TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 8, 2019

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

Psalm 90:14

Week At A Glance

Mon, Sept 9
• 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Office Open
Tues, Sept 10
• 10 am-2 pm, Office Open
Wed, Sept 11
• 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
Thurs, Sept 12
• 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
• 7 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Sun, Sept 15
• 10:30 am, Town Hall Meeting
• 3 pm, Tongan Mass

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat 9/7 5:00 pm - Laurella Kerr †
Sun 9/8 9:30 am - Pasquelina Mammola †
Wed 9/11 7:30 am - Paul Battaglia †
Sat 9/14 5:00 pm - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sun 9/15 9:30 am - Jean Portello †

Schedule of Masses

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

Saturday: 5 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday - 9:30 am

Ministers Schedule: September 14 - 15

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<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Sat. 5:00 pm</th>
<th>Sun. 9:30 am</th>
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<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
<td>R. Kuca</td>
<td>P. Reno</td>
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<td>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</td>
<td>J. Kurpinsky</td>
<td>L. Morin</td>
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<td>S. Kuca</td>
<td>J. Patel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>R. Kuca</td>
<td>M. Lenahan</td>
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<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>J. Kurpinsky</td>
<td>Veamatahau</td>
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<td>SACRISTAN</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
<td>Ah Yee</td>
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<td>COUNTERS:</td>
<td>J. Schnur, M. Lenahan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 9</td>
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<td>COUNTERS:</td>
<td>W. Lang, J. Brady</td>
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<td>Sept 16</td>
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Christ the King Catholic Church (sister parish)
195A Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill
925-682-2486
Arsonists have set God's Cathedral aflame,” states Avery Davis Lamb, student, scholar, and activist, studying the intersection of Christianity and the environment at Duke Divinity School and the Nicholas School of the Environment. According to Avery, in the Amazon rainforest, home to hundreds of thousands of animal species, 40,000 plant species, and nearly a million indigenous people, fires are raging, destroying the ecological buttresses of one of the most biodiverse and important ecosystems in the world. “These creatures are a testament to God’s good creation, a living, breathing cathedral, shaped by the evolutionary forces of God, and entrusted to human hands,” states Avery Davis Lamb. He further states that the fires are set by human hands. “Emboldened by administration of the anti-environment Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, people are starting fires across the rainforest to force land open for agriculture. This tactic, called slash-and-burn, is illegal during Brazil’s dry season, which runs from March to November.”

The bishops of Latin America, seeing the devastation being caused to the region, released a statement on Thursday called “We raise our voice for the Amazon rainforest.” “The bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean want to raise our concern over the gravity of this tragedy that not only has a local or a regional impact, but of planetary proportions.” The prelates also urge the governments of the Amazonian countries - particularly Brazil and Bolivia - the United Nations and the international community to take “serious measures” to save the planet’s lungs. “If the Amazon suffers, the whole world suffers,” they said. Pope Francis called for a global commitment to put out the amazon fires stating that the amazon region was essential for the health of the planet.

In our modern culture, we too often place profits above people, security for ourselves above security for all. Ecological disasters such as Amazon fires have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable people especially the poor, the sick and the elderly. “The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole.” (USCCB)

As a parish I would like to incorporate environmental stewardship into the full identity and mission of our church community, such that care for creation becomes part of the ethos of our life together. I am so proud of our school that has already embraced this moral call and are helping our children to care for God’s creation. They recycle everything every day. Second, individually we need to become responsible stewards in our own relationship to that which is directly in our care. Each of us has a small piece of creation for which we are directly responsible, namely our living space—an apartment or house and perhaps some land. We can make a difference, every single day. We have it in our hands to make daily choices that can alleviate our adverse impact on Earth and help to restore God’s creation. I invite you to share these positive attitudes to creation at your places of work and ministry.

It is impossible to walk away from the ecological disasters around the world without in some way feeling the desire to nurture creation. In those fires and governmental indifference, it is easy to see the hope of stopping climate change go up in flames. And perhaps it should. Perhaps we’ve moved beyond the time for hope and into the time for action. The empathy to look in the eye of the suffering of God’s creatures. The valor to fight like hell for the cathedral of this world, and recognize that we may not win. The grace to love each other, both human and non-human, in this climate-changed world.

~ Fr. Paulson
Join us for **Coffee & Donuts after Mass** this Sunday. We still need someone to come forward and volunteer on the first Sunday of every month otherwise hospitality on that day will be dropped.

Our parish office **resumes regular hours this week**. If you can help once a week in the office or if you can be a substitute when needed, please contact the office and let us know.

**Save the date** – Saturday, October 12, at 6:00 pm, we will be having our first ever **Bunco Night** at St. Stephen. Never played Bunco? This will be a fun excuse to give it a try.

Looking for the latest on our parish? Plan on attending a **Town Hall Meeting** in the parish center on **Sunday, September 15**, right after the 9:30 am Mass. Fr. Paulson will update us and answer any of our questions.

**New parishioner?** We welcome those of you that are new to our parish. 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.

Fr. Denis Des Rosiers requests the pleasure of your presence at a special Mass and reception celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday, September 22, 2019. **Mass is at 4:00 pm** followed by a reception in our parish center. No gifts, please. If you would like to bring something, hors d’oeuvres would be appreciated and encouraged. Please contact the parish office if you are able to attend and if you will be bringing a dish to share.

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.

**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 parish hall. **All are welcome!**

On Saturday, September 28 at 10 am, we will be having a **training for altar servers**, both returning and new. 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. Plan on being there - and spread the word looking for more volunteers.

**Confirmation 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.

**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 - 8:30 pm. **Facilitator: Al Garrotto. Pre-register at algarrotto@comcast.net.**

**Parish Stewardship Aug 31/Sept 1**

- Regular: $ 5,572.61
- Maintenance 29.00
- Flowers 254.00

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