Week At A Glance

Mon, Dec 2
- 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Office Open
- 7 pm, Lector Practice

Tues, Dec 3
- 10 am-2 pm, Office Open

Wed, Dec 4
- 9:30 am, Scripture Study, Rm 5
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open

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

To Live and Love in the Gospel

Schedule of Masses

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

Confessions: Saturday - 4:30 pm

Ministers Schedule:  December 7 - 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Sat. 5:00 pm</th>
<th>Sun. 9:30 am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
<td>B. Rusca</td>
<td>C. Lang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.L.O.W.</td>
<td></td>
<td>T. Nguyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTERS OF</td>
<td>R. Kuca</td>
<td>Veamatahau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE EUCHARIST</td>
<td>S. Kuca</td>
<td>J. Patel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Rusca</td>
<td>E. Hites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M. Mammola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACRISTAN</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
<td>Patel/Ah Yee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTERS: Dec 2</td>
<td>J. Schnur, M. Lenahan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTERS: Dec 9</td>
<td>J. Stark, D. Mammola</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat Nov 30, 5:00 pm - Bob Walton †
Sun Dec 1, 9:30 am - Tony Spagnolo †
Wed Dec 4, 9:30 am - Rachel Mello, Birthday Blessings
Fri Dec 6, 7:30 am - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sat Dec 7, 5:00 pm - John Patrick Connolly †
Sun Dec 8, 9:30 am - Wes Spewak †
Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you a bit about my ministry at CTK. When young parents request the sacrament of baptism for their infant - I begin the process of preparation by meeting the parents. It is always a joy to meet a young couple ~ so excited with the birth of their new little one! It is also so heartening that they come to the church to ask for Baptism ~ desiring to initiate their child into the Catholic faith from the very beginning of their life. The parents and godparents then attend a Baptism preparation class to review their understanding of the sacraments, especially of Baptism. They have a chance to reflect on their faith life and how they will raise their child in our faith. We have about 100 infants baptized each year and this means we have lots of young families at CTK. So from this Baptism ministry we have begun a Young Families Ministry which meets on the first Sunday of each month following the 9:15 am Mass. Parents and children attend together and there are different activities planned each month. All are welcome. Check it out at Youngfamiliesctk@gmail.com

There are many people who contact CTK about setting up a funeral for their deceased loved one. I meet with the family to help them in planning the funeral (whether it be a memorial service at the cemetery or a Mass at CTK). We go through all details and put together a meaningful and beautiful service. Many people feel uneasy when they come in to plan a funeral. But we are familiar with putting a funeral together and we take the lead ... so you do not need to worry!

With my experience of planning funerals over the last 15 years I certainly would encourage you to put your funeral plans in order when you are still well able to do this. It would make it so much easier for family members to know what their loved ones would have wanted. If you - or a loved one - would like to do some initial planning for your funeral – don’t hesitate to contact me. We can do it easily; I can walk you through. You don’t need to be ‘old’ or ‘sick’ to do funeral planning.

In my ministry I also help with the Friday school Masses, special liturgies throughout the church year, oversee things in the church and sacristy and a variety of other things that come up.

As we enter the season of Advent I think our theme song this year is perfect for helping us to celebrate the season. My Soul in Stillness Waits. Doesn’t this speak to you about slowing down, quieting yourself, listening to God, going within? Are these welcome invitations to you? Is this something you want to be reminded to do? Does this sound attractive? Do you need this in your life? Or do you prefer to keep up with the frenzy of daily life? What wisdom the Church offers us in giving us a season that reminds us to slow down and allow our soul to wait in stillness.

Sr. Dominic Marie, OP

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2019

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
The prophet Isaiah dreamed of a day when Jerusalem (sometimes called Zion) would be the center of the world, and all people would come there to receive God’s wisdom. In today’s reading, Isaiah presents a vision of peace and prosperity for the whole world.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14
Behind everything Paul wrote was his strong belief that the hour of Christ’s return in glory was near at hand. In this passage, Paul uses the image of darkness and light to describe how Christians ought to live as they await that coming.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

Saint Stephen Parish Office 274-1341
Fr. Paulson Mundanmani 682-2486 paulson.ctk@gmail.com
Fr. Mario Rizzo 682-2486 frmario@ctkph.org
Chris Lang, Bulletin Info. 939-2430
Joann Kurpinsky/Nancy Gizdich Bookkeeperssp@gmail.com
Maria Calderazzo, Music Dir. 274-1341
Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP 246-1122 sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com
Deacon John Ashmore 686-1017 faithformation@ctkph.org
CTK Parish Office 682-2486
Religious Education 686-1017
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.

There is NO Coffee & Donuts after Mass this Sunday, Dec. 1.

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. Many 2020 dates available; schedule now to get your preferred date. A number of 2019 dates are still available.

The Little Blue Book full of six-minute reflections for Advent and Christmas will be available again this year on the tables in the back of the church starting this weekend. This year consider a donation of $1 to help cover the cost of these books.

Remember to pick up the picture of your loved one from our memorial table.

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.

Please join us on Saturday, December 7th at 9:30 a.m. for our ongoing Grief Workshop at Christ the King. We will gather in the Fr. Joyce Room of the Ministry Center. CTK provides on-going peer ministry for all grieving people. All are welcome. Please call Donna @ 510 381-3615 for information.

For over 60 years Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill, in partnership with Contra Costa Public Health Nursing Services, has offered a Layette Program providing basic layette supplies to families with a new baby. This program currently provides 25-30 layettes a month throughout the year and depends entirely on donations from groups, organizations, churches and individuals.

Advent is the season in which we watch and anticipate the joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus, a loving gift to our world from God. Likewise, every day of the year parents throughout the country and specifically in Contra Costa County await the arrival of their individual gift from God, the birth of their own precious baby.

During this celebration of Advent, Dec 1 through Dec 22, St. Stephen will be sponsoring a “Giving Tree” which will benefit the Layette Program at Hillcrest Congregational Church. The Giving Tree will be located in the back of the Church and will have Christmas gift tags, each with a suggested layette item. Please take as many tags as you like, return your gift item(s) wrapped in white tissue paper, and place them under the Giving Tree by December 22nd. Alternatively, you may place the gifts in the boxes placed around the Giving Tree.

Your generosity is appreciated and makes a difference in the lives of those who most need what they are unable to provide for themselves. May your Advent Season be filled with joy and anticipation as we await the birth of Jesus, our Lord.

Beside the Giving Tree will be a list of standard items that are included in a complete baby layette. If you have further questions, please contact Phyllis Smith at phone number 954-7393.

Please join Diablo Choral Artists on a musical journey to Christmas past and present as they celebrate "A Christmas Festival" with carol sing-alongs here at St. Stephen on Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm followed by a reception in our parish center. They will also be preforming at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Dr., Pleasant Hill, on Friday, December 13 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are $25 for adults, $15 for seniors 60+, and $5 for students. Children 5 – 12 are free.

Calling all Women! Magnificat SOTI, a Ministry for Catholic Women invite all to join them at their Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, December 7 at 9:30 am. Please join us for a morning of Praise, Prayer and Inspiration as we celebrate Advent and prepare for the coming birth of our Lord. 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord. Call Kim Sullivan at 925-683-8220 for tickets or more information.

The Second Collection next Sunday, December 7-8 will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies—often for little or no pay. Now, their religious communities do not have enough savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Almost 94 percent of donations aid senior religious. Please be generous.
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

Visit WLPmusic.com to purchase your copy - CD $10.00

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:


Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.