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Deacon Joseph M. Baniukiewicz

PHONES

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Parish Fax 508-753-0448
For an emergency 508-450-2556

Msgr. Sullivan: tsullivan5@mac.com
Parish Office: mindyd1052@gmail.com
Sr. Ellen, DRE: ctkedu1052@gmail.com
Parish website: www.ctkworc.org

HOURS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Monday—Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 2:45 PM to 3:45 PM or please call Msgr. Sullivan

HOLY MATRIMONY

Couples planning a Christian marriage should contact Msgr. Sullivan following their engagement.

HOLY BAPTISM

Baptisms take place at Sunday Mass once a month.
 Please see information inside this bulletin.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Please call Msgr. Sullivan for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or Holy Communion.

WORSHIPING WITH US?

We hope you introduce yourself and register in our parish.
 Please call the rectory to do so.

Christ the King Parish

MASS SCHEDULE

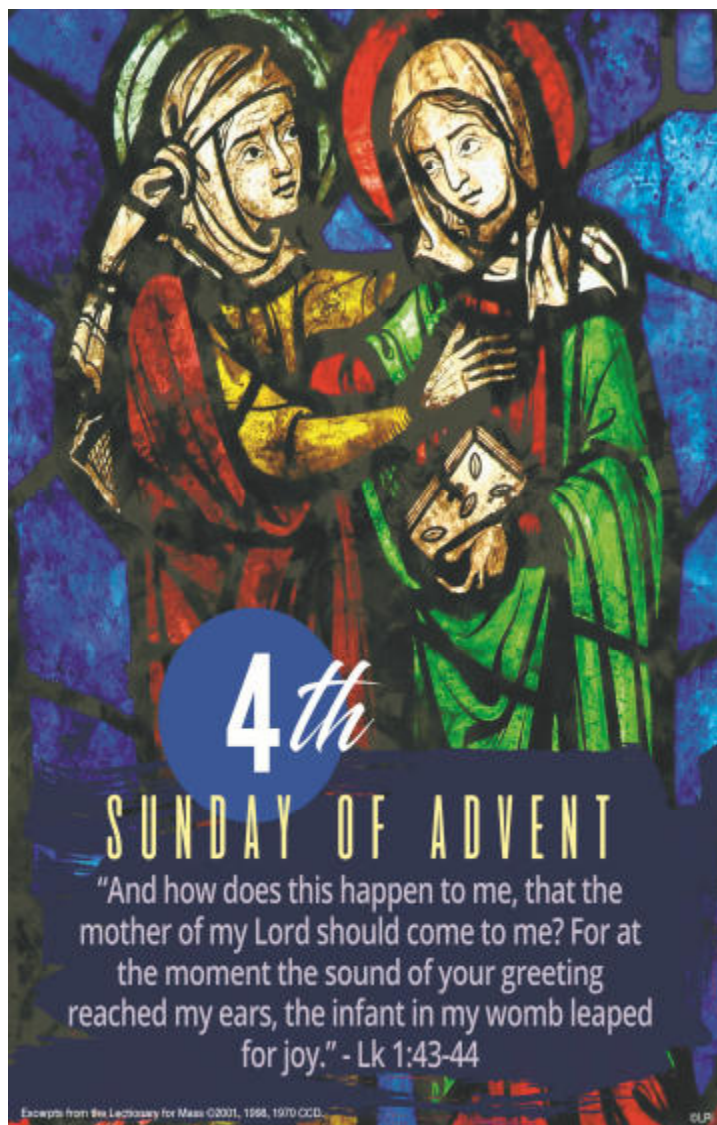
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Weekdays 7:00 AM

Saturday 8:00 AM

Holy Day Mass Times 7:00 PM (vigil)
 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 6:00 PM (on the day)



CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—December 22nd

4:00PM Ruth Terrill (mem.) req. of The Cousineau Family

Sunday—December 23rd

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King

9:00AM John Hackett (mem.) req. of Mary Vu

11:00AM James Pappas (mem.) req. of family

Monday—December 24th

7:00AM Joseph and Charlotte Healy (mem.) req. of Joe, Mary Terese Vigliotti and Mary Healy

Wednesday—December 26th

7:00AM Mary McGovern (mem.) req. of Paul and Helen Foley

Thursday—December 27th

7:00AM Antonio Irraragorri (mem.) req. of family

Friday—December 28th

7:00AM Richard and Frances Oliver (mem.) req. of family

Saturday—December 29th

8:00AM Christina Cocaine (mem.) req. of family and friends

4:00PM Raymond V. and Anne Steele (mem.) req. of family

Sunday—December 30th

7:30AM Christina Cocaine (mem.) req. of friends and family

9:00AM Mary Tangney (mem.) req. of Dolores Ginga

11:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **our family and friends.**

Monsignor Sullivan is a Notary Public

Monsignor Sullivan is a notary public. Should any parishioner need to have a document notarized you are welcome to call upon him. There is no fee. Just call the rectory should you need this service.

Christmas 4:00 pm Vigil Mass to be Telecast to Johnson Room

Due to the substantial overflow crowds at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve we will continue what we inaugurated a number of years ago. We will telecast the Mass into the Johnson Room, where extra seating will be provided for 200 people. The doors to the Johnson Room will remain open during this time. Holy Communion will be brought to those in the room. This will be safer and will provide for a more dignified distribution of Communion.

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses (M-F, 7:00 am and Saturdays, 8:00 am). The Mass brings many special graces! It is a wonderful way to begin the day. This week we will celebrate the **Final Mass for Advent** (Monday, 7:00 am); **Christmas Eve** (Monday afternoon and evening); **Christmas Morning Masses** (Tuesday); **St. Stephen, the First Martyr** (Wednesday); **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist** (Thursday); **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (Friday).

The Christmas Creche

The origin of our Christmas *creche* rests with St. Francis of Assisi. In the year 1223, Francis, a deacon, was visiting the town of Greccio, Italy, to celebrate Christmas. This small town overlooked a beautiful valley. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan Brothers would be too small to hold the local congregation for Midnight Mass. So he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up an altar. He prepared a manger, and brought hay and an ox and an ass. The people were summoned and the night was made glorious by many lights and psalms of praise. Francis stood before the manger bathed in tears and radiant with joy, and chanted the Holy Gospel. Then he preached to the people, embracing an infant as he did so, and spoke of "the Babe of Bethlehem." May we embrace the Babe of Bethlehem with the same love as St. Francis.

BAPTISM PREP SESSIONS & CELEBRATIONS

All parents (registered parishioners) must participate in a prep session, led by our trained team, if this is their *first child and/or if they do not worship at Mass here each Sunday*. Baptisms take place at Sunday Masses and parents choose the date (see available dates below). **PARENT PREP SESSION:** One session is required, and it takes place on select Sundays from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Rectory and church. **Upcoming 2019 Preparation Dates:** *January 13; March 3; May 19.* **Upcoming 2018-19 BAPTISM DATES** at the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays (for prepared parents): *January 13; February 17.* For sign-ups please call Monsignor Sullivan at 508-754-5361 or email him at: tsullivan5@mac.com.

'GIVING TREE' THANKS!

Our thanks to all those who supported our annual Giving Tree program to help children in need. All our suggested gift tags were taken. God bless you for your goodness to area youths.

Lost Car Keys for BMW?

Two weeks ago, someone left behind a set of BMW car keys in the church, probably at the 9:00 am Mass. If it was you please contact someone at the rectory at 508-754-5361.

Bishop McManus' Christmas Letter

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem stands as an ancient witness to the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally constructed in 327 A.D. over a cave venerated as the birthplace of Jesus, most of the original church was destroyed in a sixth century Samaritan revolt. Rebuilt in 565, the second church still stands today.

Through the centuries, the Church of the Nativity has been battered by time and weather. It has suffered fires, earthquakes, desecrations and even gun battles. The interior, too, suffers neglect as squabbles among Armenian, Greek and Catholic caretakers have delayed needed renovations to the roof, walls and paintings. For some on the outside, the Church of the Nativity, battered, fortress-like and unattractive to the eye, is disappointing. Even to some on the inside, the neglect is disheartening.

But then, descending a staircase to the cave below, one sees on the floor a silver star and the words, "Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary." Those words and that realization give one profound pause. Here, on this very spot, salvation came, hope was born. Here, Mary laid God's Son in a manger. To this very place, angels directed shepherds who hastened and worshiped. In this very place, like Mary and Joseph, pilgrims for centuries knelt in awe and wonder. From this spot, they have returned home, closer to God, renewed in faith, convinced anew of the great love of God who created us and draws us on. Realizing all that, pilgrims are glad that they did not let the visible defects deter them from entering the Church and staying in it to reach the sacred spot.

In some ways, the Church of the Nativity might be a metaphor for today's Church. Scandals, desecration, and the neglect of some priests and bishops in past years have caused tremendous suffering and sullied the image of the Church. Looking around from outside, some don't want to enter. Being discouraged on the inside, others have left. This, too, is tragic because it is only in the heart of the Church in the liturgy, sacraments, communion of the saints, the Scriptures and Tradition authentically handed on that one can regularly encounter the ordinary means of God's saving graces. Our world, our society and culture need those graces. We must continue to remain vigilant in order to protect our children, but we must also never forget the treasures that have been entrusted to the Church and offered to us in the sacraments. The same Jesus, born at Bethlehem, and laid in the manger by Mary comes to us to nourish our souls, to bring us His love, healing and peace. Like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi, may that encounter give you and your loved ones joy and peace on Christmas and each week at Mass.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass

(also telecast to Johnson Room)

6:00 pm - Mass

9:30 pm - Concert

10:00 pm - Mass

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

8:00 am - Mass

10:00 am - Mass

'WORD ON FIRE ENGAGE'

Our Parish Council recently decided to offer our parishioners an innovative new program called ***Word on Fire Engage***. You will have 100% access to the Word on Fire Digital library, so you can watch any of the films and study programs on any device, whenever you'd like. The programs are produced by **Bishop Robert Barron** who leads the nation in producing the highest quality evangelization and educational programs on our Catholic faith. We've instructions on how to do that. We hope you enjoy it! **Some programs that are now available are:** *The Eucharist ~ Understanding God ~ The Last Things ~ Who Is Jesus? ~ The Teachings of Jesus ~ Why the Church Matters ~ & He is Risen!*

March for Life Information!

Please join us for the Diocese of Worcester's bus trip to the 46th annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Buses leave on **Thurs. Jan. 17 after the 7:30 p.m. Mass** at St. Paul's Cathedral, travel to Washington for the March for Life on Jan. 18, followed by the return trip to Worcester. Cost is \$80 per seat for registrations postmarked by December 31, and \$95 thereafter. For more information, and to download registration forms, visit **www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life**. Can't attend this year but want to help? Consider making a donation that will help defray expenses for our students who want to attend but might otherwise find it difficult to do so. Thank you!

Report Sexual Abuse

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility of hope and healing. The Church encourages you to come forward. You may meet with Bishop McManus or his delegate, Mrs. Judith Audette, the Director of the Diocesan Office of Healing and Prevention (49 Elm Street, Worcester, 01609; 508-929-4363). It is the policy and practice of the Diocese to respond promptly and with compassion to all reports of misconduct.

CHRIST THE KING PRAYER LINE

If you know of someone who could use our prayerful support please contact either Mindy at 508-754-5361 or by email at mindy1052@gmail.com.

PLEASE USE OUR HOPE FOR HOUSING CARDS

Please purchase 'Hope for Housing' food cards. Here's how they work: (1) You purchase food gift cards in various amounts of \$10 to \$100; (2) You use the food cards for your grocery shopping; (3) You receive the full face value of the card you purchase; (4) What you don't spend remains on your card for later use; and (5) The supermarket donates 5% to 10% of what you spend to prevent family homelessness.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Msgr. Sullivan is honored to support you and your family during times of illness by visiting the hospitals. **NEITHER UMASS (LAKE) HOSPITAL NOR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT PATIENTS' RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.** So, we are entirely dependent on information we receive from family or friends. **St. Vincent's Hospital's records are excellent, and "St. V's" provides current information in a timely way.** Please call the rectory to advise us that someone is in the hospital so that Msgr. Sullivan can visit that person.

Service to *The Mustard Seed*

CTK parishioners serve food at *The Mustard Seed* on the last Wednesday of the month. If you can help, we begin food preparations at 3:30 pm in the downstairs kitchen. If you can help us please call Margaret Abboud at 508-735-7614 or email her at maglons@msn.com.

Our New Parish Website: ctkworc.org

We want you to take note of our new website and its many modern features. All diocesan parishes were asked to create new websites in a collaboration with *eCatholic* and *Flocknotes*. It is part of a diocesan initiative to create better communications and evangelization through the use of more modern technology. And communications will be more instantaneous. You can find our new website by going to ctkworc.org. Try it today! We urge you to sign up for *Flocknotes* (free, of course) by providing your name, email address and mobile phone at the bottom of the home page.

Would You Like to Join Our Parish?

Please contact Monsignor Sullivan at 508-754-5361. Or, you can email him at tsullivan5@mac.com and he will respond.

Highlights of the Week Ahead

Saturday, December 22

8:00 am - Mass
2:45-3:45 pm - Last confessions
before Christmas

Sunday, December 23 - 4th Sunday Advent

Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am
12:00 noon - Christmas Decorators

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 am - Final Mass of Advent
4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Mass
6:00 pm - Christmas Eve Mass
9:30 pm - Christmas Concert
10:00 pm - Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:00 & 10:00 am - Christmas Morning Masses

Wednesday, December 26

3:30 pm - Mustard Seed Food Prep, Kitchen

Friday, December 28

7:00-9:00 pm - AA Meeting, Lower Rectory

Saturday & Sunday, December 29 & 30

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Monday, December 31

7:00 am Mass - 7th Day Octave of Christmas
4:00 pm Mass - New Year's Vigil,
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, January 1 - New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Masses at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Religious Education Classes

There are no classes scheduled during the Christmas holidays. Classes for all grades **resume on Sunday, January 6**. Classes for those in **Grades 1-6** are scheduled for **Sunday, January 6**, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Classes for those in **Grades 7-9** are scheduled for **Sunday, January 6**, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The **next Confirmation class** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 6**, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

JOIN THE CYC

All those 'higher schoolers' interested in participating in CYC activities (the annual retreat, boys basketball, the CYC musical, summer volleyball, etc.) need to be registered with our CYC to participate. You can send an email now to CTKCYC@gmail.com for registration and to learn about our upcoming events.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

My dear brothers and sisters at Christ the King,

The coming of Christ at Christmas brings joy to our world and peace to our hearts. Born of a woman, Jesus Christ is God's promise that, united in his divine love, we can live in peace. From a manger in Bethlehem, God's love reaches out to embrace us. For his birth tells us that in each moment of time God breaks into our lives. In the birth of Christ we experience the birth of divine life in our own life.

Christmas is that new beginning for which we long. The Son of God comes not as a prince to dominate us but as a child to love us. He comes not to condemn us but to forgive us. He comes not to burden us but to teach us the joy that unselfish love offers us.

There is no burden Christ cannot lift, no worry he cannot console, no sin he cannot forgive. From the manger, he calls us to leave behind the addiction that grips us, the hatred that imprisons us, the worry that cripples us, the loneliness that gnaws at us, and to welcome into our hearts the abundance of God's love and saving power.

Come to the manger this Christmas and, with God's grace, make the decision to let go of the burdens that weigh you down and the despair that seeks to overpower you. Leave your prayer at the manger and come away refreshed, accepting God's love for you as if for the first time.

May the gift of the Christ Child, born into the world for our salvation, fill your hearts and your homes with abundant blessings! May His peace and joy be with you and your family throughout the New Year!

Monsignor Tom Sullivan

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