CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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How Do We Get the Readings for Mass?

STAFF PROFILE Behind the Scenes

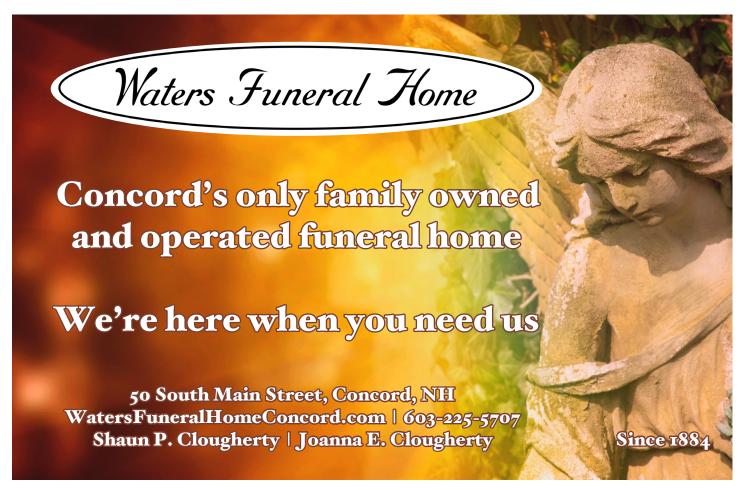
Through the Pens of Faith













Dear Friends,

As we begin Holy Week and move towards Easter, let us take a moment to reflect on how our relationship with Jesus has developed throughout Lent.

As I shared with you in March, "breathing in Jesus" might not be something we automatically do. Yet, as breath is key to our very life, so is our relationship with Jesus. When we connect with Jesus, we are entering into a relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We receive guidance, direction, and wisdom.

Perhaps we are not yet where we would like to be in our relationship with God. That is okay; we are human and can easily move off course. Saint Paul said, "What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate." (Romans 7:15) It takes practice to be intentional in inviting Jesus into our hearts and minds. It takes practice to be transformed, converted, and renewed!

Holy Week is a great opportunity for us to go deeper into the mystery of the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. The services of Holy Week give us special time to "Breathe in Jesus." You can find a listing of our Holy Week services on page 9.

On Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holv Week, we observe the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem with blessed palms. Monday is our Day of Reconciliation with extended hours for confession. On Tuesday, the Sacred Oils and Chrism are blessed at the Cathedral. On Wednesday, we have a Tenebrae Service at which the extinguished candles and "darkness" recall the death of Jesus. Then, the Triduum, the three days of Holy Thursday and the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday which recalls the Passion and Death of Jesus, and Holy Saturday where we celebrate the Easter Vigil, the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus, and the Sacraments of Initiation.

This brings us to Easter Sunday! Alleluia! Please join us for all or part of our Holy Week services.

We may not fully understand all that this season encompasses, but as we continue to "Breathe in Jesus" throughout our lives, our relationship with Him will become stronger. God bless you in this holy season!

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish



When I was a little girl and even into my adolescent years, my favorite part of Mass was receiving the Eucharist. Now, before you start to think, "Oh, look at pious Jen," think again! If you've read some of my past articles, you've learned that my faith was not very strong growing up. I had little knowledge of the faith and even less knowledge of the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. My favorite part of Mass was receiving the Eucharist because I got to stretch my legs a little, to get out of my pew and do a half-lap around the church. That was it. Seriously. I know, it's irreverent, but it's the truth.

Fast forward to today and the Liturgy of the Eucharist is still my favorite part of the Mass, but not because of the reasons from my childhood. The Eucharist is the most amazing gift ever given to mankind! We're talking about Jesus, people! He is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in this little host and we get to take him into our very selves! What?! Think about the magnitude of what

this means!

One of my favorite quotes from Blessed Fulton J. Sheen says, "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny, white host." Jesus has given Himself to us in a way that we can receive Him most intimately. It is just so beautiful!

My family and I have adopted a practice within the past couple years: after Mass is over, we kneel and pray in thanksgiving for this amazing gift that we have just received. No. I don't mean after communion is over, I mean after the final blessing has been said and the final note of the closing hymn has rung out. We used to rush out of the church to get home (or more importantly to the coffee and donuts), but now we take a moment of quiet just after Mass to reflect on the miraculous gift of who is residing in our bodies at that very moment.

So, this Easter, as we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, I invite us all to breathe new life into the way we view and receive the Eucharist. Perhaps instead of making a beeline for the door right after receiving Communion, I invite you to return to your pew, pray, participate in the concluding rite and dismissal, and wait for this sacred liturgy to be over. If you're feeling extra grateful, maybe wait a little longer after Mass, to spend a few extra moments in thanksgiving for this amazing gift. Take some time with Jesus as He dwells within you in the form of the Eucharist you've just received.

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! Happy Easter. ◆



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

How do we get the readings for Mass?

We've all been there. You're sitting in Mass one Sunday listening to the Liturgy of the Word and the Scripture readings you hear connect with you mentally and spiritually. You walk away feeling empowered and encouraged! Then the next week, you find yourself sitting there, listening and thinking "Wait...what does that mean?" or "That's in the Bible?" Sometimes the Scripture passages at Mass inspire and edify us, but sometimes they confuse, offend, or even shock us!

Scripture has been a part of Church gatherings from the very beginning. As soon as Jesus' followers began to meet together, they recited passages from the Old Testament, a practice carried on from the Jewish faith. Early on in their celebrations, they also began to read from the now-New Testament writings, listening to the Gospels and the letters of Paul and others. Today, our Sunday Mass holds three readings and daily Mass has two, not to mention the Psalms. But where do these passages come from? How is it that we came to be reading these specific excerpts on this particular day?

Our Mass readings come from the Catholic Lectionary. In his article for U.S. Catholic, "How Are The Sunday Readings Chosen," author David Philippart tells us, "The first 'lectionaries,' appearing by the fifth or sixth century, were actually just Bibles with notes in the margins telling the reader which passage to read on a particular Sunday. By the seventh century Mass readings began to appear in books of their own. After the 16th-century Council of Trent, all the readings and prayers for Mass had been collected in a single book called the Roman Missal. Vatican II restored the older practice of publishing the readings separately."

Friar Pat McCloskey, in his article "How are Mass Readings Chosen" from Franciscan Media, continues explaining, "Vatican II's 1963 'Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy' called for a wider selection of biblical texts to be used at Mass. The current Lectionary was prepared by an international committee of experts and went into use in 1970." There have been two revisions since that time and it has recently been announced by the USCCB that a new Catholic lectionary will be coming out as early as 2025! The new lectionary will include an updated translation of the New Testament along with updated Psalms.

The lectionary uses the Revised New American Bible and follows a three-year cycle with each year running from the beginning of Advent until the end of Ordinary Time. David Philippart tells us, "Year A is the year of Matthew, Year B is Mark, and Year C is Luke. The Gospel of John is used each year at Christmas, Lent, and Easter, as well as to round out Year B, since Mark is short. An appropriate gospel passage is assigned for each Sunday of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. In Ordinary Time, the remainder of the gospel is read more or less in order, skipping over the parts read in the special seasons."

Friar McCloskey writes, "On Sundays, the first reading is from the Old Testament and is coordinated thematically with that day's Gospel." During the Easter Season, however, our first reading instead comes from the Acts of the Apostles. "The second reading, a continuous one from other New Testament books, is not coordinated with that day's Gospel and first reading." The weekday readings operate similarly; Friar McCloskey explains, "The weekday readings have a cycle for even-numbered years and another for odd-numbered years. In fact, the Gospels are the same in each cycle, but the first reading is from the New Testament some weeks and from the Old Testament other weeks."

The Lectionary is a treasured Tradition of the Church, however, it is commonly criticized for not covering the entirety of the Bible. As Friar McCloskey shares, "The Lectionary cycles present 14 percent of the Old Testament and 71 percent of the New Testament." This may seem incomplete, but it is still a great improvement as "the readings in the 1963 Roman Missal used 1 percent of the Old Testament and 17 percent of the New Testament." Our task then is to dive into the Word on God outside of Mass and become familiar with it in its entirety!



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

COVER PROFILE

Charlene Graham is well known to us through her photographs for Proclaim, Parable - the magazine of the Diocese of Manchester - and the upcoming Parish Directory. We wanted to get to know Charlene better and learn more about her career, family, and faith.

Charlene Graham was raised in a Catholic family in Newburyport, Massachusetts. But, throughout her childhood, her commitment to her faith lacked a certain depth. "I didn't really make my faith my own," she says. This would change dramatically for her when Pope Saint John Paul II came to Boston in 1979 to offer a Papal Mass. The celebration took place on a wet October day. "My parents had gone into Boston for the Mass," Charlene says. "It was pouring rain and I was feeling under the weather. So I said, 'I'm just going to stay home."

However, Charlene watched the Mass on television that day. "Even through the television, the Holy Spirit deeply moved me," she says. "It was unbelievable! In his homily, he challenged young people. Everything he said really hit me." This experience turned out to be the motivation she needed to commit herself fully to the faith. "At that point I made a conscious decision that that's the way I wanted to live. I really wanted to live my Catholic faith!"

Charlene's faith was shared by her boyfriend, Bill. They started dating their senior year in high school and were married in 1987 after graduating from college. Photography was something else they had in common. "I've always had a camera in my hand," Charlene says. "Bill's always got a camera in his hand, too. When we were dating, we used to go out and take photos together."

Charlene and Bill settled into



Through the Lens of Faith

married life and looked forward to starting their family. After years of trying, they had to accept that they were not going to be able to have children themselves. "We adopted our three girls after struggling with infertility," Charlene shares. "We adopted Mary at two weeks old in 1993, Christin at 10 days old in 1994, and Michaela at four weeks old in 2003."

The process of adopting their three girls sometimes rocked

their foundation. "Waiting for our first child was very difficult, and there were many ups and downs," Charlene shares. "We had initially decided to adopt from Colombia. After about a year of waiting to hear of a child, the Colombian government shut down all the orphanages indefinitely. We were devastated and very frustrated. It was very difficult at times, and we questioned whether we would ever become parents. I remember

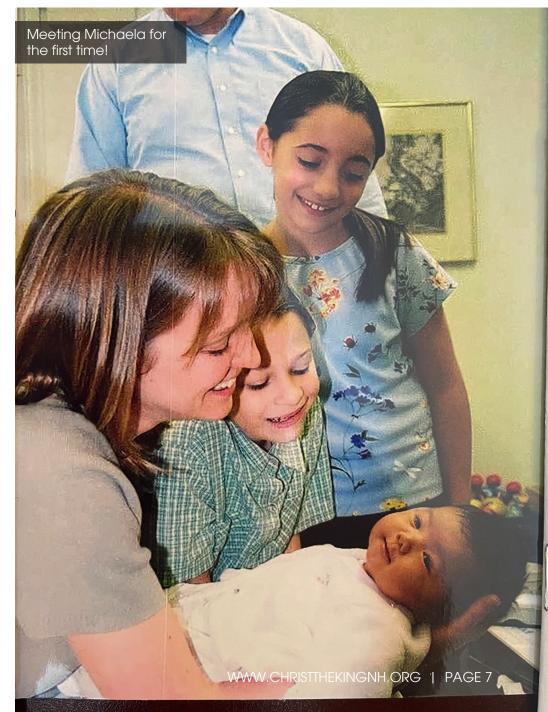
visiting the Blessed Sacrament often on my way to work in the morning, asking for a child and for patience and trust."

Charlene and Bill's experience with this process was full of the same difficulties experienced by many adoptive parents. "I don't know how we could have gone through the adoption process without our faith!" Charlene shares. "With each child, we looked back and we could see God's hand in it, but in the middle of it all, you think, 'Okay, why did that door close?' But then by the end of it, you realize, 'Oh, it's this child God has been leading us to."

Charlene's experience in trusting God also guided her in her career. "After the girls started school, I wanted my job to be something I really enjoyed, so the obvious choice was photography," she says. "Photography is always something I've loved, and it was a good time for me to explore that a little more. I began taking photography classes at New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester in the evenings. Bill's schedule as a trooper made it difficult for me to work any regular hours and still have one of us at home." Starting her own business made sense, but it was daunting. "I'm not much of a risk taker, and I often struggle with self-confidence, but my husband encouraged me to start the business. One day, he said, 'Let's go buy some studio lighting,' so we did, and that was the beginning."

Getting the studio set up was just the first hurdle. "Because of my lack of confidence and introverted nature, putting myself out there as a professional photographer was mildly terrifying for me," Charlene says. "I had a real fear of failure and of not being good enough, in spite of my passion for photography and success in my classes." She turned to God and in Him found the peace and strength she needed. "As I always do when I'm in a situation like that, I put it all in God's hands and asked Him to guide me. If it was His will that I be in business, then He would show me the way, and if it wasn't, I asked Him to make that clear as well. Putting things in God's hands is so freeing, and for me it takes away a lot of my irrational fears and anxieties."

Thirteen years later, Charlene Graham Photography is still in business! "I have learned so much along the way about the craft and business of photography, and about myself. I realized that God has given me this gift, that my work is important and that it can bring real good into the world. I love the idea of seeking beauty, especially the God-given beauty of an individual person, couple, or a family. It is so important to capture that, and to share it with the people who are photographed and with the world. God's beauty isn't just in some of us; it's in all of us."





Christ the King staff serve the church community in so many ways, sometimes as the welcoming face in front of the crowd or the friendly voice over the phone.

There are some, though, who are not always seen, but whose service is no less important. These staff members, like Doug Averill, one of Christ the King's maintenance team, work quietly to keep our church running smoothly.

Doug has understood the importance of service ever since he was little. "Supposedly I said I wanted to be a fire fighter when I was young," he says with a laugh. He grew up as the youngest of five right here in Concord, only a few minutes away from St. John the Evangelist Church. His whole family would attend the 4 pm Mass every Saturday, though admittedly their faith was not high on their priority list. Regardless, service and family were important to them all. Even though his father worked three or four different jobs and was often away from home, he was always seeking to assist others. "My father was always helping somebody," Doug recalls.

Even though religion was not talked about much at home, Doug's mother was dedicated to ensuring her children received a good Catholic education, so she sent him to St. John's School. His time there was mostly positive. However, his life changed substantially as a preteen when his father died suddenly. Even at such a young age, Doug wanted to support his mom through the incredibly overwhelming time. "I basically stuck by her side and did what I could for her at 12 years old," he says. "I got a paper route at 13 years old. It wasn't much money and I tried to give it to her, but she wouldn't take it."

Doug would continue to work throughout his high school years and beyond, finding that he had a knack for working with his hands. "I'm better at that than anything else," he says. He used that gift not only to mow lawns and plow, but also to serve the Concord Catholic community. In 1988, he got a seasonal maintenance position at the Carmelite Monastery. In 1994, he met his future-wife, Brenda. Shortly after, he started working

part-time at Christ the King Parish and in 2015, he was asked to become full-time. True to form, one of his stipulations was that his position allowed him the flexibility to take care of his mother, who was then diagnosed with dementia. "I told them, 'Family comes first,'" he says.

As part of the maintenance team, Doug helps keep the grounds, sets up and breaks down the Parish Activity Center for functions, and makes sure the heat and lights are always on, as well as so much more. He finds satisfaction in knowing that it helps the people of Christ the King. "People like it when the grounds are clean and everything is in place," he says. Doug also oversees the St. John Regional School facilities – decades after he had attended school there himself. "Sometimes when I'm out with my wife at dinner, a student will come up to me and say, 'Hi, Mr. Doug," he says.

So even though you may not always see him, Doug's work has been an integral part of Christ the King and St. John Regional School for many years!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2023

April 3: Day of Reconciliation On the Monday of Holy Week, confessions will be heard in the church confessional at 11:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-2:00 pm, and 5:00-7:00 pm.

April 5: 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. Reading and psalms, along with music pieces, will help you to prayerfully prepare for the Triduum.

April 6: 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 in the Parish Activity Center.

April 7: 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 8: Easter Vigil

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

April 9: Easter Sunday

Today, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mass will be available in the church at 7:00 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am.



April 10-16: 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 14: Rediscover the Mass

Join us to watch Bishop Robert Barron's life-changing course, *The Mass*, in the church. The presentation will be followed by a live talk from clergy throughout our diocese followed by a reception in the Parish Activity Center. Join us, on Friday, April 14, from 6:30-8:00 pm, and rediscover the Mass. The series runs through June.

April 16: Divine Mercy Sunday

The Annual Capital Deanery Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour will take place at 2:30 pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 180 Loudon Road in Concord. All are welcome!

MAY 2023

May 18: 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.

May 18: Rock 'N Race

Come be part of the Christ the King Parish team at this year's Rock 'N Race held on Thursday, May 18! 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. The deadline for receiving a customized event shirt is April 14. Our goal is 150 participants this year and first-time team members will receive a free 2023 CTK shirt.

May 28: Pentecost

Pentecost always occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and 10 days after His ascension into heaven. The timing of these feasts is also where we get the concept of the Novena – nine days of prayer – because in Acts 1, Mary and the Apostles prayed together "continuously" for nine days after the Ascension leading up to Pentecost. Traditionally, the Church prays the Novena to the Holy Spirit in the days before Pentecost. (catholicnewsagency. com)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 1 & 2:

Food Pantry (Parish) Rice Bowl (National)

April 7: Good Friday Holy Land (National)

April 8 & 9:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish) Easter (Parish)

April 15 & 16:

Maintenance (Parish)

April 22 & 23:

NH Catholic Appeal (Diocesan)

April 29 & 30:

NH Catholic Appeal (Diocesan)

CONTACT INFO







Christ the King Parish

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

Weekend Masses

Sat: 4:00 pm | Sun: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Mon, Wed, Fri: 12:10 pm | Thurs: 5:30 pm

Confession/Reconciliation

Thurs: 4:45-5:15 pm | Sat: 2:30-3:30 pm

Pastor:

Father Rich Roberge, frrich@christthekingnh.org

Winton DeRosia, deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

Director of Parish Life:

Cynthia Tokos, cynthia@christthekingnh.org

Bookkeeper:

Liz Geary, liz@christthekingnh.org

Business Manager:

Charlie Burr, charlie@christthekingnh.org

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Coordinator of Young Disciples:

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Michelle Dokka, michelled@christthekingnh.org

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Jeff Litchfield, jeff@christthekingnh.org

Parish Secretary:

Kathy Planchet, kathy@christthekingnh.org







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MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	2/12/23	2/19/23	2/26/23	3/5/23
Offertory	\$8,239.50	\$10,021.77	\$8,341.00	\$10,715.00
Online	\$6,628.50	\$6,357.28	\$5,174.48	\$6,829.14
Total	\$14,868.00	\$16,379.05	\$13,515.48	\$17,544.14

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

