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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

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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

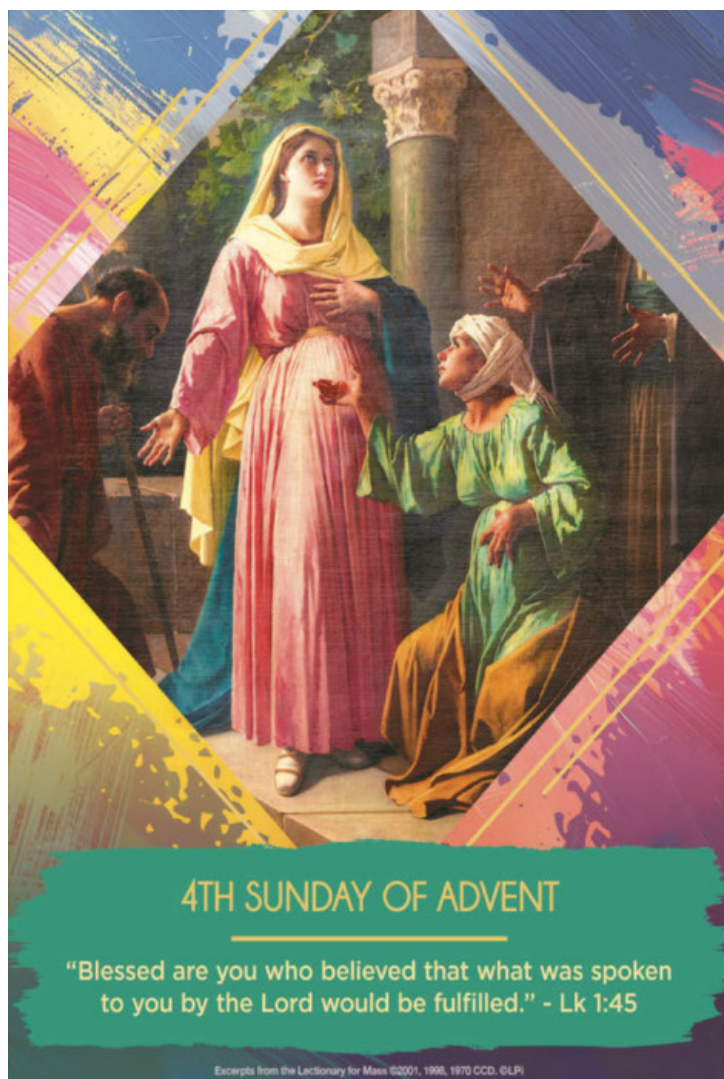
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

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



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1:45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD, ©LPI

1052 Pleasant Street

Worcester, MA 01602

CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—December 21st

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

Monday—December 23rd

7:00AM All Souls in Purgatory req. of a friend
5:30PM The donor of Jim Lang's transplanted lung

Tuesday—December 24th

7:00AM Gerardo Rodriguez (mem) req. of family
4:00PM Timothy Haylon (mem.) req. of family
6:00PM Parishioners of Christ the King

Wednesday—December 25th

8:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King
10:00AM Leah Derr (2nd anniv.) req. of family

Thursday—December 26th

7:00AM Jane Allen (mem.) req. of Fran & BettyAnn Warner

Friday—December 27th

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

Saturday—December 28th

8:00AM James Derr (mem.) req. of a friend
4:00PM Richard and Frances Oliver (wedding anniv.) req. of family

Sunday—December 29th

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King
9:00AM Phyllis Cureau (mem.) req. of Mark & Monique Czyzewski
11:00AM Bruce Foley (mem.) req. of family

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the soul of **Ann M. Fortier**.

Final Advent Evening Mass Tomorrow Night

Our final evening Mass for Advent, at 5:30 pm, will be celebrated tomorrow night, December 23. We have been edified by how many have come to these Masses this year. God bless you.

The Wisdom of the Saints

"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." - *St. Gregory Nazianzen*

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 and Tuesday morning) ~ The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas** (Tuesday at 4 pm and 6 pm and Wednesday morning at 8 am and 10 am) ~ **St. Stephen, Deacon and the First Martyr** (Thursday) ~ **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist** (Friday) ~ **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (Saturday).

Offertory

Thank you for your continuing generosity as we meet the financial needs of the parish. Our bulletin had to go to the printers before the weekend began so your offerings for last weekend will be reported in next week's 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. **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.

Jubilee Year of Hope An Invitation as we Begin

Pope Francis requests that all dioceses around the world participate in the Jubilee Year of Hope. A Jubilee Year is celebrated every twenty-five years. In our Diocese there will be multiple events scheduled throughout the year.

Bishop McManus invites us to join in the opening Mass for the Jubilee Year. It will take place on **Sunday, December 29 at 4:00 pm at St. Paul's Cathedral**. Prior to the Mass, for those who would like to participate, there will be an outdoor procession from St. John's Church on Temple Street to the Cathedral. This will begin at 3:30 pm. Following the Mass in the Cathedral a reception with light refreshments will be held in the **Cenacle**, the social hall beneath the Cathedral. Prayer cards and other materials will be available there. We welcome all to join in!

Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

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

Bishop McManus' Christmas Message

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open and enter the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica to celebrate Christmas Mass and begin a Jubilee Year.

A Jubilee Year is a special time of remission of sin and punishment due to sin. It involves pilgrimages, prayer, and works of mercy and penance. Jubilee Years awaken in us a profound awareness of the depth of God's love, mercy and solicitude for each one of us. That deepened awareness leads to a greater hope of sharing in the glory of God (Romans 5:2).

At Christmas, the glory of God briefly shone down on quaking shepherds tending their flocks as angels announced good news of great joy: God's Eternal Son was born of the Virgin Mary. Through the Holy Spirit, He took on our lowly humanity that we might forever share in the glory of His divinity. As Jesus was fully God and fully man, no one can claim that God is distant from us, or unaware of our trials. He walked among us and died for us. He is that close. He cares that much. This gives us hope throughout life and in every circumstance of life. Pope Francis has called us "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme for this year's Jubilee. It is a hope that will not disappoint because it is based in Jesus Christ who is the Eternal Word of God made flesh.

The New Year 2025 is not only a Jubilee Year, but an anniversary year. It is the 1900th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which defined the dogma of the divinity of Jesus Christ as true God and true man. It is also the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Worcester, for which we give thanks. 2025 will be a year full of opportunities for grace, hope and joy. They all stem from the Son of God and Son of Mary who was born in Bethlehem. I pray that you and your loved ones will have a blessed Christmas and that the observances and celebrations of 2025 will prolong those joys, deepen your faith and strengthen your hope.

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

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

Advance New Year's Mass Schedule

On January 1st the universal Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Christ the King will offer 3 Masses. There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 31, at 4:00 pm (New Year's Eve). On the morning of January 1, New Year's morning, we will offer Masses at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

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.**

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!

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.** 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.

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).

Thanks to our 'Giving Tree' Donors

Our thanks go out to all those parishioners who so generously donated gifts for local needy youths for Christmas. Your generosity is very much appreciated and demonstrates the true spirit of Christmas.

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.

Enjoy 'WORD ON FIRE ENGAGE'

Every parishioner has free access to our WOF digital library. The programs are produced by Bishop Robert Barron, an amazing array of excellent Catholic programming. **Here's how you can access the Word on Fire Digital Library.** First set up a 'Login.' It takes a few seconds. On your computer go to flocknote.com/login. Enter your email address and then click Reset or create a password *below* the big blue Sign-In button. Click the yellow 'Reset my password' button that comes up and follow the prompts from there. *Flocknotes* will email you a link to create your password. Check your email to finish. Now that you have your *Flocknotes* login go to <https://app.flocknote.com/CTKworc/dashboard> at any time. Click the **Visit WoFDigital.org** button (a big picture) and the library will open! It's that simple to access all the amazing content! Scroll through to your heart's content.

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

Sunday, December 22 - Advent IV

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

Monday, December 23

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

3:00-4:00 pm - Confessions

7:00-8:00 pm - Confessions

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 am - Final Advent Mass

4:00 pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

6:00 pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Masses at 8 am and 10 am

Thursday, December 26

5:30 pm - Closed A.A. meeting

Friday, December 27

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Sunday, December 29 - Holy Family

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

There are **no** religious education classes scheduled for today, Sunday, **December 22** or Sunday, **December 29** because of the Christmas holidays.

Pre-Christmas Confessions Tomorrow

We will be hearing confessions tomorrow, **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

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.

Merry Christmas!

Dear parishioners,

The angel of the Lord proclaimed to the shepherds, *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."* (Luke 2:10-11). If we listen, as did the shepherds of old, we too will hear the great throng of the heavenly host praising God and singing, *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all who enjoy His favor."* (Luke 2:14)

How much we need to hear the good news of Christ's birth once again! We must grasp this sacred moment with all its beauty and cherish it as we live it in our lives. This is true because most of us share deep concerns over the escalation of problems at home and abroad. We have our personal sorrows as well. Indeed, the angel's hopeful words too often seem part of another time and place. But, today, his words bring light into whatever darkness we might experience. To make a difference in our lives we must, in faith, move to embrace the great event of Bethlehem. The star, which arose over the City of David, will bring us hope as we come to believe that God has entered our lives. God's love given to us in the Christ Child brings us reassurance, renewal and courage.

This Christmas rejoice in God's greatest gift to us, the birth of His only Son. Come to Mass and share in the Eucharist. Sing hymns of Christmas joy with the Church. Renew and strengthen the ties of family and friendship. Don't let Christmas pass without knowing the joy of the newborn infant we call *Emmanuel* - God-with-us - and realize that He has come to give us His peace.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Monsignor Tom Sullivan

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