Week At A Glance

Sat, Sept 28
- 10 am, Altar Server Training

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

Tues, Oct 1
- 10 am-2 pm, Office Open

Wed, Oct 2
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open

Thurs, Oct 3
- 9:30 am, Enrichment, Rm 5
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
- 2:30 pm, St. Vincent de Paul, Rm 6
- 7 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sun, Oct 6
- NO COFFEE & DONUTS after Mass

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat 9/28, 5:00 pm - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sun 9/29, 9:30 am - Jean Portello †
Wed 10/2, 7:30 am - Kay Muzi †
Thur 10/3, 7:30 am - Patricia Schueel †
Fri 10/4, 7:30 am - Margaret Stark †
Sat 10/5, 5:00 pm - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sun 10/6, 9:30 am - Rolson Reid †

Schedule of Masses

Monday - Friday 7:30 am (Chapel, Room 1)
Saturday: 5 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am
Confessions: Saturday - 4:30 pm

Mission Statement

To Live and to Love in Christ

Ministers Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>October 5-6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>LECTOR</td>
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<td>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
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<td>SACRISTAN</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: Sept 30</td>
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<td>COUNTERS: Oct 7</td>
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St. Stephen Church Website:
www.saintstephenparish.org

St. Stephen Church Email:
saintstephenwc@gmail.com

Christ the King Catholic Church (Sister Parish)
195A Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
Dear Friends,

The Catholic Church is gearing up for the upcoming, but controversial Amazon synod of the Bishops. Titled “New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology,” the Oct. 6-27 synod will draw around 300 Catholic leaders from the Pan-Amazonian region to discuss issues including the rights of indigenous populations, land rights, migration, corruption, the Church’s missionary efforts in the area, local liturgy and sustainable development.

Pope Francis named the Peruvian Cardinal Pedro Barreto Jimeno of Huancayo, Peru, as a delegate president for the Amazon synod. The cardinal has characterized the synod as an example of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church in action. According to this doctrine, he said, “the mission of every Christian includes a prophetic commitment to justice, peace, the dignity of every human being without distinction, and to the integrity of creation in response to a predominant model of society that leads to exclusion and inequality and causes what Pope Francis has called a real ‘culture of waste’ and a ‘globalization of indifference.’”

However, this sentiment is not shared by everyone, as is evidenced by the fact that at least four different counter events have been organized by key Francis critics. On Sept. 17 Auxiliary Bishop Athanasius Schneider of Astana, Kazakhstan and American Cardinal Raymond Burke launched a campaign of prayer and fasting in a bid to ensure that “error and heresy don’t pervert the imminent Synod of Bishops for the Amazon Region.” The initiative is slated to last 40 days, until the close of the synod on Oct. 27.

“What do ecology, economy, and politics have to do with the mandate and mission of the Church?” This is a question that is widely shared by a number of cardinals and leaders who oppose the synod and describe it as heretical. I have an expression for such sentiments. “Fiddling while Rome burns.” Legend has it that while a fire destroyed the city of Rome, the emperor Nero played his violin, thus revealing his total lack of concern for his people and his city. The Amazon fire that continues to burn up swaths of the Amazon forest and indigenous communities right now literally and figuratively is an image of the church that continues to burn while our leaders continue to fiddle.

In our own backyard, there was a meeting of our church leaders in Napa that brought together over 600 people of faith, cardinals, bishops and lay people to talk about authentic catholic reform, which I feel is awesome. I was personally interested in what Napa institute had to say about the relevance of our American church in the context of the many social challenges such as immigration, opioid crisis, racial injustice, climate crisis and homelessness, to name a few, and I was disappointed. It is hard for me to see authentic reform without embracing Jesus’ preferential love for the poor and the marginalized. Maybe, there was such discussions and I hope they will publish them if they did.

I am excited for the Bishops who gather in Rome for the Amazon Synod from October 6 – 27 to talk about real people with their real-life situations. Czerny, undersecretary of the Migrants and Refugee Section of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and Martinez, apostolic vicar of Puerto Maldonado, Peru, said the synod will take place at a time when “both human and natural life are suffering serious and perhaps irreversible destruction.” According to them, the Church “cannot give spiritual guidance and pastoral care if people are understood in isolation from - i.e. not integrated with - how they live and function within the actual natural, economic and social conditions that they face.” This conference will also focus on women leadership in our church. We need more women in the decision-making process of our church.

So, I would like to invite you to pray for the success of the synod – for fidelity to the Gospel, for openness to change and to embrace Jesus’ preferential option for the poor.

Fr. Paulson
Parish Stewardship Sept. 21/22

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Regular Collection:</th>
<th>$3,591</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flowers:</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent De Paul</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance:</td>
<td>$135</td>
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<td>Donuts:</td>
<td>$67</td>
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<td>Retirement:</td>
<td>$10</td>
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Thank You For Your Support!

Join us for Coffee & Donuts after Mass this Sunday. There will be no Coffee & Donuts on Sunday, October 6 unless someone comes forward and volunteers to take over the first Sunday donuts.

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).

Next weekend (October 5 - 6) the second collection will be The Catholic Voice collection. The money donated in this collection remains at St. Stephen. It offsets the support St. Stephen sends to The Voice. If you are not currently receiving The Catholic Voice please notify our office.

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. All are asked to bring an appetizer.

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 Briot park. All are invited. A light lunch will be served afterwards.

The women of St. Stephen Parish Office 274-1341
Fr. Paulson Mundanmani 682-2486
paulson.ctk@gmail.com
Fr. Mario Rizzo 682-2486
frmario@ctkph.org
Deacon John
jashmore1108@gmail.com
Chris Lang, Bulletin Info. 939-2430
Joann Kurpinsky/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

Blessing of the Animals Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi Friday, October 4 at 2:30pm On the big lawn in front of the School at Christ the King Please bring your pets on a leash or in a cage

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.
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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