



Dear Friends,

On August 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. This feast day is one of the highlights of Jesus' time here on earth when on Mount Tabor, Jesus prepares Peter, James, and John for the darkness and scandal of the cross. He gives them a glimpse of His glory and reveals that He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Jesus reveals His divinity by a miraculous and supernatural light.

In 2006, Pope Benedict XVI described how the transfiguration shows Christ as the "full manifestation of God's light." This light – which shines forth from Christ – ultimately triumphs over "the power of the darkness of evil." So what does this mean for each of us? Where is the light in each of our lives?

It's August already and that means that summer is well underway. June 21 was the summer solstice — the longest day of the year. It's the day when we enjoy the longest period of daylight and the shortest night. On this day, the sun is at its highest position in the sky.

We have passed that point and now we are headed into late summer. There is a change in the light, most especially in the morning and early evening skies. Have you seen it? So often in life, it is easy to miss the light – we can take it for granted. We wake to the sun coming into our windows and as the sun goes down in the sky and the moon rises, our natural rhythm moves us to sleep and to rest.

The Feast of the Transfiguration reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world – and that light is ALWAYS with us. During dark days and challenging times, during the ordinary and monotonous, the light of Christ remains strong in our lives. The Feast of the Transfiguration shows us much of what we are not able to comprehend; it shows us mystery. Yet the Light of Christ that so prominently marks this feast day is a gift that we CAN see. So take notice! Look at the sky these mornings and evenings in August and notice the light. Notice where Jesus might be with you in the morning light and again during the evening as the sun sets and you get ready to rest your weary bones (maybe that's just me). Notice and look at the Light. It is our Lord. He is all around us.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish

We recently conducted a survey on *Proclaim Magazine*. I encourage you to see the results at **www.christthekingnh.org/proclaim**.



"Whose turn is it to read the Gospel?" I asked the boys, as we all piled into the car and started off to Sunday Mass. "It's my turn!" "No, it's mine!" barked some of the boys. Ultimately it was Harry's turn, so he took my book with all the Mass readings in it and read that day's Gospel as we drove.

This is a practice that Andrew and I adopted when the boys were younger and a bit more rambunctious. It helped us more fully prepare our hearts and minds for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, because we knew we'd probably be missing more than half of it. If you're a parent of young children, I know you know exactly what I mean, but let me share with you a story from a "darker" time.

Sitting in the family room, tears fell from my cheeks as I looked down at my very squirmy, very unhappy boy who also had tears streaming down his face (the reason why still remains a mystery). With my head in my hands, I was exasperated and discouraged. It felt like this was the 52nd Sunday in a row where I was separated from my family during Mass. This

particular boy seemed like he waited for Sunday Mass to display some of his worst behaviors. Most weeks Andrew and I felt like we weren't truly present and we absolutely dreaded going to church.

Shortly after this Mass disruption, I was listening to the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM radio, when a show host (and mother of six) had a brilliant suggestion for parents who felt like they were missing much of Mass due to the miniature WWE SmackDown they were in with their little ones. She suggested reading the Mass readings before Mass! I loved this idea and implemented it into our routine immediately. Andrew and I would get all the boys ready, we'd scramble to get in the car, settle down, and I'd read the Sunday Gospel on our way to Mass. Whether you read them at home or in the car is up to you, but I thought this was such a simple way to prepare and enter into a Mass that I knew was bound to be interrupted.

Now that the boys are a bit older and we are able to fully participate in Mass, we still read the Gospel on our way to church on Sunday. What's a bit more fun is that the boys take turns reading, and man, is it sweet to hear the Word of God pour from their mouths.

As a word of encouragement if you are still in the season of parenthood where you are struggling to make it through Mass with your little ones, I'd like to share something that Deacon Winton said to us on one particularly trying morning that was like a balm to my soul: "A crying church is a living church," he said, adding with a knowing smile, "Your kids need to be here. The *church* needs you here. *We're* glad you're here."

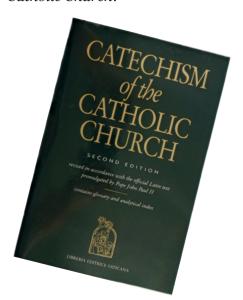


Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

Catholic Myths Debunked

Throughout my journey as a Catholic, I have come face to face with "myths" about Catholicism that are so widespread within the Church, that many Catholics believe them to be true. Often, in researching a topic for Proclaim Magazine or for our Emmaus program, I realized that my understanding of some tenet of our faith have been flawed. In the spirit of correcting our misunderstandings and growing in knowledge of the truth, this month, we will be debunking two "Catholic myths."

I'd like to encourage you to always ask questions about your Catholic faith and then look for reliable answers. Theology is complex and we all make errors. We are blessed to live in a time where we have unprecedented access to Church doctrine. Just make sure you're looking at credible sources, starting with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*!



Myth #1: Catholics Cannot Be Cremated

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states, "The Church permits cremation," so it is time to let this myth fade away. (CCC 2301) However, there is essential guidance given regarding cremation for Catholics. The Catechism permits cremation with the condition that "it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body." (CCC 2301) The Church has long professed the belief in the bodily resurrection of all; we cannot allow cremation to dampen our belief in our God's power to do so.

The Order of Christian Funerals states, "The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites." (no. 413)

It continues on to say that after the funeral, "The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come.... The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed.... The practice of scattering cremated remains.... or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires." (no. 417)

If you have questions about the Catholic faith or have encountered "Catholic myths" in your own life, let us know! Email **parish@ christthekingnh.org** anytime with the subject line "Come Alive!"

Myth #2:

Catholic Who Are Not Confirmed Cannot Get Married in a Catholic Church

Our second myth is simply not true. The requirements for a Catholic wedding are as follows: "The parties to a marriage covenant are a baptized man and woman, free to contract marriage, who freely express their consent." (CCC 1625)

I bring this myth up for two reasons. Firstly, I've encountered many parents who push their children to get confirmed simply for this reason. To be frank, this is not an accurate or adequate motive. Our children should receive the sacraments because they are practicing, faithful members of the Catholic Church and intend to live as such.

Secondly, it is good for young people to know that, even if you have not been confirmed, you are welcome to get married in the Church! But keep in mind that it is recommended that you get confirmed and complete your sacramental initiation before marriage; you'll need all the sacramental graces you can get for married life!



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King



It is through prayer and trust that we find God's plan for our lives. If marriage is the direction God wants us to take, we can trust that He will lead us to the right person at the right time. Trusting in His divine plan for our lives is the key to finding true love and a lifelong partner.

Although Ed and Terry Lovejoy both grew up in Concord and had mutual friends, they didn't meet until 1969 when they attended a New Year's Eve party thrown by Terry's sister and brother-in-law. They were instantly attracted to each other. Ed had just returned home from Vietnam the week before and still had two more years of active duty to complete; Terry was still in college. Fortunately, Ed served those two years in Rhode Island which allowed him to come home most weekends. A year later, on Christmas Eve, they became engaged and were married at St.

John's church by Father Richard Smith on July 3, 1971.

Ed was discharged from the Navy Seabees in 1972 and he returned to the University of New Hampshire (UNH) as a full-time student a week later. The GI Bill and Terry working multiple parttime jobs helped their growing family. Terry says, "Our daughter, Jessica, was born that following summer. We suffered financially, times were tough, but those first years of marriage were growth years and we learned to rely on and support each other. We still do! We did fun things that didn't cost much, like visiting the Cow Barns at UNH." Those sacrifices they made were blessings they gave to each other and set the foundation for their long-term marriage.

A few years later, they were blessed with twins. "Our oldest child, Jessica, was three years old when the twins were born."

Terry says. "Mark and Bethany were born prematurely at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire. They were born with severe breathing problems." Ed recalls, "Things were not going particularly well for them, especially for Mark who had severe respiratory problems. We were told the first 72 hours would be critical for Mark and they were doing everything they could for him. This was before they got the technology they now have. We asked the Hospital Chaplain, Father Richard Lower, to baptize them while they were still in NICU. Father Lower spent several hours with us that evening. The next day there was some improvement, however, Mark didn't come home with us for several months." Every weekend, Ed and Terry would drive from their home in Merrimack and drop off their daughters with Terry's mom and travel to Hanover to visit Mark.

Terry was brought up in a very faithful, devoted, and large Catholic family, the youngest of seven children. She received all her sacraments at St. John the Evangelist Church and attended St. John's School and Bishop Brady High School. Ed grew up as an Episcopalian. "Although I was Episcopalian, there was always a Catholic presence in my life," he says, and Ed was an involved part of his family's Catholic faith. He regularly attended Mass with Terry and their three children and always participated in their religious upbringing. Ed converted seven years ago in 2016. "That even a gentle breeze – Terry – over time can shape a stone," he says. "We had been married almost 45 years at that time. It was so rewarding to finally receive the Holy Eucharist at Mass."

The Lovejoys are a volunteering family. Terry is presently a Eucharistic Minister for the homebound and nursing home residents and Ed is involved in special projects for Father Rich. They both have been volunteers at the Christ the King Food Pantry for 25 years. Their son, Mark, did his high school community service hours at the Food Pantry and continued during the summers through college, Bethany did volunteer work at her school, tutoring and helping younger children with reading, and Jessica was a candy-striper at the local hospital while in high school.

Ed and Terry began their volunteer work at the Food Pantry because of Mark's involvement. "He loved it. He loved the people who worked there and the clients," Terry says, "He would come home and tell us all about it. When Mark graduated from college and moved to Connecticut, we decided to take Mark's place, but that was hard to do as Mark is very energetic." Ed eventually became vice president of the Food Pantry Ministry and when the president had to step down, he took over as president and continued in that role for seven years. As president, Ed handled administrative matters, ensuring invoices got paid and receipts got recorded. He saw the need to update the by-laws, especially when it came to the



president's term of service and the qualifications of the president.

Presently, the Lovejoys volunteer once every four weeks doing whatever is necessary. Both Ed and Terry enjoy talking to the clients and distributing the food to them. Ed recalls, "We have seen a lot of new Americans over the last seven years. Their children help interpret the English language for their parents. The children use what they learned in school to help their parents communicate. We see 11, 12, and 13-year-old kids shepherding their parents and grandparents through a complex system. The family dynamics is reversed, as the child becomes

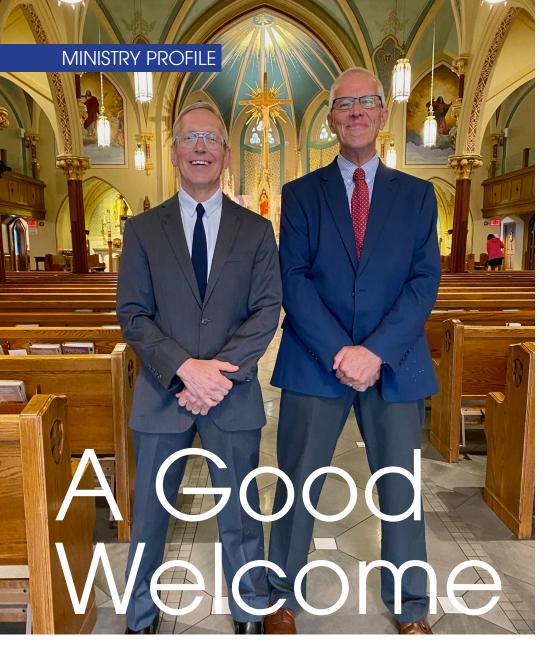
more responsible."

There are many memorable moments at the Food Pantry. Ed and Terry share about a time when they received a thank you note written in a Christmas card and placed on the volunteer desk. It was from a lady who had been a client over the years. In the card she wrote: "We don't need your food anymore because we are stable financially now." The card had \$5.00 in it and that to her was everything. It is those kinds of things that make volunteering at the Food Pantry so rewarding. Terry says, "Our faith journey has been enhanced and strengthened by our association with our fellow volunteers and the grateful 'Thank you' from our many clients."

"We believe our faith has grown with each year we have been married and our relationship was blessed as our family expanded to three children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and one more on the way," Terry says. "We truly cherish our times together."

The Bible tells us God will direct our steps if we trust in Him. As Ed shares, "We were young when Terry and I started, but we learned to trust and to rely on each other and God. We were led to each other that faithful New Year's Eve and we know God had his hand in our faith journey for the last 52 years."





As head ushers, Anthony Stevens and Eric Swenson have become familiar faces at Christ the King Parish. Anthony is a long-time parishioner, who has been serving as an usher for close to 20 years. He became a Catholic around the age of 35, after a period of spiritual seeking. Eric began serving as an usher while the St. John's church building was being renovated and Masses were held in a large tent in the parish courtyard. Eric is a revert to the faith who was raised Catholic but had fallen away. The homily preached by Father Rich at his mother's funeral was so moving to him that he has been going to Mass every Sunday ever since.

The past several years at Christ the King have held some unique challenges for our ushers. Celebrating Mass in the tent during the summer and autumn of 2019 strengthened the importance of ushers and pushed them to be more involved and effective. "With the tent, we saw a big change," Anthony shares, "because we had to get everybody into a very small space, so seating became very important." There was also the distribution of bottles of water to combat the heat. This might sound like a small detail, but Eric credits it as a strong source of community building. "The water was a huge thing," says Eric, "it provided people with an occasion to stop and talk after Mass instead of just

Shortly after the renovations of

the church were completed, the Covid-19 pandemic began. During this time, Anthony and Eric, along with the other ushers and the hospitality ministry, took on the enormous undertaking of offering assigned, properly distanced seating at Mass to ensure comfort and safety, which they did with great success.

The challenges of the past few years have allowed our ushers opportunities to grow in their ministry and develop even stronger skills in carrying it out. Today, the ushers of Christ the King Parish routinely keep track of many matters important to the life of the parish. "We make a point of getting to know all the visitors," says Anthony, "so when they come back, we can welcome them back." This has made a strong impression on many guests at the parish. "They love it," Eric shares.

They also are careful to take into account people present at each Mass who may be able to offer assistance in a moment of crisis. "We find out where our nurses are," says Eric, "or if there's a doctor." Outside of weekend Mass, they also learn new skills and undergo formal training on safety, de-escalation, and other related topics.

Anthony and Eric find great joy and camaraderie in their work as head ushers and credit all the other members of their ministry for making it such a wonderful experience. The welcoming spirit and teamwork of the usher ministry has led to many great friendships, including the friendship between Anthony and Eric. "He's like a brother," says Eric. They also point out that they're always ready to welcome newcomers. With four Masses every weekend, not to mention holy days and special occasions, as Anthony says, "We still need ushers!" ◆

AUGUST 2023

August 7-11: Vacation Bible School



Please join us Monday, August 7 through Friday, August 11 for some Jesus-loving fun and games, singing and dancing as Christ the King hosts Vacation Bible School: Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments! This is available for children ages 4-12 (Grades Pre-K-5). Drop-off and check-in begin at 8:45 am everyday and pick-up is no later than 12:15 pm. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jen Albee at jen@ christthekingnh.org or Haley Judd at haley@christthekingnh. org. To register please visit christthekingnh.org/vbs.

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 and Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

August 24: Parish Trivia Night

Come and have fun with your fellow parishioners at our Parish

Trivia Night!

Who: Everyone ages 16 and older

Date: Thursday, August 24

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Where: CTK Parish Activity Center RSVP Lindavarelao33@gmail.com

Coffee, water, soft drinks, and desserts will be provided. Sponsored by the Parish Social Committee

SEPTEMBER 2023

September 4: Labor Day

The parish office will be closed today in observance of the holiday.

September 9: Adult Choir

The Adult Choir meets every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm beginning on Thursday, September 9. All are invited to attend (musicians as well). The choir will sing every weekend at Mass. For more information, contact Michelle Dokka, Director of Music Ministry, at michelled@christthekingnh.org or 603.224.2328.

September 11: Alpha

Alpha is for everyone. It is judgment-free. No question is out of bounds and you are free



to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Whether you are a lifelong Catholic, an atheist, a skeptic, or just curious about the Christian faith, you are invited! Alpha will meet at the Barley House on Mondays at 6:00 pm for 12 weeks. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.

September 13: Handbell Choir

This is a multi-generational group open to ages 9 to 99. If you can count to four, know your left from your right, and can see in color, you have all the skills you need to be in this group. The Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm in the choir loft beginning Wednesday, September 21. For more information, please contact Michelle Dokka at michelled@christthekingnh.org.

September 23: Sacramental Preparation Parents' Meeting

If you have a child in the second grade, they are eligible to receive First Reconciliation. Children in the third grade are eligible to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. There will be a Parents' Meeting on Saturday, September 23, at 9:00 am in the Parish Activity Center. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Albee at jen@christthekingnh.org.

OCTOBER 2022

October 6 & 8: Emmaus

Emmaus is a place where every disciple of Christ of every age can come and grow deeper in their Catholic faith and deeper in fellowship with their church community. This year's topic is "Seen & Unseen: The Sacraments of the Catholic Church." This month, we will discussing An Introduction to the Sacraments. Visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

October 9: Columbus DayThe parish office will be closed in observance of the holiday.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

August 5 & 6: Food Pantry (Parish)

August 12 & 13: Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

August 15: Assumption (Parish)

August 19 & 20: Maintenance (Parish)

August 26 & 27: no special collection

CONTACT INFO







Christ the King Parish

72 South Main Street, Concord, NH 03301 603.224.2328 | 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

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 Community Engagement:

Jeff Litchfield, jeff@christthekingnh.org

Parish Secretary:

Kathy Planchet, kathy@christthekingnh.org



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MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

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Online	\$4,886.76	\$5,649.56	\$7,112.22	\$5,674.03
Total	\$12,791.76	\$17,351.56	\$15,473.22	\$15,398.57



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.

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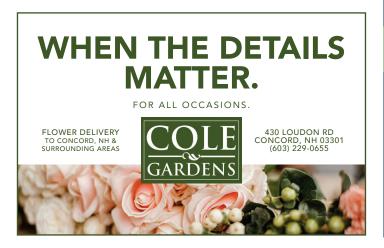


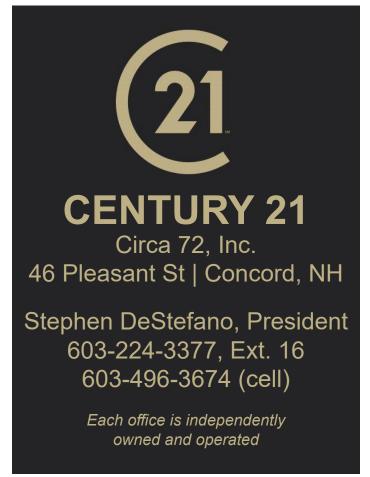
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