Week At A Glance

Mon, July 8
- 9:30 am-1 pm, Office Open
- 7 pm, Lector Practice

Tues, July 9
- 10 am-1 pm, Office Open

Wed, July 10
- 9:30 am, Scripture Study, Rm 1 Chapel
- 11 am-2 pm, Office Open

Thurs, July 11
- 11 am-2 pm, Office Open
- 2:30 pm, St. Vincent de Paul, Rm 6

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat 7/6 5:00 pm - Joseph Salerno †
Sun 7/7 9:30 am - Jane Austin Reynolds,
Birthday Blessings
Mon 7/8 7:30 am - Bernita Kennedy †
Tues 7/9 7:30 am - St. Stephen Parishioners
Wed 7/10 7:30 am - James Dempsey †
Fri 7/12 7:30 am - Shannon Dorsey,
Birthday Blessings
Sat 7/13 5:00 pm - Monica Balesteri,
Health Blessings

Schedule of Masses

Mon - Fri: 7:30 am (Chapel, Rm 1)
Saturday: 5 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 pm

 Ministers Schedule: 

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<th>Ministers Schedule:</th>
<th>July 13 - 14</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>Sat. 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
<td>J. Kurpinsky</td>
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<td>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</td>
<td>J. Holmes</td>
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<td>M. Lenahan</td>
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<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>R. Kuca</td>
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<td>SACRISTAN</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: July 8</td>
<td>W. Lang, J. Brady</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: July 15</td>
<td>J. Schnur, M. Lenahan</td>
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Christ the King Catholic Church (sister parish)
195A Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill
925-682-2486
Dear Friends,

Recently Catholic Cemeteries invited Sr. Dominic to offer their staff training in how they can best offer their services to the parishes they serve. One of the directors had pointed out to me while doing a committal at Queen of Heaven that they loved the way Christ the King conducts funerals. He said, “You have a team that works seamlessly to bring closure and comfort to the family.” And it is true. From meeting the grieving families to printing the funeral program, from welcoming the families at the doors to Eucharistic celebration, from good music to PowerPoint and video after communion, from putting out funeral parking signs to cleaning the Church and the surroundings, CTK offers a variety of services including grief counseling. Last week at the end of a Funeral Mass, one of our local morticians stopped me after mass, and told me how much they loved coming to CTK for funeral Masses. I am grateful to the staff and volunteers for their ministry especially to the grieving. Thank you.

Many people who attend a Catholic funeral for the first time will often remark how beautiful it is. Steeped in centuries-old custom and ritual as Catholic funeral rites are, that’s understandable. But the most important aspect about Catholic funerals is that they express the Christian hope in eternal life and the resurrection of the body on the last day. Every component of the Catholic funeral rites should express these fundamental beliefs and hopes. Our funeral rites are not “a celebration of life,” as they are referred to sometimes, but a privileged opportunity to return to God the gift of the deceased, hoping to usher them into paradise with the aid of our prayers. Our love for the departed is expressed after death, above all else, in our prayer for them.

One of the most inspiring things I have seen and done is to help people plan their own funeral before they die. It reminds us of our own mortality and our acceptance of it. There are many reasons why one should pre-plan one’s funeral. You want to ease the burden on your family. You want to assume the financial responsibility for your funeral. You want your family to have the benefit of a meaningful funeral. You want your final wishes to be followed. You want to be self-reliant and have your affairs in order at the end of your life. Once you have made your plans, it is important to share that with someone in your family as well as your parish priest or a parish staff. Sr. Dominic can assist you in this faith-filled decision of transitioning to God’s house.

What does our Leadership say about immigration: Pope Francis expressed his “immense sadness” upon seeing the image of the migrant father and child who drowned in their attempt to cross the Rio Grande, a Vatican spokesman said on June 26. At least 283 migrants died while attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border last year, according to U.S. border patrol. Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops echoed the pope’s grief and said the image of the drowned father and daughter demand action. “This image cries to heaven for justice. This image silences politics. Who can look on this picture and not see the results of the failures of all of us to find a humane and just solution to the immigration crisis?” said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Bishop Joe Vasquez of Austin. “Sadly, this picture shows the daily plight of our brothers and sisters. Not only does their cry reach heaven. It reaches us. And it must now reach our federal government,” they said.

The bishops stressed the respect due to every human person, created in the image of God, no matter their legal status or country of origin. “Recent reports of overcrowded and unsanitary conditions are appalling and unacceptable for any person in U.S. custody, but particularly for children, who are uniquely vulnerable,” they said. “Such conditions cannot be used as tools of deterrence. We can and must remain a country that provides refuge for children and families fleeing violence, persecution, and acute poverty.”

Paulson

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**Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

July 7, 2019

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 66:10-14**

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who lived after the Jews returned from exile. In today’s reading (which is a poem), the prophet sees a bright future for Jerusalem, and uses the image of God as a mother.

**Galatians 6:14-18**

In Galatia, a group of Christians attacked Paul’s credentials as an apostle and accused him of false teaching because he said people can be saved without abiding by Jewish law. In this passage from the end of his letter to the Galatians, Paul defends his right to teach, and stresses that faith in the law has been replaced by faith in Jesus.

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**PARISH STAFF CONTACTS**

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Rick Lejano, Youth Minister 676-0979

CTK Parish Office 682-2486

Religious Education 686-1017

Youth Ministry 676-0979
**Mission Statement:** To Live and to Love in Christ

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**PRAYER REQUESTS** – Please look over the names on our bulletin boards for those parishioners and friends needing special prayers. Our sister parish, Christ the King also has a prayer line - send your confidential prayer requests to prayedline@ctkph.org and we will pray for you.

**Special upcoming summer activities at St. Stephen:**

**Movie Nights:** Wednesdays, July 17 and August 14, 7 pm in the Parish Center – come and enjoy viewing movies on our new screens while feasting on popcorn and root beer floats. Movies TBD.

**Wine & Cheese:** July 13 and August 10, after the 5 pm Saturday Mass. Enjoy these warm summer nights in our cool Parish Center while socializing with a glass of wine.

**Movie Night at CTK -** Mark your calendar for Wednesday, July 10 at 7 pm in the parish hall. ctkAlive! brings you the new feature film, “The Temptation of Christ”. This is courtesy of CTK parishioners Sarah and Christopher Garcia, whose son, Mateo Ray plays Jesus as a young boy. Your free-will donation will benefit our SVdP Society. Check out the trailer at youtube.com/watch?v=5FS3Jo6bD6Y.

**Email Updates** – our parish office sends out important messages about upcoming events and special notices regarding parishioner deaths and sudden illnesses. If you would like to be on this email list, please contact our office to let them know you would like to be added and give them your email address. If you had been receiving updates in the past but haven’t seen any this year, your name might not have made it to our current list – call us to have it put back.

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**Join us for Coffee and Donuts** after the 9:30 am Mass this Sunday.

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**YOU ARE NEEDED!** Saint Stephen is kept alive through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Unfortunately, our needs are greater than our volunteer list. Besides office volunteers we need additional Ministers of Communion, Ushers, Altar Servers, Sacristans, and Lectors. You are already at Mass anyway; why not help out while you are here? Training is available for those new to any of these positions. Please contact Chris Lang or the parish office if you have time to step in and help.

**The Seminarians of the Diocese of Oakland will be hosting a Quo Vadis Day on Monday, July 22 from 9:30 am - 6:30 pm at the Youth Retreat Center in Lafayette. This day of gathering is open to young men ages 13-18. The cost is $20. To register or for more information, call 510-267-8356.**

**Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Are you looking for a community to support you? You are not alone. Please join us on Wednesday, July 17 at 7 pm in the Ministry Center’s Brian Joyce Rm for our ongoing peer support grief group. For more information, please call Donna at 510-381-3615.**

California Licensed Nurses, Doctors, NPs, PAs - **Be a Medical Missionary in your own backyard!** Can you help once per month or once every other month? Please join our volunteer team clinic located at St. Vincent de Paul Family Resource Center, RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic, 2210 Gladstone Dr., Pittsburgh. The clinic hours are Wednesdays 4 - 8 pm and Saturdays 9 am to noon. Contact the Clinic Operations Manager at 925-439-2009.
From the WLP Vault comes the Bible Story of Christmas featuring 8 Classic Christmas Carols and a reading of the Gospel of Luke 2: 4-20 by Bing Crosby! Also available on vinyl.

800-566-6150

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