

*St. Stephen Catholic Church
Walnut Creek, California
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 5, 2018*



PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday--Thursday 8:30 AM--4:30 PM
Office closed daily for lunch. Office closed on Friday.

Parish Office and Mailing Address: 525 Madonna Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Church Location: 1101 Keaveny Ct, Walnut Creek

Telephone: 925-939-3826
Fax: 925-988-0417
Office Email: SaintStephenWC@gmail.com
Administrator Email: paulson.ck@gmail.com

PARISH CLERGY:

FR. PAULSON MUNDANMANI Parochial Administrator	FR. MARIO RIZZO Parochial Vicar
DEACON JOHN ASHMORE Permanent Diocesan Deacon	FR. BRIAN TIMONEY Assisting Clergy

PARISH OFFICE STAFF:

ANNETTE ROUX Pastoral Associate	MARY COOK Office Manager
MARIA CALDERAZZO Director of Music Ministry	NANCY GIZDICH Bookkeeper

TODAY'S READINGS:

First Reading — I will rain down bread from heaven for you
(Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15).

Psalm — The Lord gave them bread from heaven
(Psalm 78).

Second Reading — Put on the new self that has been created in
God's way (Ephesians 4:17, 20-24).

Gospel — Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever
believes in me will never thirst (John 6:24-35).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9;
2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10

Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-21, 29,
22-23; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13;
Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19;
Mt 16:13-23

Friday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26

Saturday: Hb 1:12 — 2:4; Ps 9:8-13; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8; Ps 34:2-9; Eph 4:30 — 5:2;
Jn 6:41-51



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 5:00 PM
 Sunday: 9:30 AM
 Weekdays: 7:30 AM
 Holy Days: 7:30 AM and 7:00 PM



RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:30 PM New Time!

BAPTISMS: Registration is mandatory two months prior to Baptism. Parents and Godparents are required to attend mandatory preparation before Baptism. Call: 925-682-2486

MARRIAGES: A minimum of six (6) months advance notice is required. The parish must be contacted before any specific arrangement are made or dates are set.

FUNERALS: We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services / Queen of Heaven Cemetery at 925-932-0900. A representative from CFCS will contact the parish office manager to make your arrangements.

REGISTRATION: New parishioners may contact the office and complete a registration form found in church. Welcome

MISSION STATEMENT: To Live and to Love in Christ

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT 8/4 5:00 Sheila Grilli †
 SUN 8/5 9:30 Phyllis Pauplis †
 MON 8/6 7:30 †
 TUE 8/7 7:30 Amanda Evelyn Smith †
 WED 8/8 7:30 James Dempsey †
 THU 8/9 7:30 John Stenson †
 FRI 8/10 7:30 Int. Matthew Thompson
 Birthday Blessing
 SAT 8/11 5:00 Ascenzio Coletta †
 SUN 8/12 9:30 Molly Widner †




For Mass intentions, call 925-939-3826

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

JULY 29, 2018

CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday Collection	\$2,773.00	Weekly Offering 
Hospitality	\$ 58.00	
Peter's Pence	\$ 50.00	
St. Vince de Paul	\$ 646.00	

*Thank you to those contributing to the Farewell expenses.
 Thank you! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.*

**FROM THE DESK OF
 DEACON JOHN ASHMORE**



Dear Fellow St. Stephen's Parishioners,

I can hardly believe that over half of the summer is already behind us. I hope you've enjoyed your break or vacation, if you had one, and that you're preparing to enjoy the autumn weather that will soon be upon us. In the meantime, go out and enjoy that last summer trip to the ocean and that last summer cookout with friends and family.

Have you ever noticed how much food is a central theme in much of scripture? Last week we heard of Jesus feeding of five thousand with just a few barley loaves and a couple of fish. In the Hebrew Scriptures we hear the story of the manna given to the Israelites as they wandered through the desert in search of the Promised Land. In the societies that we meet in the scriptures food wasn't always a certainty. So, if one could provide a certain source of food it was a very big deal. And, that brings us to the gospel readings for today and the next two Sundays.

Taken together, these readings are called "The Bread of Life Discourse." In them, Jesus establishes that He is the true bread that came down from heaven, to the shock and disbelief of the Pharisees. They have no doubt heard that Jesus fed the 5000 with just five loaves and two fishes, but they can't wrap their heads around the idea that Jesus is proposing that He Himself is all the food they need.

I trust that all of us believe that the Eucharist we share at Mass is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ Himself. When I was unable to attend Mass because of my injuries earlier this year, I longed for the Blessed Sacrament, knowing that it was the true source of the strength I needed. I can't tell you how much more at peace I felt when my wife brought me Holy Communion after she attended Mass. It was the Blessed Sacrament that sustained me through some very painful days. But what does all of this mean to us?

I think the message is that we are to live our lives being the bread that the world around us needs. None of us IS Jesus, but we can certainly bring Jesus to others in many ways. We can do this by serving as Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick and Homebound. Sometimes that bread is buying a meal for a homeless person. Sometimes it's just listening and sharing the burden of another. Sometimes it's setting aside a personal pleasure to help the immediate needs of complete strangers.

St. Stephen's is a wonderful, loving parish, and it is each of you that makes that a reality. It is your actions that spread the love of God wherever you go. So let's go out and enjoy the second half of summer, remembering to be the hands and feet of Jesus wherever we go.

God bless you and have a wonder filled week!

—Deacon John Ashmore

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday 8/5	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Monday 8/6	Transfiguration of the Lord	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
8:30 AM	RC	Counters: Walton & Stark
Tuesday 8/7	St. Cajetan, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
8:00 AM	PH	Contra Costa Realtors in Motion
Wednesday 8/8	St. Dominic, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
9:30 AM	R5	Scripture Study
Thursday 8/9	St. Teresa Benedicta, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
8:00 AM	PH	Keller Williams Bold training session
Friday 8/10	St. Lawrence, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group <i>Parish Office Closed</i>
Saturday 8/11	St. Clare, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
4:30 PM	CH	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday 8/12	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	

CH = Church . PH = Parish Hall . RC = Rectory . R# = Room

MINISTERS SAT/SUN AUG 11/12

MASS:	5 PM	9:30 AM
LECTORS	J. Kurpinsky	J. Gotelli
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	Fr. McCormick* S. Karges P. Walton	D. Minister* J. Patel J. Jury
SACRISTAN		A. Roux
ALTAR SERVERS:	R. Kuca	L. Morin
COUNTERS:		
MON 8/6	J. Stark	P. Walton
MON 8/13	M. Lenahan	K. Coyne



NO HARSHNESS. Fight all error, but do it with good humor, patience, kindness, and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause. —St. John Kanty

VISIT OF THE PILGRIM CROSS



The replica of the Pilgrim Cross brought by the Spaniards to the Philippine shore in 1521, has arrived at Christ the King church on Fri, Aug 3 and will remain for two weeks until Fri, Aug 17.

There will be opportunities for prayer in church:
SUN, AUG 5 @ 7PM

MON, AUG 6 through SAT, AUG 11 @ 6:30 PM

MASS OF THANKSGIVING on SUN, AUG 12 @ 12:15 PM

followed by a luncheon in the gym; then, prayer @ 7 PM

MON, AUG 13 through FRI, AUG 17 @ 6:30 PM

The four-year jubilee celebration commemorating the 500 year anniversary of Filipino Catholic Evangelization began in March 2018. This Diocesan celebration, while a Filipino custom, is for all Catholics to embrace and not exclusively for Filipinos. The Catholic faith that was introduced in the Philippines almost 500 years ago and is the same faith we all find meaning in; and is expressed and celebrated it in different ways. Bishop Michael C. Barber SJ envisions all the faithful to join the celebration of this momentous event. Join in the celebration!

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

"I lifted the burden off your shoulders; your hands are free of the brick basket! In distress you cried out, so I rescued you." Psalm 81:6

God's warning comes too late for most of us. As much as we try to put God first, the reality is that we all have foreign gods. Gods totally incompatible with the life of faith. Idolatry is the word theologians have used for centuries to describe putting something else in the place of God. Most of us are good about knowing that God should come first. But if we look closely enough when we make daily choices we might find that we give too much to other gods instead. But here's the thing about bowing down to those other gods: you can give them everything you have in the hopes that they will bring you joy and contentment, but in the end they will never love you back. Instead you will find that they are not gods at all, but are black holes that suck away every good thing you have to share. That may sound harsh, but it is the truth for many of us. When we approach the end of our earthly lives, we find that never did we find lasting comfort in the past purchase of a vacation house, an expensive car, or a country club membership. In fact, at the end those strange deities will look like the hollow shells they had always been. So what do people find comfort in? Their faith, of course, but more than that in lives where their faith in God's love had moved them to love others. A world made somehow just a little better by their lives. A life well-lived becomes a cause of hope for the rest of us, and a witness to what it looks like to be free from serving what can never love us back.

Prayer: God, may I love you with all of my life knowing that you loved me first, and may that love be enough to keep my heart turned towards you. Amen. —Annette Roux

COMING SOON: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & LOAVES & FISHES . THE BIG LA BOCCE . SAT, SEP 22 BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT . STAY TUNED

Bluegrass Music & Pasta Dinner at San Damiano Retreat Center 710 Highland Drive, Danville Sun, Aug 19 . Music @ 3 PM . Dinner @ 4:30 PM \$15 adults . \$10 children 12 years and under Register at www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141



TO MAINTAIN A JOYFUL FAMILY REQUIRES MUCH FROM BOTH THE PARENTS AND THE CHILDREN. EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY HAS TO BECOME, IN A SPECIAL WAY, THE SERVANT OF THE OTHERS. —ST. JOHN PAUL II

White Mass—Thanksgiving Mass for Healthcare Providers

SEP 29 @ 10 AM at the Cathedral of Christ the Light

All who provide healthcare services, direct & administratively, are encouraged to attend this multicultural celebration. Reception & mental health resources fair will follow.



CYO Basketball 2018-2019

Registration is open for

Girls & Boys in Grades 3rd to 8th

who are enrolled in Religious Ed and live within St. Stephen parish boundaries are invited to participate.

Registration is available until August 31

Please visit the Christ the King CYO website at ctkeyhoops.org

and, follow the link to the registration page

VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED

There will be a meeting in August for all coaches.

For further info contact allen.brezac@comcast.net