

Christ the King Church

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

Fourth Sunday

OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018

*Mary set out and traveled to the hill country
in haste to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.*

Luke 1:39-40

Week At A Glance	Upcoming Mass Intentions	Schedule of Masses
<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>Monday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masses 3:30 pm & 3:45 pm Masses 5:30 pm Masses 8 pm & 11:30 pm <p>Tuesday, 12/25 - Merry Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masses 8 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am, 12:15 pm <p>Wednesday, 12/26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of St. Stephen, 5:30 Prayer Service, St. Stephen Church <p>Thursday, 12/27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Youth Group <p>Friday, 12/28</p> <p>Saturday, 12/29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Fellowship <p>Sunday, 12/30 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No RE / No Clow 	<p>12/24 8 am - Merry Christmas Eve! 12/25 8 am - Merry Christmas! 12/26 8 am - Karin Lisboa † 12/27 8 am - Clarice Benavidez † 12/28 8 am - Anthony Arias</p> <p>Saturday, 12/29</p> <p>8 am - Jeremias Romana † 5 pm - Paula Volpe †</p> <p>Sunday, 12/30</p> <p>7 am - Family of Lorenzo Velasco 8 am - Franco Pacchetti † 9:15 am - CTK Parishioners 10:45 am - Janice Santa Maria Real 12:15 pm - Frial Family Intentions 6 pm - Penny Grant †</p> <div data-bbox="683 1818 906 1986" style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>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</p> <hr/> <p>Parish Office: 682-2486 www.ctkph.org Religious Education: 686-1017 www.ctkreligiouseducation.org Youth Ministry: 676-0979 www.ctkym.org CTK School: 685-1109 www.ctkschool.org Facebook: Christ the King Catholic Community of Pleasant Hill</p> <hr/> <p>St. Stephen Catholic Church 1108 Keaveny Ct, Walnut Creek 925-274-1341</p>

Dear Friends,

With Christmas day taking place early in the week, the fourth week of Advent, like last year, is cut short. You may recall how last year Christmas Eve took place on the night of the 4th Sunday of Advent. This year, it is on Monday. And so, this letter will serve both as a wrap-up to Advent, and an introduction to Christmas.



By the time we see each other again next Sunday, Christmas may be a distant memory for us. But let me assure you, that much like the Easter season, the Christmas season continues long after the Holiday itself is over. It continues until Sunday, January 13th, when we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In fact, the Church wishes us to celebrate the amazing event of Christ's birth with so much rejoicing that the eight days after December 25th are to be celebrated as if they were Christmas Day itself. This is what is known in the Church as an Octave, which culminates with another very special Solemnity on January 1: Mary, the Mother of God.

Looking ahead to all this celebrating that awaits us, we might say that the fact that Advent is cut short comes as a relief. With an event as wonderful as Christmas approaching - with all the subsequent Feast Days - we want to wait as little time as possible for it to arrive. And yet, we must not get ahead of ourselves, for the quality of our celebration of Christmas correlates to the quality of our Advent preparation. Now, this does not mean that more time in Advent will promise a better Christmas. Perhaps you truly have spent these last 22 days preparing well. Perhaps you put in some extra minutes in prayer, or maybe you reached out to someone in need, or even went to one of the Reconciliation services. Maybe you are truly ready to celebrate the Christmas season. But maybe this Advent season, like many in the past, flew by, and you find yourself standing on the cusp of Christmas wondering, "Where did the time go?" I know I have felt that. This season has been a great blessing to me in assisting at all the Reconciliation services - at CTK and at other parishes - but, as I write this, I need to be careful not to let Confession become a tiresome, routine burden. I need to continue to be vigilant in prayer. With all the rushing around, maybe you feel burned out, or spiritually or emotionally tired and dry, before Christmas even begins.

If this is the case, take heart. You still have today and tomorrow to prepare. You still have some time to go off by yourself - even if only for a few minutes - to be with God and to ask Him to prepare your heart for the Christmas season. This can be as simple as kneeling by your bed and saying something as ordinary as "God, help me." With all the added responsibilities during this time, help me with Your grace to be available to where You send me. Another simple prayer is "Thank you, God." During this season of gift giving, we remember the gift You made of yourself to us. Help us to make of ourselves a gift back to You.

We see here something quite significant. Advent may be ending, but the spirit of Advent and Christmas must continue throughout the year. On December 26th, when the stores take down their Christmas decorations and begin putting up ones for Valentine's Day, we mustn't forget that Christ is with us, because He loves us, and that He continually comes to us in those unexpected ways. And so, we celebrate Christmas with great rejoicing because Christ came to us, and we stay alert and watchful for the times He will come again.

On behalf of Fr. Paulson, Fr. Timoney, and all the staff at Christ the King, have a blessed end of Advent, and a very Merry Christmas!

With love, Fr. Mario

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

The prophet Micah, writing some 700 years before Christ, attacked the social injustices of Israel. He looked ahead to a day when the tiny city of Bethlehem, where David had been born, would bring forth a new shepherd, a good shepherd, who would unify the people and bring peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

The Letter to the Hebrews constantly looks to the Old Testament and shows how Jesus surpassed its laws and sacrifices. In Old Testament times the people offered animal sacrifices over and over in atonement for their sins. But this could not compare to the God-made-flesh who gave his life *once* for the sins of all.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Looking for a last minute gift?

Come by the parish office to purchase **Fr. Brian Joyce's latest book**, "The Baltimore Catechism Revisited". On Christmas Eve, the office will be open from 9 am to noon.

Ken Canedo, Composer & Author, Book Signing Concert:

Composer Ken Canedo ("Fly Like a Bird", "Alleluia! Give the Glory") is coming to St. Perpetua Church on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm to give an engaging overview of liturgical renewal since the Second Vatican Council, as presented in his new book, **From Mountains High**. We will sing favorite songs by the St. Louis Jesuits, Monks of Weston Priory, and more, as Ken shares stories from the composers and how they responded to the winds of change in Church and society. All are welcome.

Join Christ the King's weekly **Rosary and Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help**. Tues-



days, 7 pm in the church. For details, contact Shirley at 925-957-0488.

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.

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.

Next weekend our second collection is for our **Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry** here at Christ the King. This important ministry assists the less fortunate members of our community on a person-to-person basis. Emergency food, clothing and other services are provided. Volunteers meet with these families and individuals Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Typical assistance awarded a client might include a voucher to Grocery Outlet, and/or a clothing or shower voucher. Parishioners make this emergency financial aid possible through their generous contributions to this special collection taken up four times a year on the 5th Sunday of the month. Thank you for your continued support.

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





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 9:15am 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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