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Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

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Mindy A. Dulude

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION
Anne Thompson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Grades 1-6 Anne Thompson

Grades 7-10 & Confirmation
Msgr. Thomas Sullivan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INQUIRIES:
reledctkworc@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC
Ellen Linn

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.

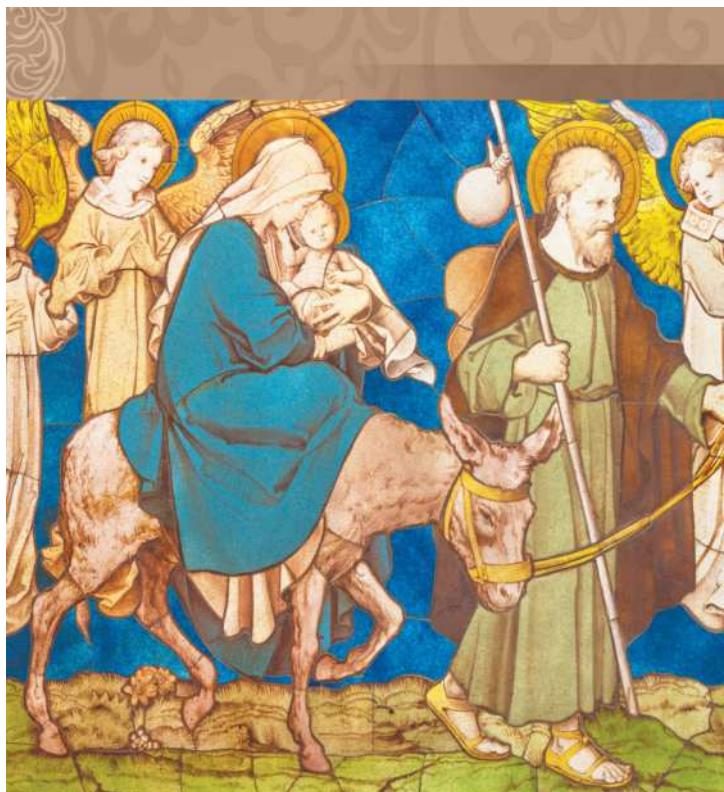
PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK
Please call Msgr. Sullivan for the Sacrament of the
Anointing of the Sick or Holy Communion.

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

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



THE HOLY FAMILY

"Joseph rose and took the child and his mother
by night and departed for Egypt." - Mt 2:14

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

OLPI

1052 Pleasant Street

Worcester, MA 01602



Saturday—December 27th

4:00PM Kim Tuyen Le (mem.) req. of family

Sunday—December 28th

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King

9:00AM Richard and Frances Oliver (wedding anniv.)
req. of family

11:00AM Kim Tuyen Le (mem.) req. of family

Monday—December 29th

7:00AM Arthur A. Tateronis (mem.) req. of The
Rushton Family

Tuesday—December 30th

7:00AM John Keating (mem.) req. of Roger & Joyce
Dubuque

Wednesday—December 31st

7:00AM John Connolly (mem.) req. of Fran & BettyAnn
Warner

4:00PM George Kachajian (5th anniv.) req. of wife &
family

Thursday—January 1st

8:00AM Tara Keegan (2nd anniv.) req. of family

10:00AM Thanksgiving req. of Patricia Rushton

Friday—January 2nd

7:00AM Hon. Judge Joseph Lian, Jr. (mem.) req. of The
Rushton Family

Saturday—January 3rd

4:00PM Michael Laviolette (mem.) req. of The Rauktis
Family

Sunday—January 4th

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King

9:00AM Charles Edward Patrock (8th anniv.) req. of
The Patrock Family

11:00AM Norma Moroz (6th anniv.) req. of family

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **Mark Peterson**, the brother of Christine Derr, and **Theresa F. Clark**, the mother of Richard Clark.

Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

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

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.

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. **Wednesday evening** is **New Year's Eve**. There is a Vigil Mass at 4 pm. **Thursday's Masses** are for the **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**. On **Friday** we celebrate the **Feast of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**. **Saturday morning** we celebrate the **Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus**.

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 in recent weeks are noted below:

Offertory: \$14,869.00; **Online Giving:** \$2,655.00; **Mass Stipends:** \$375.00; **Donation:** \$5,160.00;
Donation in memory of Loretta Cusick: \$500.00;
Fuel: \$60.00; **All Saints:** \$5.00; **All Souls:** \$10.00; **Christmas Flowers:** \$135.00; **Religious Retirement:** \$3,869.24.; **Immaculate Conception:** \$1,476.41; **Christmas:** \$815.00;
Solemnity of Mary: \$5.00; **Ascension:** \$5.00; **Refund from Ready Refresh:** \$10.01.

Total: \$29,949.66

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. Scheduled dates for the first half of **2026** are: **February 1; March 1; April 12; May 10; and June 14**.

**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. We will offer three Masses for this holy day: a **4:00 pm Vigil Mass on Wednesday, December 31** (New Year's Eve) and **8:00 and 10:00 am Masses on Thursday, January 1**.

Tickets On Sale Now For 2026 Worcester Catholic Men's Conference *"Be Not Afraid"*

The Worcester Catholic Men's Conference is back in its 25th year! Tickets which are available now on the conference website: catholicmenwore.com. The Conference will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the DCU Center.

We have another incredible lineup of Catholic leaders for 2026, including former "Shock-Jock" Kevin Matthews ("Broken Mary") who will give his remarkable transformation and redemption story; Former D1 Quarterback, Father Joe Freedy from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA who will speak of his life in football before the priesthood and bringing our loved ones back to the Church; the incredible John Martinoni, formerly of EWTN Radio's "Open Line Monday," best selling author and prolific expert on all things Catholic, presenting "Blue Collar Apologetics;" Father Fred Fraini (Auburn pastor) who will prepare us for Reconciliation who will be both very touching as well as hilarious; and a very special appearance by Father Peter Jai Choi of Toronto, Canada as we go international!

Joining us for the first time, professional musician/pianist, Mr. David Twiss (who has performed with major figures in the world of entertainment), will lend his talent to the day by providing traditional Catholic music. And we are bringing back Master of Ceremonies, Jim Polito, from iHeartRadio, so popular at the last Conference.

We will again feature Adoration all day; Mid-Day confessions, and the Rosary will be featured in a very special manner this year. Over 50 vendors will be present, and the day will conclude with a 4:00 pm Mass with Bishop McManus. Adult Tickets are \$60 (through March 11th) and Student Tickets are always just \$30. All Tickets include lunch. Please join in solidarity with your fellow Catholic Men from all over New England as this Conference is a regional event.

Our Christmas Thanks!

The parish family is very grateful to so many hundreds of parishioners who made our shared experience of the Lord's birth so wonderful. We are very grateful to our music leaders, instrumentalists, and all our choirs for their festive song. Thanks, as well, to the lectors, extraordinary ministers and servers who graced our altar. We appreciate all those who decorated the church so beautifully. We thank all those who gave to the annual Giving Tree initiative. We are grateful for those donations given to the parish and/or to its staff. We have so many reasons to know we are blessed. God bless you and thanks.

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.

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

FIRST DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

On December 11, our first day for collecting food to assist the hungry we had **510 pounds of food** delivered to us. This was a great success. We are very grateful to those who donated food and to the volunteers who helped receive and deliver that food throughout the day.

Our next collection day is Thursday, January 8.

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.

March for Life Bus Trip

There are a small number of seats still available for the bus trip to the 52nd annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, Jan. 23! Buses will leave from St. Paul's Cathedral on Thurs., Jan. 22 following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m., and will travel to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC in time for Friday morning Mass followed by the March for Life at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March, arriving back at St. Paul's at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24. Cost is \$150 per seat. Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. To download registration forms visit worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life.

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.

Holy Hour on First Friday Each Month ~ Please Come!

A monthly Holy Hour takes place on the First Friday evening of each month. The next scheduled date is this Friday, **January 2**. The hour includes Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, and a brief spiritual reflection. Please come from **7:00 to 8:00 pm**. All parishioners and all Catholics of other parishes are most welcome. We hope you will join us!

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.

Report Sexual Abuse

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility of hope and healing. The Church encourages you to come forward. You may meet with Bishop McManus or his delegate, Mrs. Judith Audette, the Director of the Diocesan Office of Healing and Prevention (49 Elm Street, Worcester, 01609; 508-929-4363). It is the policy and practice of the Diocese to respond promptly and with compassion to all reports of misconduct.

The Wisdom of the Saints

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out his compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.” - *St. Teresa of Avila*

Highlights of the Week Ahead

Sunday, December 28 - Holy Family

4 pm - Closing Jubilee Year Mass
at St. Paul's Cathedral
7 pm - Wedding

Monday, December 29

5:30 pm - Baptism

Tuesday, December 30

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, December 31

Afternoon - Mustard Seed Food Prep
4 pm - New Year's Eve Vigil Mass

Thursday, January 1 - Mary, Mother of God

Masses at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Friday, January 2

7:00-8:00 pm - Adoration, Benediction
7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Sunday, January 4 - Epiphany

10:00-11:00 am - CGS and Grades 1-6 Rel. Ed.
1:00-2:30 pm - Parent Baptism Prep, Rectory
6:00-7:30 pm - Grades 7-10 Religious Ed. Classes

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!

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.

Join the National Novena for Life!

Join Catholics nationwide in the annual *9 Days for Life* novena, January 16-24. Sign up to receive daily emails and reflections by text or email at 9daysforlife.com.

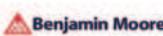
Be Joyful this New Year!

William Knight wrote, "Joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts announcing that the King is in residence today." This statement may seem a bit odd to American ears. But, in Britain, when her Majesty, the queen, is in her residence, the royal flag is raised and flown over the castle, signifying her presence. For British residents, knowing the Queen is in her castle gives the citizens a sense of safety, protection, and fulfillment. Likewise, Knight, a poet, is suggesting that for the believer in Jesus Christ joy comes in knowing Jesus resides in our hearts. When he is resident, we fill a sense of calm, peace, and tranquility. Joy comes through a relationship with Jesus. To know joy, we must know Jesus. We must be in a relationship with him.

So how can we know Jesus and thus experience his joy?

Knowing Jesus, entering into this relationship with the King of Kings, doesn't happen by accident. We are not born a Christian nor are we a Christian because of our family heritage. Being a Christian is not like being British. Becoming a Christian requires a conversion of the heart. When the King resides in our hearts, then the heart reflects authentic joy. St. Paul described how to know Jesus in one of his first letters. First Thessalonians was written about eighteen years after Jesus' resurrection; therefore, it provides a glimpse into early Christian life. It shows the initial Christian understanding of what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. The phrase "he has chosen you" speaks of the sovereign grace of God in salvation. God chose us to have a relationship with us. If he had not chosen us, we would never have been in a relationship. Sometimes we speak of "finding" the Lord, but if he had not found us first, we would never have found him at all. Salvation begins with God, not with us. God takes the initiative with our freedom to choose. He chooses us, and then we believe. In putting the matter that way, salvation is all by grace, all of God, all the time.

A Christian, then, is a person who has been called and chosen by God himself. Being a Christian is not a personal accomplishment but an act of God's free grace. God loves us and desires a relationship with us.

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