Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, 
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. 

- Psalm 90:14

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

August 4, 2019 | Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### Week At A Glance

**Mon, Aug 5**  
- 9:30 am-1 pm, Office Open  
- 7 pm, Lector Practice 

**Tues, Aug 6**  
- 10 am-1 pm, Office Open 

**Wed, Aug 7**  
- 11 am-2 pm, Office Open  
- 5 pm, Pastoral Council, CTK 

**Thurs, Aug 8**  
- 11 am-2 pm, Office Open 

**Sat, Aug 10**  
- 5:45 pm, Wine & Cheese Social 

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### Schedule of Masses

**Mon - Fri: 7:30 am (Chapel, Rm 1)**

**Saturday: 5 pm**

**Sunday: 9:30 am**

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 pm

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### Ministers Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministers Schedule:</th>
<th>August 10 - 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mass</strong></td>
<td>Sat. 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</td>
<td>F. McCormick, J. Holmes, M. Milani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>F. McCormick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACRISTAN</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTERS: Aug 5</td>
<td>J. Stark, D. Mammola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTERS: Aug 12</td>
<td>W. Lang, J. Brady</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Upcoming Mass Intentions

**Sat 8/3 5:00 pm**  
- St. Stephen Parishioners 

**Wed 8/7 7:30 am**  
- Amanda Evelyn Smith † 

**Thur 8/8 7:30 am**  
- John Stenson †

**Sat 8/10 5:00 pm**  
- St. Stephen Parishioners 

**Sun 8/11 9:30 am**  
- Molly Widner †

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Christ the King Catholic Church (sister parish)  
195A Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill  
925-682-2486
Dear Friends,

Last Tuesday, the Staff, and the Parish Councils from St. Stephen and CTK welcomed 10 seminarians from Oakland, and gave them an experience of parish life and ministry, and extended to them our unique hospitality. They are wonderful young people, and let us keep them in our prayer.

A number of our projects are at their finishing point, and I would like to thank you for your continued generosity. We continue to receive envelopes for the rectory renovation and we priests are very grateful to you.

I have recently read an article about priesthood according to the vision of Pope Francis. Here are seven key concerns which have emerged from both Pope Francis’s spoken words and also the witness of his own priestly ministry.

1) **The strength of a priest depends on his relationship with Christ.** Pope Francis has said that the touchstone of how deeply a priest is living his vocation is the extent to which he seeks Christ in his daily life.

2) **Just as he must be close to Christ so the priest must be close to the people he serves.** In an age in which so many priests, bishops and curial officials are enslaved by administrative tasks, Pope Francis is summoning them to reprioritize toward the Church’s evangelical mission.

3) **As Pope Francis emphasized in the homily of his inaugural Mass, a priest’s authority must be linked to service, especially to the care and protection of the poorest, weakest, the least important and most easily forgotten.** Pope Francis, who was known as the “slum bishop” in Argentina because of his work among the poor, has said reaching out to those on the margins of society was “the most concrete way of imitating Jesus”.

4) **The priest must be a minister of mercy.** Pope Francis told a group of ten newly-ordained priests that the most important advice he could give them was simply, “Be merciful.” His motto Miserando Atque Eligendo (“Chosen Through the Eyes of Mercy”) highlights that his own vocation was born in an experience of God’s mercy, when as a 16-year-old boy he went to confession on the feast of the St Matthew, the great convert.

5) **The priest is called to a simplicity of life.** Diocesan priests do not take a vow of poverty, but commit themselves to a simple lifestyle.

6) **The priest must be a model of integrity.** There can be no place in priests for a haughty clericalism, any kind of abuse of their position or a concern to climb the ecclesial career ladder – Pope Francis is calling and requiring priests to understand that their authority derives not from worldly power but from personal integrity and humility in imitation of Christ.

7) **Finally the priest is to be a source of blessing for his people.** The anointing which he receives at his ordination is not meant just for himself – it is to flow through him to those he serves.

I am happy that I am called to be a priest in your midst, and the concerns expressed by the Pope have given me room for personal growth. Thank you for all you do for us priests especially your kind words and prayers. I would like to close with the words of our Holy Father, “Dear lay faithful, be close to your priests with affection and with your prayers, that they may always be shepherds according to God’s heart. And pray for those whom God is calling to be priests that they may respond to this call with humility and joy.”

Happy Summer! In the name of our community, I would like to thank Fr. Sebastian for his ministry in our parishes during the past weeks. He was truly awesome.

Fr. Paulson

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**Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**August 4, 2019**

**First Reading:**

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23

Ecclesiastes is one of the seven books in the Old Testament referred to as Wisdom books. Wisdom literature reflects on how to live in this world in a way that is pleasing to God. The author of this book calls himself Qoheleth, a term that perhaps means “teacher”. Qoheleth has a pessimistic view of life, in part because he doesn’t believe in life after death. The wisdom he teaches is that one should not be burdened by anxieties, but rather live each day as a gift from God.

**Second Reading:**

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

In our previous readings from Colossians, we have seen how Christ is the only mediator between God and the world, and how our baptism has made us one with Christ. The author will today remind us of the heights to which Christ has raised us, and then call upon us to live up to this.

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**PARISH STAFF CONTACTS**

Saint Stephen Parish Office 274-1341

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Deacon John

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Chris Lang, Bulletin Info. 939-2430

Joan Kurinsky/Nancy Gizdich

Bookkeeperssp@gmail.com

Maria Calderazzo, 274-1341

Music Director

Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP 246-1122

sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com

Deacon John Ashmore 686-1017

faithformation@ctkph.org

Rick Lejano, Youth Minister 676-0979

CTK Parish Office 682-2486

Religious Education 686-1017

Youth Ministry 676-0979
Join us for **Coffee and Donuts** after the 9:30 am Mass this Sunday.

We will be scheduling a **training for altar servers** – both returning and new, sometime in September – date to be determined. If you are not currently an altar server but would like to become one, please let the office know. This includes all youth, 4th grade and older, as well as adults.

**The Pleasant Hill Senior Center**, at 233 Gregory Lane, provides activities, classes, special events, day trips, and services for adults 50+. Notary service and memory screening are just a few of the free services available. The C.C. Café offers daily lunches and Chef Lunches are served on Fridays. A computer lab and video library are open for Senior Center Club members ($20.00 annually). Office hours are 9 to 4 (M-Th) and 9-3 (F). For more information see www.phseniorcenter.com.

**Picture this**: You’re waiting to get into heaven, and Jesus asks, “So what did you do to spread the Good News and make disciples for me?” You quickly reply, “Well, starting in the 2019-2020 school year, I taught Religious Education to children at Christ the King in Pleasant Hill.” Now’s the time to become a catechist. A young person is counting on you to share God’s word and love with them. Call or email Deacon John to discuss what grade you’d like to teach. (925) 682-2486, ext. 107 or faithformation@ctkph.org.

**New parishioner?** 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.

There are a number of open spots for **Mass Intentions** for both daily and weekend Masses. Call or stop by the office to remember your loved ones.

Next Saturday (Aug 10) after the 5:00 pm Mass we will have our **2nd Wine & Cheese Social** of the summer. Those of you that came to the last one know what a success it was. If you weren’t able to make the last one, be sure to come next Saturday.

**Grief Support at St. Bonaventure**:
Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. “Healing the Heart” is a 6-week program that will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 until 9:00 pm from September 10th to October 15th. The Grief Companions will share their experiences and there is time for small group sharing. 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 by September 5th.

**New parishioner?** 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.

**Mass Stewardship**

**July 27/28**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>$ 125.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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