

**Before I Forget**

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46

“For God, to me, it seems is a verb, not a noun.” Buckminster Fuller

There is one thing that every person must do, probably every day, and sometimes several times in a day – we all must wait. Whether it’s waiting for a vaccine so that we can safely return to our normal routines, or waiting in the checkout line at the grocery store, or waiting for a child to be born, or waiting for love to come along. We wait for so much.

Waiting can be very different for any two people. And the thing that makes waiting so different from one person to the next is the object of our waiting. What are we waiting for? As we are waiting, are we expecting the worst? Are we living in fear – like waiting for the next slap from an abusive spouse? Or, waiting in hope, expecting something good to happen? Like waiting to be with someone who loves you – waiting for a kiss. Are you waiting for a slap or a kiss? It makes a huge difference, doesn’t it?

Your outlook on life is deeply affected by what you expect. If life is just a rat race, a competition or struggle against others to see who can get ahead first, then you are waiting for a slap. On the other hand, if you are waiting and watching for goodness, kindness, a place to bring you love, if you waiting for beauty and truth wherever you may find them, then you are waiting for a kiss.

Advent, which means ‘coming,’ calls us to look forward to the coming of Christ, both in the feast of Christmas and in his Second Coming. We are invited to watch and wait. Imagine that – we have a whole season (Advent) devoted to the idea of waiting.

What are we really waiting for? St. Peter tells us: “What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home.” As we wait and work to make a home for righteousness, we shouldn’t be spending our time longing for the good old days. This is not the time to start walking backwards. As the people of a God who is continually creating everything anew, we are asked to be a forward-looking people.

If we allow ourselves to be paralyzed by the injustice and evil we see in our nation and world, then we become unfaithful to the call to prepare a way for the Lord. We don’t prepare the world to receive Christ by retreating into our own little worlds of comfort and protection.

Waiting doesn’t imply laziness or a day dreaming kind of state. It is just the opposite. Waiting implies an active sense of expectation. Waiting is an activity. As a woman waits for her child to be born, her whole life is changed by this waiting. She takes care of herself in a special way, knowing that what she does now will affect the health of her child growing within her. Her present actions will have a permanent impact on the person who will come forth from her womb. She is more attentive to her eating, her rest, and her exercise. How she treats herself will have a definite impact on her child’s health.

Advent calls on us to prepare ourselves to receive Jesus Christ into our midst as we celebrate his birthday. It also calls on us to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. As we wait for the coming of Christ, we are called to prepare the earth to become renewed. One aspect of this preparation is revealed in how God renews us. And that is through the tenderness of God.

God tells the prophet Isaiah to give comfort to God’s people. Our God wants to gently hold us, comfort us, and tenderly love us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the infant-God, are we not also being called to tenderness in our own lives? In a world where violence is destroying so many lives and so much of our environment, the Christian response of tenderness is needed more than ever. We need to respect and protect one another and the earth of which we are a part. Many people seem to be afraid of tenderness. We often think that it is mere sentimentality or an artificial sweetness that turns us off. The tenderness of a Christian is a reflection of God’s tenderness. It is an attitude of deep respect and care for all that God has created.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2020, may we spread the tenderness of God in our own families and neighborhoods.

BE THE CHURCH

OUR MINISTRY CONTINUES

ST. STEPHEN'S STREET OUTREACH

Warm weather clothing drive...socks, thermal wear,. All items can be brought to the church parking lot, **Saturday, December 5, 10am—noon.**

We are offering packages of 2 socks and a hand lotion for \$20 donation, if you can't get out to shop. Also, St. Stephen's has let us know that they have a spot; [Amazon wishlist](#), as an alternative to dropping things off in person.

We are keeping the tradition of the **Giving Tree** with Holy Rosary parish in Minneapolis. Although the families will not be gathering, we can still help make Christmas brighter.

Holy Rosary is asking for **\$20 Target gift cards**, so that the neediest children can still pick out a Christmas present. Gift cards can be dropped at the parish office (use the mail slot) or send a check designated for the Giving Tree. We will bring the cards and monies collected to Holy Rosary December 10th.

ASCENSION FOOD SHELF

Drop off date is this Saturday, December 5, 10 am - noon.

Bring items that will be good for the holidays.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Mark the days from the first Sunday of Advent until Christmas by designating a box or basket in your home where you will collect gifts for people in need.

Then donate the contents at our monthly food collection during the Christmas season on Saturday, January 2.

Suggested items such as shelf stable food items, cookies, special treats, paper goods, soaps.

Any questions about these ministries, contact Deacon Jim at 612-920-5030, x19 or jdeshane@ctkmpls.org

IMPORTANT NEWS

As we work to serve our members during this challenging time, **starting this Sunday, 12/06/20 at 10:30 am** we will begin to distribute Eucharist to people within their car from our parking lot. Please view our virtual Mass either on Saturday evening or Sunday morning prior to coming over for Eucharist.

Fr. Bill, Deacon Jim, often both, will distribute Holy Communion to people in their car, from 10:30 until 11, or as long as there are people waiting to receive. There will be no reason to leave your car, just pull up in front of the doors, open the windows.

We plan to continue this practice until we are able to come back together in our worship space, which will include Christmas and New Years Day. We will post the times for both of those special holidays over the next few weeks, but the "normal Sunday" times will remain the same.

We realize that this is a less than perfect solution, but hopefully it is a start of better times ahead. If for any reason you can't make this work for you and your family please call Dcn. Jim at the parish office and we will find a solution that works for you.

Please remember in your prayers:

Mike Coogan,,Fr. Doug Dandurand, Kelley Deshler, Joanne Dick, Chuck Gorman, Floyd Grabiell, Mary Ann Hansen, Eileen Hoy, Dan Ivory, Steve Kean, Tomi Kean, Joan Kelly, Anna Kinney, Mary Koby. Jozef Lazar, Mary Lee, Suzanne Runte, Stefan Skorich, Mary Jane Steinhagen, Lydia Spanier, Angie Tucker, Pat Urick, Diane Wielinski

If you would like someone remembered in prayer on this list, please call Jim DeShane, .612-920-5030, ext. 14.

Visit: www.ctkmpls.org

5029 Zenith Avenue South, MN 55410 612.920.5030

Fax 612.926.0283

CARDS FOR COMMUNITY

A fun and loving way to connect...

We are asking you to sign and bring **5 -15 cards** to the church office.



The cards can be store-bought or homemade. Potentially involve willing children in creating cards. The cards should include your signature, first and last names, please add "a member of Christ the King" after your name.

In addition, please include a short message, as if you were visiting with the recipient at church. The message can be a CTK memory, a Christmas memory, words of encouragement during this time or whatever else you'd like to say.

Please do not seal the envelopes.

Cards should be brought to church during office hours or put them in the box on the Zenith Avenue steps before 12/14.

Cards will be sent randomly to seniors and home-bound within the parish.

The cards will be addressed and posted by the parish office, please leave the envelope blank.

Questions should be directed to Dcn. Jim DeShane. (jdeshane@ctkmpls.org 952-920-5030 X19

Small Note that CTK staff will include with each card

This card is coming to you from the "Cards for Community" Christ the King project. The project is a small way to continue to build community during COVID-19 restrictions this holiday season. The cards have been randomly sent to parishioners from those collected. There is no need to reciprocate with a card. Just know that we, at Christ the King, are thinking of you during this Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
The Staff of Christ the King

Stewardship 2021

Thank you to the over 150 households that have returned their stewardship pledges for 2021!

We appreciate your generosity and commitment to CTK.

Now may be the perfect time to give the gift of appreciated stock to CTK. You may be able to claim a charitable contribution in the amount of the current value of stock and avoid paying taxes on the appreciated value of the donated stock.

You can also make a direct transfer from your IRA-RMD to CTK and count that money toward your required minimum distribution.

When you make a gift, please check with your financial advisor. With additional questions, please contact Paul Zdechlik at 612-920-5030, x15, pjzdechlik@ctkmpls.org

A reminder that all year end contributions must be dated, / postmarked December 31 or earlier to be part of the 2020 record.

Saints Men's Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale Happy Holidays!



The Saints Men's Club's Christmas Tree fundraiser is back again this year! Trees are available for contactless pick-up or delivery after Thanksgiving.

Help support your CTK community and get a beautiful Minnesota grown tree from the Saints Men's Club!

Details and ordering information can be found at <http://www.saintsmensclub.org> Please help keep this fantastic tradition going strong!

Washburn - McReavy

washburn-mcreavy.com
Funeral Chapels, Cemeteries and Cremation Services

EDINA CHAPEL

5000 W 50th Street
952.920.3996

State Farm Matt Boockmeier



Call/text (952) 928-0455

Home • Auto • Life • Business

matt@mattboockmeier.com



VARSITY PAINTERS

952-938-3886

Kris Perry • Parishioner

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Bob Bembenek** to place an ad today!
bbembenek@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2454

catholicmatch[®] Minnesota



CatholicMatch.com/MN

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

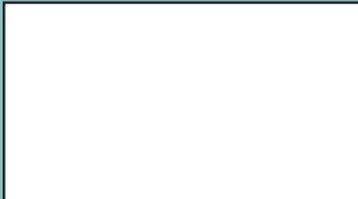
- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | **SafeStreets**

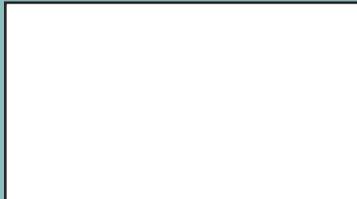
1-855-225-4251

UPGRADE TO A VIBRANT ad

Contact us for details
800-950-9952



FREE AD DESIGN WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.
— 800-950-9952 —



Knutson Ventilation Inc.
Gerhard W. Knutson (952) 928-0195
Design Consulting of INDUSTRIAL

- Ventilation Systems
- Air Pollution Controls
- Hygiene Evaluations



PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

\$29.95/MO PLUS SPECIAL OFFER
BILLED QUARTERLY

CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772
WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Your Community is Looking!

Call LPi today for advertising info
(800) 950-9952



Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

www.parishesonline.com




Interest rates are great! SPRING MARKET IS HERE - DON'T WAIT!



Tracie Rossman
952-201-0522
www.edinarealty.com/tracie-rossman-realtor

Edina Realty. 

Contact me for a FREE Current Market Analysis!

SPREAD THE WORD
A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS