

**First Sunday of Lent**

The word is near you,  
 in your mouth and in your heart.

— Romans 10:8

**March 10, 2019**

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Week At A Glance	Upcoming Mass Intentions		
<p><b>Mon, Mar 11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 am-1:30 pm, Office Open</li> <li>7 pm, Lector's Practice</li> </ul> <p><b>Tues, Mar 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 am-2 pm, Office Open</li> </ul> <p><b>Wed, Mar 13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 am, Scripture Study, Rm 6</li> <li>11 am-3 pm, Office Open</li> <li>6:00 pm, Potluck Soup Supper</li> <li>7:00 pm, Reflections on the Rice Bowl</li> </ul> <p><b>Thurs, Mar 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 am-3 pm, Office Open</li> <li>7 pm, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul> <p><b>Fri, Mar 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noon, Stations of the Cross</li> <li>8 pm, Diablo Choral Artists Concert</li> </ul>	<p>Sun 3/10 9:30 am - Santo Tavormina †                  Mon 3/11 7:30 am - Baby Michael John Christian †                  Sat 3/16 5:00 pm - Peter Vallarino †                  Sun 3/17 9:30 am - Mary Arnold †</p>		
	Ministers Schedule: Mar. 16 - 17		
	Mass	Sat. 5 pm	Sun. 9:30 am
	<b>LECTOR</b>	C. Pluta	M. AhYee
	<b>C.L.O.W.</b>		T. Nguyen
	<b>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</b>	J. Holmes	P. Dempsey
	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	F. McCormick	
	<b>SACRISTAN</b>	M. Milani	M. AhYee
	<b>COUNTERS: Mar 11</b>	W. Lang, J. Brady	
	<b>COUNTERS: Mar 18</b>	P. Walton, C. Ellis	
<p><b>Schedule of Masses</b></p> <p><b>Mon - Fri: 7:30 am Chapel, Room 1</b>  <b>Saturday: 5 pm</b>  <b>Sunday: 9:30 am</b></p> <p><b>Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>(Sister Parish)</b>  <b>Christ the King Catholic Church</b>  <b>199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill</b>  <b>925-682-2486</b></p>		

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, God calls us to greatness as another Lenten Season begins. God calls us just as God called the whole Israelite community, to rise up to the greatest challenge ever given to us ~ the challenge to be God-like.



In our three-year cycle of hearing the Scriptures, we listen to the same readings repeatedly; but, God's Word is a "living word" that speaks to us anew at each hearing. God's word continues to give us hope, confidence and trust as we grow and change.

Today's Reading from Deuteronomy struck me as particularly relevant in these times of conflict over immigration to the United States and other countries. Moses speaks to the people reminding them of the stories of God's action among them as a migrating people. In doing so, he reminds us that our salvation finds its foundation in God's actions on behalf of the homeless (wandering Aramean), the oppressed (afflicted resident aliens), the marginalized (orphans and widows) and the enslaved (the Lord brought us out of Egypt). God's faithfulness is also the source of the bounty on the land that we enjoy (flowing with milk and honey). This story of God's faithfulness calls us to become instruments that bring God's blessings to the vulnerable in our midst.

Father Buscher writes: "Lent is a time when we can explore how THE story of Christ and our story are wound together. Discipleship comes when we see how the two stories intersect, because it is there we rediscover what it means to have God in our lives."

As we begin our Lenten Season, let us pray:

*Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds. Lord Jesus, help us by Your grace ~*

- *To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of Your children as our own brother and sister;*
- *To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;*
- *To realize that You call all people to Your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;*
- *To share of our abundance as You spread a banquet before us;*
- *To give witness to Your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring. (USCCB)*

Celebrate! You are beginning a journey to transform your life, which holds the opportunity to change ~ to enrich your way of thinking, loving and believing. And, celebrate also that God's Spirit will be your Lenten companion. Just as the Spirit led Jesus into desert for forty days, that same Spirit is leading you.

God's Blessings,  
Sister Maureen Viani, SNJM  
Director of Religious Education

***First Sunday  
of Lent  
March 10, 2019***

***First Reading:  
Deuteronomy 26:4-10***

The events in this reading take place as the Israelites are camped on the shore of the Jordan River ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses bids them to remember all that God has done for them. When they are settled in this new land, every year they should offer the first fruits of their harvest to the Lord.

***Second Reading:  
Romans 10:8-13***

Paul was proud of his Jewish heritage and wanted all his people to be saved. The question of what will happen to Jews who do not believe in Jesus caused Paul a great deal of grief and anxiety. In this section of the letter to the Romans, he addresses this issue.

**PARISH STAFF CONTACTS**

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There will be **no coffee and donuts** this Sunday because of outside use of the hall.

We need **immediate volunteers** to help with coffee and donuts for at least the next three weeks because Kathy Gomes is on restricted activity. Please call the parish office at 274-1341 if you can help.



**Diablo Choral Artists** will be presenting "Sing Joyfully," a concert featuring five

centuries of British sacred music, here at St. Stephen on Friday, March 15, 2019 at 8:00 P.M. Adult admission is \$25, Seniors 60+ \$15, Students \$5, and Children 5-12 free.

Join **members of our local community** standing and peacefully praying during the "**40 Days for Life**" prayer vigil to end abortion - now through Saturday, April 13th outside the local abortion facility at 1357 Oakland Boulevard in Walnut Creek. Vigil hours are from 7am-7pm except Sundays, and you are encouraged to join for an hour a week, or even an hour in total! Your prayerful presence makes a difference in witnessing for life and in helping to present life-giving options for women. To register go to: [40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek](http://40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek)

Men's Retreat on April 12-14! "**Welcome Back Cotter**". Fr. Vince will be our retreat master at San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville. Contact [peteo-brien7@gmail.com](mailto:peteo-brien7@gmail.com) for more information

This **Wednesday, March 13**, we will be having **our first Lenten Soup Supper** of the season. Potluck is at 6:00 PM followed by a presentation at 7:00 PM. Our first presentation is titled "**Reflections on the Rice Bowl**". The following three Wednesdays, **Fr. Paulson will be presenting parts of his new book "Bread, Blessed and Broken for the World, A Pastor's Reflections on the Celebration of Mass"**. The final Wednesday, April 10, we will be having a Seder Meal in place of the Soup Supper.



Fridays during Lent will have **Stations of the Cross at Noon** in the Church.

**Rice Bowls** are also available in the back of the Church and in the Chapel. Included in the Rice Bowl is a pamphlet with more information, including simple meal ideas, and a calendar of weekly and daily reflections. As in past years, we look forward to your **generosity with the Rice Bowls**.

The **Lenten Black Books** are available in the back of the Church and in the Chapel for your prayerful meditations.

**LifeShift Retreat on Work and the Christian Journey**. An opportunity to reflect on life and faith while considering new career, work, and/or retirement possibilities. Participants will clarify life/work goals and address the fears of transition. San Damiano Retreat April 5-7. Presenters: Jim Briggs and Tom Bachhuber. 925-837-9141 to register.

Join Christ the King Parishioners at a **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**



hosted by the Knights of Columbus. **Saturday, March 16**, 5:30 pm in the CTK Gym, Dinner at 7 pm. Three course meal, full Irish Bar, Irish Dancers and Live Irish Music. Tickets \$35 adults, \$15 children. Online ticket sales at [www.KofCPH.org](http://www.KofCPH.org) or call Jay Becker at 818-1915.

**Bingo Fundraiser** - The Filipino Society of Christ the King (FSCTK) will sponsor a Bingo Fundraiser on **Saturday, March 23 in the CTK Parish Hall** from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Game tickets are \$25 for 12 plays. We are also selling raffle tickets at \$10 each for a chance to win great prizes. Proceeds will go to the CTK Building Fund. Call Abe at 925-381-5898 or Efrain at 698-6530 for more info.

**St. Stephen Parish Hall:** One of the great assets of St. Stephen Parish is our beautiful multi-use parish hall that can accommodate over 200 people. A commercial kitchen and ample parking make this a fantastic choice for family celebrations, parties and community events. There is a discounted rental fee for St. Stephen and CTK parishioners. For more details, call the parish office at 274-1341.

**Parish Stewardship March 2/3**

Regular Collection	\$3246.00
Maintenance	\$ 120.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 5.00
Donuts:	\$ 42.00

**Thank you!**

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