**Week At A Glance**

**Mon, Jan 14**
- Parish Office Open 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- Lector’s Practice, 7 pm

**Tues, Jan 15**
- Parish Office Open 10 am-2 pm
- Card & Game Party, 12 pm

**Wed, Jan 16**
- Scripture Study, Rm 5 9:30 am
- Parish Office Open 11 am-3 pm

**Thurs, Jan 17**
- Enrichment, Rm 5 9:30 am
- Parish Office Open 11 am-3 pm

**Upcoming Mass Intentions**

Sat 1/12 5 pm - Ron Klimczak †
Sun 1/13 9:30 am - Fr. Carl Seewald, Blessings
Mon 1/14 7:30 am - Virginia Cook †
Tues 1/15 7:30 am - Frank Gomes †
Thurs 1/17 7:30 am - John Chartz †
Fri 1/18 7:30 am - Rose Tavormina †
Sat 1/19 5 pm - Baby Josephine Vierra †

**Ministers Schedule:**

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<th>Mass</th>
<th>Sat. 5 pm</th>
<th>Sun. 9:30 am</th>
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<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
<td>R. Kuca</td>
<td>R. Gigoux</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.L.O.W.</td>
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<td>T. Nguyen</td>
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<td>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</td>
<td>S. Karges</td>
<td>E. Hites</td>
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<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>F. McCormick</td>
<td>Takaful</td>
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<td>SACRISTAN</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
<td>J. Jury</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: 1/14</td>
<td>P. Walton, C. Ellis</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: 1/22</td>
<td>J. Brady, M. Lenahan</td>
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Dear Friends,

We are still in the Christmas season, and we know that “home for the holidays” has taken on a whole new meaning this year for the victims of the fire in Paradise and beyond. Our Franciscan retreat center in Danville accommodated nearly a hundred victims for Christmas. Here is an excerpt from their weekly bulletin:

“Ordinarily, San Damiano shuts down at Christmas. But this was no ordinary Christmas! When word got out that San Damiano would be home to 90 adult and children survivors of the Camp Fire, Christmas miracles began happening. Donations of clothing, food, gift cards, massages, haircuts, toys, music and much more came pouring in. Like Magi, four television stations traveled to us to report the good news. Over 200 of you volunteers made this possible. One of the victims, Mandi Moons summarized his feeling this way: "My kids and I could not have felt more welcomed and blessed with such beautiful people, in the most beautiful, peaceful place I have ever been. We will never forget this time spent with all of you in some of our most darkest of days. You all have given us the sense of family and that’s something my kids don’t know much about to begin with, so for that I thank you with all my heart."

Nearly 90 have died in the Northern California fire known as the Camp Fire, though the number of people still missing has dropped from thousands to a single digit. The fire began Nov. 8 and as of Dec. 3, the blaze was entirely contained, after having consumed 150,000 acres of land and 18,000 structures. John Watkins, director of Catholic Charities and Social Concerns for the Diocese of Sacramento said that several local aid organizations have been coordinating efforts to help survivors, setting up booths and holding events at the Disaster Resource Center (DRC) in Chico, CA.

Father Michael Ritter, one of the priests from St. John the Baptist Church in Chico, CA said that for many undocumented members of the community in need, and even for legal immigrants who may have lost their documentation in the fire, there is a discomfort with approaching FEMA — a federal agency — at the DRC. “Our hope is that the parish provides a place of greater confidence or trust, where people who maybe wouldn't be able to approach a federal agency for support can get the same kinds of service,” he said. “What the church does offer is help for anyone who needs help, and whether one's documented or not is not a question.”

Outside of Chico, the small city of Paradise was almost completely destroyed by the fire. Nearly all the buildings belonging to St. Thomas More Parish succumbed to the blaze. Jim Collins, leader of relief efforts at the parish, said, “We have an expectation of about 80% [of our 800 parishioners] burned out of their homes, and maybe 20% [of their homes] still standing.” According to him about 80% across the board have lost everything.

During the collection for fire victims, CTK and St. Stephen Parishes raised nearly $45,000.00, which will directly go to St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Paradise. We have another Social Justice collection at CTK coming up next week, January 19-20th. This collection will be sent to 3 charities working closely with the fire victims. These three groups are reaching out to the poor and needy in a special way.

1. St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. John the Baptist Church, Chico, CA
2. St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus 7773, St. Thomas More Parish, Paradise, CA
3. Diocese of Sacramento Fire Assistance Fund (for free tuition for children of fire victims).

Fr. Paulson
I would like to invite you to attend our next Town Hall meeting with Fr. Paulson and the Finance Committee on February 3rd, Sunday after the 9:30 am Mass. We will look at our balanced budget for 2019 and our pending capital projects. Fr. Paulson will field questions on any topic of interest to the community.

Save the Date! Women’s Retreat will be held on Friday, March 8 from 6 pm - 9 pm; continuing on Saturday, March 9 from 9 am - 5 pm. Theme will be: Healing of Memories, Family Tree Healing. Presenter is Fr. Nathan Castle, OP. Retreat will be held at St. Stephen Church in WC.

Enrollment for Christ the King’s 2019-2020 School Year begins soon! Please join our school community for Mass on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 9:15 am followed by a schoolwide Open House. We have lots of wonderful things to share! Applications will be available mid January on the school website at ctkschool.org.

You’re Invited! Rev. Martin Luther King’s Celebration, Monday, January 21 at 12:00. Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave, WC. Dr. Yvette Flunder, Sr. Pastor of the City of Refuge UCC Congregation will speak on “What Does God Require? A Prescription for Systemic Change”. The Voices of St. Benedict’s Gospel Choir (Fr. Vince’s new parish) and Dwight Stone, pianist. Refreshments and conversation follow. No charge. Any questions, contact animo3@pacbell.net.

Parish Stewardship Jan. 5/6
Regular Collection $4212.00
Maintenance $ 201.00
Solemnity of Mary $ 265.00
Coffee/Donuts $ 39.00
Thank you!

Thursday, January 17, Enrichment will feature a video on St. John and St. James at 9:30 am in Room 5. All are welcome.

BRIDGE & GAME PARTY - Please come and join us at St. Stephen Parish Hall on Tuesday, January 15th at noon for an afternoon of games (bridge, dominoes, Rummikub, etc.). This is a chance to socialize with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome. Please bring a sandwich for your lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Call Walter Lang at 939-2430 if you have any questions.

Grief Support at St. Bonaventure: The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was unexpected and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Healing the Heart is a 6 week program that will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 until 9:00 pm from February 12th to March 19th. We invite you to join us and let us accompany you on your healing journey. For more information and to register, call Helene at 925-681-8105.

St. Bonaventure Ecumenical Choir Concert Benefit for Paradise Churches: St. Bonaventure, in collaboration with other Christian Communities in Concord, is hosting a fundraising concert to aid Christian Communities in Paradise, CA affected by the camp fire. Saturday, January 19 at 2 pm. 5562 Clayton Road, Concord. Funds collected will go to St. Thomas More Catholic Church and Paradise United Methodist, both heavily damaged in the fire.

Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Those who work for justice know what it’s like to be "struggling hard and carrying heavy loads". The work is emotionally tough at times, and it is unending. It's no wonder that so many people who sincerely believe in the work eventually burn-out. That's why it's essential for people of faith to ground their justice work in God's love and grace. Here Jesus calls those of us who need rest to himself. Jesus does not offer a rest from work. Jesus uses the language of the hard work, and talks about a "yoke" like you would use to plow. The yoke Jesus wants us to take on is one that will bind us both to him, and to his call for justice. If anything, it's an increased commitment. Jesus offers us not an end to our work, but a new way of working. He offers a different perspective. He offers us a weight that is lighter and easier for us to bear because we do not carry it alone. Jesus isn't a harsh taskmaster who stands aside while we do the work. He's humble, and gentle, and he does the heavy lifting with us. And in that, we find rest. If you've ever carried something heavy for a long time, you know it's easier if someone is holding on to the other end, and you know you go further if someone is letting you put it down from time to time. Jesus is offering us a job, but he's also offering us a hand. The more we lean on him in our work, the farther and the faster we will go.

Prayer: Jesus, I'm ready to take on your yoke. Let's get to work, together. Amen
Annette Roux, Pastoral Associate, Ret.

Mission Statement: To Live and to Love in Christ