# PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

APRIL 2022 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 10













# A Life of Faith

Lou Sillari, the oldest parishioner at Christ the King Parish, shares his story

CATHOLIC CUE
Blessing Your
Babies

COME ALIVE
Why do I have to confess
my sins to a priest?

STAFF PROFILE
The Path of
Trusting God

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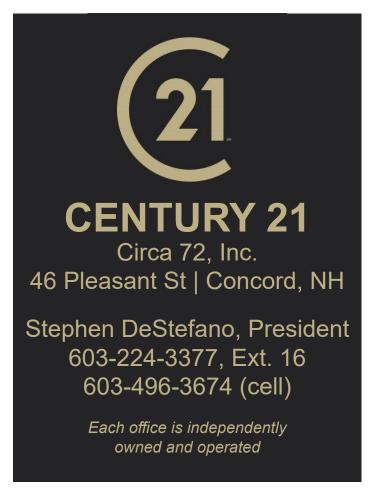
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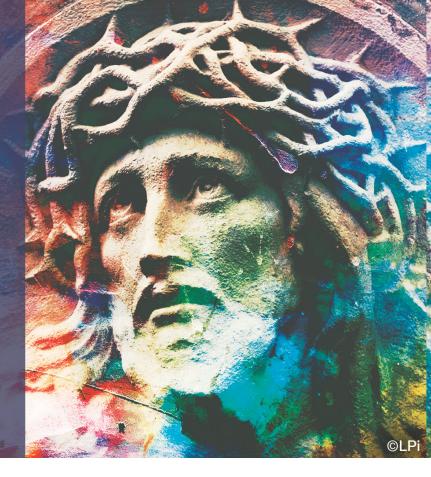


# Holy Week Schedule HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 14 7:00 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 15** 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 16 8:00 pm

7:00 am at Christ the King
10:00 am at
Capitol Center for the Arts



### Dear Friends,

As we journey towards Easter, there is an opportunity for us to think about our sacramental life. Sacraments are encounters with Jesus, visible signs of our invisible God, given to us to bestow His grace. The gift of grace in our lives empowers us to do good and helps us better unite ourselves to God who is Love!

Although I do not remember my baptism, I have a picture at the baptismal font with my brother Paul, my godfather, and my aunt Rita, my godmother. I do remember and have pictures of my First Communion and Confirmation. These were moments of grace that I cherish in my heart.

Each of us has "grace moments" we hold dear. This season is a wonderful time to ponder and reflect on the impact of God's grace and the sacraments in our lives. While some grace moments happen only once, such as baptism, others can take place over and over again. For example, grace is continually available to us in the Sacrament of

Reconciliation. On Monday of Holy Week, April 11, there will be a Day of Reconciliation. I will be hearing confessions throughout the day and welcome you to receive this sacrament of healing.

I also encourage you to enter deeply into Holy Week. Join us for Palm Sunday on April 10. Consider partaking in the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil (schedule above). These services are full of grace moments, in addition to treasured ancient practices. On Holy Thursday, we reflect on Jesus' institution of the Eucharist. On Good Friday, we read the Passion narrative and venerate the cross. At the Easter Vigil, we move from darkness to light and welcome in the newest members of our Church family.

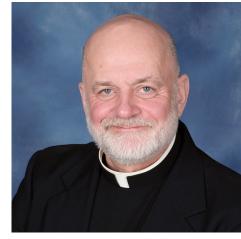
While we may have sat through Holy Week services or heard the Passion story dozens of times, there is always something new to be gained. I invite you to enter in with fresh eyes and an open heart.

You often hear me speaking about the importance of lifelong faith formation. Lou Sillari, our cover profile this month, exemplifies this, attending Alpha when he was 100 years old!

As Lou Sillari celebrates the 100th anniversary of his baptism, this Easter, we baptize our catechumens and welcome them into the Catholic faith. Grace moments abound at Christ the King Parish! May we be present and open to them this Easter and always!

Yours in Christ.

### Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor at Christ the King Parish



Before we were married and had children, Andrew and I were visiting some friends in New Jersey for the baptism of one of several children in the family. This is a big, beautiful, Catholic family and they played a pivotal part in Andrew's conversion to the Catholic Church and inspired my own faith too.

After a lovely weekend visit, we were saying our goodbyes outside. Tom Garvey, the patriarch of this family, a rather tall and successful businessman at a large financial company in New York City, leaned down, kissed me gently on the forehead, and then made the sign of the cross with his thumb right where he kissed me and said, "May God bless you and keep you."

I was a little taken aback.
Remember, I wasn't raised in
a very faithful family and this
particular visit was before I truly
came home to the Catholic Church.
What struck me was how Mr.
Garvey's worldly success seemed to
dim in the shadows of his great yet
humble faith. Mr. Garvey's blessing
upon me felt foreign, yet familiar.
It was strange to me but so full
of grace and love. I remember

thinking that this is something I wanted to do to my own children.

Fast forward almost a year, and there I stood in my wedding gown, next to my brand new husband, receiving sage marriage advice from Mr. Garvey. Before we were pulled away to chat with other wedding guests and hit the dance floor, Mr. Garvey pulled the same move he did out in his New Jersev driveway. He leaned down, kissed my forehead, and made the sign of the cross with his thumb, speaking those same words, "May God bless you and keep you." I later learned this blessing is biblically based from Numbers 6:24-26. I'm not sure if he realized how much his simple blessing moved me.

On the day that each of our boys were born, they'd be placed on my chest and in the midst of that strange, post-labor euphoria, I'd meet my new baby, kiss them and make a little cross on their forehead. For all their years now, every time I leave the boys, whether I'm dropping them off at school or kissing them goodnight, I kiss their foreheads and make the sign of the cross with my thumb. I

don't pray the same blessing as Mr. Garvey. Instead, I simply say, "God bless you. I love you. Be kind to yourself and be kind to others." At night, I switch it up to, "God bless you. I love you. Sweet dreams." Now, our third boy, Charlie, has taken it upon himself to bless me, too!

This has been such a sweet, simple way to bring Christ into the center of our days and nights. I invite you to try it too! Don't worry if it feels strange at first; lean into that, and eventually, it'll feel like second nature.



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

# Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?

Are there any among us who has not asked this question at one time? Participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a humbling experience. It is awkward to stand before another human and share your failings and weakest moments. But we know we are called to this sacrament. One of the five *Precepts of the Catholic* Church is to go to confession at least once a year. Saint Pope John Paul II said that frequent confession is necessary for holiness and he himself went at least weekly!

Before we can answer this question, we first need to consider the concept of sin. Sin is the act of choosing against God. We were made to love God. We sin when we reject this love, when we do not trust our Heavenly Father, and when we turn our backs on our Creator. But, there are two sides to sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, "Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time, it damages communion with the Church." (CCC 1440) The Church teaches that there is no personal sin. In sinning, we always hurt one another as well.

But God wishes for us to be in right relationship with Him and with one another, and, therefore, paved the way for us to get there. This path begins with the Sacrament of Baptism, in which we are welcomed into the family of God. As the Scriptures say, in baptism, we are made "holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:27) However, a lot of life takes place after the day of our baptism.

The Catechism states, "The new life received in [baptism] has not abolished the frailty and weakness of human nature, nor the inclination to sin that tradition calls concupiscence." (CCC 1426) Perhaps Saint Paul said it best in his letter to the Romans declaring, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." (Romans 7:15) How many of us, like Paul, continually find ourselves in sin? We continually fall into bad habits, give in to short tempers, and put anything and everything before God in our lives. Thank goodness we were given the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an avenue for forgiveness after our baptism day!

But what are the origins of this sacrament of forgiveness? Well, part of Jesus' ministry was the forgiveness of sins! In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says to a paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." (Matthew 9:2) The Catechism tells us, "During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community of the People of God." (CCC 1443)

Jesus then passed this authority to forgive sins on to his Apostles as we read in John's Gospel, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:23) The Catechism continues saying, "In imparting to his apostles his own power to forgive sins the Lord also gives them the authority to reconcile sinners with the Church: 'I will

give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (CCC 1444)

Through apostolic succession, our priests today are the successors of these Apostles and share in this ministry of forgiving sins. However, we must remember that, "Only God forgives sins." (CCC 1441) When a priest hears confessions, he is acting *in persona Christi*, a Latin phrase meaning "in the person of Christ." Accordingly, it is not Father Rich you are confessing your sins to during Reconciliation, but Jesus.

When we confess our sins to a priest, we trust that we are truly speaking to Jesus, we believe that our relationship with both God and man will be restored, and we are assured that forgiveness of our sins will be granted through one who has been given this authority through the Church from Christ himself. •



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

#### COVER PROFILE

## A Life of Faith

Lou Sillari, the oldest parishioner at Christ the King Parish, shares his story

"The span of our life is 70 years, or 80, if we are strong," Psalm 90 declares. If these words are true, than Louis "Lou" Sillari is very strong indeed. At 106 years old, he has left his 80s well behind him. The strength of character and faith that Lou has demonstrated throughout his life – even in tough situations – shines through to any who speak to him.

This March, Lou celebrated his 100th anniversary of his baptism at St. John the Evangelist Church! As the oldest living parishioner of our parish, we wanted to sit down and hear his story.

Lou's father, Ernest Sillari, emigrated from Italy and made his living as a stonecutter, though that had not always been his ambition. "He wanted to be a priest," Lou says. However, due to a sickness interfering with his education, his father ended up working in the quarries in Quincy, Massachusetts.

Lou (standing) with his siblings.

He would eventually meet his wife Maria, who was working as a cook for a wealthy Italian family at the time. They were married and children soon followed. Anthony was born in 1912 and Aurora in 1914. Lou was born on December 22, 1915, a time when horse and buggy was a still a viable transportation option.

Though he was born in Milford, the family soon moved to Concord, New Hampshire, the place where Lou has lived ever since. Two more brothers followed, Peter in 1917 and Ernest a vear later. Unfortunately, Lou experienced his first real tragedy when he was only six years old. In 1922, his mother died from an illness. Concerned for his children, Lou's father had all five baptized at St. John the Evangelist Church in the rectory. Sadly, his father died only two months later. Lou still remembers the feelings of loss. "It was tough that we were left all alone," he recalls. His siblings were dispersed amongst friends and family. Lou was sent to an orphanage in Manchester run by the Sisters of Mercy. After six months, Lou and one of his brothers went to live with the family of a friend and coworker of their father.

Lou returned to Concord with the family and, despite the adversity he faced so young, continued to grow and thrive. He was confirmed at St. John the Evangelist Church on April 9, 1929. Then in 1930, Lou was part of the first class of the new St. John's High School in Concord. Unfortunately, the nation was in the midst of troubled economic times. "By the Great Depression," says Lou, "the stonecutting busi-



ness had gotten pretty scarce." The need to earn a living to help the family became the highest priority, even above gaining an education. After completing only one year of high school, it became clear to Lou that he would have to drop out in favor of finding a full-time job.

He found work as a dishwasher for a new restaurant called Angelo's which had just opened in downtown Concord. Lou still remembers the first day he worked there. The meal served was a turkey dinner with all the fixings, all for the low price of 25 cents. Naturally, there were many customers. "I washed dishes from five in the morning until ten at night," he says, "and for the whole week, I made five dollars." Lou continued as a dishwasher for three years.

Then, an unexpected opportunity came in the form of a friend who was able to get him enrolled in specialized evening classes – a 10-week course as a machinist. Lou jumped at the opportunity and, even before the classes ended, he was offered a job at the Samuel Eastman Company in Concord. The starting wage? "Forty cents an hour, and I worked forty hours," he says. His role as a machinist still provided him many learning opportunities. "Although I lost a lot education-wise, I gained an educa-

#### by Emily Planchet | Photography Courtesy of the Sillari Family

tion just running these machines," Lou says.

Though he liked his job, Lou's life was not all work all the time. One memorable night, he and his friends drove over to a dance in Dunbarton. "Back in those days, when you'd go to a dance, the girls would be on the one side and the boys on the other," Lou explains. "The boys would go and look at the girls and pick who they would want to dance with." It was at that dance that Lou would meet Stella Sawyer, a nursing student and the woman who would one day become his wife.

The memory of their first meeting stands vivid in his mind. "I was standing near the door and I saw this girl standing alone, and I said 'Wow," Lou remembers. He asked her to dance, though he does not remember being particularly articulate. "Between all the crazy stuff I was saying to her, she had a terrific fine laugh," he remembers with a chuckle. "I had her laughing all the time." They danced together the rest of the night. Afterwards, Lou could not get her out of his mind. "I kept thinking of Stella. I didn't know it at the time, but I was in love with her. No question about it."

Whenever Lou wanted to go on a date, he would call her up and then walk from where he lived in the north end of Concord all the way to Memorial Hospital on South Street where Stella was studying. Though it was a fair distance, Lou had always been a good walker. They fell into an easy pattern. On their walks together, he would stop to buy her an ice cream cone. "It would cost five cents," Lou remembers, "and I didn't have much more than that."

This pattern continued for over a year. "It got to the point where Stella and I would be out walking and she'd say, 'When we get married, we'd do this and that," Lou says with a chuckle, "and I'd just say, 'Okay.' But neither one of us had any money." Eventually, with Lou's combined overtime pay and Stella's nursing, they were able to save up around \$800, the perfect nest egg for a new couple.

On May 1, 1943, Lou and Stella were married at St. John the Evangelist Church. In April of next year, their son, Peter, was born. After a lot of working and saving over the years, the family was able to afford to move from an apartment to their house on Conant Drive – a house that Lou still lives in to this day.

Nineteen years after Peter, they also welcomed a daughter, Maria. "When the children came along I promised Stella that they would go to college," Lou says and he kept that promise. Though Lou never went back to school himself, Bishop Brady High School (which opened after St. John's High School closed) awarded Lou an honorary diploma in 2014, when he was 98 years old.

Though there were many ups and downs of family life, Lou's faith was never shaken. Throughout his life, Lou has always felt God's presence. "God is important in my life," he says. "Every day I pray and ask for his blessings. My faith was strengthened in my life because of the people I associated with."

In 2006, Stella passed away at the age of 86. Lou says that he misses and thinks of the love of his life every day. "I especially miss our 3:00 pm gin and tonic," he chuckles, "and our walks." They would often go on walks during their 63 happy years together. Even after Stella's passing, Lou would continue to walk well into his 90s, though he did cut back to four and a half miles, "being respectful of my age."

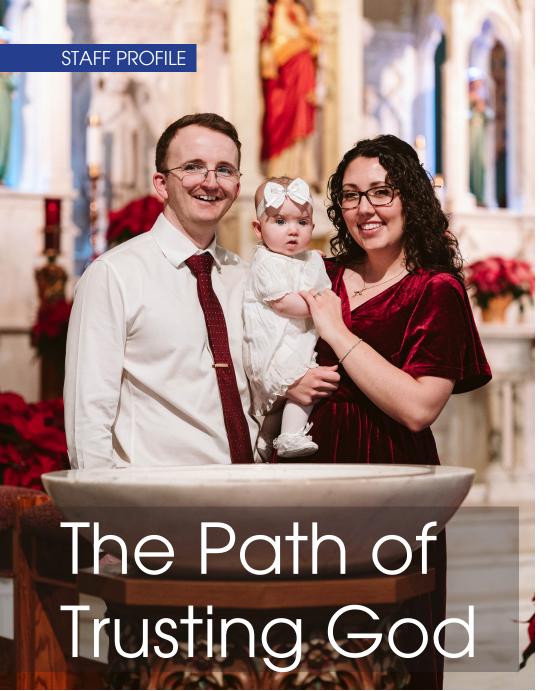
In 2016, when Lou had just turned 100, he participated in the first Alpha at Christ the King Parish. "I walked up to Father Rich and said, 'Look who's here! You are never too old to learn something new.' I enjoyed Alpha very much." With the help of a fellow parishioner and longtime friend, Lou attended Mass every weekend well into his 100s.

In the past two years, Lou has stuck to home because of the Covid-19 pandemic. He is doing well though. "I live on my own. I have my faith and I have friends and family who check in on me. I want to be the best father and grandfather that I possibly can be."

And, so, on this 100th anniversary of Lou's baptism and in anticipation of his 107th birthday, we wish Lou and his family an abundance of grace and blessings! •







By Michael Clark | Photography by Will Judd

Growth in faith seldom comes easily. It is often achieved through the challenges to our faith that we encounter throughout our lives. This is a truth that Haley Judd knows very well. "A big part of my faith story was my mom's battle with cancer," she says. "The experience caused me to start asking big questions from a young age like 'If there is a God, why do bad things happen to good people?' During this time, I would have these nights, where I can remember just lying awake and feeling the overwhelming presence of God." These experiences strengthened her commitment to her faith. "I was all in," she says.

Haley's mother passed away a few years later. Because of her previous experiences, this did not cause her to question God's existence, but it brought her to a crossroads. "In that moment," she says, "I saw two paths split in front of me. You can either trust God and walk forward blindly even though you don't understand or you can walk away. I don't attribute it to myself, I attribute it to the grace of God, but I just put one foot in front

of the other on the path of trusting God."

"I attribute it to the grace of God...I just put one foot in front of the other on the path of trusting God."

Halev's faith would continue to grow and be strengthened during her college years and after graduation when she joined the staff at Christ the King Parish as Youth Minister and Coordinator of Faith Formation. Haley says that the convergence of events that led her to her position at the parish "was such a God moment and showed how he was weaving the story of my life." Haley had a different job lined up, but it fell through at the last minute. She recalls how, in the midst of her disappointment, "for some reason I sat down at my laptop and I typed in 'Diocese of Manchester New Hampshire Employment." It was there that she saw the job posting for Christ the King Parish.

In the years since she became a part of the parish, her life has changed in profound ways. She married her husband, Andrew Judd, whom she met when they started the parish's Young Adult Ministry, and she is now a new mother to their daughter Noelle. Her current position in the parish is Coordinator of Adult Discipleship. "One of the things that I've become really passionate about is helping adults explore the Catholic faith," she says. "When you learn about what it is you believe, the faith just really comes alive."

#### **APRIL 2022**

#### **April 4: Young Adult Series**

This spring, our Young Adult Ministry is diving into Bishop Barron's *Pivotal Players* video series! The group will be meeting on Mondays from 6:00-8:00 pm in the IHM Room of Barry Hall, beginning on Monday, April 4, for 13 weeks. Dinner will be provided. Contact Andrew Judd at ajudd92@gmail.com for more information.

#### April 8 & 10: Emmaus

The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This month on April 8 & 10, we will be discussing "The World to Come: The Return of Jesus." For more information and to register, visit christthekingnh. org/emmaus.

#### **April 11: Day of Reconciliation**

On the Monday of Holy Week, Father Rich will offer additional confession times. Confessions will be heard in the church reconciliation room at 11:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-2:00 pm, and 5:00-7:00 pm.

#### **April 13: Tenebrae Service**

Tenebrae means "darkness" and refers to the singing of the Divine Office in the days leading up to Easter Sunday. We will hold our Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm in the church. Readings and psalms, along with musical pieces, will help you to prayerfully prepare for the Triduum.

#### **April 14: Holy Thursday**

Today, we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. Mass is available at 7:00 pm in the church. After Mass, adoration will be available until 10:00 pm.

#### **April 15: Good Friday**

On Good Friday, we gather to commemorate the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus Christ. At 12:10 pm, Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the church. Services will be offered at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the church. Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence, meaning a person should eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

#### **April 16: Easter Vigil**

Tonight, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter Vigil will be at 8:00 pm in the church.

#### **April 17: Easter Sunday**

Today, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mass will be available in the church at 7:00 am. Mass will also be available at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main Street, at 10:00 am.

#### **April 17-24: Easter Octave**

The celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection continues for eight days and is called the Octave of Easter. Each day of the octave is ranked as a solemnity. So keep the celebration going!

#### April 24-26: Parish Retreat

All parishioners and friends are welcome to this year's Parish Retreat which will be on the topic of the Eucharist. The retreat with the Franciscan Sisters TOR will be held in three evening sessions at 6:30 pm.

#### MAY 2022

#### May 19: Rock 'N Race

Come be part of the Christ the King Parish team at this year's Rock 'N Race held on Thursday, May 19! There are three options: 5K Run, 5K Walk, or 1 Mile Walk. To register visit https://runsignup.com/Race/NH/Concord/RockNRace and make sure to select "Christ the King Parish" when selecting your team.



#### May 26: Ascension of the Lord

Today we celebrate the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection. This is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

#### **JUNE 2022**

#### June 19: Corpus Christi Procession

Please join us on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ for adoration and procession. Adoration will begin after the 11:00 am Mass. The procession will then leave the church and proceed up Main Street to the State House and proceed back to the church. Light refreshments will be available afterward in the Activity Center.

#### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

#### April 2 & 3:

Food Pantry (Parish)

#### April 9 & 10:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish) CRS Rice Bowl (National)

#### April 15 - Good Friday:

Holy Land (National)

#### April 16 & 17:

Maintenance (Parish) Easter (Parish)

#### April 23 & 24:

no special collection

#### **CONTACT INFO**

#### **Christ the King Parish**

72 South Main Street Concord, NH 03301 603.224.2328 www.christthekingnh.org







#### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday: 4:00 pm Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

#### **Weekday Masses**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:10 pm Thursday: 5:30 pm

#### **Reconciliation Times**

Thursday: 4:45-5:15 pm Saturday: 2:30-3:30 pm

#### **Pastor**

Father Rich Roberge frrich@christthekingnh.org

#### **Deacon**

Deacon Winton DeRosia deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

#### **Business Manager**

Charlie Burr charlie@christthekingnh.org

#### **Bookkeeper**

Liz Geary liz@christthekingnh.org

#### **Parish Secretary**

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#### **Director of Music Ministry**

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#### Coordinator of Adult Discipleship

Haley Judd haley@christthekingnh.org

### Coordinator of Young Disciples

Jen Albee jen@christthekingnh.org

#### Facilitator of Community Engagement

Jeff Litchfield jeff@christthekingnh.org

#### MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	2/13/22	2/20/22	2/27/22	3/6/22
Offertory	\$9,706	\$6,469	\$8,261	\$12,285
Online	\$6,666	\$5,922	\$5,309	\$6,896
Total	\$16,372	\$12,391	\$13,570	\$19,181

#### SACRIFICIAL GIVING

For more information on the parish's online giving program, visit **christthekingnh.org/ give** or call Liz Geary at the parish office, **603.224.2328.** To request monthly parish envelopes in the mail, call Kathy Planchet at **603.224.2328**.





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