Week At A Glance

Mon, Aug 26
• 9:30 am-1 pm, Office Open
• 7 pm, Lector Practice

Tues, Aug 27
• 10 am-1 pm, Office Open

Wed, Aug 28
• 11 am-2 pm, Office Open

Thurs, Aug 29
• 11 am-2 pm, Office Open

Schedule of Masses

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

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 pm

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat 8/24 5:00 pm - Pasqualina & Nico Mammola †
Sun 8/25 9:30 am - Gary Gumbert †
Mon 8/26 7:30 am - Anita Mahood, Birthday Blessings
Wed 8/28 7:30 am - Jeff Giuntini †
Sat 8/31 5:00 pm - Sheila Grilli †
Sun 9/1 9:30 am - Carol Thornton †
Today you should notice a glow on our two priests - Brian and Mario as they have just returned from a weeklong retreat at Santa Cruz. I welcome back our CTK school families who will be joining us at the 9:15am Mass. Bishop John Cummins will be here at the CTK 12:15pm Mass to join our ICF (Italian Catholic Federation) as they celebrate their ministry and faith.

I have been reading about Myanmar, previously known as Burma. I lived in N.E. India for many years, adjacent to Myanmar. In his letter, Cardinal Bo who is the bishop of Myanmar said recently that although Myanmar “has not known real peace for many, many decades… in the hearts and souls of every person in Myanmar, of every race and religion, lies a real yearning for peace.” In order to achieve that peace, he says, the people of Myanmar “must learn to love the diversity of our country and seek unity within it.” Myanmar has gone through the worst form of violence against hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya which forced them from their homes in the predominantly Buddhist nation, which some have termed ethnic cleansing. Unfortunately for the most part, the world watched in silence. Most refugees have crossed by land into Bangladesh, while others have taken to the sea to reach Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Nobel Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, who had been hailed as an icon of democracy and resistance to the dictatorial rule, has been widely criticized for her silence. Describing it as a fall from grace, human right groups have asked, “What happen to Aung San Suu Kyi?"

“When we look at modern man, we have to face the fact…that modern man suffers from a kind of poverty of the spirit, which stands in glaring contrast to his scientific and technological abundance; We’ve learned to fly the air like birds, we’ve learned to swim the seas like fish, and yet we haven’t learned to walk the Earth as brothers and sisters...” Those words of Martin Luther King Jr are so true for our country and so many others like Myanmar today. As I write this column, I am personally struggling with my own mission in our polarized society which includes our own Catholic Church. Would that be said about me and men of collar like me, “What happened to our pastors? Why are they silent?”

In the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace’s publication The Church and Human Rights, we are told: “If we Christians wish to be peacemakers and to spread harmony among nations, we cannot ‘remain indifferent in the face of the many grave and often systematic violations of human rights...’” Pope Francis, in his speech in Naypyidaw in November 2017, acknowledged that: “The future of Myanmar must be peace, a peace based on respect for the dignity and rights of each member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity, respect for the rule of law, and respect for a democratic order that enables each individual and every group – none excluded – to offer its legitimate contribution to the common good.” He is absolutely right. I am convinced that we Christians have a duty to be peace makers, not peace keepers. In the words of Peace Ofure, “Peacemakers share the perspective that peace must first be disrupted in order to allow for greater peace to enter. Peacemakers take initiative to create spaces for brave conversations. Peacemakers are active about building an environment for peace to be possible.

Paulson

Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time
August 25, 2019

First Reading:
Isaiah 66:18-21

When the Jews returned from exile in Babylon, they found their beloved Jerusalem in shambles. In today’s passage, the prophet looks ahead to better days when people from foreign lands will flock to Jerusalem as the city God built.

Second Reading:
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

The Letter to the Hebrews was written to people who had become dispirited and were losing faith. The author quotes a text from the Old Testament book of Proverbs, and finds in it encouraging words.
Join us for Coffee and Donuts after the 9:30 am Mass this Sunday.

IMPORTANT – There will be no Coffee & Donuts on Labor Day weekend unless someone comes forward and volunteers to handle the first Sunday of each month. Please call the office right away if you can help.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is beginning on September 5th. If you are seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and/or First Eucharist you are invited to join us. Time is TBD. Please contact Fr. Mario at frmario@ctkph.org for more info.

For more than 20 years, Christ the King and St. Stephen Parish’s have participated in the Oakland Diocese CYO basketball season. The program is available for girls and boys in grades 3 through 8. To register, simply go to the Christ the King CYO website: CTKCYOHOOPS.ORG. There you will find a specific link to the organization’s sportability page. Registration is open through September 5, 2019. For questions, please email ctkcyohoops@gmail.com.

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.

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.

**ctkAlive! Scripture Study at Christ the King** - Join us for an in-depth, prayerful exploration of the Acts of the Apostles and the Conversion of St. Paul. The six weekly sessions begin Tues., Sept. 10 in the CTK Ministry Center. Choose either 9-10:30 am or 7 - 9:30 pm. Facilitator: Al Garrotto. Pre-register at algarrotto@comcast.net.

**Retreat: Spirituality and Conscious Aging.** This retreat will explore the benefits and joys as well as the challenges and concerns around retirement and aging. Discover how we can share our Spirit-given gifts, talents, and experience in new ways that bring joy to ourselves and others and give continued meaning and purpose to our lives. San Damiano Retreat Center, Friday evening September 6, 6 pm to Saturday, September 7 until 5 pm. Presented by Jim Briggs, retired Executive Director of the School of Applied Theology. For information go to www.sandamiano.org or phone # 925-837-9141.

**3 CTK Author’s Event!**

Three published CTK authors, Fr. Paulson, Al Garrotto and Dr. Joan Savarese will talk about their books, read a few passages, discuss the moderator’s topics and take audience questions on Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 pm in the CTK parish hall. **All are welcome!** No need to read books prior to event! Come, enjoy the interesting topics and the authors’ back stories!

**Confirma- tion Registration** - If you are a Sophomore or Junior in high school and would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation this year; please download a registration form at ctkym.org. Please call the Youth Ministry Office if you have questions at 676-0979.

If you are looking for a group of friends that share your faith and desire to have fun, look no further! **CTK Youth Group** is for all high school students who are interested in building positive relationships, growing closer to God and having fun while doing it! We offer weekly programs, service projects and adventure trips! Thursdays, 7 pm to 8:15 pm. Calendar and sign ups at ctkym.org.

**Do you have young children?** Are you hoping to grow in your faith as a family and looking to connect with other young families? If so, join us for our upcoming **Young Families Ministry Meeting**! We promote faith development, family support, and service within Christ the King. When: Sunday, Sept. 1 after 9:15 Mass. Where: Rooms A/B in the parish hall. **RSVP:** YoungFamiliesCTK@gmail.com.

**Parish Stewardship August 17/18**

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