

Christ the King - St. Stephen Catholic Church

St. Stephen Church
1101 Keaveny Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925-274-1341
ctkph.org

Christ the King Church
195A Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-682-2486
ctkph.org

Christ the King Church

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 4pm Vigil
(4pm Mass is also livestreamed)

Sunday

7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, & 4pm
(10:30am Mass is also livestreamed)

Private Confessions

Saturday 3pm to 3:30pm

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm

9am Daily Mass Schedule

St. Stephen
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Christ the King
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

St. Stephen Church

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 5pm Vigil
Sunday: 9:30am

Private Confessions

Saturday Before the 5pm Mass

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 11am to 2pm

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOUR LIGHT MUST
SHINE.

MATTHEW 5:16



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

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Mission Statement

To hear the gospel and make a difference.

To live and love in Christ.

Dear Friends:

This week I would like to share a Reflection on Catholic Marriage: Letting the Altar Be the Witness

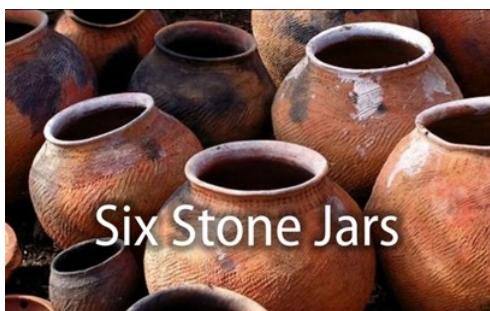
The steady and sobering decline in Catholic marriages in the United States tells us something important—not only about changing social patterns, but about a quiet ache within the Church itself. In the year 2000, there were about 267,000 Catholic marriages in this country. By 2024, that number had fallen to just over 111,000—a drop of nearly 60%. When we look further back, the contrast is even sharper: roughly 426,000 Catholic marriages in 1970 compared with just over 108,000 in 2025, a decline of nearly 75%.



These numbers are not simply statistics. They represent a sobering fact that young adults who may not yet feel that the Church is a place where their love, questions, hopes, and struggles are truly welcomed and accompanied.

I would like to offer an invitation: **to foster an atmosphere in which young adults know they belong—before they are married, as they discern marriage, and throughout the lifelong journey that follows.** The Church must not appear as a gatekeeper standing at the end of the road, but as a companion walking beside them, offering encouragement, wisdom, mercy, and practical tools for building strong, sacramental marriages.

To rediscover the beauty of Catholic marriage, we return to where Jesus himself chose to reveal his glory for the first time: the wedding at Cana. Jesus was not a distant observer at that celebration. He was present—with his mother and his disciples—sharing in the joy, the vulnerability, and even the quiet anxiety of the couple’s day. And like every wedding, Cana was not perfect. The wine ran short. What had been carefully planned suddenly revealed its limits.



It is Mary who notices first. She does not shame, panic, or assign blame. She simply brings the need to Jesus. And what follows is extraordinary. Six stone jars—each holding twenty to thirty gallons—are filled with water and transformed into wine. Not just any wine, but the finest wine. In today’s terms, that is roughly 600 to 900 bottles of choicest wine. An abundance beyond expectation. A generosity almost excessive. A sign that when Jesus is present, scarcity is never the final word.

This miracle tells us something essential about marriage as a sacrament. No marriage is perfect, no matter how carefully prepared. Every couple will face moments when the “wine runs short”—when patience thins, joy feels distant, or love is tested by fatigue, illness, disappointment, or change. The sacrament of marriage is not a guarantee of ease; it is the promise of presence. Christ does not remove every difficulty, but he transforms what is offered to him. His presence changes the atmosphere. What feels insufficient becomes grace-filled. What seems ordinary becomes sacred.

This is why celebrating marriage in the Church matters. To stand before the altar is to say: we want Christ at the center of our love; we want the Church to witness our promises; we want grace to sustain what human strength alone cannot. The altar becomes more than a place of ritual—it becomes a silent witness to vows spoken, tears shed, forgiveness given, and love renewed again and again.

As we approach Valentine’s Day, our parish rejoices in a visible sign of hope. On Sunday, February 15th at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, more than 30 couples will gather to renew their marriage vows. Their presence reminds us that love, when rooted in faith, can endure and mature. As these couples renew their promises, we also invite any other couples who wish to join us—physically or in spirit—to ask God’s blessing upon their marriage.

As part of our ongoing commitment to support and strengthen Catholic marriages, we warmly invite couples who were married outside the Catholic Church to consider **convalidating** their marriage—bringing their union into the sacramental life of the Church. Convalidation is not about “redoing” a wedding; it is about recognizing, blessing, and deepening the love you already share by placing it intentionally before God and the Church.

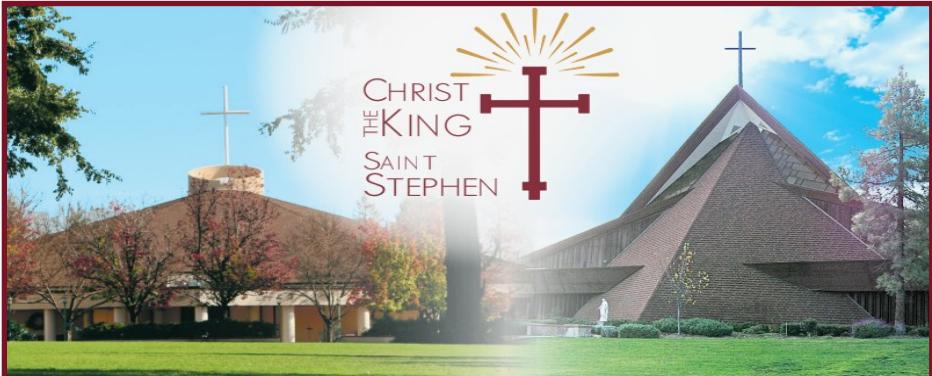
During the month of **May**, our parish will offer **three preparation sessions** designed to accompany couples with respect, care, and clarity, helping them understand the sacrament and prepare spiritually and practically. At the conclusion of these sessions, couples may choose to celebrate their Catholic marriage either in a **communal celebration** with other couples or in a **private ceremony**, according to their circumstances and wishes.

Pope Francis beautifully reminds us that *“Marriage is not a fairy tale, but a lifelong journey, with challenges, joys, and growth. The important thing is not to be perfect, but to walk together with the Lord”* (*Amoris Laetitia*). We hope many couples will hear this invitation as one of welcome, encouragement, and grace—an opportunity to let the sacred altar be a witness to a love already lived and now fully entrusted to God.

Fr. Paulson

CELEBRATING 75 years 60 years

Christ the King - Saint Stephen



UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Feb. 9	Mon.	9:00am	Fr. Brian Joyce †
Feb. 10	Tues.	9:00am	Carlos Ricafrente †
Feb. 11	Weds.	9:00am	Jesie Tran
Feb. 12	Thurs.	9:00am	Matthew Tran † Nenita de Guzman
Feb. 13	Fri.	9:00am	Ana Andaluz † Roberto de la Fuente † Sal & Shirley Costanza
Feb. 14	Sat.	9:00am	Mary Muhlenkamp †
Feb. 14	Sat.	4:00pm	Hildegard Menzhuber †
Feb. 14	Sat. SS	5:00pm	John Peter Loef †
Feb. 15	Sun.	7:30am	Jack Cardoza † Maria Quichocho †
Feb. 15	Sun.	9:00am	Paciencia Tuazon † Florencio Tuazon † Inocentes Seraspe, Jr. † Lila Seraspe †
Feb. 15	Sun. SS	9:30am	Thomas Cavida
Feb. 15	Sun.	10:30am	Homer Ira
Feb. 15	Sun.	4:00pm	Fr. Michael Dibble †



Need Prayer?

Confidential Prayer requests can be sent to: prayerline@ctkph.org



Upcoming Second Collections

February 22 - Winter Nights
March 1 - Catholic Education



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Giving Statements

2025 Annual Giving Statements

Annual Giving Statements that show your contributions for the year ending 2025 were sent out (if we have your current email address in our Realm system). These email addresses may not be the same as the one you use for our weekly newsletter.

If you do not receive an email statement, a physical statement will be sent to you via U.S. Mail. If you have any questions, please email us at office@ctkph.org.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

February 11th



To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference



Saturday, February 14
St. Stephen Church
10:30am

All are welcome to join us for a parish Mass and celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Bring relatives and friends from local care facilities – those who are able to come. Questions? Sr. Dominic Marie 925-246-1122.

GRIEF WORKSHOP

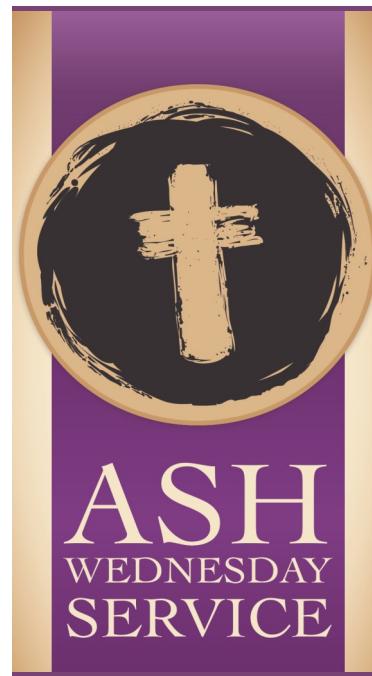
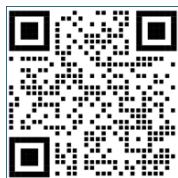
Please join us for a special Ash Wednesday Grief Workshop on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 @ 7:00 PM in the CTK Ministry Center Chapel. Grief is the ash left behind when love has burned brightly. Come together as one community in Christ for support and fellowship. For information, call or text Donna @ 510 381-3615.



Join us in the celebration!

Check our anniversary website page to see how events develop and learn how you can take part in the plans we have underway. Learn the histories of Christ the King and St. Stephen Church. Engage with fellow parishioners as we play, pray, sing and eat together while Celebrating 75 and 60 Years! I invite all of you to help us make this a great year by participating in many celebratory events.

Scan the QR Code to our Anniversary Event Page



Ash Wednesday

February 18

CTK Mass Times:

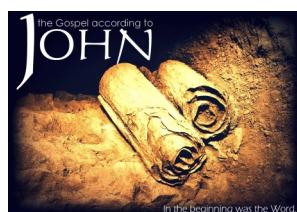
6:30am
12:05pm
7pm

RE Prayer Service:

4pm

St. Stephen Mass Times:

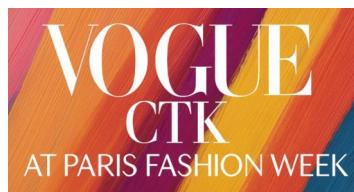
9am & 6pm



Our 11-week study of The Gospel of John will begin on March 2.

The Gospel of John is a testament to the divine nature of Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Light of the World. An eleven week study of The Gospel According to John will begin on Monday, March 2. Part one covers the prologue of John's Gospel and a significant portion of Jesus's ministry. Part two begins with Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and ends with Jesus's passion, death and resurrection. The Little Rock Scripture Study books provide commentary, reflection questions, prayer, and access to video lectures. The study material is available as a paperback or e-book at LittleRockScripture.org. We meet on

Mondays at 10 AM in Room A in CTK's Parish Hall.



Dear CTK Community,

With grateful hearts, we invite you to purchase Early Bird tickets for the Christ the King Catholic School Auction 2026 - Vogue: CTK at Paris Fashion Week.

Event Details: Saturday, February 28, 2026 | 5:00 PM | Concord Hilton Hotel

This special evening brings our community together to celebrate, connect, and support the mission of Christ the King Catholic School. We hope you'll join us for a beautiful night in support of our children and school.

TICKETS: All ticket sales are final as of February 13. | Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.



February Family Fellowship

Christ the King—St. Stephen Parish

Young Families Ministry



When: Sunday February 22nd, 2025 at 2:00pm

Where: Lindsay Wildlife Experience
1st Avenue, Walnut Creek CA 94597

What: Come meet other young families from our parish! For our February Fellowship event, we will enjoy an afternoon at the Lindsey Wildlife Experience in Walnut Creek, where young families can get to know each other in an environment where children can explore and learn about wildlife!

Why: Join us in fellowship with young families from our parish

RSVP: A generous parishioner donated 30 tickets for our ministry to visit Lindsay Wildlife. Please RSVP to secure tickets on a first come, first serve basis. (Ticket is not needed for children 1 years old and younger). Please RSVP to YoungFamiliesCTK@gmail.com to secure tickets!



Ushers for Funerals

Would you like to serve occasionally as an usher at a funeral held at Christ the King or St. Stephen Church? You would welcome visitors, hand out programs, and do a bit of tidying up after the Mass.

Although you may not know the family of the deceased, it is a wonderful ministry of hospitality that we offer. Given the number of funerals that we have, your assistance would be very much appreciated. Contact Sr. Dominic Marie at 925-246-1122 or sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com



Annual Crabfeed
Join us on Saturday, February 21st
at 5:30 PM in the CTK Gym

for a fun-filled evening of delicious crab and great company. The annual CTK KofC Crab Feed is back, so come join us for a delicious feast of Fresh Crab, Kinder's Ball Tip, Homemade Irish Bread & Soup & more.



Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR Code



ChristLight

Are you longing for a deeper connection with God, new friendships within our parish, or simply a pause from life's hectic pace? We warmly invite you to :

ChristLight XVIII: Immersed in Grace.

ChristLight is a parish-based weekend experience designed to refresh our faith and strengthen our community. Together we'll experience prayer, fellowship, music, storytelling, laughter, and plenty of good food — all in an atmosphere of openness and joy.

This year's ChristLight will be held the weekend of February 20-22 at the St. Stephen campus. It's a time to step away, draw near to God, and walk together on the journey of faith with a fun-loving team of dedicated parishioners. Space is limited, so we encourage you to reserve your spot soon!

◆ The weekend concludes with a special Mass on Sunday, February 22 at 2:30 pm at St. Stephen Church, where families are warmly invited to join in celebration. Come grow with us at this life-giving weekend of community, grace, and renewal.

*Register through REALM or call the office 925-682-2486 or email to office@ctkph.org

* Space is limited

* \$90 per person which includes all meals and snacks

*Scholarships are available

All are Welcome!
Scan the QR Code to register:



Filipinos & Friends

ALL ARE WELCOME

Upcoming events

Feb. 7th, Saturday at 6pm
Bingo Night St. Stephen Parish Hall

Feb. 13th, Friday at 7pm
Praise and Worship Night at 7pm
Ministry Center Chapel

Coming soon in February-March
Prayer meeting (all ages)
Inquiries or questions, please email:
donnanorona@icloud.com



Once more I'm using this means of thanking all those who helped to make my birthday so very special. First of all, Mass on the 11th with the choir in full voice, the reception afterwards on the patio, thank you to Jeanne Bell and her team who arranged it and served at it. Then came Helen Christian, Kathy Ridgway, Rosa Panelli, aided by Marlen Benitez who really put on a spectacular reception with beautiful music. Thanks to all who sent greeting cards, gift cards, cash, check, chocolate and enough Irish whiskey to float a battleship. Special thanks for the Stone family and Joseph Bouloux for

hosting my family. It was Fr. Paulson who decided that 95 should be very special, and it was. My deepest thanks goes out to him.



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