



# Christ the King Parish

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Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan

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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



• 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT •

**HIM ALONE SHALL  
YOU SERVE.**

©LPI

## CHRIST THE KING, WORCESTER, MA



### Saturday—February 21st

4:00PM Nancy and Larry O'Connell (mem.) req. of family

### Sunday—February 22nd

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King

9:00AM Rich and Kevin O'Connor (2nd anniv.) req. of family

11:00AM Kevin, Maria and Brian Donahue (mem.) req. of the Roach Family

### Monday—February 23rd

7:00AM Grace Scanlon (mem.) req. of Leo Quinn

5:30PM Thomas Waters (birthday) and Barbara Waters (1st anniv.) req. of daughter, Carolyn Waters

### Tuesday—February 24th

7:00AM Brian Burgoyne (mem.) req. of family

5:30PM Catherine Black (mem.) req. of family

### Wednesday—February 25th

7:00AM Ann and Mel Lewis (mem.) req. of family

5:30PM Joan Conroy (birthday) req. of family

### Thursday—February 26th

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

5:30PM David E. Saint John (mem.) req. of The Maher Family

### Friday—February 27th

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

### Saturday—February 28th

8:00AM Elizabeth O'Keefe (mem.) req. of The Rushton Family

4:00PM Zachary Ford (15th anniv.) req. of family

### Sunday—March 1st

7:30AM Parishioners of Christ the King

9:00AM Lisa Mulcahy Gettier (mem.) req. of The Rushton Family

11:00AM James Andrews (mem.) req. of brother, Mark Andrews

### REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of **Marilyn D. Dowd**, and **Paul E. Johnson**, the father of Kim Callinan.

### 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.

### 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.

### COME TO DAILY MASS!

As you can, please consider coming to our daily Masses. We celebrate Mass at **7:00 am** and **5:30 pm** each weekday during **Lent**. Mass on Saturday mornings is at 8:00 am. This week we celebrate Lenten weekdays each day.

### 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:** \$5,937; **Online Giving:** \$1,615.00;  
**Mass Stipends:** \$360.00; **Funeral Stipend:** \$400.00; **Donation from Tuesday Night AA:** \$100.00; **Donation in memory of Henry Cusick:** \$100.00; **Fuel:** \$416.00; **Catholic Home Mission:** \$121.00; **Solemnity of Mary:** \$10.00;  
**Ash Wednesday:** \$342.00; **Catholic Free Press:** \$234.00.

**Total: \$9,635**

### 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: 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 next months of **2026** are: **March 1; April 12; May 10; and June 14**.

### 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.

### Weekday Evening Mass during Lent!

Throughout Lent, Christ the King offers a **Mass at 5:30 pm Monday through Friday**. This concludes the day before Holy Thursday. It is perfect for those who cannot attend a morning Mass.

### The Wisdom of the Saints

"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves." - *St. Francis de Sales*

### Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

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

**Women's Guild's Lenten  
Evening of Recollection  
March 9**

The Women's Guild invites all women to their Annual Lenten Evening of Recollection on Monday, March 9. The evening begins with our Mass at 5:30 pm. It is followed by a meal in the Johnson Room. The 'facilitator' for the evening is Father Stephen Lundrigan, the pastor of St. Columba Parish in Paxton and Chaplain at Anna Maria College. The suggested donation for the evening is \$18 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. To register please call Donna Byrnes at 508-579-9918 or email her at [dbyrnes@charter.net](mailto:dbyrnes@charter.net).

**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. For years we have **not been able to obtain any information from St. Vincent's Hospital, 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. Sadly, Monsignor is entirely dependent on information that you can provide!**

**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! The conference will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the DCU Center. Tickets are available: [catholicmenworc.com](http://catholicmenworc.com).

We have another incredible lineup of Catholic speakers. 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.

**"COME HOME TO GOD'S MERCY"**  
*Tuesday Night Confessions During Lent*

Several years ago, Bishop McManus requested that every parish in the Diocese offer opportunities for Catholics to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance; confessions) on Lenten Tuesdays **between 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm**. We continue this practice. Lent is a wonderful time to receive God's mercy in this extraordinary Sacrament. In addition to Saturday afternoons (2:45-3:45 pm), we will be offering confessions on Lenten Tuesday evenings. They **begin this Tuesday, February 24** (the first full week of Lent) and continue on March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24 and March 31 (which falls during Holy Week). During Holy Week there will be additional confessions from 3:00 to 4:00 pm and 7:00 to 8:00 pm on each of the following days: Monday, March 30, Tuesday, March 31, and Wednesday, April 1...as well as on Holy Saturday, April 4 from 2:45 to 3:45 pm.

**GUIDELINES FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows: **Abstinence from meat** is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on **Good Friday** and **all the Fridays** of Lent. **Fasting** is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on **Good Friday**. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

**Congratulations To Those Adults  
Confirmed last Sunday!**

Last Sunday, Bishop McManus confirmed adults from throughout the parishes of the Diocese of Worcester at St. Paul's Cathedral. Nine of those confirmands participated in the Adult Confirmation preparation classes offered by Monsignor Sullivan here at Christ the King. We never had so many. We congratulate the following participants: **Jennefer Baxter, Lauren Downing, Chelsea Gonzalez, Jillian McMenemy Kathryn Margaret McNamara, Ashley McPartland, Erica Rose, Nicholas St. Germain and Patricia Mary Zamarro**. May all these newly confirmed rejoice as they receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit!

**Stations of the Cross  
Lenten Friday Afternoons**

We celebrate the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. We resumed this practice 4 years ago, and a good number of people come. The time is **3:00-3:30 pm**. We encourage you to join in.

**Priestly Vocation Retreat**

The Diocese will offer its annual Priestly Vocation Retreat for men high school age and up from 6:00 pm on Friday, **March 27** to 5:00 pm on Saturday, **March 28**. There is no cost. The retreat takes place at Immaculate Conception Retreat Center, 600 Liberty Highway, in Putnam, CT. Bishop McManus and Father Donato Infante lead the retreat. "To live your true calling is a life of joy, but you will only hear His voice if you take the time to listen." To register for the retreat visit: [worcestervocations.com/retreats](http://worcestervocations.com/retreats).

**Lenten Morning for Children on March 28**

Children and their parents are invited to a special Lenten Morning in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, March 28 10:00-11:30 a.m.** Together we do a reenactment of the Last Supper, a foot washing practicum, Paschal candle painting, and other prayerful activities. Please sign up by emailing Jackie Penny at [jpenny325@gmail.com](mailto:jpenny325@gmail.com) (or letting her know in person) so we can have an accurate headcount for supplies. We hope your family can join us for this meaningful time of prayer and preparation before we enter into Holy Week!

### 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](mailto:mindy1052@gmail.com).

### Parish Book Club Meetings

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. Its next meeting date is set for **Thursday, March 5**. The book the group will be discussing for its March meeting is C.S. Lewis' *'Surprised By Joy,'* one of Lewis' best known and classic works. 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](mailto: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 Friday, **March 6**. 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!

### Interested in Light Housekeeping?

An active parishioner in our immediate church neighborhood needs some light housekeeping assistance a couple of days a week for a couple of hours each time. If interested, please call Pauline at 508-756-3613.

### Sunday Morning Coffee!

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

### Facebook Page for Christ the King

Follow us on Facebook for the daily Gospel, Sunday homilies, and upcoming parish news at Christ the King Parish, Worcester (official).

### 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](http://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.

### Highlights of the Week Ahead

#### Sunday, February 22

11 am Mass - Install Antony Thomas as EM  
10:00-11:00 am - CGS and Grades 1-6  
6:00-7:30 pm - Rel. Ed., Grades 7-10  
6:00-7:30 pm - Confirmation Program

#### Monday, February 23

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

#### Tuesday, February 24

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
7:00-8:00 pm - Lenten confessions  
7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

#### Wednesday, February 25

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
1:00 pm - Mustard Seed Food Prep  
6:30-8:00 pm - Boy Scouts

#### Thursday, February 26

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
5:30-6:30 pm - Closed A.A. Meeting  
7:00-8:30 pm - Festival Choir rehearsal

#### Friday, February 27

Masses at 7:00 am & 5:30 pm  
3:00-3:30 pm - Stations of the Cross  
7:00 pm - A.A. Meeting

#### Saturday, February 28

1:00 pm - Wedding

#### Sunday, March 1

9 am - Mass with 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
10:00 am - Coffee Shop  
10:00-11:00 am - CGS and Grades 1-6  
11:00 am - Mass with Baptism  
1:00-2:30 pm - Parent Baptism Prep  
6:00-7:30 pm - Rel. Ed., Grades 7-10

### CHRIST THE KING PARISH HELP REDUCE HUNGER

**On February 12 we received 594 pounds of food. Thank you. Our next collection day is Thursday, March 12.**

With many food programs in jeopardy, we as a parish would like to work together to assist families in need. Your donation of food nourishes our neighbors and helps to keep pantry shelves stocked. We have set up a program to collect non-perishable food items on the **Second Thursday of each month (only), between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm**. Items are to be dropped off at the back of the rectory in front of the garage doors. 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. Volunteers collect the food and/or healthcare items. They are delivered to the Worcester County Food Bank. If you can volunteer, please send an **email to Janet Raultis, [raultisj1@gmail.com](mailto:raultisj1@gmail.com)**, with dates and times available as she is coordinating a schedule. You can call her at 508-450-7496. Thank you in advance for your kindness in helping this very needed cause. Another upcoming date is April 9.

# ALL WELCOME TO SPECIAL LECTURE

## “Lay Power & Influence in the Church: Historical Myths vs. Realities” Dr. Bronwen McShea, Ph.D.

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.  
College of the Holy Cross  
Rehm Library (Smith Hall)

**Description:** It is widely believed that the Second Vatican Council of the 1960s inaugurated an unprecedented age of the Catholic laity in which laymen and laywomen have much more power and influence within the Church than was possible in past times. At the same time, it is also commonly assumed that where powerful lay elites, such as the rulers of the Holy Roman Empire and France, *did* assert power in ecclesiastical affairs, that it was generally to the Church’s detriment and that such behavior was consistently and appropriately condemned by popes over the centuries as lay interference in the clergy’s traditional prerogative of ecclesial governance. Drawing from lesser-known episodes in the Church’s rich history, Dr. McShea sifts out the myths from more complex realities. She will consider, too, what deeper, historic Catholic traditions of lay initiative, power, and influence can offer to today’s conversations about synodality, lay and clerical co-responsibility, the exclusion of women from clerical ministry, and the mission of the laity broadly in and for the Church.

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Bronwen McShea is based in New York City and is a historian of Catholicism from medieval to modern times. She is the author so far of three books: *Women of the Church: What Every Catholic Should Know* (Ignatius 2024); *La Duchesse: The Life of Marie de Vignerot, Cardinal Richelieu’s Forgotten Heiress Who Shaped the Fate of France* (Pegasus 2023); and *Apostles of Empire: The Jesuits and New France* (Nebraska 2019). Her writings have also appeared in many scholarly journals as well as popular forums such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *America Magazine*, *First Things*, and *The Pillar*, where she has a column. McShea has held teaching and research positions at Columbia University, Princeton University, and Loyola University Chicago, among other institutions. She holds a Ph.D. in Early Modern History from Yale University and both a masters in the History of Christianity and B.A. in Intellectual History from Harvard University.

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