



Christ the King Parish

PASTOR
DIOCESAN VICAR GENERAL
Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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.

MASS SCHEDULE

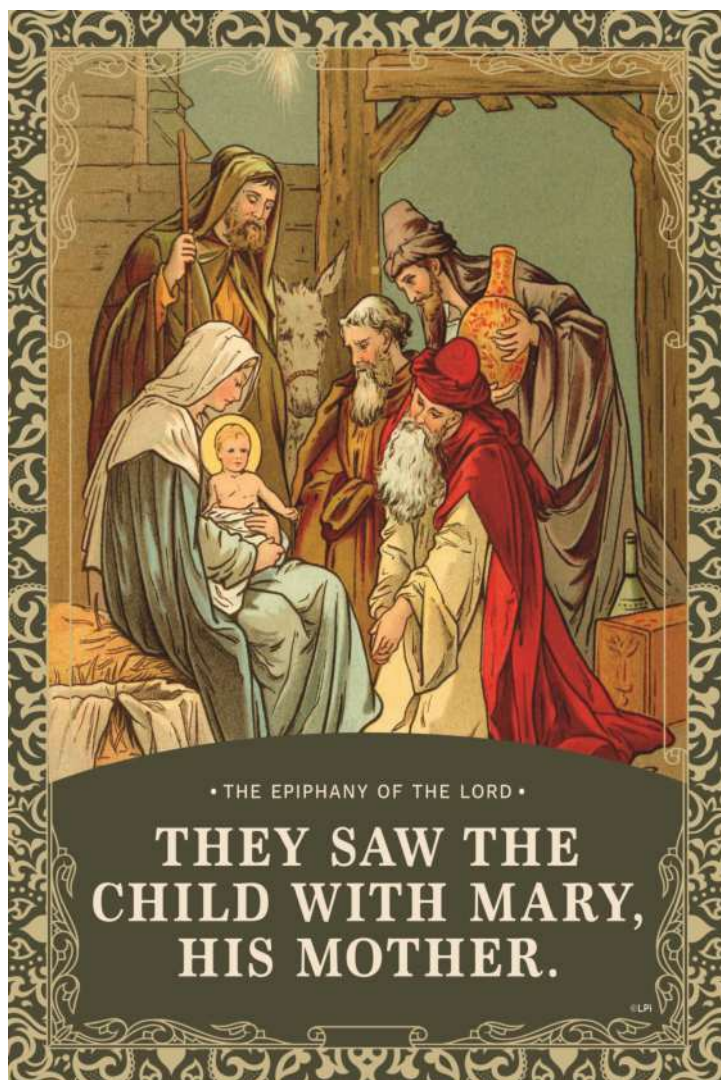
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

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





Saturday—January 3rd

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

Monday—January 5th

7:00AM Merrill Dussault (1st anniv.) req. of family

Tuesday—January 6th

7:00AM Patricia Daly (mem.) req. of family

Wednesday—January 7th

7:00AM John Keating (months mind) req. of Nancy Clark

Thursday—January 8th

7:00AM Mark Peterson (mem.) req. of Roger & Joyce Dubuque

Saturday—January 10th

8:00AM Patrick Handlon (mem.) req. of brother Michael Handlon

4:00PM Kathy Beck (1st anniv.) req. of family

Sunday—January 11th

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King

9:00AM Eileen M. Kneeland (2nd anniv.) req. of family

11:00AM Frank Buffone (mem.) and Angela Buffone (mem.) req. of family

REST IN PEACE

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

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.

**First Communion Parents Meeting
Tuesday Night**

We remind our parents of the Parents' Meeting scheduled for **this Tuesday evening, January 6, from 7:00 to 7:45 pm.** The meeting will take place in the Johnson Room. If there are childcare issues only one parent need be present. Monsignor Sullivan, Anne Thompson and Leah DiPilato will be present.

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. This week we celebrate the Feasts of **St. John Neumann, Bishop** (Monday); **St. André Bessette, Religious** (Tuesday). The other days are Christmas weekdays.

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. This bulletin, unbelievably, was due on Tuesday, December 23, so we cannot report any recent donations. Recent donations will be reported soon.

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.**

A Post-Christmas Reflection

C. S. Lewis loved the story of the birth of Christ. In fact, he argued that the one Grand Miracle of Christianity is not the Crucifixion or the Resurrection, but Christ's birth. He saw every other miracle of Scripture as preparing for, demonstrating, or resulting from, the Incarnation. Obviously our Lord would not have suffered the cross or led humankind from the grave if he had not been born.

Lewis calls a miracle, "*an interference with Nature by supernatural power.*" Thank God, He does interfere in our world! Left to our own instincts, we go our own way. God became one of us because he yearns to make us one with him. That's why God has been miraculously interfering for millennia. Just for starters, think of Abraham and Sarah becoming parents late in life, the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, or the rescue of Daniel from the lions. None of these, remarkable though they were, were as important as the Incarnation.

While we believe that God is near, Christ is in us, the Holy Spirit has been poured out on us, God remains hidden in these miracles. With the birth of Jesus, God becomes visible in a tiny body for a mother to hold, for shepherds to admire, for magi to worship. He Himself is the miracle! Said Jesus, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). The Word became flesh. He became one of us - His Grand Miracle!

Lewis wrote, "the Christian story is precisely the story of one grand miracle, the Christian assertion being that what is beyond all space and time, what is uncreated, eternal, came into nature, into human nature, descended into His own universe, and rose again, bringing nature up with Him. It is precisely one great miracle. If you take that away there is nothing specifically Christian left." ("*The Grand Miracle, God in the Dock*," 80)

**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: catholicmenworc.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.

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.

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 Rautkis, rautkisj1@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 mindy1052@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.

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.

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

"Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry." - *St. Francis de Sales*

Highlights of the Week Ahead

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

Monday, January 5

3:30 pm - Mass at Tatnuck Park

Tuesday, January 6

7:00-7:45 pm - First Communion Parents Meet
7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, January 7

6:30 pm - Knights of Columbus
6:30-8:00 pm - Boy Scouts
7:30-9:00 pm - Folk Group Rehearsal

Thursday, January 8

7:00-8:15 pm - Adult Confirmation Class
7:00-8:30 pm - Festival Choir rehearsal

Friday, January 9

7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

Sunday, January 11 - The Lord's Baptism

10:00-11:00 am - CGS and Grades 1-6 Rel. Ed.
6:00-7:30 pm - Grades 7-10 Religious Ed. Classes
6:00-7:30 pm - Confirmation class

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 **this morning, 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.

Today:
The Solemnity of the Epiphany
'Three Kings' Seek, Find, and Worship the Lord

The story of the "Adoration of the Wise Men" is one of the best known in the life of the Lord and a favorite subject in religious expressions of art. The star that guided the Magi has become an example of the Gospel proclamation to all people. The brief story in Matthew's Gospel, which says that Wise Men from the East, guided by a star, arrived in Bethlehem to worship the newborn Child, was well-known from the Church's beginnings. These men of high rank arrive from the East following a star. They've also been called "astrologers," Magi and the "Three Kings." Their coming from the "East" makes one think of Persia, where the Parsee priests of Zoroaster encouraged the interpretation and importance of stars.

The Wise Men symbolized strangers, foreigners or pagans, hence, completely diverse people. Yet they received salvation, just like the People of Israel. Their search, discovery, worship and belief in Jesus filled them with "great joy." Obedient to a warning, they returned to their own country "by another way." The homage that the first representatives of paganism, henceforth kings, paid to the King of Kings enabled them to share in the divine Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The Magi who came from the East, important figures, were men of their time who asked critical questions and sought meaning for life. They asked seriously, they sought tenaciously, and they set out readily. By asking and seeking, the Wise Men discovered and encountered the Lord. They felt "great joy." This "joy" is the peace that God has bestowed upon us through the Incarnation of the Son.

The Magi fell down on their knees, prayed and offered their gifts. Adoring God thus means giving oneself totally to him and professing him. Through his Incarnation, his death and his Resurrection, Jesus revealed to all humanity the total gift of himself.

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