God wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.
1 Timothy 2:4

Week At A Glance

Sun, Sept 22
- 4 pm, Fr. Denis 50th Anniversary Mass
- 5 pm, Fr. Denis Reception

Mon, Sept 23
- 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Office Open
- 7 pm, Lector Practice

Tues, Sept 24
- 10 am-2 pm, Office Open
- 5 pm, Pastoral Council @ CtK

Wed, Sept 25
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open

Thurs, Sept 26
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
- 7 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sat, Sept 28
- 10 am, Altar Server Training

Schedule of Masses

Monday - Friday 7:30 am (Chapel, Rm 1)

Saturday: 5 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday - 4:30 pm

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat 9/21 5:00 pm - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sun 9/22 9:30 am - Mark Paolini †
Sat 9/28 5:00 pm - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sun 9/29 9:30 am - Jean Portello †
Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that Pope Francis has cleared the way for the canonization of an Indian nun Blessed Mariam Thresia, the foundress of the congregation of the Holy Family (This Holy Family order is different from the ones in the US). Sr. Thresia, belonging to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church was born in Puthenchira, (around 10 miles from where I was born and brought up) on 26 April 1876, she died in Kuzhikkattussery on 8 June 1926. Devout and prayerful, young Thresia resisted her parents' plan to have her married at a very young age, as per tradition. Instead, she chose to lead a life of simplicity and austerity, despite belonging to a wealthy farming family. She is known for her extraordinary charity, especially a preferential love for the poorest of the poor. She was declared venerable on 28 June 1999 and was beatified on 9 April 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II in Rome.

My sister-in-law, Mary who hails from the same village as Sr. Thresia was a teacher for 25 years in their school. Sr. Thresia will be canonized on Sunday, October 13, 2019 in the Vatican, and I am planning to attend the services. It means so much to me and our people to have one of our own declared a saint. There is growing enthusiasm even among the Hindus who live around the convent in Kerala where the nun lived and worked. “Mother is not an ordinary Christian for us,” P.K. Mohanan, a member of the village council for Kuzhikkattussery, told one of the leading papers. “She is an icon of love and charity. All of us respect her,” A group of five Holy Family nuns live in San Francisco, who minister in St. Mary’s hospital. I celebrate masses for them often.

The others to be canonized on the same day are Blessed John Henry Newman from England, Italian Blessed Josephine Vannini, foundress of the Daughters of St. Camillus; Brazilian Blessed Irmã Dulce Pontes of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God; and Swiss Blessed Marguerite Bays, virgin and Third Order Franciscan.

I don’t know if you have been following the news about the Vatican struggling with its own financial woes. The Holy See’s deficit doubled in 2018 to roughly $76.7 million on a budget of about $330 million. Fox Business news network described it, “The Vatican doesn't need a miracle just yet, but it may soon if it cannot get its financial house in order.” Pope Francis ordered officials to close a ballooning budget deficit in Vatican City and to put an end to mismanaged spending in the Catholic Church’s global headquarters. “I ask you to study all measures deemed necessary to safeguard the economic future of the Holy See and to ensure that they are put into effect as soon as possible,” the Pontiff wrote in a letter to Cardinal Reinhard Marx, head of the Vatican’s financial oversight council.

Critics of the Pope have pointed to the Vatican’s lax approach to controlling the budget, saying redundant jobs and a costly car fleet elevate costs, while real-estate holdings are sometimes not maintained and rents often aren’t collected. The Vatican also loaned 32 million to a Catholic hospital restructuring due to financial hardship. About 45% of Vatican City’s budget of $330 million, is devoted to salaries for 3,000 employees, according to the Wall Street Journal, many of whom are in non-essential roles, budget experts argue. Officials say the Pope won’t approve layoffs. Sources have said that the Vatican continues to fail in transparency, compliance and vigilance. Economic reform is a complex process, and I believe that we clerics must allow lay people of integrity to manage church assets and that they must act with due transparency.

It is the reality of our Church practically everywhere. Our own diocese of Oakland carries a burden of over 60 million dollars in debt even after the capital campaign.

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.

St. Stephen Facilities Committee
– Any questions, comments or requests regarding St. Stephen’s facilities (Church, Hall, or Grounds) should either be sent to St. Stephen email (saintstephenwc@gmail.com -Subject line: Facilities Committee), or put in a sealed envelope marked “Facilities Committee” and dropped off at the Parish Office (wall pocket next to the door).

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.

The next Queen of Heaven First Saturday Mass is October 5, at 11 am in St. Cecilia Chapel with Father Neal Clemens from Queen of All Saints presiding. In remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures, as well as the gifts of our abundant earth, Mass will be celebrated with a blessing of the animals in the outside courtyard (weather permitting), surrounded by nature in this beautiful setting tucked against Brirones park. All are invited. A light lunch will be served afterwards.

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.

Next weekend (September 28-29) the second collection will be the St. Vincent de Paul 5th Sunday collection.

Women’s Day of Recollection
SAVE THE DATE
Date - Saturday October 19
Time: 9 am - 1 pm
Location: St. Stephen Parish Hall
Speaker: Toinette Eugene, Ph.D.
Topic: Women of the Hebrew Scriptures Tell Their Stories
All women are welcome to join for our annual event. Sponsored by Women of Magdala of CTK and the Women’s Retreat Committee.

3 CTK Authors’ 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 at Christ the King’s Parish Hall.

All are welcome!

Fr. Mario will be training altar servers, both returning and new on Saturday, September 28 at 10:00 am. If you are not currently an altar server but would like to become one or are just curious, please plan on attending. This includes all youth, 4th grade and older, as well as adults.

Please remember those in need of your prayers, including Carlota Dunhower, Madeleine Gomes, Gerald Mahoney, Jeanie & Jim McGraw, Robin Morley, Carl & Viola Nagel, Brian & Eric Peare, Barbara Rusca, Helen Spahr, and Traci White.

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.

Parish Stewardship Sept. 14/15

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