

St. Stephen Catholic Church Walnut Creek, California Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, August 19, 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 — Wisdom has built her house; she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table (Proverbs 9:1-6).

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

Second Reading — Be filled with the Spirit, giving thanks always and for everything (Ephesians 5:15-20).

Gospel — I am the living bread that came down from heaven (John 6:51-58).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ez 24:15-24; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab;
Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
Saturday: Ez 43:1-7a; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12
Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-21;
Eph 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]; Jn 6:60-69
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 8/18 5:00 Fred Mewes †
 SUN 8/19 9:30 Philomena & Michael Pauplis †
 MON 8/20 7:30 †
 TUE 8/21 7:30 Roger Peters †
 WED 8/22 7:30 †
 THU 8/23 7:30 †
 FRI 8/24 7:30 †
 SAT 8/25 5:00 Bob Walton †
 SUN 8/26 9:30 Joe & Carolina DeSouza †



For Mass intentions, call 925-939-3826



MOVIE NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 7 PM
"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE"
ST. STEPHEN PARISH HALL

Growing up in Greenville, Texas, Bart Millard suffers physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his father, Arthur. When Arthur becomes terminally ill, he finds redemption by embracing his faith and rediscovering his love for his son. Years later, Bart's troubled childhood and mended relationship with his dad inspires him to write the hit song "I Can Only Imagine" as singer of the Christian band Mercy Me.

Popcorn & Root Beer Floats Provided

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON ASHMORE



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Today's gospel is the third part of the "Bread of Life Discourse" from the gospel of John. As I read and re-read this passage, I get a sense of the tension that existed, not only between Jesus and the Pharisees, but also between Jesus and the people who were trying to follow him. "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." How could Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph, proclaim such a ridiculous idea to them? They knew him, they knew his parents and where he came from. Today, we might fail to recognize how absurd this sounded to many people in Jesus' time, but in context their disbelief is understandable. They had not witnessed Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, so they had good reason for doubt and confusion. In spite of two millennia of study and theological development, many Catholics today find Jesus' statement just as hard to believe as the people of Jesus' time.

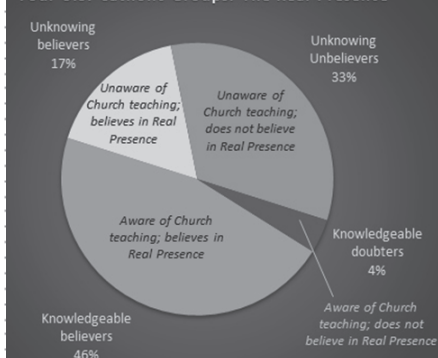
Take a look at this pie chart. (Source: D'Antonio, Dillon, & Gautier 2013. *American Catholics in Transition*) It shows the results of a survey asking Catholic respondents if they knew and believed in the Church's teaching of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The largest piece of the pie, 46%, both knew and believed in the real presence. 17% were unaware of the Church's teachings, yet believed. 33% were unaware and did not believe, while the remaining 17% knew the church's teaching but did not believe. The question for each of us to ponder is, "Do I know what the church teaches, and what do I believe about Jesus presence in the Eucharist?"

Those of us unaware of the church's teaching may want to consider doing some reading or studying to better understand why and what the Church teaches. If one is aware of the teaching but struggling to believe, perhaps some deeper study or an increase in prayer time may help. But the good news is this: Wherever we may be on this pie chart, Jesus is ready to meet us at that point and accompany us to the next level.

If you haven't had the chance to read Father Mario's bulletin letter from last weekend, I invite you to look it up on the CTK website. Explaining the "Bread of Life Discourse," he captured the essence of what Eucharist means. God doesn't desire a nice, ordinary life for us. Quoting Father Mario, God wants us to have, "the fullness of life, the very life of God." The Blessed Sacrament, the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, is the greatest of all the gifts that Christ has bestowed on each of us. It is our food for the journey, our spiritual nourishment for our everyday life. Jesus invites each of us to take and eat of Him in the Eucharist, and live eternally with Him in heaven.

—Deacon John Ashmore

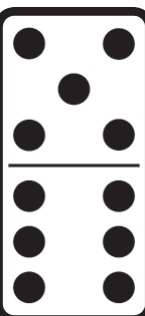
Four U.S. Catholic Groups: The Real Presence



WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday 8/19	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Monday 8/20	St. Bernard, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
8:30 AM	RC	Counters
Tuesday 8/21	St. Pope Pius X, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
8:00 AM	PH	Contra Costa Realtors in Motion
12:00 PM	PH	Card & Game Party
Wednesday 8/22	St. Andrew the Scot, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
9:30 AM	R5	Scripture Study
Thursday 8/23	St. Rose of Lima, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
Friday 8/24	St. Bartholomew, pray for us.	
8:00 AM	CH	Rosary Group
		<i>Parish Office Closed</i>
Saturday 8/25	St. Louis, pray for us.	
4:30 PM	CH	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday 8/26	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	

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

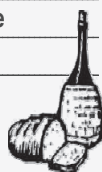


BRIDGE & GAME PARTY

Please come & join in at St. Stephen Parish Hall on Tuesday, August 21 at noon for an afternoon of games (bridge, dominoes, Rummikub, etc.). This is a chance to socialize with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome. Please bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Call Walter Lang at 939-2430 if you have any questions.

MINISTERS SAT/SUN AUG 25/26

MASS:	5 PM	9:30 AM
LECTORS	G. Pauplis	C. Lang
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	F. McCormick* S. Karges R. Kuca	D. Minister* A. Roux M. Lenahan
SACRISTAN		M. AhYee
ALTAR SERVERS:	M. Milani	A. Roux
COUNTERS:		
MON 8/20	D. Mammola	C. Ellis
MON 8/17	P. Walton	M. Peare



White Mass—Thanksgiving Mass for Healthcare Providers

SAT. SEP 29 @ 10 AM at the Cathedral
All who provide healthcare services, direct & administratively, are encouraged to attend this multicultural celebration. Reception & mental health resources fair will follow.



Blue Mass—Special Mass for Public Servants

SUN. OCT 7 @ 10 AM at the Cathedral
All who provide public services are encouraged to attend this celebration especially first responders & law enforcement.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 12, 2018	CONTRIBUTIONS	
Sunday Collection	\$2,734.00	Weekly Offering
Assumption	\$ 23.00	
Hospitality	\$ 31.00	
Maintenance	\$ 10.00	
Mission Coop	\$ 70.00	
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 20.00	

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

The gift of grace increases as the struggles increase. —St. Rose of Lima



Celebrating 500 Anniversary of Filipino Catholic Evangelization

SYMPOSIUM SERIES BEGINS SAT. SEP 29 @ 9 AM—3 PM

St. Isidore, Msgr. Cardelli Activity Center, Danville
Rooting, Uprooting & Replanting: The Filipino Experience of Moving from Home (Philippines) to Home (Oakland Diocese)
ADMISSION & LUNCH FREE ~ oakjourneyto2021@gmail.com
MASS IN HONOR OF SAN LORENZO RUIZ
Pre-register at 500thanniiversarycelebration.eventbrite.com

IMITATE GOD

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

As the deer longs for the flowing streams, so my soul longs for you my God." - Psalm 42

Have you ever reconnected with someone who haven't spoken to or communicated with in many years? Did you find that it seemed like no time had passed at all and that you really missed this person? And this person really missed you? God misses us in the same way and longs to hear from us. Our souls long for God when we neglect intentional time with Him, but God also longs for us. God misses us just as we miss others we have lost contact with. When we take time to be alone with God, in prayer, in meditation, not just taking a hike in nature but setting aside time for a hike in nature with God, something different happens. Not only does God's heart dance for joy at our intentional journey that dares reach beyond itself toward the ineffable God, but so does our own heart. Spend five intentional minutes with God today: in prayer, Bible study, a nature walk or run, yoga, the rosary, golf—whatever . . . Intentionally set aside 5 minutes with God today. See what happens. It's not what you do, but that you do it intentionally that matters. (Here's a bonus: Do the same for the one or someone you love today—take five intentional minutes!) I'm expecting miracles! Are you?

Prayer: O God, perhaps without realizing it, I've been longing for intentional time alone with you. Funny, I never thought about how much you might have actually missed me, too. I don't want to wait until a crisis brings us together. Help me set aside five intentional minutes . . . today. I love you. Amen.
—Annette Roux, Pastoral Associate