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

Week At A Glance

Mon, Jan 28
• 9:30 am -1:30 pm, Office Open
• 7 pm, Lector’s Practice

Tues, Jan 29
• 10 am-2 pm, Office Open

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

Thurs, Jan 31
• 11 am-3 pm, Office Open

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat 1/26 5 pm - Lynn & Marv Amaral, Anniversary Blessings
Sun 1/27 9:30 am - Norma Thompson †
Mon 1/28 7:30 am - Juana Najera Boothe †
Sat 2/2 5 pm - Peter Engel † and family

Schedule of Masses

Mon - Fri: 7:30 am  Chapel, Room 1
Saturday:  5 pm
Sunday:  9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday,  4:30 pm

Ministers Schedule:

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<th>Ministers</th>
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<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.I.O.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</td>
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<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
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<td>SACRISTAN</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: Jan. 28</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: Feb. 4</td>
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Christ the King Catholic Church
199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill
925-682-2486

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Luke 4:18
Catholic Community Lights Charism, Culture, and Climate

From their initiation Catholic schools in the United States have assimilated students into the Catholic faith, provided solid academic ideals, and prepared students for positive adult citizenship. Youniss and Convey (2000) reported the importance of Catholic education in society: “By teaching students to bring their ethical values and religious beliefs to their involvement to secular society, Catholic education makes a significant contribution to the preparation of students for citizenship in a democracy” (p. 216).

A closer look showed that the Ursuline Sisters established the first Catholic school in 1727. Bouscaren and Ellis (1958) wrote about the three national meetings called the Plenary Councils of Baltimore, and attended by bishops of Dioceses throughout the United States, which began in 1852 and ended with the third council in 1884. The documents from the third Plenary Council of Baltimore specified that pastors were responsible for establishing Catholic schools in consultation with the bishop of the Diocese, and that they were responsible, if possible, for providing free schooling to the student. Bouscaren and Ellis further related that at the same time, a commission was assigned to set up a catechism, also known as the Baltimore Catechisms, or a teaching of the Catholic Christian doctrine that was taught until Vatican II.

McLau gin’s (2005) research showed that Catholic schools in big metropolitan cities in America were initially populated with first generation Catholics. Eventually, this group outgrew the larger cities and dispersed to suburban areas, where newer Catholic schools were established to fulfill educational and spiritual needs. The social teachings of the Catholic Church have kept in mind those less advantaged. Even though the total number of Catholic schools has decreased over time, almost half of the Catholic schools have remained in the urban and inner-city areas. In the United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing, McDonald and Shultz (2010) reported that although in the past 35 years Catholic schools have declined in number the church has not misplaced its focus on educating students and in particular those less advantaged and in need. Schools in inner city areas have still accounted for 43.0% of all Catholic schools in spite of economic crisis and population attrition and rural schools declined while suburban schools continued to increase.

Savage (2004) pointed out that “Catholic educational leaders will always be challenged by the dilemma of setting tuition at an affordable level and paying appropriate wages to teachers and administrators” (p. 184). In their United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment, and Staffing, McDonald and Schultz (2012) disclosed that the total full-time teaching staff in Catholic elementary and secondary schools has declined with religious and clergy now accounting for only a small percent of the population.

McDonald and Schultz (2010) noted the following:

In 2009-2010, the total, full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools was 154,316. Over the past decade, the lay faculty percentages increased from 85% to the current 96.3%. At present, 3.7% of the professional staff is religious and clergy. (Staffing of Catholic Schools section, paragraph 1)

Although most Catholic school students are Catholic the trend over the past several years is that non-Catholic student enrollment has risen. The United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing, McDonald and Shultz (2010) reported that the majority of Catholic school students are Catholic however; non-Catholic student enrollment has risen from 2.7% in 1970 and today stands at 14.5%. Catholic schools and other religious and non-religious private schools account for a small percent of the educational systems in the United States. As Youniss and Convey (2000) disclosed, “Only about 6% of American students attend Catholic Schools with a smaller proportion attending other religious or non-religious private schools” (p. 202).

As a Catholic educational leader, I am full of gratitude and humility as we approach Catholic School’s Week. I have never gone to work, only to school these past decades. Being a Catholic educator is a vocation, and the opportunity to minister to the families and with the faculty and staff of Christ the King Catholic School, each and every day, is a blessing.

What gives me tremendous hope are the awesome families who continue to sacrifice for this quality education, our faculty and staff who lead by example and give tremendously of their time, treasure, and talent, and our students who inspire us all for the better…for without them we are not. Our students are the reason our charism, mission, and philosophy thrive today. I have often stated that the lungs of the institution sit idle when our students are on break. When they are at school great promise, aptitude, and purpose exist.

Lastly, what separates us from the educational pack is a sense of community that Catholic schooling provides. I believe, this cannot be replicated to our level -- elsewhere.

Abundant blessings,
Joe Silveira
Principal, Christ the King Catholic School
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 9:30am 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.

**St. Stephen Parish Hall:** One of the great assets of St. Stephen Parish is our **beautiful multi-use parish hall** that can accommodate over 200 people. A commercial kitchen and ample parking make this a fantastic choice for family celebrations, parties and community events. There is a discounted rental fee for St. Stephen and CTK parishioners. For more details, call the parish office at 274-1341.

**Healing Mass ~ Anointing of the Sick**
Saturday, February 9 at 10:30 am

*Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the Church and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14).* All are welcome to join us at CTK for a parish Mass and celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Bring relatives and friends from local care facilities – those who are able to come. A simple reception will follow. Questions? Sr. Dominic 925-246-1122.

**Volunteer with the American Red Cross!** Volunteers are needed at the Red Cross Pleasant Hill Blood Donation Ctr. Volunteers greet and register donors, serve snacks, etc. To register, contact www.redcross.org/volunteer or 510-421-4527.

**Parish Stewardship Jan. 19/20**

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<td>Donuts</td>
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**“You show me the path of life.” Psalm 16:11**

"We must remember the worlds our ancestors traveled," writes Luci Tapahanso, the Poet Laureate of the Dine (Navajo) people. "Always wear the songs they gave us. Remember we are made of prayers. We leave, wrapped in blankets of love and wisdom." Central to Dine spiritual traditions is the *hozhonijii* or Blessingway, a healing prayer ceremony. Unlike other healing ceremonies, the Blessingway’s purpose isn’t to cure illness, but instead to restore right relationships with one’s self, other people, and the rest of creation. Throughout the Blessingway, one prays for balance and harmony: "May it be blessed before me, may it be blessed behind me, may it be blessed above me and below me, and may it be blessed all around me. May I always walk in blessing." Psalm 16 also prays for God’s presence to surround the journey. "I keep the Lord always before me;" the Psalmist proclaims, "God is at my right hand." Like the Blessingway, Psalm 16 affirms the blessing of that presence: "Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices … You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy." The path of life. The way of blessing. Whether Hebrew or Dine, the promise is the same. God is with us on the journey, wrapping us in blankets of love and wisdom, blessing us with beauty every step of the way.

**Prayer:** May we remember we are made of prayers. May we always walk in blessing. *Amen*

Annette Roux, Pastoral Asst., Ret.

**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. StephenChurch.**

**THE CUPBOARD IS BARE!**
Thank you to all St. Stephen parishioners for the support and donations you have given St. Vincent de Paul over the years. You have been very gracious with your response to our requests in the past. We are blessed to be able to help those who are in need and thankful for your generosity. During recent months, client calls have depleted our pantry. **Now, we have very little to give out.** Please help us restock our pantry with non-perishable, unopened, and un-expired items such as canned chicken, chili, rice, refried beans, tomato/spaghetti sauce, Rice-a Roni, canned vegetables/fruit, and dried beans/peas/lentils. **THE NEED IS ONGOING!**

**Mission Statement: To Live and to Love in Christ**