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Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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Grades 7-10 & Confirmation
Msgr. Thomas Sullivan

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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.

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

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



CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



Saturday—October 18th

4:00PM Kenneth Klucznik (2nd anniv.) req. of family

Sunday—October 19th

7:30AM Peggy Coppinger (mem.) req. of family

9:00AM William Bloomfield (18th anniv.) and Courtney Butcher (18th anniv.) req. of family

11:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

Monday—October 20th

7:00AM All Souls in Purgatory req. of a friend

Tuesday—October 21st

7:00AM Peter and Anna Pham (mem.) req. of daughter

Thursday—October 23rd

7:00AM Peter and Anna Pham (mem.) req. of daughter

Saturday—October 25th

4:00PM Patricia Daly (10th anniv.) req. of family

Sunday—October 26th

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King

9:00AM Madelyn Pocoski (7th anniv.) req. of family

11:00AM Evelyn Rivet (1st anniv.) req. of family

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses. We celebrate Mass at 7:00 am each weekday. Mass on Saturday mornings is at 8:00 am. We celebrate the lives of several saints at Mass this week: **St. Paul of the Cross** (Monday); **Pope St. John Paul II** (Wednesday); **St. John of Capistrano, Priest** (Thursday); **St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop** (Friday); **Blessed Virgin Mary** (Saturday).

Offertory

Thank you for your continuing generosity as we meet the financial needs of the parish. We really do need your support and are always grateful for your goodness. Your donations for last weekend are as follows:

Offertory: \$5,795.00; **Online Giving:** \$1,400.00; **Mass Stipends:** \$40.00; **World Mission:** \$50.00; **Catholic School Appeal:** \$20.00; **Fuel:** \$185.00; **All Saints:** \$5.00; **Donation:** \$1,050.00.

Total: \$8,545.00

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **Judith A. Ofcarcik**, the mother of David Ofcarcik, and **Alan S. Larievsky**.

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.

The Wisdom of the Saints

"When we pray we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us." - *St. Jerome*

Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

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

Congratulations to the Baptized!

Congratulations to **Brian Isaac Oliver Maughan** who was baptized here last weekend by Msgr. Sullivan. His parents, natives of England, are **James A. Maughan** and **Winifred Philomena Reilly**. His godparents are Charlie Ward and Lisa Shannon Ward. Brian, may you always live in the light of Christ!

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) or email him (tsullivan5@mac.com) to schedule a meeting or baptism. The scheduled time for the one remaining Parent Planning meeting for **this fall** is on **Sunday, November 2**, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. **For 2026** they are the following Sundays: **January 4; March 1; April 19; and June 14**. Most baptisms occur on occasional Sunday mornings at the 11:00 am Mass since Baptism is a public celebration. The remaining dates for these baptisms **in 2025: November 30; December 28; and in 2026: February 1; March 1; April 12; May 10; and June 14**.

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.

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.

Adult Confirmation Program Starts October 30

Were you baptized and received Holy Communion but were never confirmed? Do you want to be able to be a godparent or a Confirmation sponsor? If any are interested, our parish has preparation sessions each year for those adults who were never confirmed. The program is for adults who were baptized and received First Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) but never completed their initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Msgr. Sullivan conducts the 5-session program on Thursday evenings in the **parish rectory (October 30; November 13; December 4 & 18; and January 8) from 7:00 to 8:15 pm**. A retreat for candidates from throughout the Diocese will take place here at **Christ the King from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Sunday, January 18**. The Confirmation ceremony will take place at **3:00 pm on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at St. Paul's Cathedral**. Bishop McManus celebrates this final Sacrament of Initiation for adults from throughout the diocese. Adult candidates for Confirmation should be already going to Sunday Mass. Obviously, a candidate does not have to be married but if they are married it must in the Catholic Church. We can assist with that. If you are interested, please contact Msgr. Sullivan at either 508-450-2556 or by emailing him at tsullivan5@mac.com.

Annual Novena to St. Joseph Continues Tomorrow, October 20

We Hope All Will Come!

Father Robert Grattaroti, the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Charlton, will be the homilist for our Novena to St. Joseph at tomorrow evening's service. Please come and join us for the event. We hope all will participate in this important annual event as the pressure increases on the state legislature to make physician assisted suicide the law in Massachusetts. The Novena is celebrated from **7:15 pm to 8:00 pm**. We pray for the sick, pray for improvements in palliative care, and pray to oppose all attempts to end human life unnaturally as in the case of physician assisted suicide. The schedule of other homilists is Oct. 27, **Father John Larochelle**; and Nov. 3, **Msgr. Sullivan**. The names of those people who are terminally or critically ill, and who will be prayed for during the Novena, can be called in to 508-754-5361, or emailed to Msgr. Sullivan at tsullivan5@mac.com.

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

If you missed out on getting a donation envelope, you can receive one from Donna Byrnes (call or text her at 508-579-9918). Checks should be made payable to **Visitation House, Inc.** (not Christ the King). The best way of forwarding your check is to send it to Visitation House at 118 Endicott Street, Worcester, MA 01610. The funds it generates support the mothers and newborn children who receive high-quality hospitality and care through **Visitation House**, which has provided a residence and care for well over 300 pregnant women and their infants since 2005. You can also donate online at visitationhouse.org.

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.**

'CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD'

We are pleased to announce that the Diocese of Worcester will be holding an event on **Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 5:30-7:30 pm** to celebrate the ministry of our diocesan priests. For the past 11 years, the Diocese of Worcester has hosted a wonderful gala called "**Celebrate Priesthood - Taste of the Diocese**" as a benefit for Retired Priest's Care. Our 12th Annual Gala will be held at **Saint Paul Diocesan Junior - Senior High School (144 Granite Street, Worcester)** - in the school gymnasium. Our gala will feature cuisines from local restaurants as well as ethnic cuisines from parishes around our diocese, along with a variety of wines, local handcrafted beers and soft drinks. Over the past eleven years, nearly \$1.75 million has been raised to assist in the care of our retired priests. To make a gift or to purchase a ticket, please visit: <https://worcederdiocese.org/celebrate-priesthood>

Pope Leo's *Dilexi te* Faith leads to love for the poor

On October 4, Pope Leo XIV issued his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi te*, as a call to Christ's disciples "to recognize him in the poor and the suffering." Although 40 pages, we recommend reading it. It can be found easily on the internet.

The document sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, in caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality and more. *Dilexi te* ("I have loved you," from Rev 3:9) flows directly from the Gospel of the Son of God, Who in the very act of entering our world through the Incarnation became poor for our sake. It reflects the Church's social teaching as "a veritable treasury of significant teachings" concerning the poor.

With this document, Pope Leo situates himself firmly on the path laid out by his predecessors, including Pope Saint John XXIII, with his appeal, in *Mater et Magistra*, to wealthier countries not to remain indifferent to nations oppressed by hunger and extreme poverty. Pope Saint Paul VI added his own voice with *Populorum progressio* as an advocate of the poor; as did Pope Saint John Paul II, who consolidated the doctrinal foundations of the Church's "preferential option for the poor." More recently, Pope Benedict XVI, in *Caritas in veritate*, offered a more markedly political take on the crises of our times while Pope Francis made care for the poor and solidarity with the poor one of the key themes of his pontificate.

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.

Immaculate Conception Church Fair

Saturday, November 22. All invited. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Vendors, reserve table (\$25) before November 15 at the rectory (Monday-Thursday) 10 am to 2 pm. Or call/email Alejandro (909-519-7663), el1ercoach@yahoo.com.

Parish Book Club Meeting

Our growing parish book club, which meets monthly, enjoys fiction and nonfiction literature, largely around religious themes from 7 to 8 pm on the first Thursday of the month. The next scheduled meeting is for Thursday, November 6. The book the group will read is *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis, which was dedicated to his friend, J.R.R. Tolkien. While it is fictional in format, the plot and characters are used to address Christian theological issues, primarily those to do with temptation and resistance to it. 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.

Coffee Shop!

Coffee shop takes place on the first Sunday of the month after the 9:00 am Mass. We hope to see you at our next Sunday morning coffee shop on Sunday, November 2. Come and join us in the Johnson Room. Enjoy coffee, donut holes and especially one another's company. Let's strengthen our community and meet new friends!

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.

Join our Children's Nativity Pageant

We invite all children to take part in our Nativity Pageant following the Friday Advent Mass on December 19 (pageant begins at 6:30 pm). We're looking for biblical actors - Mary, Joseph, the Magi, angels, and more, as well as older children to serve as narrators. All participants and their families are invited to a small reception afterward. To sign up, please contact Jackie Penny at jpen-ny325@gmail.com or Monica Locker at mvlocker@gmail.com by November 11.

Highlights of the Week Ahead

Saturday, October 18

8:00 am - Mass
9:00 am - Private Baptism
4 pm Mass - Diocesan Pew Count
5:30 pm - Private Baptism

Sunday, October 19

Diocesan Pew Count - All Masses
10:00-11:00 am - CGS & Grades 1-6
6:00-7:30 pm - Confirmation class
6:00-7:30 pm - Grades 7-10

Monday, October 20

7:15-8:00 pm - Novena to St. Joseph
- Fr. Robert Grattaroti

Tuesday, October 21

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, October 22

4:00-6:00 pm - Trunk or Treat
6:30-8:00 pm - Boy Scouts
7:30-9:00 pm - Folk Group Rehearsal

Thursday, October 23

7:00 pm - Festival Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 24

6:30-8:00 pm - Cub Scouts
7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Sunday, October 26

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

Trunk or Treat

You and your children may want to participate in the *Trunk or Treat* program which will be held at **Immaculate Conception Church** parking lot (353 Grove Street, Worcester) next **Saturday, October 25** from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Upcoming Holy Days All Saints & All Souls

We celebrate two important feast days on the weekend of **November 1 and 2**. On Saturday, November 1st, we celebrate the **Solemnity of All Saints**. The lives of all the saints are celebrated, not just those we know as being canonized. When a solemnity like this is celebrated on a Saturday, however, there is no obligation to attend Mass as there would be on other weekdays. So, **our only All Saints Mass** will be on Saturday morning, **November 1st, at 8:00 am**.

Sunday, **November 2** is the **Feast of All Souls**. It is a very important feast in which we pray for all deceased persons, those known and unknown to us. This feast replaces the normal Sunday of Ordinary Time. On that day we will place the Memorial Book in front of the pulpit where it will remain throughout the month of November.

A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide

To live in a manner worthy of our human dignity, and to spend our final days on this earth in peace and comfort, surrounded by loved ones - that is the hope of each of us. In particular, Christian hope sees these final days as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny. Today, however, many people fear the dying process; fear experiencing pain and suffering, losing control over bodily functions, or lingering with severe dementia. They worry about being abandoned or becoming a burden on others. Our society can be judged by how we respond to these fears. A caring community devotes more attention, not less, to members facing the most vulnerable times in their lives.

When people are tempted to see their own lives as diminished in value or meaning, they most need the love and assistance of others to assure them of their inherent worth. The healing art of medicine is an important part of this assistance. Even when a cure is not possible, medicine plays a critical role in providing "palliative care" - alleviating pain and other symptoms and meeting basic needs. Such care should combine medical skill with attention to the emotional as well as spiritual needs of those facing the end of life.

Today there is a campaign to respond to these fears in a radically different way. Terms like "Death with Dignity" or "Medical Aid in Dying" describe a self-inflicted death, generally using a drug overdose prescribed by a doctor for the purpose of suicide. This campaign to legalize physician assisted suicide has been rejected by most policymakers in our society. A few states permit it. The claim of a constitutional right to assisted suicide was firmly rejected in 1997 by the U.S. Supreme Court and some years ago by the Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts. With expanded funding from wealthy donors, assisted suicide proponents keep renewing their aggressive campaign through legislation. States like Massachusetts, where most legislators and governor are supportive, are being targeted.

Jewish and Christian moral traditions have long rejected the idea of assisting in another's suicide. Catholic teaching views suicide as a grave offense against love of self, one that also breaks the bonds of love and solidarity with family, friends, and God. To assist another's suicide is to take part in "an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested" (John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 66). Most people, regardless of religious affiliation, know that suicide is a terrible tragedy, one that a compassionate society should work to prevent. They realize that allowing doctors to prescribe the means for their patients to kill themselves is a corruption of the healing art.

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