

This Week at Christ the King Church

Advent 3: Sunday, December 14

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
9:00 a.m. Crèche Festival Houston, RVC parish hall
9:45 a.m. Intergenerational Las Posadas Program Waffle Cafe, RVC courtyard
10:20 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, RVC nave
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave

Monday, December 15

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
12:00 p.m. Lectio Divina, online

Tuesday, December 16

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer at home
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, RVC
6:30 p.m. D&D Meeting, offsite

Wednesday, December 17

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
6:15 p.m. Brass Choir Rehearsal, RVC Music Suite
7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers, RVC nave
7:00 p.m. Brass Quintet Rehearsal, RVC parish hall
7:00 p.m. Prayers Shawl Knitters, online
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, music suite
7:30 p.m. Advent Talks, RVC 2nd floor youth room
7:30 p.m. Advent Skating, offsite

Thursday, December 18

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
5:45 p.m. Houston Boychoir Rehearsal, RVC music suite & Nave

Friday, December 19

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
10:00 a.m. Bible Study, RVC in person, 2nd floor youth room and online

Saturday, December 20

1:00 p.m. Online Yoga
6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service, RVC nave

Advent 4: Sunday, December 21

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
9:00 a.m. Kings Krewe Breakfast, RVC courtyard
9:45 a.m. Christmas Cookie Decorating, RVC 2nd floor youth room
9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, parish hall
9:45 a.m. Worship Server Practice for Christmas, RVC nave
10:20 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, RVC nave
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
12:15 p.m. Luther League Meeting, RVC 2nd floor youth room
12:15 p.m. Decorate the Nave for Christmas

King's Breakfast Krewe: Enjoy Breakfast every Sunday morning, beginning at 9:00 a.m., between the services. Scan the QR code to volunteer to help out the King's Breakfast Krewe. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Oliver Doolin or Ron Siemers.



Sunday Forum at 9:45 a.m.: We invite you to grab some breakfast from our Breakfast Krewe and join us in the parish hall for meaningful and fun forums and events.

December 14: Las Posadas Program & Waffle Cafe, courtyard

December 21: Presentation from Texas Coalition for Human Rights on Houston Interfaith for Middle East Peace

From the Manger to the HEARTh – Crèche Festival Houston

Sunday, December 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. This year's exhibition explores ways in which Christ's Nativity comes into our homes: postage stamps; greeting cards; and nativity art. Viewers will learn about the U.S. Postal Department's history of depicting the Nativity on stamps; reflect on vintage Christmas cards courtesy of the Hallmark Archives; friends share their Nativity scenes and special memories; and juried contemporary artwork for the Christmas Nativity Art competition will be displayed and auctioned to benefit Bright Stars of Bethlehem. This free event in its fifth year is a gift to the greater Houston community; invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

Intergenerational Las Posadas Program: Sunday, December 14 at 9:45 a.m.

All are invited to join our intergenerational Las Posadas in the courtyard. Las Posadas has over 400 years of celebration commemorating the Census pilgrimage which Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We will gather and re-enact Mary and Joseph's traveling, being led by a procession of children dressed as Mary, Joseph, angels, animals and shepherds singing and carrying banners throughout the church campus until we reach our destination with a piñata, waffles and tamales cooked by our youth group.

Christmas Flower Donations - Deadline is Today

You may contribute toward decorating the Rice Village Campus nave for our Christmas services by donating \$20 per poinsettia and greenery. Please email Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Please note whether your gift is in honor or in memory of a loved one. You may write a check or pay online at ctkelc.org/give and designate "Christmas flowers." **The deadline is today.**

Advent Vespers: Wednesday December 17 at 7 p.m. at Rice Village Campus Nave

Take a break from the busy season and join us for a time of reflection, a time to breath, and setting aside to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and to anticipate his return. We will be using *Holden Evening Prayer Service*.

Advent Fellowship Gatherings: Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.

After our Advent Vespers, we have two opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Pastor Mandy Derr will have Advent Conversations in the 2nd floor youth room to discuss themes and traditions of the Advent/Christmas season and Deacon Ben Remmert invites children, youth, and adults to go ice skating in Rice Village; a new tradition Rice Village is offering this season. The cost of ice skating is \$20.

Longest Night Service: Saturday, December 20 at 6 p.m. at Rice Village Campus Nave

"How does a weary world rejoice?" Though the season of Advent brings joy, for many others it may be filled with fatigue, grief, loss, and loneliness. This special service provides space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance to honor those who are weary.

Intergenerational Cookie Decorating: Sunday, December 21 at 9:45 a.m.

Join us for decorating cookies for our homebound members in the 2nd floor youth room on Sunday, December 21st. This is an event for all children, youth, and parents to come together and help bring joy to our homebound members of Christ the King Church.

Worship Server Practice for Christmas: Sunday, December 21 at 9:45 a.m.

Every role, from ushering and ringing bells to carrying the light of Christ, is vital to creating a welcoming worship experience for all this Christmas season. On Sunday, December 21 at 9:45 a.m. in the nave between services, we invite all (new or experienced) to come and review our worship server roles before our big holiday services. Sign up today or reach out if you have any questions to Trish Chapman or Deacon Ben Remmert.

Decorate the Nave for Christmas with Altar Guild: Sunday, December 21:

Join the Altar Guild on Sunday, December 21st at 12:15 p.m. as we decorate the nave with garland and greenery in preparation for the Christmas season. We will have projects for all ages to help.

Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed December 23–26 and December 30–January 2. The church office will resume regular hours on Monday, January 5.

Christmas Worship Services at Rice Village Campus Nave: Dec. 24-28

Christmas Eve: Dec. 24 (livestreamed)

4:00 p.m. German Language Holy Communion Service with candle lighting

6:00 p.m. Holy Communion, children and youth participants, carols and candle lighting

9:00 p.m. Holy Communion with choir, carols, and candle lighting

Christmas Day: Dec. 25 (livestreamed)

11:00 a.m. The Christ Mass: Holy Communion celebrating Christ's Nativity

First Weekend of Christmas: Dec. 27-28

Saturday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m.: Contemplative Worship

Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m.: Baptism and Holy Communion (livestreamed)

Christmas Worship Services at Memorial Drive Fellowship Hall: Dec. 24

Christmas Eve: Dec. 24

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

2:00 p.m. Norwegian Language Service

4:00 p.m. Norwegian Language Service

2026 Flower Sign Up

We invite you to sign up to provide the altar flowers for our weekend services. Please note these changes which will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

- Members of our altar guild will no longer be delivering flowers to anyone after January 1.
- The person who has given the flowers may take them home following the 11:00 a.m. service (around 12:30) each Sunday.

- There will be no altar flowers in Lent 2026 (February 18 [Ash Wednesday] to April 3, 2026 [Good Friday]), as we follow the ancient tradition of giving up festive items (Alleluias, Hymns of Praise, etc.) during Lent.
- There will be no altar flowers during Advent 2026 (November 28 – December 24) as we follow a similar ancient tradition which emphasizes the Advent Wreath as the only floral greenery in the nave during that season. You may sponsor Advent Wreath on Advent weekends.



To donate flowers in honor of, in memory of, or in thanksgiving for a person or an event, please find available dates by scanning the QR Code or email your preferred date to Cheryl Gaspard (cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org). Flower arrangements are \$70.00 per weekend. Checks may be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with Altar Flowers on the memo line or you may submit a payment online at www.ctkelc.org.

Snacks Volunteers Needed: We need volunteers to provide snacks after worship for: 12/21, 12/28, 1/4 at 11:00 a.m. You can sign up by scanning the QR Code. Plan to provide snacks for 30 people. All monetary donations received at the snack table will benefit ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for signing up!



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