

Christ the King Church

December 25, 2016



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Daily Masses:
Monday-Friday,
8:00 am

Saturday Masses:
8:00 am & 5:00 pm

Sunday Masses:
7 am, 8 am, 9:15 am,
10:45 am, 12:15 pm,
6:00 pm

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: 3:30 pm
to 4:30 pm

Parish Office: 682-2486
www.ctkph.org

Religious Ed: 686-1017
www.ctkreliigiouseducation.org

Youth Ministry: 676-0979
www.ctkym.org

Facebook: Christ the King
Catholic Community of
Pleasant Hill

Mass Intentions

12/26 8 am - Helen Carl Fleck+
12/27 8 am - Kathy Mulane+
12/28 8 am - Sarah Costanza+
12/29 8 am - Jeremias Romano+
12/30 8 am - CTK Parishioners
Saturday, 12/31
8 am - Isabel Andrade+
5:00 pm - Paula Feil+
Sunday, 1/1/2017
7 am - CTK Parishioners
8 am - Bob Bedford+
9:15 am - Katie Dubrow Morley+
10:45 am - John Aitken+
12:15 pm - Anne West+
6:00 pm - Eddie Connell+

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 12/25
Merry Christmas!
Monday, 12/26
Tuesday, 12/27

• Perpetual Help Devotion, Church 7 pm
Wednesday, 12/28



Thursday, 12/29
• RCIA, Chapel 7 pm
Friday, 12/30
Saturday, 12/31
Sunday, 1/1/2017
• Happy New Year!



To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference



I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a “Merry Christmas.” I am grateful to everyone who makes this day special for all of us. Let us truly welcome Jesus into our lives and may He lead us especially in this year of faith.

The story of the first Christmas is repeated every year from the kitchen table to the most ornate of pulpits. Like the rest of the Bible, this story never fails to speak to individuals, the church, and the nation no matter our circumstances or condition. As we enter the Christmas season, we find ourselves still in difficult times as a people. There is violence and struggle everywhere. Nations are in turmoil, and people are yearning for freedom from oppression and fear. Our own national story is no different. And that is why the Christmas story is so relevant today. The struggles and pains of the holy family who celebrated the first Christmas sheds light on our own times. I would like to share with you some of the reflections given by Robert L. Cobb. It is very easy to focus on the great miracle of the Virgin Birth and the first coming of our Savior, and indeed, that event is central to the story. But, in an attempt to find spiritual food for our souls, let us look at the human condition of Joseph and Mary and all those who lived during that time. Most scholars agree that Joseph was somewhat older than Mary, who could have been still a teenager. This unlikely couple had an even more unlikely secret. Their unborn child was the long-awaited Messiah! This had been confirmed by personal visits from the archangel Gabriel. They were certainly the "chosen" of God to be entrusted as parents of the Son of God. Both of them had obeyed the heavenly vision and followed God's instructions to the letter. (Mat 1:24, Luke 1:38) No one would blame them if they had expected a little "special treatment" from the Father for this great task that lay before them. But no special treatment came. It is amazing to think of how today's Christians expect to be spared from the repercussions of recession and economic hardship, religious persecutions and other hardships. If God let Mary and Joseph suffer in such a time as Christ's birth, what should be our expectations today?

Joseph and Mary were poor. Though they were descendants of King David, the Roman occupation had ground the Jewish people to poverty. The only Jews who prospered were the ones who carried out and cooperated with the Romans' will. Joseph was a carpenter, but was most probably paid with supplies rather than money. Now his wife was great with child and there were no rooms available and likely no money to pay for one. Mary and Joseph were without friends on this journey. Many acquaintances probably were gossiping about her pregnancy and counting the months to figure out who the "real father" was. When we consider the trials and tribulations that this godly couple endured, one is tempted to ask, "Why did God allow this to befall them?" God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and Psalm 92:5 says "*O LORD, how great are thy works! [and] thy thoughts are very deep.*" As we negotiate our way through these times, we must remember that God never promised to save us from troubles, but to help us in our troubles.

God is working in lives today just as yesterday. "We can see His fingerprints on the world stage, moving and working His will. We should not expect to get a "free pass" from the trials and tribulations of the future. God has a plan for each of us, but that plan will be carried out with history as a backdrop. We will not be saved "out of" recession, depression, war, or famine. We may be called upon to carry out His work in the midst of it, as did Joseph and Mary in Old Bethlehem!" (Cobb)

Merry Christmas! Thank you for your faith! I would like to invite you all back to Church next week for the New Years celebrations. We need our faith more than ever. We need the Spirit of Christmas to live on, so that in the New Year, we will learn to walk with God. We will love one another as God has loved us.

Fr. Paulson

Resolve to join our Young Adult Group in 2017! Group open to 20 and 30 year olds. One member said, "I love this group because it's a strong supportive and connected group. Every time we get together people bring new ideas and insights to the gospel and our activities". **Monthly meet up, Wednesday, January 4th at 7 pm in the Youth House.** Join us for our monthly prayer service and happy hour. We will begin with a half hour prayer service followed by happy hour. We provide beer and soda, you bring a snack to share. In addition to our monthly meeting, we try to do one service project or fun outing as well. This month we will be building with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, Jan. 7th from 8:30-3:30. For more information, contact Rick Lejano at ctkyouthminister@gmail.com.



The 2017 CYO Crab Feed is scheduled for Saturday, January 28. Info on purchasing tickets can be found on the

CYO website: ctkeyohoops.org. There is a link directing you to the Eventbrite site. Any questions, please email our CYO Director, Allen Brezac at allen.brezac@comcast.net. Tickets will go fast, get yours early!

Knights of Columbus, **2017 Basketball Free Throw Competition**, January 15, 2017 in the CTK Gym. All girls and boys ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level competition. Competition held on Sunday, Jan. 15 from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. Bring your ball to warm up, there is no fee required. All contestants are recognized for their participation with a pancake breakfast. Council champion from each division advances to the district competition to be held in Feb. 2017. For questions, contact Roberto Bracamontes at 925-899-7782.

Join us after 5:00 mass on New Years Eve, Dec. 31st. Our wonderful hospitality committee will prepare some appetizers and cheer.

Save the Date! Christ the King Catholic School's annual **Open House** will take place Sunday, January 29 at 10:30 am. All families interested in learning more about our parish school are welcome. Families with kindergarten applicants are also encouraged to join us on February 2nd at 8 am for a special tour of the early childhood program. For more information, visit the school website at www.ctkschool.org.

Martin Luther King Celebration - Transforming our Society: King's "Tough Mind and Tender Heart", Monday, Jan. 16 at 12:00 pm. New location! Walnut Creek, Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., WC. Refreshments & conversation following. Sponsored by Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County & the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center.

Save the Date! 2017 Men's Retreat, March 24-26. For more information, to register, or if you want to help on a committee, call Pete O'Brien at 925-899-6662.

Walk for Life 2017 will be held on Saturday, January 21 at Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco. Information faire begins at 11:00 am and the rally begins at 12:30 pm, from the Civic Center walking down Market St. and ends at Justin Herman Plaza. BART stations at both locations and ample parking. 415-648-1793 for more information.

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The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2016

Treasures From Our Tradition:

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

Pray for Our Sick

May you be wrapped up in God's love,
Found deep in His everlasting wings,
Carried and kept, safe and cherished.
May the healing power of Christ breathe across your being now.

*Shawn Roy Schiller, Helen Gomez,
Tony De Devenuta, Bob Nillasca*

Don't Miss the Heavenly Women's Retreat Weekend at Villa Del Mar in Santa Cruz!

When: Friday, Feb. 17-Sunday 19, 2017

Cost: \$260 shared, \$345 single

(includes accommodations, all meals and program)

Topic: Holistic Spirituality: Sparking the Divine!

Come and rest in scenic beauty by the bay!

An invitation to awaken your soul, integrate

body, mind, spirit, seek inner balance and

live a more mindful life with God. Special offering:

one on one spiritual direction opportunity with
women-in-training as Spiritual Accompaniers.

Who: The retreat leader for the weekend is Sr.

Molly Neville, a recognized leader in adult spiritual

formation. Currently she serves as Spirituality Pro-

gram Coordinator at Villa Maria del Mar and coordi-

ates the Spiritual Directors for the Diocese of Monte-

rey. She loves to read, pray, design retreats, give par-

ties, go to movies and her favorite food is hot, but-

tered popcorn!

How: Sign up at a table after mass in a few

weeks, or contact Kate Doherty at 925-246-1128 or

by email at katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com.

