



Christ the King Parish

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Msgr. Richard F. Reidy, Vicar General

DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC

Ellen Linn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6

Anne Thompson

Grades 7-10 & Confirmation

Msgr. Thomas Sullivan

Email: tsullivan5@mac.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INQUIRIES:

reledctkworc@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mindy A. Dulude

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: Please watch our
bulletin for posted times

PHONES

Parish Office 508-754-5361

Parish Fax 508-753-0448

For an emergency 508-450-2556

Msgr. Sullivan: tsullivan5@mac.com

Parish Office: mindyd1052@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 celebrated occasionally at public Mass or privately.
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.

WORSHIPPING WITH US?

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



1052 Pleasant Street

Worcester, MA 01602

CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—December 9th

4:00PM Patricia Coyne (mem.) req. of Mary
Hovenesian Hines

Sunday—December 10th

7:30AM Deacon Joseph M. Baniukiewicz (2nd anniv.)
req. of family
9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King
11:00AM Nancy E. LaHair (9th anniv.), Edward F.
Martel (1st anniv.) req. of Tom & Sue Flynn

Monday—December 11th

7:00AM Dr. Robert Blute (mem.) req. of Fran &
BettyAnn Warner
5:30PM Virginia Leahy (40th anniv.) req. of family

Tuesday—December 12th

7:00AM All Souls in Purgatory
5:30PM Patricia Levasseur (mem.) req. of Leo Quinn

Wednesday—December 13th

7:00AM Peace in our World

Thursday—December 14th

5:30PM Emily Czyzewski (mem.) req. of Mark &
Monique Czyzewski

Friday—December 15th

5:30PM Elizabeth Shea (4th anniv.) req. of family

Saturday—December 16th

4:00PM Timothy Haylon (mem.) req. of Helen
Fitzgerald

Sunday—December 17th

7:30AM The Hines Family
9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King
11:00AM Ruth Terrill (mem.) req. of Donald & Elaine
Cousineau

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **Eleanor F. Lambert**, the aunt of
John Mikolajczyk and **Katherine M. Torrey**.

Parish Book Club Starting in January Are You Interested?

Victoria DiMassa is organizing a monthly parish book club to enjoy fiction and nonfiction literature, largely around religious themes, from 7 to 8 pm on the first Thursday of the month. Discussion and enjoying each other's company. First meeting: **Thursday, January 4**. Tea and snacks provided for the first meeting. Once underway, the group will select the books. A leader will provide topics and questions for each meeting. The level of interest will determine where at the church we would meet. You need not attend each meeting. The book we'll read for January 4 is *The Long Loneliness* by Dorothy Day. A small sampling of other possible books are: *Silence* (Shusako Endo); *Out of the Silent Planet* (C.S. Lewis); and *My Life with the Saints* (James Martin, SJ). If interested, please contact Victoria by calling her or texting her at **440-522-7700**. You can also email her at dimassavictoria@gmail.com.

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses (in Advent: Monday-Friday at **7:00 am** and **5:30 pm**; and 8:00 am on Saturdays). This week we celebrate **St. Damasus I, Pope** (Monday); **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (Tuesday); **St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr** (Wednesday); and **St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church** (Thursday).

Offertory

Many thanks to all those who regularly support our parish with their financial gifts. Your donations for last weekend are as follows:

Offertory: \$7,643.00; **Online Giving:** \$1,815.00;
Mass Stipends: \$95.00; **Fuel:** \$75.00; **Donation:** \$125.00
Christmas: \$311.00; **Christmas Flowers:** \$320.00; **Human Development:** \$50.00; **Religious Retirement:** \$265.00; **Immaculate Conception:** \$152.00; **Haiti Twinning:** \$140.00.

Total: \$10,991.00

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

All parents must participate in a preparation session if this is their first child and/or if they do not worship at Sunday Masses. Parents whose children are not yet born may participate in the program if they like. Please call Monsignor Sullivan (508-754-5361) to register for a meeting time. The **next scheduled sessions** (*Sundays, 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the rectory*) for the year ahead are: **2023: January 14, March 10 and May 19**. Baptisms take place on select Sundays at the 11:00 am Mass (or sometimes privately). The scheduled **dates for the actual baptisms** at the **11:00 am Mass** on Sundays in **2024** are thus far: **January 21, April 7, May 5, and June 11**. Parents work with Msgr. Sullivan to establish an appropriate date for the actual baptism.

Catholic Men's Conference Returns to DCU Center 'You Shall Know the Lord'

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important conference, scheduled to take place at Worcester's DCU Center on **Saturday, March 16, 2024**. **Adult tickets are \$50 until March 4, 2024**; afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30. Tickets will **not be available at the door** this year because of advance planning for the luncheon. Visit the conference website at www.catholicmenworc.org for information and to purchase tickets online. Come and hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, James Wahlberg, Michael Nicholson, Bishop Robert McManus and Msgr. Thomas Sullivan. Adoration available all day. Confessions for all mid-day. Closing Mass at 4:00 pm. For further information you can email cathmenworc@gmail.com.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas 2023 Masses

As we have been announcing since September, this year, Christmas Eve, December 24, falls on a Sunday. It is a Sunday divided into two liturgical seasons. In the morning is the 4th Sunday of Advent. The afternoon is Christmas Eve when vigil Masses are offered. If we observed our normal Christmas Eve schedule this would mean we'd celebrate six Masses that day. So, this year we are discontinuing our late-night Mass on Christmas Eve. The size of the congregation at that Mass has been very small the past few years. On **Sunday, December 24, we will have our 3 morning Advent Masses**, the regular Sunday schedule. **Christmas Eve Masses** will be celebrated at **4:00 pm** (the Festival Choir will sing) and **6:00 pm** (the Folk Group will sing). On **Monday, December 25, Christmas Day morning**, Masses will be celebrated at **8:00 am and 10:00 am**. We thank you for your understanding.

CTK's Women's Guild Advent Evening of Recollection Register Today

This Thursday night, **December 14**, all women are invited to the Guild's Annual Advent Evening of Recollection. We begin with the 5:30 pm Mass with **Msgr. Sullivan** and **Fr. Paul O'Connell**. Father O'Connell, our former pastor and now senior priest at St. Anne Parish in Shrewsbury, will be our featured speaker at the dinner. His topic will be "What's Happened to Catholic Marriage and the Family since Ozzie and Harriet and the Brady Brunch.?" A light dinner will be offered at 6:15 pm. Father O'Connell's presentation will be offered towards the end of dinner. The donation is \$18 for members and \$20 for non-members. If you wish to come, please contact Donna Byrnes today at 508-753-3024.

A Good Decision by the American Medical Association

This past November 12 the American Medical Association voted to sustain its current ethical opposition to physician assisted suicide! Its position remains: "Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks." The House of Delegates entertained two attempts to change their strong ethical stance. One resolution called for the AMA to "go neutral" on the matter. The other called for it to support physician assisted suicide. Both were voted down.

Moreover, the AMA continues to stand by its deeply studied and reviewed decision by its Council of Ethical and Judicial Affairs, that the term "assisted suicide" be the preferred terminology rather than sanitized expressions like "medical aid in dying," or "death with dignity," etc., that have become preferred by advocates. For the fourth time now, the AMA has re-affirmed its opposition to physician assisted suicide, even though it is legally permitted in 11 jurisdictions in the U.S., two of which (Vermont and Oregon) have waived any residency requirements, effectively making assisted suicide now available to any U.S. citizen. This position reminds us that just **because something is legal does not make it ethical**. The profession of medicine continues to profess its ethos, which it has been developing and refining through thoughtful scholarship and practice for over two thousand years.

HOSPITAL VISITS UPDATE

The priest chaplains at our hospitals continue to serve the pastoral needs of their patients. Please let us know if someone you know is hospitalized and Msgr. Sullivan will be happy to visit that person. The best thing is for a family member or friend to call the rectory to let us know your loved one is in the hospital. **St. Vincent's Hospital's new computer system cannot provide any information.** For many years we have **not** been able to obtain any information from either **UMass Hospital** (at the Lake) or **Memorial Hospital** about patients listed by their parishes. **Therefore, you must call the rectory if you would like Msgr. Sullivan to visit a loved one.**

Extra Weekday Masses in Advent - 5:30 pm

A wonderful spiritual preparation for Christmas is participation in a daily Mass during Advent. As has been our custom for many years our parish **has an afternoon Mass at 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday** during the Advent season. Of course, we continue to offer our 7:00 am Mass (Saturdays at 8:00 am). **All are welcome** to join us. The last of these Masses is on Friday, December 22. Mass concludes by 6:00 pm each night.

Giving Tree Gifts Bring gifts here by 12:00 noon Today

Thanks to those who took a gift tag last weekend. Gifts must be returned here by 12:00 noon today. Fasten the gift tag firmly to your gift(s). Do not wrap the gift.

You can still obtain a "virtual tag" for a gift that a mother has asked for one of her children by going to <https://www.urbanmissionaries.com/virtual-giving-tree-sign-ups/>. In that case, please ship the gift directly to the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope, 242 Canterbury St. Worcester MA 01603. Just put the tag ID number in the comment section of your order so we will know who the gifts belong to.

Also, Urban Missionaries can buy the gift for you. Just go to <https://www.urbanmissionaries.com/christmas-giving-2023-go-fund-me/> and make a donation. Your donation will be used to purchase a gift. For those without access to technology, call Urban Missionaries at 508-831-7455 and they will get it done for you.

Making Parish Donations Online

We ask all parishioners to please continue your support of the parish offertory. You can donate online. Please go to our website, ctkworc.org. Either click on the tab at the top of the page or the button in the middle of the page called 'CTK Online Giving.' You can donate using your credit card. Many thanks.

Msgr. Sullivan a Notary Public

Msgr. Sullivan is a notary public. Should you something notarized call him, 508-754-5361. No fee.

CHRIST THE KING PRAYER LINE

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

'HOPE FOR HOUSING' CARDS

Hope for Housing cards are sold in the church foyer after all Masses. Here's how they work: You purchase food or gift cards in various amounts of \$10 to \$100; You use the food cards for your shopping; You receive the full-face value of the card you purchase; What you don't spend remains on your card for later use; The supermarket or store donates 5% to 10% of what you spend to prevent family homelessness. Yvonne Nguyen already has a couple of volunteers but will need to engage some additional ones (as in the past). If you would like to assist her (and you will be trained) Yvonne's telephone number is **508-762-2161** & her email address is Yv0nn3@aol.com. Cards are available for: The Big Y, CVS, Dunkin' Donuts, Hannaford, Panera Bread, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, TJMaxx / Marshall, Starbucks, Amazon and Target.

Restoring Sunday Morning Coffee

Starting in January we will begin a "coffee shop" in the Johnson Room following the 9:00 am Mass. Enjoy coffee, donut holes and especially one another's company. Let's strengthen our community! There would also be coloring supplies and puzzles for little ones too young for education classes. Volunteers needed. We'd be finished before the 11 am Mass. If you'd be interested in helping or even just coming, please contact **Victoria DiMassa**. You can call or text her at **440-522-7700** or email her at dimassavictoria@gmail.com.

The Wisdom of the Saints

"Don't be anxious about what you have, but about what you are."
Pope St. Gregory the Great

COFFEE & BOOKS Began Last Friday

Join us on Friday mornings after the 7:00 am daily Mass for our coffee social hour in the Johnson Room. Also enjoy our lending library filled with great books to feed your mind and soul. Stop in for a friendly chat. We look forward to seeing you! We start at approximately 7:30 am.

Have Your Marriage Blessed?

We've learned, over time, that some (civilly) married parishioners have never entered into a sacramental marriage. Please call Msgr. Sullivan about having your marriage "blessed" if you would like to pursue this. 508-754-5361.

Highlights of the Week Ahead

Sunday, Dec 10 - 2nd Sunday Advent

10:00-11:00 am - CGS, Grades 1-6 Rel. Ed.
11:00 am - Baptism at Mass
12:00 noon - Giving Tree Gifts Pick-Up
6:00-8:00 pm - Confirmation Class

Monday, Dec. 11

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm
10:45 am - Mass at Jewish Healthcare

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm
7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting, Lower Rectory

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm
10:15-11:15 am - Bancroft School class here
6:00 pm - Boy Scouts, Hall

Thursday, Dec. 14

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm
6:00 pm - Women's Recollection Eve
7:00 pm - Festival Choir rehearsal

Friday, Dec. 15

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm
7:30 am - 'Coffee & Books,' Johnson Room
6:30 pm - Cub Scouts, Hall
7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting, Lower Rectory

Sunday, Dec 17 - 3rd Sunday Advent

10:00-11:00 am - CGS, Grades 1-6 Rel. Ed.
6:00-7:30 pm - Grades 7-10 Rel. Ed.

Religious Education Classes This Week & Next...

Classes for those in **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** and **Grades 1-6** will meet **today, Sunday, December 10**, from 10:00-11:00. **The Confirmation program meets tonight, Sunday night, December 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.** Grades 7-10 do not meet tonight.

Classes for those in **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** and **Grades 1-6** will meet **next Sunday, December 17**, from 10:00-11:00. **Those in Grades 7-10 meet next Sunday night, December 17, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.** These will be the last class meetings until after the Christmas holidays.

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.

Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

We offer 'low gluten' hosts. Wheat content less than 0.01%. Go to the priest for Communion.

Many Thanks for Your Generosity in Our Charitable Endeavors

The parishioners of Christ the King have been extraordinarily generous in giving to the less fortunate. This is a good season to thank you for your concern for others. Even though some of these endeavors have been organized by specific parish groups it is to the much broader group of parishioners to whom we especially owe our thanks. We could not initiate these charitable efforts without the donations of so many active parishioners and donors. God bless you.

Baby Bottle Drive - We received a recent letter of thanks from Rebecca Urban of Visitation House. She wrote to thank us for the \$5,186 that CTK parishioners donated, spearheaded by our Women's Guild. The House serves young mothers and children and relies entirely on the donations of parish fundraisers like ours. **St. Joan of Arc Parish, Worcester** - Father Enoch Kyeremateng wrote to thank us for our \$10,000 gift (from CTK parish savings) so that the church and rectory could be heated by a new gas burner. Without this gift they would not have heat this winter. He called our gift "huge." **Immaculate Conception Parish, Les Anglais, Haiti** - We receive regular emails expressing the thanks of Father Pierre Gérard Sincère, pastor, for our continuing support there. Since the earthquake of 2021 we have donated \$160,000 (from Legacy of Hope funds and parish savings) for the rebuilding of the school (Notre Dame du Lourdes). We also pay the salaries of the teaching staff. **Coats for Kids** - This program, made possible by the generosity of our parishioners, recently distributed 276 winter coats to needy children through a variety of local social service agencies. Knights of Columbus Council members distributed the coats. **Diaper Drive** - Thousands of diapers will be distributed by Catholic Charities to needy mothers in the year ahead through our contribution of \$6,400. We are the only parish that does this. **Giving Tree** - All our gift tags were taken 2 weeks ago. **Upwards of 100 needy children** will receive gifts for Christmas from our parishioners. **Mustard Seed** - Our wonderful team of volunteers cook and serve meals for the homeless on the last Wednesday of each month (food purchased by our parish). They serve meals for one hundred fifty hungry persons. **In the Hour of Need Family Shelter** - This program on June Street serves homeless families. They are sustained by our annual pledged gifts, gift card contributions and meal prep, and by our two weeks of onsite volunteer commitment. **Thanksgiving Mass Food Drive** - We were able to fill a truck with donated canned foods and gave \$533 for the food pantry at Our Lady of Providence Parish, Worcester.

Monsignor Tom Sullivan
