Mon, Nov 11
- Veterans Day, Office Closed
- 7 pm, Lector Practice

Tues, Nov 12
- 10 am-2 pm, Office Open

Wed, Nov 13
- 9:30 am, Scripture Study, Rm 5
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open

Thurs, Nov 14
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
- 7 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Week At A Glance

Upcoming Mass Intentions
Sat Nov 9, 5:00 pm - Barbara Gregory, Healing Blessings
Sun Nov 10, 9:30 am - Ray Deborja, Birthday Blessings
Thur Nov 14, 7:30 am - St Stephen/CTK Priests
Fri Nov 15, 7:30 am - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sat Nov 16, 5:00 pm - Jean Portello †
Sun Nov 17, 9:30 am - Dorothy Neill †

Schedule of Masses

Mon-Fri, 7:30 am (Chapel, Room 1)
Sat, 5:00 pm
Sun, 9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday - 4:30 pm

Ministers Schedule:

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<td>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</td>
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St. Stephen Church Website: 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

St. Stephen Catholic Church
1101 Keaveny Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925-274-1341

My steps have been steadfast in your paths, my feet have not faltered. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God.
Psalm 17:5–6

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 10, 2019
Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for your prayers and wishes during the past weeks. It has been a difficult time, and exhausting to say the least. I was eager to get back as I felt my real family was here, where I feel loved and energized in ministry. Thank you.

It has been a tough time for the State of California with the devastating fires that have literally changed our landscape and destroyed people’s lives, their dreams and hopes, for some forever. This time, the fire came dangerously close to some of our homes and neighborhoods. I am so grateful they were contained fast, and we are all safe. I asked myself, “If I had ten minutes to evacuate, what are the essential things that I would pack up and leave? On a practical note, it is good to think about the essential things that one would carry in case of a disaster like the one we are facing from time to time, to keep them organized and easy to pack in a few minutes.

It is also important to embrace a new perspective in the context of natural or man-made disasters. California fires are probably insignificant when compared to the misery and destruction in our world today. We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record in our world. An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also millions of stateless people who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. In a world where nearly 1 person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution, governments need to work together. Churches and religion should redefine their priorities based on ground realities and embark on ‘New Pathways.’

The recent Amazon synod was considered controversial by many, because the challenges posed by the realities that the synod fathers were addressing seemed to threaten the foundations of our faith and doctrine. Unfortunately, some were only worried about change of traditions and doctrines as we have come to know them over many centuries with no regard to the suffering of peoples or the very survival of faith in these far-flung areas without priests. Rabbi Alan Lurie remarked, “There seems to be a belief that ‘faith’ is the rejection of the world as it is; a retreat into fantasy and wishful thinking.” Nietzsche wrote, “Faith means not wanting to know what is true.”

Even though has become common to think about faith in this way, Pope Francis is challenging us to embrace Jesus’ perspective. In the first century, the historical Jesus’ outlook on realities and traditions caused chaos and uproar, which eventually lead to his death on the cross. In his classic book, “Stages of Faith” James Fowler provides a deeper insight: “Faith is a person’s or group’s way of moving into life. It is our way of finding coherence in and giving meaning to the multiple forces and relationships that make up our lives.” From the beginning of his papal ministry, Pope Francis has emphasized the Church’s need to move forward. “The Church cannot remain inactive within her own closed circle, focused on herself, surrounded by protective walls and even less can she look nostalgically to the past. The Church needs to throw open her doors, knock down the walls surrounding her and build bridges, going out into the world and setting out on the path of history. In these times of momentous changes, the Church must always walk next to everyone and especially those living on the margins of humankind; an “outgoing” Church.” (Cardinal Hummes, Amazon Synod)

That is why the Church prays using the words, “Send forth your spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.” So we must not fear newness, we must not fear Christ, the new. As a Church, we should always be in search of ‘New Pathways.’

Paulson
Join us for Coffee & Donuts this Sunday. Volunteer to help once a month to keep it running. What is involved in volunteering? Pick up donuts before Mass (they will already be ordered); set up coffee/coffee supplies; clean up afterwards. This is just once a month on the first Sunday. Other Sundays are currently covered. You could do it with a friend to help the time go quicker – or one of you could set up and the other clean up.

Our spare PYX have all disappeared. If you borrowed one, please return it to the sacristy as soon as possible.

It is not too early to think about scheduling a Mass Intention for 2020 for your deceased or sick loved ones, or to celebrate special intentions like birthdays and anniversaries. Lots of 2020 dates available; schedule now to get your preferred date. A number of 2019 dates are still available.

Need Prayers? We have a team of parishioners available to pray for you. Send confidential prayer requests to prayerline@ctkph.org.

Carondelet High School’s Open House for interested 6th, 7th and 8th-grade girls and their parents/guardians, will be held on Sunday, November 17th from 1-3 pm at 1133 Winton Drive (corner of Treat Blvd.) in Concord. There will also be shadow visits, tours, and HSPT Test-Prep courses available. To register and find out more about these events, please visit carondeleths.org/admissions.

Remember to fill out the volunteer opportunity flier if you have not yet done so and return it to the office by dropping in the collection basket or leaving it in the wall pocket next to the office door if the office is closed. Extra forms are available on the tables in the back of the church. Our parish is run by volunteers and WE NEED YOU! Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Are you an adult who is interested in being baptized? Were you baptized in a non-Catholic Christian denomination and are thinking about becoming Catholic? Are you a Catholic who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Contact Father Mario for more information frmario@ctkph.org.

Join us for Taize Prayer Around the Cross. We welcome all who wish to gather in prayer and in a spirit of Ecumenism. Taize Prayer consists of quiet chanting, a psalm, reading and silence. The next Taize Prayer is November 17 at 6 pm at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill.

ctkAlive! Scripture Study—Join us for an in-depth, prayerful exploration of the Advent/Christmas Scriptures. The six weekly sessions begin Tues., Nov. 12 at Christ the King Church. Choose mornings or evenings. Facilitator: Al Garrotto. Preregistration required at algarrotto@comcast.net. Comments about our fall series: "I love the idea of community and participation." . . . . "I’m enjoying the bible study so much".

Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:30am. All are invited to join us and celebrate the great feast of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 28.

Thank You, LORD!

Thanks Giving Food Donation
The season of giving has begun! Please take a bag with its list of food from the back of the Church and bring filled bags to the back of St. Stephen’s sanctuary on November 16/17th or 23/24th.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference would like to give Thanksgiving Food Bags for the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday to people in our community who need some help – people who are without jobs, or low income jobs, homeless people, single parents, and most importantly the people who we support on an ongoing basis. We help our neighbors in need, without discrimination.

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 Nov. 2/3
Regular Collection: $2,664
Propagation of Faith: $5
Maintenance: $192
Catholic Voice: $20
All Saints Day: $420
All Souls Day: $373

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