

CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY

199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill

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

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Parish Office: 682-2486

www.ctkph.org

Religious Ed: 686-1017

www.ctkreliouseducation.org

Youth Ministry: 676-0979

www.ctkym.org

CTK School: 685-1109

www.ctkschool.org

**Facebook: Christ the King
Catholic Community of Pleasant
Hill**

December 14, 2014 Third Sunday of Advent



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 12/14

- Second Sunday of Advent
- Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:15
- 3 yr olds Rm D 9:15 mass
- PreK; parish hall 9:15 mass
- K; school 9:15 mass
- RE Older Sacs RE office 10:30
- Confirmation 11-1:30 parish hall
- Youth Group 7 pm parish hall
- Concern America Craft Sales
- Christmas sign-ups!
- **Monday, 12/15**
- Bible Study A & B, 8:30-10:30 am
- Older Sacraments A/B 4:00 pm
- **Family Choir Practice 6pm church**
- Simbang Gabi Mass following choir

Tuesday, 12/16

- Legion of Mary, Min.Ctr; 8:30am
- RE Grades 1-3; school
- Grades 4-5; parish hall
- RE Grades 7/8; 7 pm Parish Hall
- Rosary&Perpetual Help;Church 7pm
- Spanish Prayer, Church, 7:30pm
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 Church
- **Wednesday 12/17**
- Sewing Ministry Min. Ctr 9:30am
- RE Grades 1-3 ;school
- Grades 4-5; parish hall
- RE Grade 6; 7 pm parish hall
- Rosary Makers 7pm Min. Ctr
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 Church

Thursday, 12/18

- RE Grades 1-3; School
- Grades 4-5; Parish Hall
- Centering Prayer; Min. Ctr 10:00 am
- RCIA Min Ctr -Chapel, 7pm
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 Church

Friday, 12/19

- Garden Café, Ministry Ctr 7:30am
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 Church

Saturday, 12/20

- Men's Fellowship Chapel; 7:30am
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 Church

Sunday, 12/21

- No CLOW/No RE classes
- Confirmation 11-1:30 parish hall
- Simbang Gabi Mass 6:30 Church

To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference

Dear Friends,

It happens every year. Loyal churchgoers arrive on Christmas Eve to find (gasp!) strangers sitting in “their” seats. They try to find another comfortable spot, but pews and chairs are blanketed in coats and purses waiting for people who’ll likely arrive no sooner than the processional hymn. The nerve.



For a welcoming community like Christ the King, we turn our frustration into something beautiful for a God who found himself without a room at the inn. If someone doesn’t look, think, act or smell like you, be welcoming. Give up your seat and smile, and just introduce people to the hope of Christ through your actions.

Christmas and Easter are like the Super Bowl. It may be our one time all year that someone comes in and hears a message of hope in a world that’s hurting or hopeless. Always remember the reason why we are here in Church in the first place. This is an opportunity to touch somebody that has thought about going to church for months but they haven’t. And, we know, we don’t get a lot of opportunities with those folks. This is a great opportunity for evangelization. A welcoming place, a warm ambience without the chaos and frustrations of the Christmas Eve mass that we are normally used to, might bring those folks back to us. The important thing is helping people to see and to embrace Jesus. So what we do? I would ask you to consider gifting your seat in church



to someone on Christmas Eve, to allow someone that you don’t know to experience the warmth and love of Jesus who gave up everything to become one of us. “Though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness and found human appearance.” (Phil 2:

7) And we, who come to Church every Sunday, shall opt to go to the Gym for a mass that begins 15 minutes later, and experience Christmas in the spirit of Jesus’ own birth – in the simplicity of a Gym. This would reduce the traffic flow before and after mass, and would allow some of us to come early to welcome everyone to Church and then move on to the GYM. Our musicians would start Christmas carols 20 to 30 minutes before, so that as people are ushered into Church or Gym, they can experience the peace and joy of meeting Jesus in the liturgy. We will be having a 3:30 pm Mass in the Church and 3:45 pm Mass in the Gym. Similarly, a 5:30 pm Mass in the Church and 5:45 pm Mass in the Gym. If it is hard for you to be in the GYM, just go to Church and I would like you to have a beautiful Christmas too. If you have children or guests who are visiting from afar, Church may be your choice. When you gift your space to someone, it is Christmas for you. “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.” (Mother Teresa)

Our Advent Reconciliation service is on December 16 at 7:30 pm. It is a wonderful opportunity to join our sisters and brother in asking for forgiveness and healing during this important time of the year.

Our Filipino brothers and sisters celebrate Simbagabi Mass at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to join them and then, stay on for the Penance Service. We will also have a number of priests on Saturday, 20th at 3:30 pm to hear communal confessions in the Church.

Let us continue celebrating advent. I would like to thank all of you who are engaged in the Christmas celebration at Christ the King. Whether you are a sacristan, or a Church environment committee member or a volunteer, your ministry is integral to the celebration. I am grateful.

Fr. Paulson

Reflections on Sunday Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who preached after the Jews returned from exile. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. In today’s reading, the prophet describes how God called him to encourage the people in this desperate time.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Today’s passage comes at the end of Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians. Just as a parent might give last minute instructions as their child heads out the door, so Paul has a list of last minute instructions for these people whom he loves.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Tuesday, 12/16 Communal Penance

7:30 pm

Saturday, 12/20 Communal Penance

3:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, 12/24

3:30 & 5:30 family liturgy in Church

3:45 & 5:45 family liturgy in Gym

8:00 pm Mass and 12:00 am Mass in Church (carols and prayers at 11:30)

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

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|---|----------|
| Fr. Paulson Mndanmani | 682-2486 |
| Paulson.ctk@gmail.com | |
| Fr. Vince Cotter, Fr. Brian Timoney, Deacon John Ashmore, Fr. Michael Dibble, and Fr. Tom Burns | 682-2486 |
| Sr. Joanne Gallagher, CSJ | 682-2486 |
| jgallagher.ctk@gmail.com | |
| Sr. Dominic Bonnici OP | 682-2486 |
| sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com | |
| Kate Doherty | 682-2486 |
| katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com | |
| Religious Education Director | |
| Sr. Maureen Viani, SNJM | 686-1017 |
| Assoc. Director: Joan Smits | 686-1017 |
| ctkreliouseducation.org | |
| Youth Minister, Rick Lejano | 676-0979 |
| ctkyouthminister@gmail.com | |
| Al Garrotto RCIA/Small Faith Groups | |
| algarrotto@comcast.net | 849-6319 |
| Chris Caban, Principal | 685-1109 |
| ccaban@ctkschool.org | |



**ARE YOU
TUNED UP?
Monday, Dec.
15th, 6:00 pm in
Church!**

Tune up those voices! It's not a secret. Get a seat for Christmas Eve Masses, 3:30 pm or 5:30 pm. Join our Christmas Eve Family Choir—one practice, 6:00 pm, December 15th. **All** in the family must attend the practice. (children must be accompanied by an adult). See you there. Questions? 686-1017.

Calling all Women! Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, is excited to welcome Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC as the speaker at our next prayer breakfast. Fr. Calloway is a prominent Marian priest and a well known speaker and author on the Divine Mercy and Our Blessed Mother. Come and be inspired as he shares his remarkable conversion story. January 31, 9:30-12:30 Crowne Plaza, Concord. Call Mariabel at 925-788-7762 for tickets.

A big thank you from the 2014 Bishop's Appeal. Several parishes met or exceeded their goal set by the Diocese. Christ the King is one of these parishes! The ministries benefiting from this appeal are very grateful. Well done, CTK!

Help Needed! Contra Costa Inter-faiths Housing's annual gala, Ruby Slippers needs auction items. Kate Doherty has a "giving board" in our vestibule with items wished for on it. Please help by taking a tag and leaving your contact information and tag number on the sign up sheet. Items must be returned to Kate by December 29th. Proceeds from this fun event help end poverty and homelessness in our local community. For more information, contact Kate at katedoherty.ctlk@gmail.com. Thanks for your help!

Snehacare is a home in Bangalore, India for children who are orphans and living with HIV. It is a home for 107 children between the ages of 4 and 12 years who were infected through a parent and orphaned by this deadly disease. Snehacare is run by Camillian priests, a Roman Catholic order. Camillians are ministers of the sick. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of these children during this holiday season, please stop by at the table outside church for more information or contact Maria Hall at 925-270-5128 or mdhallco@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.



Christmas Mass sign-ups! You will find a sign up sheet in the vestibule for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Please help us where you can by signing up to serve as ushers, Eucharistic ministers and altar servers.

High School Youth Group - Join us this Sunday, December 14th for a Communal Penance Celebration for high schoolers in the parish hall at 7pm. The following Sunday, Dec. 21st from 2pm to 4pm, we will be ice skating at the Walnut Creek Ice Rink. RSVP to Rick at ctkyouthminister@gmail.com. More info can be found at ctkym.org

Are you being called to the diaconate? A new deacon formation class is starting in the Diocese of Oakland. For more information, interested men and their wives are invited to attend an informational meeting. Call the Department of Clergy Services at 510-267-8348 for January, 2015 meeting dates and places. The discernment sessions will allow interested men to explore the call to diaconal ministry and gain understanding of the requirements, the process and the commitment involved in becoming a deacon.

Coming in 2015! JustFaith and Good News People. Are you ready to live more deeply with a greater sense of purpose? Then contact our Pastoral Associate, Kate Doherty for more information about JustFaith and Good News People. JustFaith is an intense and transformative 24 week small faith journey that will help you hear the gospel and make a difference. Good News People is a 14 week program that will open your eyes and call you to follow Jesus in a way you have never been called before. This is not a bible study, this is a crash course in discipleship. A wonderful way to start the new year! katedoherty.ctlk@gmail.com



Caroling with Life-Works!

Families with children: join the Life-Works community in spreading Christmas cheer with caroling at the Chateau 3 in Pleasant Hill on **Thursday, December 18th at 5:30 pm**. Bring your own simple instruments; we will have song sheets, and will meet in the main lobby. Please RSVP to Kristin at lifeworksctlk@gmail.com. Hope you can make it!

Today we welcome a Concern America craft sale. Volunteers have brought with them beautiful hand-crafted items made by people who live in impoverished communities in Latin America and Asia. We invite you to take a moment after mass to view the colorful display of gift items from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Bangladesh. Please stop by their tables as you leave mass.



This weekend there is a second collection for Religious Retirement.

Thank you for your generous support.



The “**Simbang Gabi**” is a long treasured Philippine tradition originally a series of “dawn masses” for nine consecutive days before Christmas Day. It starts every December 16th and is one of the longest and most important religious celebrations in the Philippines that has lasted over 600 years. The novena culminates, on the ninth day, with the Mass of the Gifts, or Misa de Gallo, which celebrates the birth of Jesus. However, it was not until 1669, during the early years of Christianity, in the Philippines, that the Misa de Gallo became a Philippine spiritual tradition. During Advent, in preparation for the birth of Christ, missionary friars held pre-dawn masses for nine consecutive days, to usher in the event of Jesus' birth. The masses were celebrated very early, usually at 4 in the morning, since they took place during the harvest season, when farmers had to be in the fields at the crack of dawn. The word gallo means rooster, in Spanish. At the first sound of dawn, at the crowing of the rooster, the entire family would get up and walk to the nearest parish church.

Here in the United States, Filipino immigrants brought with them this distinct tradition which is slowly taking roots and thus the observance of this time honored spiritual and cultural tradition has grown significantly in California, New York, Chicago, New Jersey and even in the Hampton Roads to the point where it has now earned a strong and unequivocal support.

At Christ the King, the “Simbang Gabi” Masses will commence on December 15th at 6:30 pm. I would like to invite you all to these novena of Masses and to the simple reception after each mass.