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Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

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Grades 1-6 Anne Thompson

Grades 7-10 & Confirmation
Msgr. Thomas Sullivan

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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.

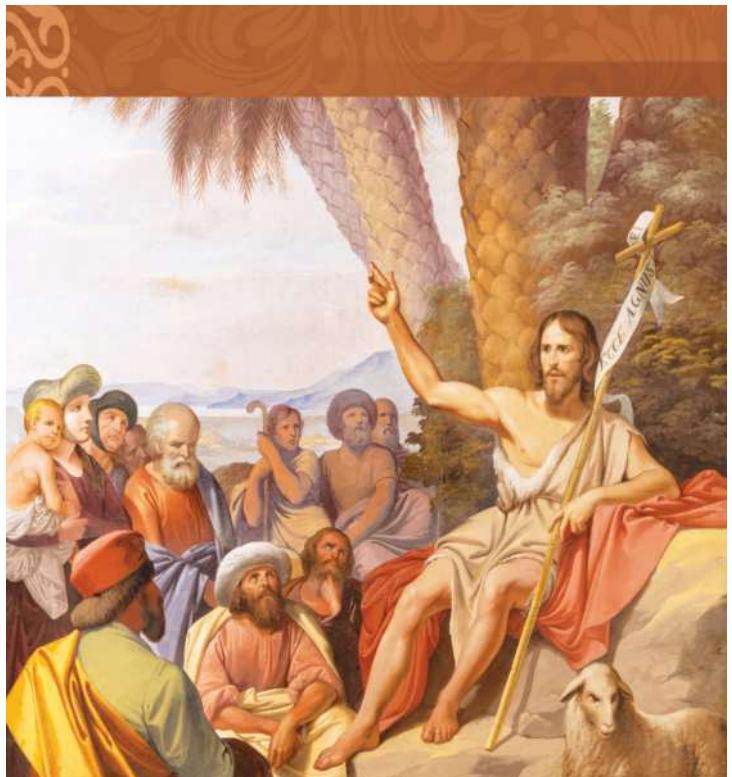
PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK
Please call Msgr. Sullivan for the Sacrament of the
Anointing of the Sick or Holy Communion.

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

"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:11

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Saturday—December 13th

4:00PM James J. Pappas (18th anniv.) req. of family

Sunday—December 14th

7:30AM Deacon Joseph M. Baniukiewicz (4th anniv.)

req. of family

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Amos E. Wasgatt, III (mem.), Elizabeth

“Betty” Wasgatt (mem.), Amos E. Wasgatt, Jr.

(mem.), Kenneth Anderson (mem.), Barbara

Wasgatt (mem.) and Joseph D’Ambra (mem.)

req. of family

Monday—December 15th

7:00AM Regina Crothers Tritle (mem.) req. of The
Daniel Maher Family

5:30PM Elizabeth Shea (6th anniv.) req. of family

Tuesday—December 16th

5:30PM Joseph Moran (9th anniv.) req. of family

Wednesday—December 17th

7:00AM Catherine Chien Ngo (mem.) req. of family

5:30PM David O’Coin (mem.) req. of family

Thursday—December 18th

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

Friday—December 19th

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

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

Saturday—December 20th

8:00AM Timothy Kearney (mem.) req. of Julie

O’Connor

4:00PM Joseph Carlomagno (birthday) req. of family

Sunday—December 21st

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

9:00AM Parishioners of Christ the King

11:00AM Patricia Generelli (mem.) req. of family

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **John Keating**, the brother of Nancy Clark and **James Dooley**, the father of Timothy Dooley.

**EXTRA PRE-CHRISTMAS
CONFessions**

Msgr. Sullivan will hear confessions at these extra times: **Monday, December 22**, 3:00-4:00 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm and **Tuesday, December 23**, 3:00-4:00 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm. Going to confession and receiving absolution for our sins is one of the best ways to prepare for Christmas.

**Come, See the Nativity Pageant!
This Friday Evening, December 19**

All are invited to join us this coming **Friday, December 19**, for our Children’s Nativity Pageant at **6:30 pm**, following the 5:30 pm Advent Mass. More than thirty of our parish youths have been preparing throughout Advent to share the beauty, joy, and wonder of the Christmas story through Scripture, narration, and song. A light reception will follow in the Johnson Room.

COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses. We celebrate Mass at 7:00 am each weekday. And during the Advent season each weekday evening at 5:30 pm. Mass on Saturday mornings is at 8:00 am. Each day this coming week is an Advent weekday Mass. No designated saints are honored this week.

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 were as follows:

Offertory: \$7,676.00; **Online Giving:** \$2,155.00; **Mass Stipends:** \$65.00; **Donation:** \$25.00;
Donation Friday Night AA: \$40.00; **Fuel:** \$20.00;
Human Development: \$15.00; **All Saints:** \$10.00; **All Souls:** \$10.00; **Christmas Flowers:** \$208.00; **Religious Retirement:** \$2,333.00; **Immaculate Conception:** \$277.00; **Christmas:** \$250.00.

Total: \$13,084.00

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**) or email him (tsullivan5@mac.com) to schedule a meeting or baptism. The scheduled times for the remaining **Parent Preparation meetings** for the next months ahead are on **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 the actual baptisms are in 2025: December 28. And in 2026: February 1; March 1; April 12; May 10; and June 14.

**‘Baby Bottle’ Drive
Thanks from Visitation House**

Dear Parishioners of Christ the King,

I wanted to personally thank you for hosting a Baby Bottle Drive again to benefit Visitation House. As a parish you were able to raise **\$4,270** this past October for Visitation House, Inc.

We receive no government funding, and we rely on donations from individual donations and fundraisers from parishes such as yours to keep our doors open. Thanks to your support, this past May (on the Feast of the Visitation), we were able to celebrate 20 years of helping the most vulnerable members of our community, namely the expectant mothers and babies residing here at Visitation House, Inc. May God bless you for your generosity!

Sincerely,
Rebecca M. Urban
Executive Director

The Knights of Columbus thank you for the 'Coats for Kids' Appeal & 'The Diaper Drive'

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' for Catholic Charities. Both appeals met with historic success. Both appeals had a goal of \$5,000 this year.

The **Coats for Kids** appeal raised an historic **\$7,438.**, 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: *Christ the King Parish, Our Lady of Providence Parish, St. Joan of Arc Parish, Pernet Family Health Center, Friendly House, Worcester Boys & Girls Club, St. Paul's Cathedral, Worcester's Dual Language Magnet School, Worcester's Sullivan Middle School, Webster Public Schools 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, and Fran Warner. We are also grateful to Cubmaster Tony Penny of our Cub Scout Pack 37. The Pack members donated many winter gloves, hats and mittens which were distributed with the coats. And the Knights added to these through purchasing additional ones.

The **Knights' 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 throughout Worcester County. We raised **\$12,967** for this drive. This translates into **over 60,000** diapers for local mothers.

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

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.

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.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24
Masses at 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Christmas Day Morning
Thursday, December 25
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.**

CHRIST THE KING PARISH HELP REDUCE HUNGER

With many food programs in jeopardy, we as a parish would like to work together to assist families in need. Your donation of food would nourish our neighbors and help keep pantry shelves stocked. We are setting up a program collecting non-perishable food items on the **Second Thursday of each month (only), between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm**. Items would be dropped off at the back of the rectory in front of the garage door closest to the church hall. Requested donations: non-perishable gluten-free foods; spices and condiments; healthy snacks (nuts, granola bars, canned and dried fruits, menstrual care products and hygiene items, cereals, rice, pasta, canned pasta sauce, all varieties of dry beans, low-sodium broths, soups, stews, chili, 100% fruit and vegetable juices. We will need the help of volunteers. Volunteers would collect the food and/or healthcare items. They will be delivered to the Worcester County Food Bank. If you can volunteer, please send an email to Janet Rauktis, rauktisj1@gmail.com, with dates and times available and she will coordinate a volunteer schedule. You may also call her on her cell phone 508-450-7496. Thank you in advance for your kindness in helping this very needed cause. Dates in **2026**: are Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug 13, Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12 & Dec 10.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS TODAY

We will have a **special second collection at all Masses this weekend, December 13 and 14**, to support our **senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests** who spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies - often for little, if any, pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Show your appreciation for those who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to those who have given a lifetime. **Checks** should be made **payable to Christ the King**, then we send one check to the Diocese. In the **memo line**, please note for '**Retired Religious**'.

The Wisdom of the Saints

"The family is the basis in the Lord's plan, and all the forces of evil aim to demolish it. Uphold your families and guard them against the grudges of the evil one by the presence of God." - *St. Charbel*

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 mindyd1052@gmail.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. Since the first Thursday of January is New Year's Day, the club has set its next meeting date for **Thursday, February 5**. The next book the group will be reading is Saint John Henry Newman's novel, ***Loss and Gain***, which is the semi-autobiographical story of his own conversion in the early 1800s. 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.

Rescheduled Women's Guild's

Evening of Recollection:
Tomorrow Night
Monday, December 15
'The Prefaces of Advent'

The evening will begin with **Mass at 5:30pm**, offered by Msgr. Sullivan, and followed by a light dinner with a spiritual presentation by **Fr. Derek Mobilio**, the pastor of Our Lady of the Angels Parish. '*The Prefaces of Advent*' is Father's theme. The cost for the evening is **\$18.00 for members** and **\$20 for non-members**. Please call **Donna Byrnes** at **508-753-3024** today to make a reservation.

Advent Evening Masses Continue Until Christmas

Our custom of celebrating a **daily Mass each weekday (Monday -Friday) at 5:30 pm** continues during the holy and penitential season of Advent. This is in addition to the 7:00 am Mass (Monday-Friday). On Saturday mornings our Mass will continue at 8:00 am as always. The Advent season lasts for another week and a half this year. The daily Mass is a great way to prepare for Christmas! Please consider coming to these evening Masses.

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.

Congratulations Newly Baptized

We congratulate **Jean Marie Farrell** who was baptized here last weekend by Monsignor Sullivan. Jean is the daughter of **Jeffrey J. Farrell** and **Patricia Ann (Horton) Farrell**. Her godparents are Robert Luongo and Margaret Apgar. Welcome to Christ's family, Jean! "May you live always as a child of the light."

Highlights of the Week Ahead

Saturday, December 13

4:00 pm Mass - Special Collection

Sunday, December 14 - Gaudete Sunday

All Masses - Special Collection

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

12:00 noon - Giving Tree Gifts Picked Up

6:00-7:30 pm - Grades 7-10 Rel. Ed.

6:00-7:30 pm - Confirmation Program

Monday, December 15

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

Evening: Nativity Pageant Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 16

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, December 17

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

6:30-8:00 pm - Boy Scouts

Thursday, December 18

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

7:00-8:30 pm - Festival Choir Rehearsal

7:00-8:15 pm - Adult Confirmation Program

Friday, December 19

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

6:30 pm - Nativity Pageant, church

6:30-8:00 pm - Cub Scouts

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Sunday, December 21 - ADVENT IV

Sunday Morning Coffee Shop!

Coffee shop takes place on the **first Sunday of the month** after the 9:00 am Mass. We hope to see you on **Sunday, January 4**. 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!

Thanks for your Thanksgiving Day Generosity to the Poor

We thank all those who brought gifts of food for the poor at our Thanksgiving Day Mass. This annual custom accumulated three carloads of food for the food pantry of Our Lady of Providence Parish on Lincoln Street. In addition, monetary gifts of \$504 were made, and two \$50 gift cards for use at the Big Y. These gifts represent the goodness of our faith community. Father Jonathan Slavinskas told Monsignor Sullivan (later that Thanksgiving Day), "Thank you so much very much. You have no idea how impactful all the food donations were to the parish! Thank you for all you're doing for us!"

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**,” meaning “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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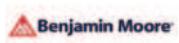
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