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Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

IN RESIDENCE

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DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC

Ellen Linn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-6 Anne Thompson

Grades 7-10 & Confirmation

Msgr. Thomas Sullivan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INQUIRIES:

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mindy A. Dulude

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION

Anne Thompson

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

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

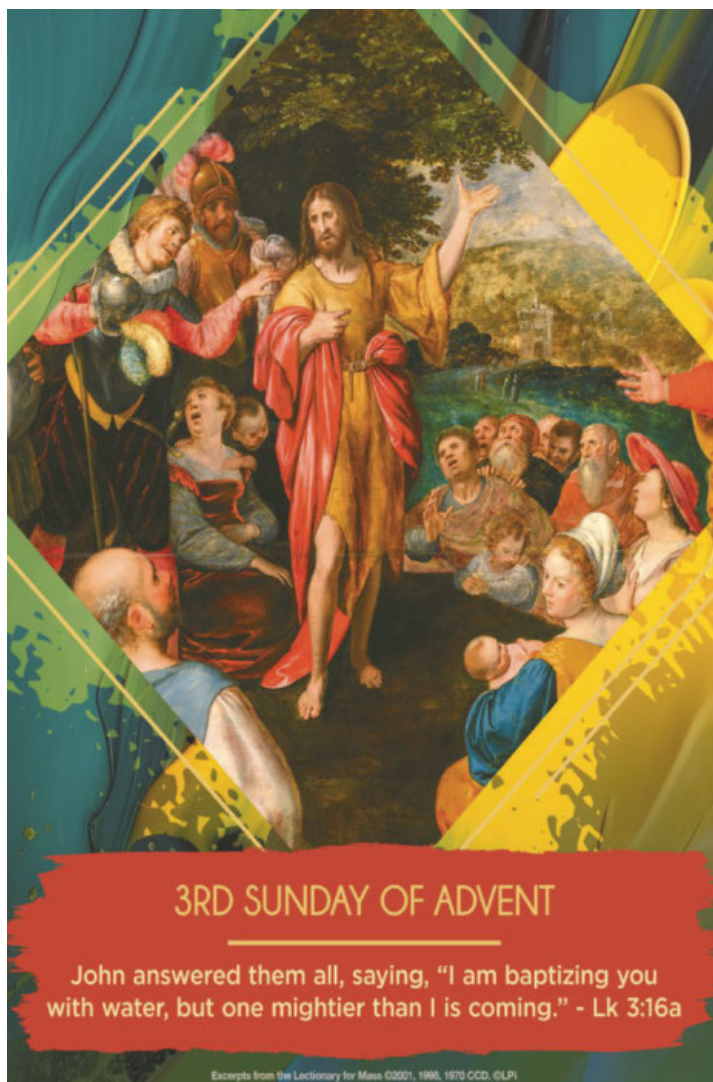
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

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



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:16a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1986, 1970 CCB, OLP

CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—December 14th

4:00PM The Hines Family

Sunday—December 15th

7:30AM Lt. Jason Menard (5th anniv.) req. of Peter & Cheryl Kelly

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Pierre-Yves le Diberder (mem.) req. of family

Monday—December 16th

7:00AM Krystyna Plewa (mem.) req. of a friend

5:30PM Dennis Ferrante (mem.) req. of a friend

Tuesday—December 17th

7:00AM For Thanksgiving

5:30PM David O'Coin (7th anniv.) req. of family

Wednesday—December 18th

7:00AM Elizabeth Shea (5th anniv.) req. of family

5:30PM Joseph Moran (8th anniv.) req. of family

Thursday—December 19th

7:00AM For All Souls

5:30PM Frances Oliver (birthday) req. of family

Friday—December 20th

7:00AM Gerardo Rodriguez (mem.) req. of family

5:30PM Joseph Carlomagno (birthday) req. of family

Saturday—December 21st

8:00AM Margaret Hart Kelly (mem.) req. of Mark & Monique Czyzewski

4:00PM Joanne V. and Philip G. St. Martin (mem.) req. of their daughters

Sunday—December 22nd

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

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Ruth Terrill (mem.) req. of Don & Elaine Cousineau

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **all the faithful departed.**

Advent Evening Masses Continue Each Weekday Night

In **Advent** we continue the custom of having a **Mass each weekday (Monday-Friday) at 5:30 pm** in addition to the 7:00 am Mass. Daily Mass is a great way to prepare for Christmas! We only have only one full remaining week of Advent this year because of the way Christmas falls (on a Wednesday). Please consider coming to these evening Masses in Advent.

The Wisdom of the Saints

"If we love Jesus, we shall be loved in return by Him, and that is perfect happiness." - *St. Rose Philippine Duchesne*

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses - Monday-Friday at 7:00 am and 8:00 am on Saturdays. This week we celebrate: **Advent weekdays (Monday-Friday)** and **St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Saturday)**.

Offertory

Thank you for your continuing generosity as we meet the financial needs of the parish. The various amounts of your donations for last weekend are as follows:

Offertory: \$5,980.00; **Online giving :** \$1,525.00; **Mass Stipends:** \$50.00; **Funeral Stipend:** \$400.00; **Donation Friday Night AA:** \$30.00; **Donation to Music Ministry:** \$2,000.00; **Christmas Flowers:** \$190.00; **Christmas:** \$230.00; **Immaculate Conception:** \$580.00; **Religious Retirement:** \$1,400.00.

Total: \$12,385 .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. **Upcoming scheduled meetings** take place from 1:00 to 2:30 pm on the following **Sundays in 2025 - January 5, February 23, March 30, and June 1**. Please call Monsignor Sullivan (508-754-5361) to register for a time to meet. **Baptisms** usually take place on select Sundays at the 11:00 am Mass. **In 2025** the available dates are: **January 12, March 2, April 27, and June 15**. Parents work with Msgr. Sullivan to establish an appropriate date for the actual baptism.

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.

Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

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

**The "Giving Tree" Program
Gifts Due by 12:00 Noon Today**

We thank you for your participation this year. We remind you that your purchased gifts need to be returned to the church by **12:00 noon sharp today, December 15 (Pick-Up Day)** with the tag fastened to it. Please do not wrap the gift.

Because of the increasing needs of local children there are still opportunities for giving this year. The **Urban Missionaries** make available the **following options** for giving.

You can obtain a "virtual tag" for a gift that a mother has asked for one of her children. Go to the website **www.urbanmissionaries.com** and click on the tab "To join our virtual Christmas Giving Tree." You will receive your tag via email. If you purchase the gift and bring it home, then print off the email tag, attach it firmly to the gift and return it to church. You might opt to ship the gift directly to Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope, 242 Canterbury St. Worcester MA 01603. Please put the tag ID number in the comment section of your order.

Or: Go to the "Go fund me" tab on the website **www.urbanmissionaries.com** and make a cash donation. The Missionaries will purchase a gift for you.

**The Knights of Columbus
thank you
for the 'Coats for Kids' Appeal
and
the 'Diaper Drive' for Catholic Charities**

The Knights of Columbus Council (#12691) of our parish wishes to express its deepest thanks to all those who donated to their recent 'Coats for Kids' appeal and the 'Diaper Drive.' Both appeals met with historic success. Both had a goal of \$5,000 this year. The Coats for Kids appeal raised an historic **\$6,529.39**, far exceeding previous years, and did so in the late summer and early fall. The Knights recently distributed **422 winter coats** to places of special need: *Our Lady of Providence Parish, St. Joan of Arc Parish, Pernet Family Health Center, Friendly House, Boys & Girls Club, St. Paul's Cathedral, Chandler Magnet School, Sullivan Middle School, In the Hour of Need Shelter and Catholic Charities.* Special thanks to those who picked up the coats once they were shipped to us and then made these institutional deliveries: Wes Cotter, Mike Lynch, Dick Lane, Allen Stansky, Bill Doyle, Ed Burke, Phil Salmon, Fran Warner and Janet Rauktis. We are also grateful to Cubmaster Tony Penny of our Cub Scout Pack 37. The Pack members donated scores of winter gloves, hats and mittens which were distributed with the coats.

Our Annual Diaper Drive also had a goal of \$5,000. Our Knights work in concert with Catholic Charities which distributes these diapers to mothers in need. We raised **\$5,648** for this drive. This translates into **approximately 29,232** diapers for local mothers.

And a special thanks to you, our parishioners, who made these successes so wonderful. These appeals can only be accomplished because of YOUR generosity!

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.**

**Congratulations
First Penance Class**

Last Saturday morning those young people preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time received it with Monsignor Sullivan as the confessor. We congratulate them and ask our parishioners to keep them in our prayers. Those who received the sacrament were: **Keira Bougie, Katherine Girouard, Norah Landry, Grace McKeon, José Melendez, Mark O'Brien, Killian Wall, Adam Wamback and Addison White.** We are very grateful for the efforts of **Leah DiPilato, Klodiana Ripa and Anne Thompson** for preparing the class.

**Parish Book Club
Skipping January**

Our parish book club, which meets monthly in the academic year, enjoys fiction and nonfiction literature, largely around religious themes from **7 to 8 pm** on the first Thursday of the month. **They are skipping January 2 because of the holiday season.** There is discussion and enjoying each other's company. The group meets in the Conference Room in the lower level of the church, adjacent the parish hall. If interested in joining, please contact Victoria DiMassa by calling her or texting her at **440-522-7700**. You can also email her at **dimassavictoria@gmail.com**. The group decides the next book.

**PLAN EARLY FOR
CHRISTMAS MASSES**

On **Tuesday, December 24**, we will have our regular Tuesday morning Mass at 7:00 am, the last Mass of Advent. **Christmas Eve Masses on Tuesday, December 24**, will be celebrated at **4:00 pm** (with the Festival Choir) and **6:00 pm** (with the Folk Group).

On **Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day morning**, Masses will be celebrated at **8:00 am** and **10:00 am**. The music will be provided by Ellen Linn (organ) with Alana Kearney (soloist).

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 Yvonn3@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.

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.

Monsignor Sullivan is a Notary Public

For many years Monsignor Sullivan has been a notary public. Should any parishioner need to have a document notarized you are welcome to call upon him. There will be no fee for any notarizations. He is simply happy to assist you. Just call the rectory should you need this service.

Thanks to the Women's Guild for the Baby Bottle Drive

We have received a letter from Rebecca Urban, the Executive Director of Visitation House, thanking Christ the King parishioners for donating **\$4,437** to this annual drive. She writes, "We rely on donations from individual donors and parish fundraisers to keep our doors open. Thanks for your help in supporting the most vulnerable members of our community - namely the expectant mothers and babies residing at Visitation House." Thank you, parishioners, and many thanks to the members of the Women's Guild for organizing this effort this past fall and for years too many to count!

Pack 37 Cub Scouts Thanks You!

Recently, our parish-based Cub Scout Pack (Pack 37) conducted its annual Advent Wreaths sale after all the Masses. Through the generosity of our parishioners, they were able to sell all fifty wreaths that they had made, enabling them to earn a profit of \$800. Cubmaster Tony Penny and all the scouts and parents of the scouts wish to thank our parishioners for their goodness in purchasing the wreaths and using them to experience a good season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. Thank you and God bless you!

Highlights of the Week Ahead

Sunday, December 15 - Advent III

10:00-11:00 am - CGS & Grades 1-6

12:00 pm Noon - Giving Tree Pick-Up

6:00-7:30 pm - Grades 7-10

6:00-7:30 pm - Confirmation Class

Monday, December 16

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

Tuesday, December 17

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

7:15 pm - Intro to the Catholic Faith

Wednesday, December 18

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

6:30 pm - Boy Scouts

7:30-9:00 pm - Folk Group Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

7:00 pm - Festival Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 20

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

6:30 pm - Cub Scouts

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Sunday, December 22 - Advent IV

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Grades 1-6 will meet **this morning, Sunday, December 15**, from 10:00 to 11:00 am. **Grades 7-10 will meet tonight, Sunday, December 15**, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The **Confirmation class will meet tonight, December 15**, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

There are **no** religious education **classes** scheduled for Sunday, **December 22**.

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.

Additional Christmas Confession Times

Additional times for confession will be heard on **Monday, December 23**. Please come and experience this Sacrament of forgiveness, healing and peace as you prepare for Christmas.

Monday, December 23

3:00-4:00 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm

Gaudete Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as **Gaudete** Sunday. The word “**gaudete**” comes from the Latin word “**gaudium**,” joy. The nearness of Christmas is reason for great joy. Our Entrance Antiphon is: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.” Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas. There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is greater joy in recalling the birth of Jesus. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins. The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness and a place in the Father’s house to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

Rose represents joy and may be used as the liturgical color for **Gaudete** Sunday. Violet remains the official color for the Season of Advent, the Third Sunday included, because all of Advent has a penitential tone, a time to be absolved of sin and be in the state of grace for Christmas. **Gaudete** Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity. The priest may wear a rose chasuble and stole. The third candle of the Advent wreath is rose.

The prayers today convey a joyful message. The immediacy of Christmas is addressed in the Collect (opening prayer), “O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity,” followed by two explicit references to joy: “enable us ... to attain the joys of so great a salvation” and “to celebrate them with ... glad rejoicing.”

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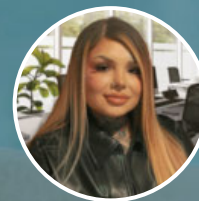
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