OUR FACILITIES ARE ON LOCK-DOWN. Offices and the church are closed.

Mon, Mar 23
6:00 pm, Parish Reconciliation Service-CANCELLED

Fri, Mar 27
Noon, Stations of the Cross-CANCELLED

Week At A Glance

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”
John 9:39

Schedule of Masses

Sunday: 9:30 am
Confessions: Saturday - 4:30 pm

Parish Mission: To Live and Love in Christ

Ministers Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Sat. 5:00 pm</th>
<th>Sun. 9:30 am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mass currently cancelled due to coronavirus. Mass available online at ctkph.org.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNTERS: Mar 23</td>
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<td>M. Peare, R. Gigoux</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: Mar 30</td>
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<td>J. Schnur, M. Lenahan</td>
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Christ the King Catholic Church (Sister Parish)
195A Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I was watching the movie “Forrest Gump” recently and heard that famous line, “Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re gonna’ get.” Truer words were never spoken. Who thought when we rang in the New Year that we’d be dealing with a viral pandemic less than 90 days later? So, what are we to do with our new reality?

Being in an “at risk” group, those 65 and older, I offer two thoughts. First, listen to the professionals, the CDC, and civil agencies. Take their warnings seriously and take necessary precautions. Don’t put yourself in harm’s way if you can avoid it. My second thought is, “Let’s not panic.” While different than previous national crises, this has the central earmark of every past emergency. Hostile attacks, financial meltdowns and political upheavals are always characterized by fear and uncertainty. In every case, the fear of the unknown causes temporary paralysis. But that gives way to collective resolve, unity and eventual recovery. Have faith, things will get better!

Beyond taking care of ourselves, we need to continue helping the less fortunate. The homeless and hungry are no less so because of the pandemic. All of us who are able are called to step up and help those in greater need. Albeit with a “skeleton crew,” our St. Vincent de Paul Society team continues to assist those in need. Instead of bags of groceries, they are now providing assistance in the form of vouchers. The usual collection for SVdP is on the 5th Sunday of the month, but, with masses not being celebrated, we worry that donations might be lower than usual. If you’re able to help this vital cause, please drop your donations at the church office or look into online giving. If the office is empty, there’s a secure mail slot on the driveway side door near the front of the office where you can leave your donations. Thanks, in advance, for your help.

Lent looks different this year. Since the orders to “shelter in place,” we will discontinue our Friday Stations of the Cross. We will also forego the usual communal Reconciliation services. Our priests plan to hear confessions, in the confessionals, behind the screen, from 3:30 until 4:30 PM on Saturdays. But, if you can’t make it to confession don’t worry about it for now. God willing, the pandemic will be a distant memory sooner than rather than later, and our lives will return to normal.

Perhaps one benefit to be derived from the current situation is having time to commit to prayer. While things seem grim, we need to remember that, “With God, all things are possible.” In light of the pandemic, each of us might want to strike up a daily conversation with the God who loved us into being and is ready to help us. If you haven’t been checking in with the Lord of the universe regularly, now might be a good time to get into the habit! God’s waiting to hear from each of us, and if we listen carefully, we might just discover that He’s a great conversationalist!

Even though public masses are not offered now, be sure to watch the CTK Facebook and website every day for video streaming of daily mass, starting at 9:00 AM and available throughout the rest of the day.

Peace & Blessings to all!
Deacon John

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020

First Reading:
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
It is about 1000 B.C., 250 years after Moses brought God’s people from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. It took a long time for these people from different tribes to unify as a nation. The turning point came when David became their king. The story of how he was chosen is told in today’s reading. Samuel was a venerable old prophet. Jesse was a resident of Bethlehem and had eight sons, the youngest of whom was David.

Second Reading:
Ephesians 5:8-14
Ephesus was located on the western coast of what is today Turkey. The Christians there existed in a society dominated by pagan values, which today’s reading equates with darkness.

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Due to COVID-19 and the safety of our parishioners, mostly aging, we have had to cancel a number of events:

* Our Wednesday Soup Supper and presentations, including our Seder, have been cancelled.

* Our Scripture Study and Enrichment Group have been cancelled.

* Sunday Masses have been cancelled.

* Weekday Masses have been cancelled.

* Friday Lenten Stations of the Cross at Noon are cancelled.

* Parish Reconciliation Service at 6:00 pm, March 23, in the Church has been cancelled.

This is all very fluid and can change day-by-day. If you are not receiving our parish updates by email, this is a good way to stay connected and find out what is happening. Contact Chris Lang or the office and leave your name and email address if you would like to be added.

Brief updates will also be available on our St. Stephen website.

Mass Intentions: Our scheduled mass intentions will be prayed for at the live streamed daily mass at CTK. Our office will also call and see if you would like your intention changed to a later date. Please also pray for all our of parishioners that we survive this crisis.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Stewardship March 14/15</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Collection:</td>
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<td>Catholic Relief:</td>
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<td>Maintenance:</td>
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<td>Easter Flowers:</td>
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Thank You For Your Support!

Alternative to Sunday Mass:
CTK will be providing a virtual Mass during the crisis. You can watch the masses on the CTK website or Facebook page (Christ the King Catholic Community of Pleasant Hill).

We might not be able to attend Mass, but we can still keep up our prayers. The Sunday readings are always included on the cover page of the bulletin.

Regarding collections: We might not be having Mass with the convenient collections, but that doesn’t mean that our financial needs stop.

You can mail your envelopes in or hold onto them and drop them in the collection basket when Mass starts up again.

This weekend there is a second collection is for Catholic Relief Services. Please consider handling their envelope the same way you drop off your regular envelope.

We also have a St. Vincent de Paul 5th Sunday Collection coming up next weekend. The needs are still there even when our Mass is temporarily not.

Pray for all those affected by the Coronavirus

Peace
I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

— John 14:27