



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

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](mailto:mindy1052@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.

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

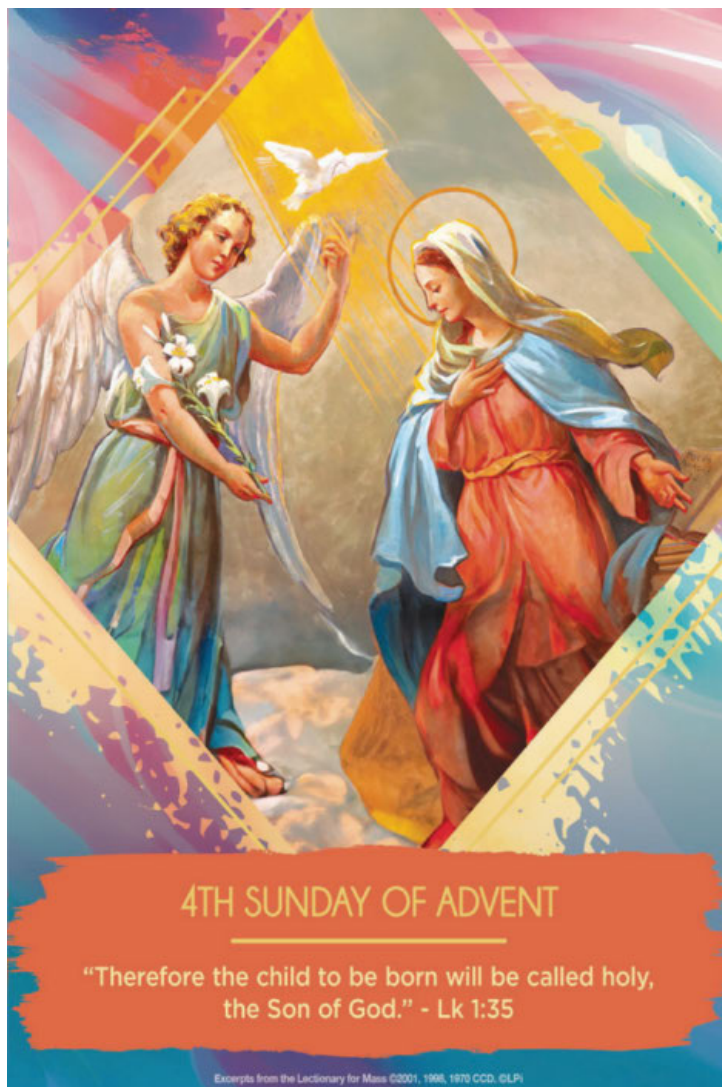
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

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

Weekdays 7:00 AM

Saturday 8:00 AM

Holy Day Mass Times: Please watch our bulletin for posted times



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD, ICPLI

1052 Pleasant Street

Worcester, MA 01602

CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—December 23rd

4:00PM Kenneth Klucznik (mem.) req. of Curt & Pat Degon

Sunday—December 24th

7:30AM Claire McMahon (mem.) req. of family

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Bruce Foley (mem.) req. of family

Christmas Eve—December 24th

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

6:00PM Parishioners of Christ the King

Christmas Day—December 25th

10:00AM Leah Derr (1st anniv.) req. of family

Thursday—December 28th

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

Friday—December 29th

7:00AM Normand J. Lamoureux (mem.) req. of Roger & Joyce Dubuque

Saturday—December 30th

4:00PM Josephine C. Hackett (mem.) req. of Neil & Carol Carmody

Sunday—December 31st

7:30AM John Connolly (2nd anniv.) req. of Fran & Betty Ann Warner

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Kim Tuyen Le (18th anniv.) req. of family

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the soul of Margaret L. Giroux.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

On Sunday, December 24, we will have our 3 morning Advent Masses, the regular Sunday schedule. Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday, December 24, will be celebrated at 4:00 pm (Festival Choir) and 6:00 pm (Folk Group).

On Monday, December 25, Christmas Day morning, Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

For those interested in a late-night Christmas Eve Mass there will be one at 9:00 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church at 551 Pleasant Street.

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses (Monday-Friday at 7:00 am; 8:00 am on Saturdays). This week we celebrate the **Nativity of Our Lord** (Monday); **St. Stephen, the First Martyr** (Tuesday); **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist** (Wednesday); and the **Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (Thursday). Friday and Saturday are days celebrating the Octave of Christmas.

Offertory

Many thanks to all those who regularly support our parish with their financial gifts. Your donations for last weekend (3rd Sunday of Advent) cannot be reported here because this bulletin was due at the printers the previous Friday. They will be reported in the next bulletin.

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.

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.

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.com 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.

Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

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

A Pastoral Letter for Christmas from Bishop McManus

Christmas 2023

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Gospel accounts of Jesus’ birth involve a disparate group of people - the sinless virgin, the upright Joseph, an indifferent innkeeper, Jewish shepherds, pagan magi, the ruthless Herod, incurious scribes, and murderous soldiers. Among this radically varied group, there was one thing in common. They were all - each one of them - loved by God. They were each the reason Christ was born. To each He would call. For each He died.

What was true that long ago night in Bethlehem remains true this day in our world. God loves each one of us. He loves those in the pews each week, twice a year or not at all. He loves those who have just come from the confessional and those who have not yet made it there. He loves those who acknowledge and worship Him and those who do not recognize Him and are far off.

Jesus Christ is the one savior of the world. He loves us all and He calls us all. As people whose freedom God respects, our response is critical. It determines if we find peace in this life and in the next. His peace is a gift. We do not earn it. We can only accept it. We accept it by believing in Him and what He has revealed, by striving to follow Him with our lives, and, by our repentance, accepting His freely offered, limitless mercy for our failures.

I pray that, whatever our situation and circumstance this Christmas, we may all be deeply moved by the wondrous love of God who so loved the world that He sent His Son as our Savior. May we turn anew to Jesus Christ, find a welcome place in His Church, and with it the joy, peace and hope God intends for us all.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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.**

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**.

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.

Divine Mercy Ministry to Seniors

Volunteers are needed to spread Jesus’ message of Divine Mercy to seniors in local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As a volunteer prayer group leader, you would lead a weekly 30-minute Divine Mercy prayer group using a simple prepared model of readings, prayers, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this ministry of mercy, please contact Mary Higgins. 413-552-7231 or email Mary at: **DivineMercyMinistryToSeniors@gmail.com**.

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

"There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future." *St. Augustine*

COFFEE & BOOKS Friday Mornings

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. 24 - 4th Sunday Advent & Christmas Eve

Morning Masses for Advent at:

7:30 am, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Monday, Dec 25 - Christmas Day

Masses: 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Tuesday, Dec. 26

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting, Lower Rectory

Thursday, Dec. 28

5:30-6:30 pm - Closed A.A. Meeting

Friday, Dec. 29

7:30 am - 'Coffee & Books,' Johnson Room

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting, Lower Rectory

Religious Education Classes This Week & Next...

There are no classes this weekend or next because of the holidays. Classes resume on January 7th.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Masses: January 1st

The *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God* is a liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated by the Catholic Church on January 1st, the Octave Day of Christmas.

Though normally this solemnity is a holy day of obligation...when it falls on a Monday (as it does this year since January 1st is a Monday) the obligation to attend Mass does not take force. But it is still a Solemnity, and the Church loves the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is also true that we cannot have a Vigil Mass for this holy day on the same day as another major feast (this year: the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is on Sunday). So, there is no vigil Mass planned at our parish or elsewhere on December 31st.

However, we will still offer two Masses in celebration of this Solemnity:

**Monday, January 1
8:00 am and 10:00 am**

Msgr. Sullivan will also be offering Mass at Tatnuck Park on January 1st at 3:30 pm for those residents.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

We all treasure our memories of Christmas. From the days of our youth, we recall the enchanting moments of the Christmas story: a star blazing its path across a winter sky, angels singing in the night, shepherds leaving their flocks to rush to a stable, wise kings carrying mystical gifts and, above all, Mary and Joseph kneeling before their child. Christmas is a story unlike any other, and our hearts are filled with joy as we celebrate it. God is with us! God has sent Jesus to be our Emmanuel!

Many days have passed since those of our youth, and as adults we know that the mission of Christmas only begins on December 25th. This is a time for us to commit ourselves to follow the star that leads to Jesus - and to point the way for others. It is a time to sing the song of the angels: "*Glory to God in the highest,*" and declare the glory of God to our world. It is a time to carry tales of joy about the coming of our God. It is a time for evangelization. Above all, Christmas helps us to continue the work that Jesus came among us to do: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, visit the sick and imprisoned, clothe the naked, sow seeds of peace, witness to God's goodness and truth, and to seek out the 'least ones' wherever they may be.

Christmas reminds us that God has entrusted a great mission to us. It challenges us anew to carry the Spirit of Christ into our world. Let us recall the words of the late, great Pope Saint John Paul II, from his encyclical letter, *The Splendor of Truth*, "the Spirit of Jesus, when received by the humble and docile hearts of believers, brings about the flourishing of Christian moral life and the witness of holiness amid the great variety of vocations, gifts, responsibilities, conditions, and life situations in our world." This is what Christmas sets in motion. It is the message, the joy, the wonder, and the mission of Christmas. Let us begin.

Please pray for peace throughout the world in the year ahead. It is the hope of our whole staff at Christ the King ~ Monsignor Richard Reidy, Father John Gavin, Mindy Dulude, Ellen Linn, Anne Thompson, Debra Pasquale and Kevin Raultis ~ that you will have a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

Monsignor Tom Sullivan

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