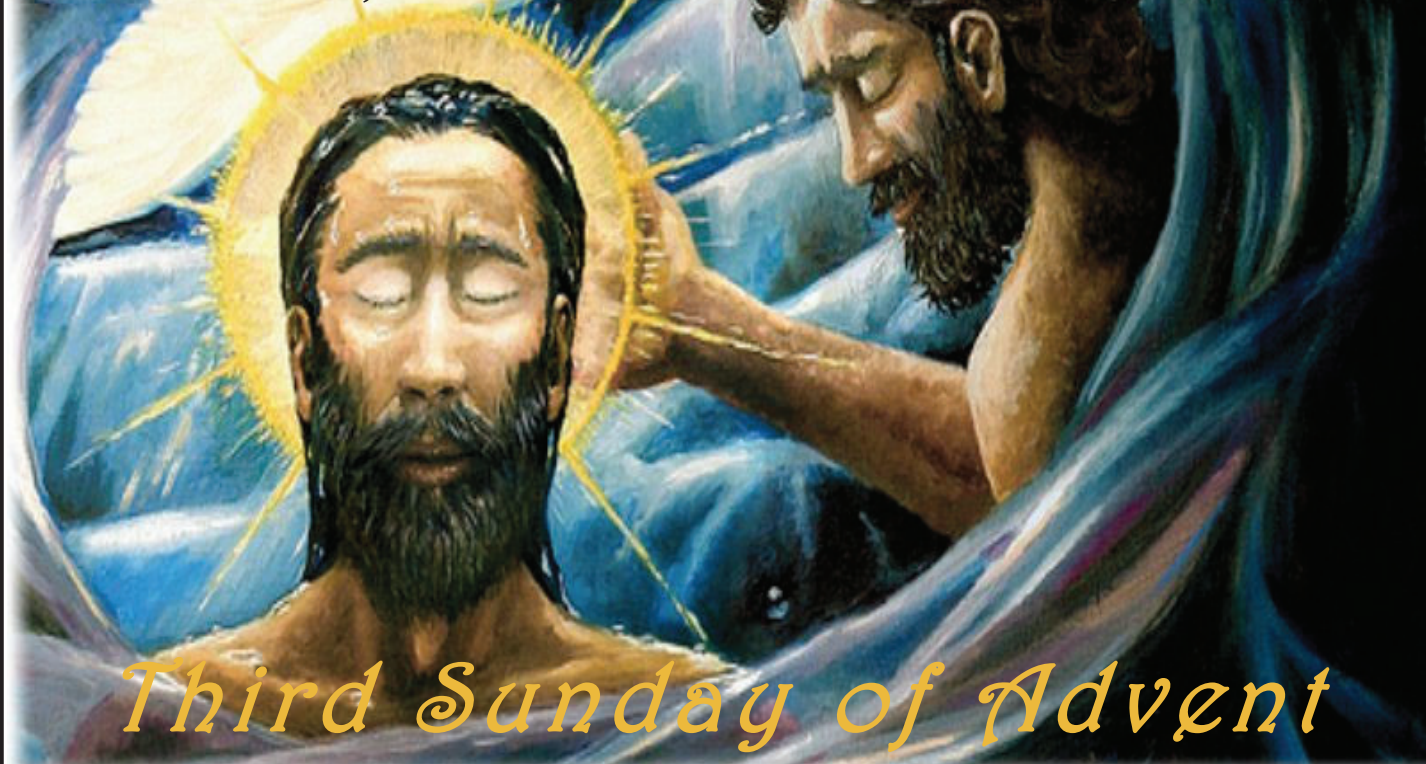


St. Stephen Catholic Parish

Walnut Creek, California

December 17, 2017



Third Sunday of Advent

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday--Thursday 8:30 AM--4:30 PM

Office closes daily for lunch. Office closed on Friday.

Parish Office, Rectory 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

Website: www.saintstephenparish.org

Email: keavenyct@sbcglobal.net

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR:

FR. MARK C. AMARAL

PARISH STAFF:

DEACON BILL BOTHE
Pastoral Associate

ANNETTE ROUX
Pastoral Associate

MARY COOK
Office Manager

NANCY GIZDICH
Bookkeeper

MARIA CALDERAZZO
Director of Music Ministry

PETER RENO
Pastoral Council Chair

ASSISTING CLERGY:

FR. HELMUT RICHTER



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM

Weekdays:* 7:30 AM

*Note: Monday is a Communion Service

Holy Days: As Announced. Usually 7:30 AM and 7:00 PM



RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 3:30 PM

BAPTISMS: Registration is mandatory two months prior to Baptism. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a mandatory preparation class before Baptism.

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 CFCSS will contact the parish office to make your arrangements.

REGISTRATION: New parishioners may contact the office or ask an usher for a registration form. Welcome.

MISSION STATEMENT: To Live and to Love in Christ

WELCOME visitors and friends. We open our hearts and offer our hands to you in Christian fellowship worshipping with our community. We invite you to join our parish membership.



MASS INTENTIONS

SAT 12/16 5:00 Int. Maureen Monaghan for healing
 SUN 12/17 9:30 James Baca †
 TUE 12/19 7:30 Cathleen McDonnell †
 WED 12/20 7:30 Int. Teresa and Bob Poirier—
 Anniversary Blessings
 THU 12/21 7:30 Msgr. Edward T. Varni †
 FRI 12/22 7:30 Int. Harrell Lynn—Birthday Blessings
 SAT 12/23 5:00 Int. Maureen Monaghan for healing
 SUN 12/24 9:30 Int. St. Stephen Parishioners
 5:00 Msg. Joseph Keaveny and
 Rev. Harry B. Morrison
 MON 12/25 9:30 Frank and Rose Puchalski †



For Mass intentions, please contact the Parish Office @ 925-939-3826. Dates are available through Dec 2018. Intentions are wonderful gifts for Christmas, New Year's, anniversaries, birthdays, and just for thinking of you.



St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

On October 29, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Pleasant Hill experienced an early-morning fire. Extensive fire and smoke damage caused substantial damage. There is very little equipment and merchandise that is salvageable. The donation area was destroyed. Additionally, the store has been closed for clean-up and restoration since the fire, so we are losing sales revenue that support our programs. PLEASE help us rebuild our store by making *merchandise donations of clothes, shoe, furniture and household goods*. While insurance will help us recover most of the expenses associated with rebuilding, significant additional expenses will not be covered.

Please join us in the effort to re-open the Pleasant Hill Thrift Store by early January.

Donations are also appreciated for the FIRE REBUILDING FUND, at www.svdp-cc.org, or send to: St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565, Att: Fire Rebuilding Fund.

Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County!

Thank you for your generous support of St. Stephen's St. Vincent de Paul Conference *Holiday Food Bag* program before Thanksgiving. SVdP was able to provide bags not only for the clients we serve, but we also provided additional bags for the conference at St Mary's Parish in Walnut Creek. God Bless!

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

PSALM — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

SECOND READING — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

GOSPEL — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
Mt 1:18-25

TUESDAY: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;
Lk 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;
Lk 1:46-56

SATURDAY: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;
Lk 1:57-66

SUNDAY: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation often on Saturdays @ 3:30 PM



FOURTH SUN. DEC 23/24, 2017

MASS: 5 PM 9:30 AM

LECTORS: J. Kurpinsky J. Goetlli

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: F. McCormick* Veamatahau*

ALTAR SERVERS: R. Kuca L. Morin



CHRISTMAS DEC 24/25, 2017

MASS: 5 PM 9:30 AM

LECTORS: Children J. Gotelli

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: D. Minister* F. McCormick*
P. Walton M. Mammola



ALTAR SERVERS: Takafua R. Kuca

COUNTERS:
MON 12/18 K. Coyne M. Lenahan
THU 12/28 P. Walton C. Ellis

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday 12/17

8:45 AM R5
9:30 AM R5
10:30 AM PH
11:00 AM R5
3:00 PM CH
4:00 PM PH

Third Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Craft Bazaar
Confirmation Prep Class
Christmas Concert & Sing-along
Christmas Concert Reception

St. Moses, pray for us.

Monday 12/18

Tuesday 12/19

8:00 AM CH
12:00 PM PH

St. Darius, pray for us.

Rosary Group
Card & Game Party

Wednesday 12/20

8:00 AM CH
10:00 AM R1

St. Julius, pray for us.

Rosary Group
Bible Study

Thursday 12/21

8:00 AM CH
9:30 AM R5
7:00 PM CH

St. John Vincent, pray for us.

Rosary Group
Enrichment
Choir Rehearsal

Friday 12/22

8:00 AM CH

St. Demetrius, pray for us.

Parish Office Closed
Rosary Group

Saturday 12/23

3:30 PM CH
5:00 PM CH

St. Victoria, pray for us.

Reconciliation
Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass

Sunday 12/24

8:45 AM R5
9:30 AM R5
9:30 AM CH
5:00 PM CH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

NO Faith Formation
NO Children's Liturgy of the Word
Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Monday 12/25

9:30 AM CH

The Nativity of the Lord


Parish Office Closed-Holiday
Christmas Day Mass

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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

DEC 10, 2017

CONTRIBUTIONS

		Weekly Offering
Sunday Offering	\$3,890.00	
Flowers	\$ 120.00	
Immaculate Conception	\$ 325.00	
Maintenance	\$ 115.00	
Religious Retirement	\$ 712.00	

Thank you! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

REMEMBER ST. STEPHEN PARISH IN YOUR WILL & LIVING TRUST

Consider a contribution to the 2017 Bishop's Appeal.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE LONELY THIS SEASON

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC PARISH

Traveling for the holidays, view Mass times
across the country at <http://masstimes.org>

Year-end contribution statements will be automatically generated for individuals who have donated \$250 or more to St. Stephen Parish. Only contributions that have been received between Jan 1, 2017 and Dec 31, 2017 will be listed. For any others who would like a statement, please request it from the parish office by January 12, 2018. Thank you.



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." - Isaiah 43:10

Perhaps you, like me, know someone who's been wandering in the wilderness way too long. You know, a long-faithful person who has done all the right things and said all the right prayers, who keeps dragging their battered heart back into the ring—only to get knocked down again. Maybe a brilliant, principled leader who, after years of trying, still hasn't landed a job. Or someone who has kept a stiff upper lip through one life-robbing medical diagnosis after another, but whose brave smile is starting to crack. Perhaps your "someone" has run out of tears and is moving toward bitterness. Maybe their hurt runs so deep that platitudes and comforting phrases feel like a slap in the face. Perhaps they've stopped yelling at God because they now doubt whether God is even there. How are we to love them? The Godly way, of course. This is our moment to be *God-with-them, Spirit with skin on*. Where the word of God might sting them, we can offer our own God-inspired words, borrowed from a prophet: "I know this is awful, but I am with you in it. I will pray when you cannot. I will see you through to the other side. With God's help I will help you; I will hold you in God's love-light and never let you go". During this season of giving, let's give love and hope to one another.

Prayer: Ever-Present Lord, make me an instrument of your hope for the hopeless, strength for the weak, love for the lonely, and courage for the fearful. Amen.

—Annette Roux, Pastoral Associate

GAMES PARTY CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Please come and join us for our annual Christmas potluck and games (bridge, dominoes, etc.) with fellow parishioners in St. Stephen's Hall on

Tue, Dec 19 @ Noon

All are welcome to this "Holy Spirit" potluck. Call Walter Lang at 925-939-2430 if you have any questions.



St. Stephen Christmas Outreach will benefit Toys for Tots this season. If you would like to participate, please bring an unwrapped new toy and deposit in the receptacles that are clearly marked. You can be an answer to a child's prayer.