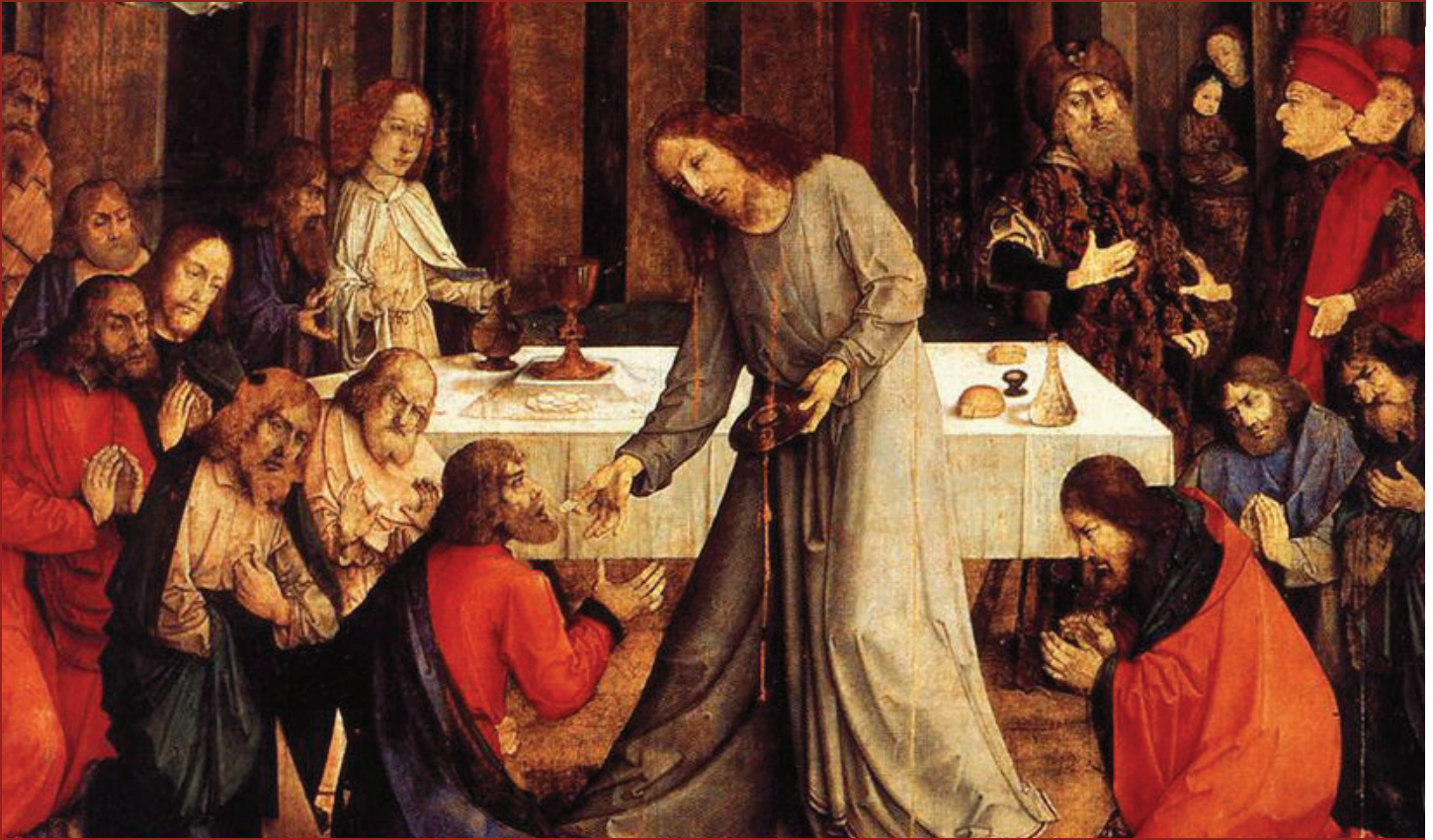


*St. Stephen Catholic Church
Walnut Creek, California
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 12, 2018*



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.ctk@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 — Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water (1 Kings 19:4-8).

Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34).

Second Reading — Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love (Ephesians 4:30 — 5:2).

Gospel — Jesus said, "I am the living bread; whoever eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:41-51).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ez 1:2-5, 24-28c; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: Ez 2:8 — 3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: **Vigil:** 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28

Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Thursday: Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21 — 19:1

Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 19:13-15

Sunday: Prv 9:1-6; Ps 34:2-7; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58



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	8/11	5:00	Ascenzio Coletta †
SUN	8/12	9:30	Molly Widner and Joshua Pudjak †
MON	8/13	7:30	†
TUE	8/14	7:30	Peter "Chris" Misuracat †
WED	8/15	7:30	Int. Mary Tavormina
		7:00	Johanna Pauplis †
THU	8/16	7:30	Doug Prouty †
FRI	8/17	7:30	†
SAT	8/18	5:00	Fred Mewes †
SUN	8/19	9:30	Philomena & Michael Pauplis †



For Mass intentions, call 925-939-3826

LET OUR ADORATION NEVER CEASE!



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
ctkyochoops.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

FROM THE DESK OF THE PAROCHIAL VICAR



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you may have noticed, the Gospel passages from the last few weeks have taken a major detour. We have temporarily departed from the Gospel of Mark, and are now in our third week of listening to the "Bread of Life Discourse" in the Gospel of John, which we will continue to listen to until the end of August. I would suggest that during these next weeks you find some time to read the entire discourse, which can be found in chapter six of the Gospel of John (verses 22-71).

This discourse is unique because, unlike the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), John's Gospel does not have the words of institution at the Last Supper: "this is my body... this is my blood." Rather, the "Bread of Life Discourse" is the scene in which we receive John's theology of the Eucharist. And what does Jesus have to say to us about the Eucharist here? "Whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." We know by the reaction of the crowd who heard these words that this was a very provocative, even scandalous, thing for Jesus to say. To them, He was proposing cannibalism, which is why many of His followers leave him, as we will see in the readings to come.

As members of Christ's Church today – having 2,000 years of exposition on the Gospels behind us – we have the benefit of a clearer understanding of the Eucharist. We have terms like "transubstantiation" in order to clarify the process of change that occurs at Mass when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We know that we are not cannibals consuming lifeless pieces of flesh, but that, in consuming the Eucharist, we invite the living and resurrected Lord into our lives. And yet, despite the strides we have made in our theology, there are people who still "murmur" against Jesus and his teaching on the Eucharist.

And why is that? For one, despite many well-documented Eucharistic miracles that confirm the appearance of human heart tissue in the host, Christ's presence cannot be verified scientifically. Our faith tells us one thing, but our bodily senses tell us another. More importantly, though, it is easy to doubt God's presence and his promise of giving life to the world when our world is shrouded in death and darkness. I came across a news clip from last weekend that said that 30 people were shot in Chicago during a 24-hour period. And as a Church we are still confounded and disgusted by the recent news of the abuse of Cardinal McCarrick. There is no wonder why we "murmur."

And yet we must pause, for Jesus did not say that we ourselves are life for the world. He did not say that religious leaders are. He said that He is. That's precisely why He came to us, and gave himself to us in the Eucharist, because He knew that left to ourselves we die, and cause others to die as well. With devoted reception and adoration of the Eucharist, however, we begin to see that, even amidst the suffering of life, we can still live, and live well. This is what John means when he uses the Greek word ζωή (zoe) for life in chapter six. This refers not to any normal life, but the fullness of life, the very life of God. This is the same word he uses in those very special words in 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life (ζωή - zoe).

Whether our faith in Christ's presence in the Eucharist is strong or weak, let us continue to grow in our devotion to it. The Church teaches us that the Eucharist is the source and summit – the beginning and end - of our faith. This is because it contains the fullness of life. We all want that life, for ourselves and for the world; with increased prayer, devotion, and reception of the Eucharist, we can help to make that a reality.

—God bless you, Fr. Mario

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday 8/12	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Monday 8/13	St. Pontian, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
8:30 AM	RC	Counters:
Tuesday 8/14	St. Maximillian Kolbe, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
8:00 AM	PH	Contra Costa Realtors in Motion
Wednesday 8/15	St. Mary, pray for us.	
	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	
7:30 AM	CH	Holy of Obligation Mass
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
9:30 AM	R5	Scripture Study
7:00 PM	CH	Holy of Obligation Mass
Thursday 8/16	St. Stephen of Hungary, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
9:30 AM	R5	Enrichment Meeting
Friday 8/17	St. Joan of the Cross, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
		<i>Parish Office Closed</i>
Saturday 8/18	St. Louise of Toulouse, pray for us.	
4:30 PM	CH	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday 8/19	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	

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

VISIT OF THE PILGRIM CROSS



The replica of the Pilgrim Cross brought by the Spaniards to the Philippine shore in 1521 is at CTK. There are opportunities for prayer in church:
Mon, Aug 13 through Fri, Aug 17 @ 6:30

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

"This command I gave them, 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk only in the way that I command you, so that it may be well with you.' Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but in the stubbornness of their evil will, they walked in their own counsels, and looked backward rather than forward." Jeremiah 7:23-24

A lot of us claim to believe in God, but then act as if everything depended on us, on our efforts and wisdom, on our ability to keep all the little planets of our concerns in perfect orbit around the great blazing sun of our inner control freak. Meanwhile, we are white-knuckling it all the way. This has been referred to as "functional atheism." Some verbal hallmarks that you are a functional atheist: "I can handle this all by myself." "Don't worry about me." "Yeah, just fine." One of the great sicknesses of the 21st century is our solitariness, our isolation from each other and from God. We are allergic to asking for help and have a pathological fear of being thought "needy." Some of us will walk in our own counsel right off a cliff rather than show our vulnerability to another human being, or turn to God in prayer.

Here's a news flash: You're just as God made you, and that includes being needy. Control freaks, perfectionists and fiercely independent types are not of much use to the God who made us to fit together, interlocking parts that hold the whole Creation in place.

Prayer: God, take away my shame that I really can't handle this all by myself, and use my neediness to show the world what Your power is really like. Amen.

—Annette Roux, Pastoral Associate

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 5, 2018	CONTRIBUTIONS	
Sunday Collection	\$3,035.25	Weekly Offering
Hospitality	\$ 40.00	
Maintenance	\$ 106.00	
Mission Coop	\$ 877.00	
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 425.00	



JULY SUMMARY

TOTAL	\$17,417.07
GOAL:	\$19,000.00
<i>Overage or (Shortfall)</i>	(\$ 1,582.93)

OTHER

Hospitality	\$ 235.21
Maintenance	\$ 387.00
Mission Coop	\$ 877.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 396.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,081.00

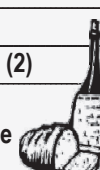
Thank you! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.
REMEMBER ST. STEPHEN PARISH IN YOUR WILL & LIVING TRUST

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

MASS:	7:30 AM	7:00 PM
LECTORS	J. Brady	R. Kuca
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	P. Dempsey*	S. Karges*
		S. Kuca.
ALTAR SERVERS:	W. Lang	F. McCormick

MINISTERS SAT/SUN AUG 18/19

MASS:	5 PM	9:30 AM
LECTORS	B. Rusca	R. Gigoux
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	F. McCormick*	M. Mammola*
	S. Kuca	L. Morin
	M. Milani	Veamatahau
SACRISTAN	J. Jury	
ALTAR SERVERS:	J. Kurpinsky	Takafua (2)
COUNTERS:		
MON 8/13	M. Lenahan	K. Coyne
MON 8/20	D. Mammola	C. Ellis



Thank you to all parishioners for the monetary support you have given to St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Stephen Conference over the years. Once again, we ask for your help in stocking our pantry which is depleting. We are in need of non-perishable and non-expired dried beans, lentils, jelly, and rice in addition to canned soups, chili, fruits (no pineapple, please) ham, chicken, tuna, and vegetables (no corn, please). Your donations are very much appreciated by Vincentians and the families that receive your charity and love.
WE HAVE NO MEANS OF REFRIGERATION. PLEASE DO NOT PUT PERISHABLE ITEMS IN THE SVDP BASKETS.