grade 6 • Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 pm <p>Thursday, 12/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 pm • Youth Group, Ice Skating, WC <p>Friday, 12/21 - Simbang Gabi 6:30 pm</p> <p>Sat., 12/22 - Simbang Gabi 6:30 pm</p> <p>Sunday, 12/23 - 4th Sunday of Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No RE / No Clow • Youth/Simbang Gabi Mass 6 pm 	<p>12/17 8 am - Laurence Gavin †</p> <p>12/18 8 am - John Mesalla †</p> <p>12/19 8 am - Jack Viani †</p> <p>12/20 8 am - William Radding †</p> <p>12/21 8 am - Ann Obscherning †</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, 12/22</p> <p>8 am - Taylor Faith Almeida †</p> <p>5 pm - Eileen Van Heel †</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 12/23</p> <p>7 am - Jose Alquin †</p> <p>8 am - CTK Parishioners</p> <p>9:15 am - Ken Franco †</p> <p>10:45 am - Frederico Arellano Rossmann †</p> <p>12:15 pm - Joseph Grech †</p> <p>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.ctkph.org</p> <p>Religious Education: 686-1017 www.ctkreligiouseducation.org</p> <p>Youth Ministry: 676-0979 www.ctkym.org</p> <p>CTK School: 685-1109 www.ctkschool.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>

The readings for this Third Sunday of Advent emphasize the **joyous** anticipation of the Lord's coming. That is why this Sunday is known as "Gaudete Sunday," that is "Rejoice Sunday" or "Sunday of Joy." You can't miss the message as the words joy, rejoice, gladness, and exultation appear at least 15 times in today's liturgy. The message is further reflected in the rose-colored vestments of the priest and the rose-colored third candle on our Advent wreath.



For many of us, the theme of joy is much needed in these days. There are so many disasters, so much suffering, so much discouragement, so much that seems wrong with our world. In the face of all this, how can we be joyful? Our Little Blue Advent Book answers that question this way:

We have two options. One is to see all these problems as fatal. The world is doomed to be forever unjust and tragic, so I should simply do my best to get the most I can for myself out of the situation. The other option is to see all creation as the recipient of the overwhelming power of God's compassion and transforming love. When I look at the world this way, I believe that every struggle for peace and justice, however small, ultimately has an effect, and whatever energy I spend to relieve suffering is worth the effort.

Taking that second option is to live our lives in this world with hope and with joy in these "in-between times," the time in between Jesus's birth and the Second Coming of Christ.

In his apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis, in reference to the many invitations to us in the Gospels to rejoice, asks: *Why should we not also enter into this great stream of joy? . . . I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved.*

It is for this infinite, unconditional love and abiding presence of God in our lives that we should be always and forever joyful . . . and grateful. From this joy and gratitude flows generosity, compassion, and a desire to help those in need. And from this generosity comes a wisdom that recognizes helping others results in helping ourselves as well.

Archbishop Tutu of South Africa during a visit with the Dalai Lama offered this prayer which seems so appropriate for this "Sunday of Joy": *Dear Child of God, you are loved with a love that nothing can shake, a love that loved you long before you were created, a love that will be there long after everything has disappeared. . . And God wants you to be like God. Filled with life and goodness and laughter—and joy. . . So, please, my child, help me. Help me to spread love and laughter and joy and compassion. And you know what, my child? As you do this—hey, presto—you discover joy. Joy, which you had not sought, comes as the gift, as almost the reward for this non-self-regarding caring for others.* How true this is. May we rejoice in the Lord always!

Jim Briggs

Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

The days of the prophet Zephaniah were bad times for Israel because of their idolatry and unfaithfulness to the law. Zephaniah preached impending judgment, a day of doom. But he ends by telling them of a day when they will sing for joy, and the Lord will sing joyfully over them.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Of all the communities Paul founded, the one at Philippi was his favorite. Toward the end of his letter to them, he advises them how to live as they await Christ's return in glory.



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St. Stephen invites the parishioners of CTK to join us as we celebrate the **Feast of Saint Stephen** on Wednesday, Dec. 26 at 5:30 pm in the St. Stephen parish hall. The evening will start with a prayer service followed by a potluck dinner and caroling. Use this as an opportunity to share your Christmas leftovers. Come and get to know your sister parish.

The **Environment Committee** needs your help! **Please bring poinsettias** (any size, any color) to the flower room in the church next weekend. We will be decorating for Christmas after the 8 am Mass on Monday, 12/24. **Please come and join us.**

“Concern America” Craft Sale: Beautiful handmade craft items from El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Bangladesh are for sale this weekend. By our purchase you support the work of Concern America and help provide a fair and just wage for many materially poor families. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Day Grief Support, December 25th, 12:30 - 2:00 pm. Christmas Day is a painful day for those who have lost loved ones through death or divorce. Join us for a supportive time on Christmas Day in the library at Mullen Commons, St. John Vianney. It will be a healing time, empowering you to return home and have Christmas dinner with your family, to honor your loved ones. Call Eileen at 939-8149 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 this Sunday, December 16 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.

New Year’s Eve Retreat: Divine Encounters Embracing the Spirit of God, with Fr. Landry. Monday, Dec. 31 from 7:00 pm - 10:30 pm. Reflection, Eucharist and Festive Dessert. Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. RSVP to 510-933-6360.

Join Christ the King’s weekly **Rosary and Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help**. Tuesdays, 7 pm in the church. For details, contact Shirley at 925-957-0488.

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.

“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.

Spread **Christmas Cheer to Fr. Brian Joyce** by sending him a Christmas Card to the parish house. We will help him open them and he will enjoy reading them.

Living Nativity - Seasonal choral music and refreshments. A camel, llama, donkey, and cow, plus alpacas, sheep, goats, piglets and more! Monday, Christmas Eve, 4:30 - 7:30 pm, 11 White House Ct, Walnut Creek. **All are welcome to this free, drop-in event** celebrating this holy night. Parking is available. Please avoid side streets as a courtesy to our neighbors.



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**.



Christ the King and Car Donation Services, located in Martinez have teamed up to provide an easy way to **donate a vehicle to CTK**, whether running or not. Proceeds from all vehicle donations will go towards our Capital Campaign, unless you tell us otherwise. Call 888-686-4483 to start the easy process. CDS takes care of all aspects of your car donation, allowing you peace of mind that the transaction will be completed efficiently and properly.

Shop AmazonSmile this Christmas and help raise funds for our Capital Campaign! Log on to your regular Amazon account and then go to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, you will need to select Christ the King Church. Amazon will remember your selection and then every eligible purchase you make on **AmazonSmile** will result in a donation to the church. If you have any questions, call the parish office at 682-2486 and we will help you get logged in.

This weekend we have a second collection for the wildfire relief efforts. Thank you for your generous support.

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



Merry Christmas

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

December 26: Feast of St. Stephen:

5:30pm: Prayer Service followed by pot-luck dinner with St. Stephen community-CTK parishioners are invited.



New Years Eve – Monday, December 31

5:00pm Mass – followed by Hospitality

New Years Day- Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God -
Holy Day of Obligation

9:15 am, 7:00 pm



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SOFTWARE
MSPublisher 2010
Adobe Acrobat 9
Windows 7

TRANSMISSION TIME
Tuesday, 3:15 pm

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION
December 16, 2018

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT
1 through 5

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS