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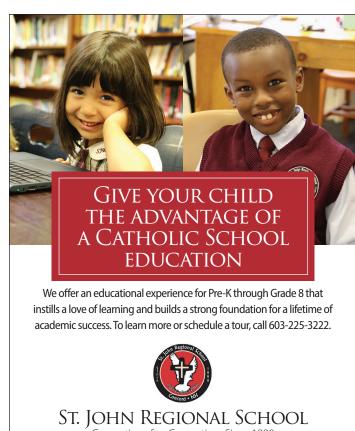
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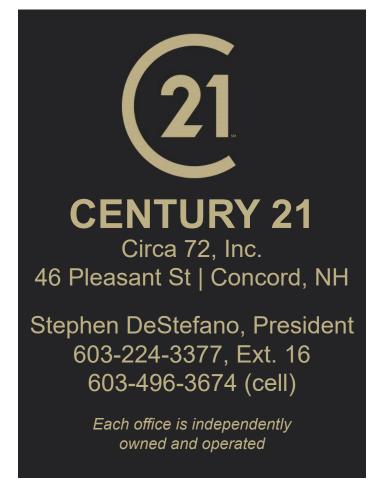
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### Dear Friends,

Can I challenge you with a question? Do you live out your Christian faith as a self-help program, or do you believe that you have a role in God's plan for salvation? We often talk with others about our faith bringing us peace, joy, and hope. And I certainly hope that it does bring you all those things. It is good for us to speak of these fruits of faith with others so that they may also desire them for themselves. However, as we grow in faith, it must become about more than fruits that we receive. "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3-4)

As we grow in love and service of God, we take on his heart. His priorities become our priorities. What are God's priorities? Jesus tells us, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) God wants everyone to turn to him for their own salvation, because he loves everyone and desires them to be one with him. This is why we focus on "Invitational Church" as a part of our Plan for Renewal. This is why I am so persistent in talking about sharing our faith with others.

(I know you all appreciate my persistence.)

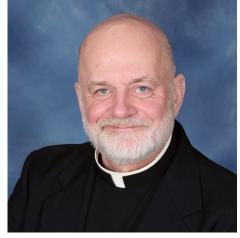
The salvation of others should matter to us. We should always have a heart to invite those who are hurting and lost to turn to Jesus for comfort and peace. We do not want to be overbearing or forceful in any way. But we want to invite, in an open, loving, understanding way. I know it can be uncomfortable. I know it will not come naturally for most of us. However, the salvation of others should take precedence over our discomfort. Pray that God will take away your fear. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to opportunities to invite those who have not yet opened their hearts to him. Then, be courageous!

This month is a great month to gear up for being invitational. Soon, summer will come to an end and the school year will start back up. Along with it, parish programs begin. Alpha and Emmaus both begin new sessions in September. There will be in-person and online options for many of our programs. So many opportunities to think about for those we know and care for. Think of how we might best reach out to them with invitations. Keep that in mind as you peruse this issue for upcoming events and programs.

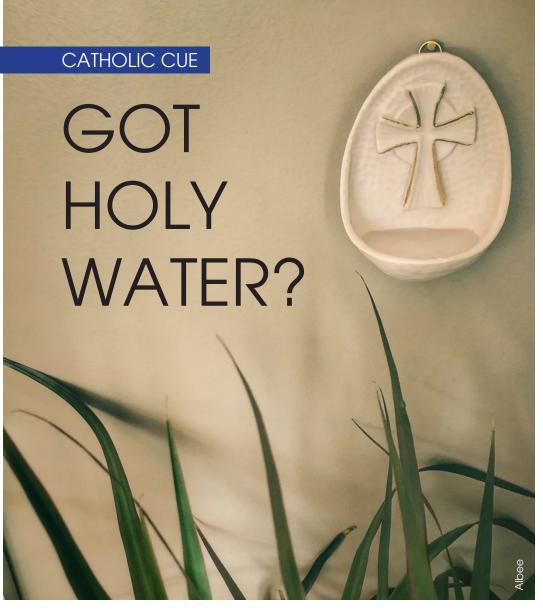
We are also happy to be welcoming Michelle Dokka this month as our new Director of Music Ministry. One of the things that attracted us to Michelle was her invitational nature. Michelle is excited to meet new people and share with them her love of God and music. Don't be surprised if she invites you to join the choir! I hope you enjoy reading a little bit more about her in this issue.

I keep you all in prayer every day as we all strive to grow in our own love of Jesus and share that love with others.

Yours in Christ,
Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge is the pastor at Christ the King Parish.



In the dead of summer, it is hard not to think about all the gifts that water gives us. A tall drink of water on a hot summer day gives us the refreshment we need for the moment. A dip in a nearby pool or lake helps us cool off and can provide hours of relaxing fun. Water is essential to our bodies every day, but in the summer time, we tend to pay a bit more attention to our need for it, don't we?

Now, what about holy water? How often do we think about all the gifts that holy water gives us? In last month's *Catholic Cue*, I mentioned blessing yourself with holy water as part of celebrating your baptism day. This month, I'm inviting you to do this every day! Don't have holy water? Well, what are you waiting for?! Go get some! I'll wait...

Before I really started practicing my faith, I thought holy water was just kept in the church, so obviously I never thought to have holy water in my home. Then one day, I went to a new friend's house (she and her family had recently moved to the area), and among all the boxes and general disarray of unpacking, one item had already been hung on the wall, right next to the front door: her family's holy water font.

I was surprised by this and was inspired to learn more. I asked about it and my friend charitably told me some of the uses of holy water and that she and her family bless themselves with it every morning and night. I learned that, with faith and piety, every time we bless ourselves with holy water it is a reminder of our baptism and

cleanses us of venial sins. (*Venial* sins, not *mortal* sins, so no, you're not getting out of confession that easily. \*wink wink\*)

Shortly thereafter, I got some holy water and a font for our own home. I hung it in a prominent place, where all could see and remember to bless themselves every day. Every morning before we leave the house, I remind our boys to bless themselves and to put on the armor of God. Every night, before our boys go to bed, I dab a bit of holy water on my fingers and I make the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads. Sometimes, when I'm feeling particularly anxious or stressed, I'll bless myself and say this prayer: "By this holy water and by your precious blood, Lord Jesus, wash away all my sins." It's a helpful, tangible reminder of Christ's healing, unconditional love and the Holy Spirit as the living water.

## LOOKING FOR HOLY WATER?

There is a holy water tank in our church on Saint Joseph's side in the hallway to the family room. You are welcome to bring a container and fill up whenever you need holy water!



Jen Albee is the Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King Parish.

## Why are dinosaurs not found in the Bible?

Our question this month comes from a young girl very dear to me, my stepsister Katerina. Katerina will be going into sixth grade this fall and is attending Catholic school in Connecticut, I love listening to her share what she's learning about the faith in class and the questions it sparks within her! For example, "Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?" Maybe you parents have heard this question before! Our little ones tend to love dinosaurs and wonder where these magnificent creatures fit in the story of creation they hear at home, church, and school.

Without realizing it, with this simple question, Katerina tapped into an enormous area of strife for many Catholics today: the relationship between religion and science. We often hear of the advances in the scientific community, but can struggle to fit those pieces together with our Catholic faith. Children in school learn of evolution and come home to ask parents about the story of Adam and Eve and very few know quite what to say.

First and foremost, we must understand that the Catholic Church does not deny the existence of dinosaurs nor the process of evolution. In reading the creation story in the book of Genesis, it can seem as though our faith is incompatible with these scientific theories, but the reality is that Genesis is not a scientific text. It was never meant to be. The Church

does not assert that we are called to view the creation story as a literal interpretation of how the world came into being. The Church allows for the possibility that the world evolved over time. However, what is essential is that we as Catholics embrace the fundamental religious truths found within the creation story, namely that God is the creator of the universe, however that act of creating took place.

"God is the creator of the universe, however that act of creating took place."

Ultimately, what we are dancing around here is an understanding that the purpose of religion and the purpose of science are fundamentally different. Science seeks to answer the question "how," as in, "How did the world come into being?" Religion seeks to answer the questions "who" and "why," as in, "Who was the creator and why did he create?" While the two may occasionally butt heads, science and religion will never truly be in conflict because they will always be seeking to address different questions.

Getting back to our dinosaur

question, while these creatures are not specifically named in the Scriptures, we trust in both the scientific evidence that reveals their former existence and in that essential truth that God is the creator of everything, past, present, and future.

I leave you with a quote by Stacy Trasancos, prominent scientist and Catholic author. She is one of many pioneers working to bring together the world of science and faith. In an article for the National Catholic Register entitled, "What Do You Say When Kids Ask About Dinosaurs," she provides the following response, which I look forward to sharing with Katerina. "Dinosaurs lived before Adam and Eve. You have been taught about how God created plants and animals before he created man and woman. Well, there is much more to the story. Scientists have learned about fossils, taxonomy, anatomy, and genetics, all subjects you will learn in time. Be excited; it is mind-blowing to explore how God designed nature!" ◆



Haley Judd is the Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King Parish.

Please consider submitting your questions about the Catholic faith! No question is too big or small. Simply email **parish@ christhekingnh.org** with the subject line "Come Alive."



#### by Emily Planchet | Photography by Charlene Graham

You have probably heard of Alpha. It is hard to attend Christ the King Parish and not have heard of it. You have likely seen the cards that volunteers hand out - an angled red question mark with the intriguing tagline "Got Questions?" You may even know what Alpha is: a 12-week course that introduces the basics of the Christian faith and encourages participants to ask questions and share doubts and experiences. That may be the definition of the program, but for Jack and Susan Eberth, Alpha has become so much more than that. To them it means friendship, community, and home.

It was a home that they were searching for when Jack and Susan moved to New Hampshire from New York State about 10 years ago. Being used to just one Catholic church in their small town in New York, they were not quite sure how to choose from the many with which they were suddenly

presented. They wanted a parish that provided not only a place to worship but also a warm, inviting, and welcoming community.

Not knowing many people, finding that community was a bit of a challenge for them. "Being new, we really looked to make friends," says Susan. "But we didn't know how to do it." After bouncing around to the various churches, they eventually found an answer to their prayers five years ago in the form of an invitation to try Alpha.

When a parishioner pitched a new program Christ the King Parish was offering, a program where you could ask any questions about the faith, the Eberths' interest was piqued. Even though both Susan and Jack were essentially lifelong Catholics – Susan baptized as a baby and Jack baptized after his mother's conversion when he was four – asking questions was not necessarily something they

were used to. Assuming they were invited to participate as guests, they were surprised when they received an email to attend a training meeting a few months after the initial pitch. "I said to Jack, 'Why do we need to be trained to be a participant?" Susan says with a laugh.

But the miscommunication ended up being a blessing. For the first Alpha, Jack and Susan were assigned roles together at the same table to help facilitate small group discussion. Susan took on the role of "table helper," the person in each small group tasked with being a quiet, prayerful support to the conversation. Jack was the "table host," the person tasked with facilitating the discussion. The opportunity to serve at a table together and be a witness to the power of Alpha was not something they expected. Their first experience? "It was wonderful," says Susan.

What made the experience wonderful was not just the informative and engaging videos and the opportunity for guests to ask questions in a "radically safe and welcoming" environment. It was time spent at their table with their small group, journeying with them over the course of 12 weeks, which really left a lasting impression on the Eberths. "Miracles happen in small table discussions!" says Susan. In their first session, Susan and Jack saw people who were initially shy and reluctant to speak their minds open up over the weeks.

Jack and Susan attribute this transformation in the guests mostly to Alpha's unique model. A model not of a teaching or a catechetical program where facilitators teach and correct, but a model where people are encouraged to share their own thoughts and opinions, not debate. In Alpha, there are no wrong opinions, thoughts, or doubts.

It was a totally new model to Jack and Susan and it took some getting used to, but the results spoke for themselves. Though the small groups were randomly assigned and made up of people of all different backgrounds, upbringings, and beliefs, Jack and Susan were amazed to find an incredible bond forming between the group members as the weeks went on because everyone felt heard and valued.

After the end of the first Alpha course, the Eberths knew this was the ministry for them. Even though Jack and Susan have now assisted at as many as nine Alphas over the years, they have found that each is different but just as powerful. The power does not just affect the guests at the tables they are assigned to, but themselves as well. Each experience has been incredibly beneficial both to their personal spiritual lives and their

# "Miracles happen in small table discussions!"

marriage.

Celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, Jack and Susan are used to working together, but Alpha provides a unique outlet to do so. "Working as a team has been very wonderful for us as a married couple," says Susan. They have also personally witnessed a growth in their appreciation for the Holy Spirit. "Alpha is successful only because of the Holy Spirit," says Susan. "He's the heavy lifter." After seeing so many success stories of people transformed through the process even coming back to the next Alpha course to become table hosts and helpers themselves – Jack and Susan are humbled to see the effect God can have in the lives of others.

Though some might think Alpha is just for people new in their faith or with no faith at all, Jack and Susan are quick to explain that the beauty of Alpha is that it isn't for just one type of person. They have seen so many people go through the course – including their own adult children. It is for atheists, agnostics, Christians, Catholics who know their catechism backwards or forwards, or Catholics who have not gone to Mass in years. It is for anyone who wants to ask questions, be heard, and listen to others. Even a devout Catholic can find value in hearing from different perspectives and having the opportunity to get back to basics. "I feel rejuvenated every time I go through an Alpha session and listening to people's stories," says Jack.

And did Jack and Susan accomplish their goal of making friends and finding a community? Their answer is a resounding "Yes!" Many of the people they met through Alpha have become good friends. Before getting involved, people who recognized them at Mass might offer a smile or a wave from the pew. Now? "Having been through Alpha," says Jack, "people don't just wave when they see you, they go up and hug you."

Coming to know and care for many people throughout all the Alphas they've participated in as part of the team – people they never would have known otherwise – has been one of the biggest blessing for the Eberths. "We feel closer to them than our next-door neighbors and our community where we lived for 32 years," says Susan.

It has been quite a journey for Jack and Susan Eberth over the past few years. However, they will be the first to credit Alpha with helping them along their way. It was that program which grew friendships, encouraged leadership, and created a community for them right in Concord. "Alpha is fundamental," says Jack. Susan agrees, "It's what made Christ the King our home."

#### INTERESTED IN ALPHA

Alpha meets every Thursday evening beginning September 16 for 12-weeks. There will be in-person and online options. All are welcome to attend and no questions are off the table. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.



## The Power of Music

Introducing our new Director of Music Ministry

By Michael Clark | Photography by Will Judd

"To sing is to pray twice." This old saying has a special resonance for Michelle Dokka, Christ the King Parish's new Director of Music Ministry. Throughout her life, her relationships to God and to music have been closely intertwined.

Michelle comes from a background that involved both Catholicism (from her father's side of the family) and Protestantism (from her mother's side). Having possessed a familiarity with both traditions, it was not until she was in her 20s that she made the decision to be confirmed in the Catholic Church. One factor that influenced her decision was the reading that she had done about the faith. "I went to the library and checked out a ton of books on the Catholic Church to make sure that that's where I felt was the right

place for me to be," she says.

However, an even more important experience would lead her to firmly choose the Catholic Church. Given the Protestantism that was a part of her upbringing, she had always regarded Lutheranism as a potential church home. One day she was speaking with someone at a Lutheran church, who explained that the primary difference between Catholics and Protestants was that Protestants believed that communion was *symbolic*, whereas Catholics believed that the Eucharist was the real body and blood of Jesus. "At that moment, I knew that my decision had been made," she says. She believed so strongly in the real presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist that she felt, "I had no choice but to go ahead

and be confirmed in the Catholic Church."

After being confirmed, she began volunteering in music ministry and that eventually led to working professionally in music ministry. This was fitting, as music, like faith, had always been an integral part of Michelle's life. "I do not remember ever not being at the piano," she says, reflecting on the love for music that she has had since childhood. It was a love she had inherited from her father, who loved the piano, but because he had "grown up very poor," he was unable to take piano lessons when he was younger. Michelle says that, because of this, "it was very, very important for him to always have a piano once he got on his own." As a child, she would play the piano together with him; they would sit side-by-side and improvise the music.

Michelle's love of music and her faith are inseparable, and her thoughts on the spiritual value of music are profound. "I could preach a whole sermon on this," she says, addressing the relationship between faith and music. "Music has the power to heal, and I believe with all my heart that God has spoken through hymn writers and music makers and composers. The power of music to bring a community together is also a matter of great importance. Studies have shown that when people sing together, our hearts literally begin to beat at the same time and our breathing has the same pattern. By raising their voices together, believers become physically connected to God and to each other while singing." So many parishioners have known the joy of this connection, and it is a true blessing that we are able to welcome Michelle to our community where she will help to foster that connection further.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### AUGUST 2021

August 4: Monthly Adoration CTK Men's Ministry hosts adoration on the first Wednesday evening of each month at 7:00-9:00 PM in the church. All are welcome!

## August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Assumption Day commemorates when Mary "the immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory." (CCC 966) This is a holy day of obligation, though this year it falls on a Sunday.

#### August 19-21: Market Days

Come visit the Christ the King Parish and St. John Regional School tent this summer at Concord Market Days. Stop by the booth to say hello and do a craft.

#### August 22: Annual Young Adult Summer BBQ

Come join us for our annual BBQ at 5:00 PM in the courtyard outside Barry Hall. Young Adult Ministry is for those in their 20s and 30s looking to explore the Catholic faith in fellowship with their peers! For more information, contact Haley Judd at haley@christthekingnh.org.

#### SEPTEMBER 2021

September 6: Labor Day

The parish office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

## September 12: Women's & Men's Ministry BBQ

Looking for fellowship? Want to grow in your faith this fall? You're invited to a BBQ sponsored by the Men's and Women's Ministries to meet fellow parishioners and to learn more about the ministries. The BBQ will be at 4:00-5:30 PM in the courtyard outside Barry Hall. At 5:30 PM, the ministries will gather separately to provide more information. To RSVP, men, please email **menofctk@gmail.com**, and, women, please email **ctkwwp20@gmail.com**.

## September 12: Ladies' Wine & Dessert

Come and check out the Women's Ministry's fall offerings including Bible Study, Craft Nights, and Walking Club on Sunday, September 12, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center for all women (high school age on up). For more information, email **ctkwwp20@gmail.com**.

## September 12-18: Women's Ministry Bible Study

Starting the week of September 12-18, the Women Ministry will host a Bible Study. There are in-person & Zoom options. Join us as we explore the core questions that we need to wrestle with if we want to experience all that God has for us. If you are interested, please email **ctkwwp20@gmail.com**.

#### September 16: Alpha

Alpha meets every Thursday evening for 12-weeks. There will be in-person and online options. All are welcome to attend and no questions are off the table. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.

#### September 17 & 19: Emmaus

Come to our first Emmaus gathering! The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This weekend, we will be introducing the Creed. For more information and to register, visit **christthekingnh.org/emmaus**.

## **September 25: Harvest Bazaar** Come for fun, fellowship, and fresh

air at this year's outside event including a flea market, country store, raffles, baking table, and so much more! For more information, visit **christthekingnh.org/**harvest-bazaar.

#### OCTOBER 2021

## October 2: Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels

"For he hath given his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psalm 90:11) Each and every human soul has a Guardian Angel who protects us from both spiritual and physical evil. This has been shown throughout the Bible. Pray to your guardian angel every day and ask them for their presence and support.



## MONTHLY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

July 31 & August 1: Food Pantry (Parish)

**August 7 & 8:** Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

August 14 & 15: Assumption (Parish) Maintenance (Parish)

NH Missions (Diocese)

August 21 & 21: no special collection

August 28 & 29: 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

#### **Confession 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

#### **Director of Parish Life:**

Angie Glendinning angie@christthekingnh.org

#### **Business Manager:**

Charlie Burr charlie@christthekingnh.org

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Liz Geary liz@christthekingnh.org

#### **Parish Secretary:**

Kathy Planchet kathy@christthekingnh.org

### Communications Coordinator:

Sarah Jane Roth sarahjane@christthekingnh.org

## Coordinator of Adult Discipleship:

Haley Judd haley@christthekingnh.org

## Coordinator of Young Disciples:

Jen Albee jen@christthekingnh.org

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

Michelle Dokka michelled@christthekingnh.org

## Facilitator of Parishioner Engagement:

Jill Galvin jill@christthekingnh.org

#### MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	6/27/21	7/4/21	7/11/21	7/18/21
Envelopes	\$6,097.00	\$11,228.00	\$7,051.00	\$7,955.00
Online	\$5,589.75	\$5,759.25	\$9,109.44	\$6,034.37
Other	\$2,308.00	\$313.00	\$2,067.00	\$1,263.84
Total	\$13,994.75	\$17,300.25	\$18,227.44	\$15,253.21
Special Collection	\$451.00	\$1,640.00	\$4,481.00	\$490.00

#### **ONLINE 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**.

#### **ENVELOPES**

To request monthly parish envelopes in the mail, call Kathy Planchet at **603.224.2328**.









