

# St. Stephen Catholic Church

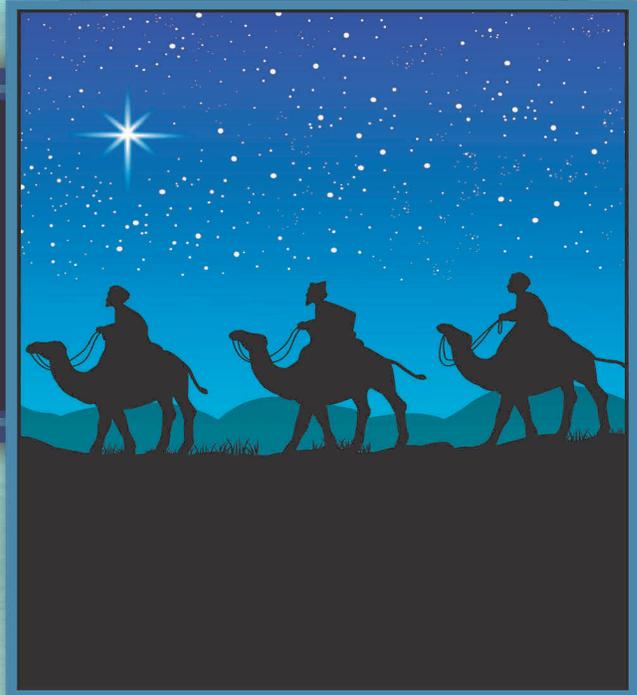
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## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 6, 2019

*They opened their treasures  
 and offered him gifts of  
 gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:11



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### Week At A Glance

- Mon, Jan 7**
- 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, Office Open
  - 7 pm, Lector's Practice
- Tues, Jan 8**
- 10 am-2 pm, Office Open
- Wed, Jan 9**
- 9:30 am, Scripture Study, Rm 5
  - 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
- Thurs, Jan 10**
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
  - 7 pm, Choir Rehearsal

### Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Sat 1/5 5 pm - Joseph Salerno Sr. †/Joseph Salerno Jr. †  
 Sun 1/6 9:30 am - Dominic Klapperich †  
 Mon 1/7 7:30 am - James Holmes †  
 Tues 1/8 7:30 am - Carol Rusca, Blessings  
 Wed 1/9 7:30 am - Kathy Tavormina, Birthday Blessings  
 Thurs 1/10 7:30 am - Lucille Schwarz †  
 Fri 1/11 7:30 am - Lucille Schwarz †  
 Sat 1/12 5 pm - Ron Klimczak †  
 Sun 1/13 9:30 am - Fr. Carl Seewald, Blessings

### Schedule of Masses

**Mon - Fri: 7:30 am Chapel, Room 1**  
**Saturday: 5 pm**  
**Sunday: 9:30 am**  
**Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 pm**

*Happy  
 New Year*

### Ministers Schedule:

Jan. 12 - 13

Mass	Sat. 5 pm	Sun. 9:30 am
LECTOR	J. Holmes	J. Gotelli
C.L.O.W.		C. Lang
MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	S. Kuca	M. Mammola
ALTAR SERVERS	M. Milani	L. Morin
SACRISTAN	M. Milani	J. Jury
COUNTERS: Jan. 7	M. Peare, R. Gigoux	
COUNTERS: Jan. 14	P. Walton, C. Ellis	

Dear Friends,

*"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die."* Peter Chrysologus

I would like to invite you to join the "Walk for Life" on January 26, 2019. Join tens of thousands of your fellow pro-lifers of all ages, races, religions, and of no religion at all, as they walk together in loving solidarity with the littlest and most defenseless among us. I am deeply aware that the walk for life primarily focuses on the issue of abortion even though there are other major present-day concerns in addition to abortion that are affecting the fabric of our society such as immigration, refugees, homelessness and others. Some of us may feel a sense of discomfort feeling that the pro-life movement has been hijacked by our sense of politics. I readily agree that abortion shouldn't be all we ever talk about, and it need not — should not — be inserted into every conversation. But on the other hand, we must never cease talking about it until the evil is removed from our society. I believe that through compassionate post-abortion ministry, our Church should assist mothers and fathers find forgiveness and healing.

I would ask you to support the thousands that will march, many of them with a genuine desire to transform our nation's understanding of life from the womb to the tomb. If you feel uncomfortable with the march and the rally that follows it, I would encourage you to attend the 8:00 am Mass in the Cathedral of San Francisco and pray with the thousands that gather in prayer. Nothing we do is perfect. Our intention is what matters.

This is a good time to challenge our own assumptions on what it means to be a pro-life Catholic. Respect Life Month puts the spotlight on Catholic social teaching, which instructs us to work and advocate for the protection of all life, especially the poor and vulnerable. "Not just the unborn, not just the poor, not just the hungry, not just the homeless, not just the war-torn, not just the undocumented, not just the medically uninsured, not just condemned prisoners, not just the environment, and not just future generations, but **all of the above deserve our care**. Everyone's life and dignity needs to be fully protected and respected." (Tony Magliano)

Do I embrace the whole gamut of pro-life issues? If the traditional pro-life movement is to regain credibility, it must set out intentionally to address homelessness and poverty in our nation. It must speak out clearly and forcefully against harming innocent children as a means of deterring undocumented immigration. It must address health care needs of all especially the poor and the vulnerable in our midst. Systematic racism is a prolife issue. As a church, we must advocate for those who are victims of discrimination and so much more. "As Catholics we are not single-issue voters," the U.S. bishops write in "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." "A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support."

**Financial Disclosure:** Our CTK and St. Stephen Finance Committee (they work as one unit) will be presenting the budget for the New Year. They will also update us on our spending in the past year. I am committed to transparency and accountability. I welcome questions and recommendations. I am grateful to the staff of CTK and the St. Stephen volunteers for their genuine effort to keep expenses down. I would like to congratulate St. Stephen community for having put together a balanced budget for 2019 with great sacrifice. I know that some of you at CTK only make donations to Social Justice causes you believe in. Thank you. I would like you to consider this year a certain amount for your parish administration as well. With so much of our facilities needing upgrade or restoration, I would like you to augment your donations 5-10% this year. I will join you by increasing my donations by 10%. May God bless us this New Year.

Fr. Paulson



## The Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2019

### First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who lived after the Jews returned from exile. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. But the prophet, with the eyes of faith, sees a wonderful future for Jerusalem.

### Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

The Ephesians were a community in which Jewish and Gentile converts lived side-by-side. The author of this letter confirms that God's saving grace is available to everyone, whatever their background.

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**Scripture Study** led by Jeannette Holmes started up again on Wednesdays at 9:30 am in Room 5. All are welcome to attend.

**Enrollment for Christ the King's 2019-2020 School Year begins soon!** Please join our school community for Mass on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 9:15 am followed by a schoolwide **Open House**. We have lots of wonderful things to share! Applications will be available mid January on the school website at [ctkschool.org](http://ctkschool.org).

We have a wonderful **group of volunteers running our Church office**, but **we could use more** so that they don't have to be there every week. Contact Chris Lang if you are interested in helping.

If you haven't picked up your 2019 **envelope boxes** from the back of the Church, please do so now. After this weekend, they will need to be picked up in the office.

**Ken Canedo, Composer & Author, Book Signing Concert:**



Composer Ken Canedo ("Fly Like a Bird", "Alleluia! Give the Glory") is coming to St. Perpetua Church on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm to give an engaging overview of liturgical renewal since the Second Vatican Council. All are welcome.

**Parish Stewardship Dec. 22/23**

Regular Collection	\$5,140.00
Christmas Collection	\$7,323.00
Maintenance	\$1,325.00
Paradise Fire	\$ 100.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 15.00
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 24.00

Thank you!



To all who helped put up our Christmas Tree and decorate the church....

**Your hard work is very much appreciated.** Thank you goes out to: Chris and Walter Lang, Peter and Lydia Reno, David Minister, Marc Bouret, Polly Walton, Eka Veamatahau, Genia Pauplis, Pat Heusler, Mike and Linda Lenahan, Tony Romano and Anabella Lolohea for our beautiful flowers.

We would also like to acknowledge our St. Stephen children who presented **The Story of the First Christmas** at our 5:00pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Thank you to: Koliima and Kawailani Lolohea, Erin and Jolene Roberts, Amelia Reno and Madeline Reno and Tommy Nguyen who were also Lectors.

**Grief Support at St. Bonaventure's:** The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was unexpected and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief.

**Healing the Heart** is a 6 week program that will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 until 9:00 pm from February 12th to March 19th. The Grief Companions will share their experiences and there is time for small group sharing. We invite you to join us and let us accompany you on your healing journey. For more information and to register, call Helene at 925-681-8105.

Next weekend the **2<sup>nd</sup> collection** will be for the **Seminary**. Thank you for your generosity.

*Jesus said, Wouldn't you, on the Sabbath, untie your ox or donkey from the manger, and lead it away to drink?*



*Then why shouldn't this woman be set free from bondage on the Sabbath day?" Luke 13:15-16*

"Whataboutism" is the attempt to dodge an accusation by charging the accuser with wrongdoing.

Whataboutism deflects one negative with another. Russia is well-practiced at whataboutism. During the Cold War, when the United States criticized Russia of human rights violations, Moscow would say, "This from a country that lynches black people?" Whataboutism is a logical fallacy. The legitimacy of an accusation has no bearing on whether or not the accuser is also guilty of something. Even Jesus engaged in whataboutism, with one significant difference in the scripture above. He deflected a negative accusation: "A good rabbi wouldn't heal on the Sabbath!" with a positive one: "Hey, you untie your animals on the Sabbath so they can drink. Why shouldn't I release a woman from bondage on the Sabbath?" Instead of dropping to his opponents' level, he lifted them up to his. Try that next time someone discredits you. When they go low, stand your ground, but instead of sinking to their level and firing back, take them in your arms and raise them up.

**Prayer: God, you are so good.**

**Whatabout helping me be as good to others as Jesus has been to me?**

**Amen**

Annette Roux, Pastoral Associate, Ret.

**Note from Fr. Paulson:** There have been several "**phishing**" emails that appear to come from Fr. Paulson, **but are a scam**. Remember that Fr. Paulson will never email a request for money or gift cards. Please do not respond to these emails if you receive one.

**Mission Statement: To Live and to Love in Christ**