St. Stephen Catholic Church
1101 Keaveny Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 925-274-1341
Website: saintstephenparish.org  E-mail: saintstephenwc@gmail.com

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
Matthew 3:13

Week At A Glance

Mon Jan 13
- 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Office Open
- 7:00 pm, Lector Practice
Tues, Jan 14
- 10 am-2 pm, Office Open
Wed, Jan 15
- 9:30 am, Scripture Study, Room 5
  - 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
Thurs, Jan 16
- 9:30 am, Enrichment, Room 5
  - 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
  - 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Schedule of Masses

Monday - Friday  7:30 am  (Chapel, Room 1)
Saturday:  5 pm
Sunday:  9:30 am
Confessions: Saturday - 4:30 pm

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sun Jan 12, 9:30 am - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Wed Jan 15 7:30 am - Frank Gomes †
Sat Jan 18 5:00 pm - Leonard Pauplis †
Sun Jan 19, 9:30 am - Steve Paysen †

Parish Mission:
To Live and Love in Christ

Christ the King Catholic Church (Sister Parish)
195A Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
Dear Friends,

With TRANSITIONS among clergy and vacations that were planned long ago, and a new priest joining us only on February 1st, it has been a bit of a struggle to manage the month of January. Fr. Vince Cotter will be here until the end of January, and I have asked a visiting priest from Rome, Fr. Anand to extend his vacation and assist us from January 15-31. For now, we are good and I am so grateful. I have also asked the local clergy to assist us in case we need priests. I want to thank you for your continued prayers for me.

Flu Season Prompts us to Take Measures at Mass: Starting this week, we will not be sharing the cup during communion until the flu season is behind us. SHOULD YOU COME TO MASS? The Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and other Holy Days of Obligation is the ordinary expectation for Roman Catholics (Canon 1247). However, extraordinary circumstances such as sickness or severe weather excuse the faithful from this obligation. If you suspect you have the flu or are suffering from a serious cold or other contagious illness, please stay at home and do not risk spreading infection to others. HOLDING HANDS DURING THE LORD’S PRAYER: If you have flu, avoid holding hands during the Our Father. THE SIGN OF PEACE: Please do not take offence should someone choose not to shake hands with you during the Sign of Peace. An appropriate gesture for those who are concerned about spreading the flu virus might be to clasp your hands together and with a smile say “Peace be with you”.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The Christmas season draws to a close with the celebration of baptism, where Jesus is acknowledged and revealed as God’s beloved Son. Pope Francis last year invited all Christians to mark the date of their Baptism and to celebrate it as the day when the Lord gave them the Holy Spirit to guide them in their lives. He conceded that it is impossible to actually remember that day but he invited all believers to go home and find out that significant date in their lives because, he said, it is when the Father gave the gift of the Spirit who “opens the eyes of the heart to truth”. Describing Jesus’ baptism as a manifestation of His humility and availability to immerse Himself in the river of humanity, the Pope explained that along the banks of the River Jordan, God kept his promise to take charge of the fate of human beings, and Jesus is the tangible and definitive sign. “God has taken charge of our fate” he said. Pope Francis said, the Feast of Jesus’ Baptism invites every Christian to remember his or her own Baptism, because to forget it means to expose ourselves to the risk of losing our memory of what the Lord has done in us.

One of the great assets of our Parish is our Pastoral Council. Nancy Hartman was the Chair of the Council for the last two years, and she has ushered in positive changes to the council by her great leadership. I have appointed Michael Hall as the New Chair from February 2020. There are 3 openings in the council, and there will be a discernment process set in motion in the month of February. I am so grateful to our leadership at CTK. May God bless us all in this New Year!

Fr. Paulson
Join us this weekend for Coffee & Donuts after the 9:30 am Mass. The cost of donuts has gone up. Please take that into consideration when you are deciding what to drop into the coffee & donuts donation basket in the hall.

Please join us after Mass this Sunday as we take down our Christmas decorations. Many hands will make the job go quicker.

**CYO CRAB FEED, Saturday**

**February 1- get your tickets/tables now!**

Tickets are going fast for the CYO Crab Feed on Saturday February 1 at Christ the King Church. Fantastic Food (all you can eat crab, tri tip, pasta and salad) Dancing and Great Fun. Tickets and tables available online at ctkcyohoops.org.

Saturday, February 1st
Doors open at 6:00pm in the CTK Gym,
Dinner service starts at 7:30pm
21 and older event
VIP tickets $75 donation per seat "Sold out fast last year". VIP Tables are double wide for better comfort and space, 12 seats per VIP table - Four-Course Homemade Crab and Tri Tip Dinner plus personal appetizers, hot butter and 2 bottles of wine per table. Also, hot towel service at your Table!!

Four-Course Homemade Crab Dinner tickets $55 donation per seat. Fresh Caesar Salad with croutons, Pasta with homemade meat sauce, Fresh Crab and BBQ Tri Tip! Dessert and Coffee

Full BAR available for purchase PLEASE NO OTHER OUTSIDE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES! Enjoy Dancing with music from Denon & Doyle DJ

There are still a number of offering envelope boxes for 2020 waiting to be picked up in the back of the Church. If you haven’t done so yet, please look and see if your box is still there. If you cannot find one with your name, please contact the office. If you are not currently using envelopes but would like to start, also contact the office.

Remember to make 2020 Mass Intentions for your deceased or sick loved ones, or to celebrate special intentions like birthdays and anniversaries. Contact the office to schedule a spot.

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**Retrouvaille... A lifeline for marriages.** Do you feel lost, frustrated, hurt, or angry with your spouse? Retrouvaille helps married couples heal and renew their marriages. The next Weekend Program begins February 21-23, 2020. For more information or to register visit our website at HelpOurMarriage.com or contact Gus & Edda Rivera at (510) 709-6063.

**ctkAlive! Winter Scripture Study Sessions**


**Parish Stewardship 1/1-1/4-5**

- Regular Collection: $3282.14
- Christmas: $1270.00
- Maintenance: $45.00
- Donuts: $30.00

Thank You For Your Support!

2020 Calendars are still available in the back of the Church.

**New Parishioner?**

We welcome those of you that are new to our parish. Be sure to fill out a registration form found on the tables in the back of the church. You can drop it in a collection basket or bring it to the office in Room 2.

**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 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 info: contact us at jwitherspoon@cfcsoakland.org.

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Chris Stefanick - world-renowned Catholic author and speaker - will be presenting a life-changing event called REBOOT! Live! It is the fun, inspiring and practical experience of applying the beauty and genius of the heart of the Gospel to every aspect of your life.

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church/Concord
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
7:00pm to 9:30pm
Info/Purchase Tickets: Tickets $25 925.672.5800 x2229
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