

St. Stephen Catholic Church

October 14, 2018

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 www.saintstephenparish.org Email: saintstephenwc@gmail.com

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*Go, sell what you have,
 and give to the poor
 and you will have treasure in heaven;
 then come,*

follow me.

Mark 10:21

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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Week At A Glance

Sunday, 10/14 -28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 10/15

- RE Grades 1-5, CTK 3:30 pm
- RE Older Sacraments, CTK 3:30 pm

Tuesday, 10/16

- 12:00 Card & Game Party, Parish Center
- RE Grades 1-5, CTK 3:30 pm
- RE Grades 7/8, CTK 7 pm

Wednesday, 10/17

- Scripture Study, Room 5 9:30 am
- Pastoral Council, CTK Youth House 7 pm
- RE Grades 1-5, CTK 3:30 pm
- RE Grade 6, CTK 7 pm

Thursday, 10/18

- Enrichment Mtg, Room 5 9:30 am
- Choir Rehearsal, Church 7 pm

Friday, 10/19

Saturday, 10/20

Sunday, 10/21 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Ministry Fair, Parish Center 10:30 am

Schedule of Masses

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

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat 10/14 9:30 am - Rolson Reid +

Tues 10/17 7:30 am - Doug Prouty +

Ministers Schedule Oct. 20/21

Mass	Sat. 5 pm	Sun. 9:30 am
LECTOR	C. Pluta	R. Minister
C.L.O.W.		C. Lang
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	F. McCormick* P. Walton S. Karges	J. Jury* D. Minister J. Patel
ALTAR SERVERS	R. Kuca	Takafua
SACRISTAN		J. Jury

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate through many changes. I am indebted to Joann Kurpinski for taking over the office especially bookkeeping as a volunteer. Annette and Chris Lang have organized a training program for volunteers who will staff the parish office. I am grateful to Annette who will continue to minister as a pastoral associate. I am confident with God's grace that we will flourish in the months to come. Thank you.

I would like to give you an update about some of the capital projects underway at CTK, which St. Stephen community is welcome to use. Over the last month, the Ministry Center project has made significant progress. The building framing, mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems all are complete and approved by the City. The Accessible Path of Travel is also greatly in place just awaiting handrails and some finishing touches. The Fire Sprinkler contractor was delayed and should be completed this next week. Once completed, insulation, drywall and stucco will be installed followed by the buildings finishes. We expect to have the building completed by the end of the year. Meanwhile, we are making progress on the design of other capital projects such as the GYM, restrooms and the kitchen. We have been approved for a token financial gift towards the Gym (\$ 145K). We are grateful to the Valley Foundation for the gift. The solar project, which will be installed on the school, Ministry Center and gym roof, is slated to begin in the month January 2019. Once complete, 90% of the electrical needs will be met through solar energy.

The month of October is a Pro-Life month. A question has been asked as to what did Pope Francis mean when he said the unborn and the poor are equally sacred. According to Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, when Pope Francis insisted that the lives of the unborn and of the poor are "equally sacred," he was not trying to shift the focus of Catholics from fighting abortion to fighting poverty, he was trying to show they are part of the same battle. The life of the unborn must be "promoted and defended with great determination and given an effective priority. At the same time we must keep in mind that the dignity of every human being is equal and inviolable at every stage throughout his or her life." In "Rejoice and Be Glad," his apostolic exhortation on holiness, Pope Francis wrote that living a Christian life involves the defense of both the unborn and the poor, and he criticized what he termed the "harmful ideological error" of thinking one's own cause is the only important one. "Every life is sacred," he said in calling for the abolition of the death penalty. "Every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes." The Pope spoke to hundreds of US Catholic bishops and specifically linked "the innocent victim of abortion" to other grave threats to life - including "children who die of hunger or from bombings," "immigrants who drown in the search for a better tomorrow," and "the environment devastated by man's predatory relationship with nature." In ways that give pundits and politicians the right heartburn, the pope also frames economic inequality as a life issue. Pope Francis is reviving Catholic teaching on the need for a consistent ethic of life. Pope Francis clearly wants to recalibrate the Church's voice in the public square. "We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage, and the use of contraceptive methods," the pope said in a blockbuster 2013 interview. "We have to find a new balance."

Fr. Paulson



**Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
October 14, 2018**

First Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

When Solomon, one of Israel's greatest kings, began his reign, God invited him to pray for anything he wanted. He prayed only for *wisdom*, and it was granted to him. In today's passage from the book of Wisdom, the author portrays Solomon speaking of this gift.

**Second Reading:
Hebrews 4:12-13**

Today and for the next six Sundays, our second reading will come from the Letter to the Hebrews. The section from which today's passage is taken is perhaps the New Testament's most profound commentary on the implications of Jesus becoming a human being.

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

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IMPORTANT NOTE:

Weekday Mass is now held in our intimate Chapel, located in Room 1.

Our **parish offices** have formally moved to Room 2 at the Church. We have a handful of office volunteers that we will start training soon. If you would like to join this group, just send an email to the St. Stephen Parish Office at saintstephenwc@gmail.com and let us know.

RCIA, the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**, has begun, but there is still time to join. If you are, or know someone who is, non-baptized, a Baptized non-catholic, or a Catholic who has not completed the Sacraments of Initiation, and are seeking full initiation into the Church, please email Fr. Mario. RCIA meets on Thursdays at 7pm in the CTK School's Media Center. frmario@ctkph.org.

Christ the King Parish is hosting a spiritual experience called **ChristLight** the weekend of November 9, 10 and 11th. We welcome all parishioners from St. Stephen's to join us. This experience is a chance for you to explore a deeper spiritual connection with Christ, an opportunity for fun and fellowship with other parishioners and some time away from the hectic pace of life. If this sounds appealing, I encourage you to join us for **ChristLight XV**. ChristLight gathers women and men to share Prayer, Fellowship, Stories, Song and fun! ...**plus the meals are awesome!** Go to www.ctkph.org/ministries/christlight for more details or contact Greg at gmthornbury@outlook.com or Phaedra at phaedrastarr@gmail.com for more information.

BRIDGE & GAME PARTY!

Please come and join in at St. Stephen Parish Hall on Tuesday, October 16 at noon for an afternoon of games (bridge, dominoes, Rumikub, etc.). This is a chance to socialize with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome. Please bring a sandwich for your lunch. Beverages & snacks will be provided. Call Walter Lang at 925-939-2430 if you have any questions.



Next Sunday, October 21, St. Stephen is having a **Ministry Fair**, right after the 9:30 am Mass. Plan on coming and see how you can help keep our parish running smoothly.

Be an informed voter. Pros and Cons of the **11 State ballot measures** on the Nov. 6 ballot will be presented Monday, Oct. 15 at 7 pm in the parish hall at Christ the King. All are invited. No cost. Presentation by the League of Women Voters. Sponsored by Faith in Action. Questions? Contact animo3@pacbell.net.

Taize Prayer Around The Cross is an hour service consisting of quiet chanting, a psalm, reading and silence. We welcome all who wish to gather in prayer and in a spirit of Ecumenism. The next Taize Prayer is Sunday, October 21, 7:30 pm at Hillcrest Church, 404 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill. Please join us!

****Reminder - any suggestions/additions to our bulletin should be given to Chris Lang - or send to our office email: saintstephenwc@gmail.com.**

"Why have you forsaken me? I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest."- Psalm 22:1-2



Some people think that the goal of spiritual practice is to experience God with them and within them. A lofty goal! But not everyone feels God's presence, no matter how much they want to, no matter how hard they try. Many faithful people feel only the ache of absence. They know a God who is silent, dark, and distant - so much so that it can be painful for them to be around people for whom God is close and warm. There's an old saying, "If God seems far away, guess who moved?" You're supposed to answer, "Not God." You begin to believe it's your fault. But whoever thought that up never read the psalms. Jesus, who probably loved saying "Surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life" as much as we do, didn't pray Psalm 23 on the cross. He prayed Psalm 22: "I cry to you, but you do not answer." The Christian life isn't about feeling feelings or having "powerful" spiritual experiences. Baptism ushers us into a life of greater depth than that - a life of faith. And at some point in every life, faith is a journey through the desert and the dark. If you don't feel God right now, you're not failing. You're not a second class Christian. You have a gift. A hard gift, but a gift all the same. It's your heartache - faith's heartache. And like nothing else, it can lead you straight to the heartache of others, to neighbors whose abandonment is human, not divine. For them you can be company. With them you can outwait the night until the Coming Day. *Prayer: Jesus, you are still speaking, but if it isn't to me right now, let me trust that you are as close to me as the suffering, as audible as the cry of the abandoned. Let me find you with them. Amen.* - Annette Roux