

PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 7



The Winding Journey

CATHOLIC CUE
Begin Fresh Every Day

MINISTRY PROFILE
Serving God

COME ALIVE
What is an angel?

Waters Funeral Home

Concord's only family owned
and operated funeral home

We're here when you need us

50 South Main Street, Concord, NH
WatersFuneralHomeConcord.com | 603-225-5707
Shaun P. Clougherty | Joanna E. Clougherty

Since 1884



Roan Family Funeral Homes
& Cremation Service

Proud to remain family owned, operated, and occupied.

Pembroke Location:

167 Main Street

(603) 485-9573

www.roanfamilyfuneral.com

Epsom Location:

1217 Suncook Valley Highway

(603) 798-3050

www.stilloaks.com

Katherine Roan, Director | Matthew Roan, Director



VERMETTE

orthodontics

SHOW OFF YOUR SMILE

2 Wall St, Concord | 603.224.9119 | VermetteOrtho.com

Open
Sundays at
12 PM



Best
Burger
- THE HIPPO & NH MAGAZINE
READER POLLS

CONCORD'S CHOICE FOR PREMIUM FOOD,
PROPER DRINK, & TOP NOTCH SERVICE!

132 North Main Street, Concord, NH 603-228-6363

-across the street from the Gold Dome

Questions
about
life?
Let's talk.

christthekingnh.org/alpha

Alpha

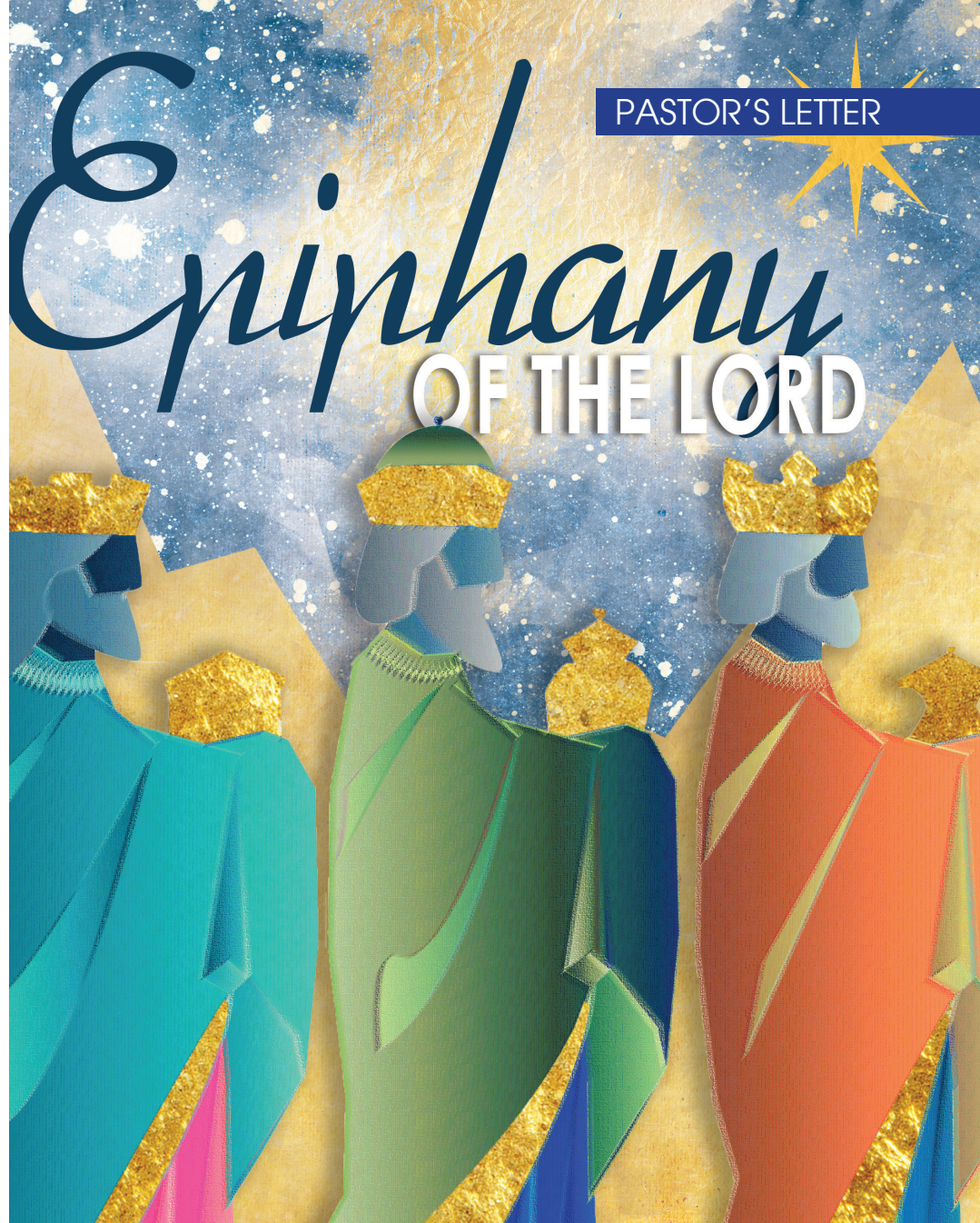
Dear Friends,

On Sunday, January 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The word “epiphany” means “manifestation” – an experience that brings a sudden insight or an event that changes one’s understanding. The epiphany that we celebrate is the journey of the Magi to follow the Star of Bethlehem.

These wise men watched the skies and followed the signs in the heavens, believing they would come to meet the newborn King of the Jews, the promised Messiah. Most likely beginning in Persia, it is thought that from beginning to end, their journey was between 1,000 and 1,200 miles. With camels being able to carry about 200 pounds, the Magi perhaps walked about 20 miles a day for 60 days to reach their destination. Not knowing exactly what they would find but believing in their hearts that they were being led to find the Messiah, they set out for the unknown.

The journey of the Magi is much like our journey of faith. The secular world leads us to believe that if we buy more, do more, and have more of everything that the world pushes in front of us, we will be happy. Yet our faith tells us differently.

It took courage for these men to go on this journey, just as it takes courage for each of us to continue our journey of faith – continuously making a commitment to God. Like the Magi, we might have these stirrings in our hearts, urging us to go deeper in our faith, building a stronger relationship with our God. This is part of our journey: to understand that God is calling us ever deeper into a relationship with Him, to listen to the quiet within our hearts, to look up into the skies and see the beauty of the world, and know that while we may not be able to show exactly what these

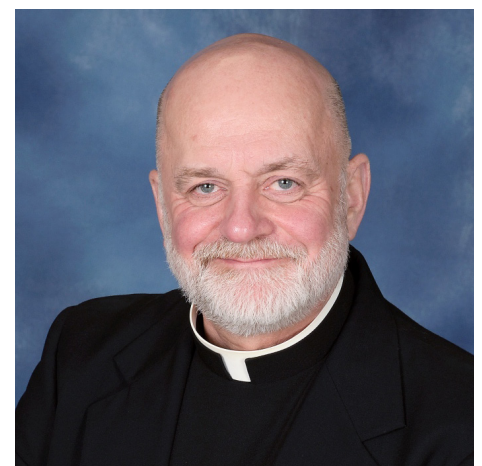


stirrings are all about, we do know that God is calling us to trust and to grow closer to Him.

This is what Epiphany is about: a journey – an event – that changes one’s understanding about life and faith. God speaks to us in whispers and in gentle movements, signs the world does not understand. Like the Magi, we too, are being called by God. May each of us have the courage to go deeper in our relationship, knowing that throughout it all, God accompanies us on our journey, walking with us side-by-side. Just as the Star of Bethlehem guided the Magi, may we also continue to be guided by Jesus, the Light of the World.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish

Begin Fresh Every Day



It's been said that how you start your day will define your day. Now, I don't truly believe this entirely, but I do think that as Catholics, we have a responsibility to ourselves and, more importantly, to our Lord to give those first moments to Him and start our day with sincere, grateful intention.

Several weeks ago I was putting some laundry in my sons' rooms and I noticed two pieces of paper taped to the side of one of their desks, with words colorfully written, that said, "Begin fresh every day, as if just starting out for the very first time. – Saint Anthony the Great." The second piece of paper read, "Lord, help me have a positive effect on everyone around me." The desk is positioned directly next to his bed, so as he wakes in the morning, this is one of the first things he sees. I walked out of that bedroom with a smile on my face and thinking, "Now, that is an intentional way to start your day!"

Our boys don't have any electronic devices in their bedrooms, but you know who does? I do! And man, I use that technology right upon waking.

More often than not, as soon as my alarm goes off, I pick up my phone and pay attention to the notifications that I've received over night. I noticed this habit a long time ago and I'm working on it. But instead of breaking the habit by removing my phone from my nightstand, I'm simply changing the habit. Now, upon waking, I immediately say, "Thank you Jesus," then I pick up my phone. But instead of looking at emails, texts, or social media right away, I open the Magnificat app and read that day's Gospel reading. Depending on the day and time, I'll also read the prayers and meditations provided. For me, immediately drawing my attention to Jesus and the Gospel is the perfect way to kick off the morning.

Perhaps you're thinking, "Jen, one (or more) of my precious children has usurped my alarm clock's job, and I don't have time to read the Gospel before I have to take care of said precious child." I hear you, and as you sleepily trudge to the nursery, I invite you to offer the day to the Lord in this simple way, "Oh God, I offer you

this day. All I think, do, or say. Uniting it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ your son. Amen." This is the morning offering I taught the boys when they were all littler because it's easy to remember due to its poetic nature.

So whether you tape something to your nightstand, read the day's Gospel, or do a quick morning offering, I invite you to join me (and keep me accountable) in giving those very first moments of your day to the Lord. Happy New Year! ♦



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

What is an angel?

When you think of angels, what comes to mind? Perhaps halos and wings, white robes and harps, innocence and beauty. My mind quickly jumps to my young daughter's sweet face. I often find myself calling her "my angel," an expression we seem to use most often either towards children or those who have saved us in some way: "You're an angel! You arrived just as my car died!"

But what truly is an angel? To begin our exploration, let us consider the opening line of the Nicene Creed: "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of *all things visible and invisible*." The Church has long believed that there is more to the universe than we can see with our eyes.

In fact, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the existence of angels "a truth of faith." It declares, "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition." (CCC 328) There are numerous stories throughout the Scriptures of the angels acting among men. The Catechism shares, "They closed the earthly paradise; protected Lot; saved Hagar and her child; stayed Abraham's hand; communicated the law by their ministry; led the People of God; announced births and callings; and assisted the prophets...Finally, the angel Gabriel announced the birth of the Precursor and that of Jesus

himself." (CCC 332) Based on these examples and others, the Church has always held to belief in these unseen creatures.

But we still have not addressed the true nature of these angels. As Saint Augustine so eloquently said, "'Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'... from what they are, 'spirit,' from what they do, 'angel.'" (CCC 329) The Catechism tells us about these spirits saying, "With their whole beings, the angels are servants and messengers of God...As purely spiritual creatures, angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures." (CCC 329-330) Even with these explanations, we cannot fully conceive what these creatures are like. Perhaps this is why we came up with the white robes and harps!

Even knowing that angels exist, this reality can feel distant to us. We live in the visible, tangible world so what does it matter if there are spirits we cannot see? But the Catechism tells us, "The whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of angels... From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession." (CCC 334, 336) As Catholics, we have adopted the phrase "guardian angels" to refer to the following belief declared by the Catechism: "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." (CCC 336) In this life, we will never know the full influence of the

angels all around us. Who knows how often they act on our behalf!

The information above essentially concludes Catholic dogma regarding angels ("dogma" is truth revealed by God which the Church has declared binding). However, there is a rich theological history around the study of different "types" of angels. You've probably heard of some of them! Tradition and the Scriptures have led scholars to acknowledge the "nine choirs of angels," who are then further broken into three levels.

The first and highest level contains the seraphim, cherubim, and thrones. The second holds the dominations, virtues, and powers. The final and lowest group contains the principalities, archangels, and angels. Each category of angels has certain qualities and responsibilities attributed to them for the sake of the Kingdom. There is a wealth of information available online if you are interested in learning more about the classifications of the angels! ♦



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

Have questions about another topic within Catholicism?
Send them anytime to parish@christthekingnh.org.



The Winding Journey

Jeff and Brenda Litchfield share their path through annulment to the grace of sacramental marriage

Jeff and Brenda Litchfield's lives have been a winding journey – a journey that brought them both to God and to one another. At times, their path included hardships like divorce and delayed annulments, but it also included spiritual awakenings and the finding of a new family. Through it all and now more than ever, they see the importance of marriage and the grace that comes from a marriage in the Church.

As a child growing up in New Jersey, Jeff saw religion as a means to an end. The end, in this case, being sports. "I guess I was technically raised Presbyterian," he says. "The only reason I attended church in my middle school years was to play on the church basketball team." Faith was a distant concept to him, if he ever thought about it at all. "I didn't know anybody – peers or family members – who had a faith," Jeff recalls. "I didn't

even know anybody who went to church."

Brenda, despite being born into a large Catholic family in Manchester, New Hampshire, had more or less the same experience. As a child, she does not remember seeing faith demonstrated by her parents, other than weekly church attendance. "There was very little outward expression to what was really deep faith for both of them," Brenda explains. Only much later in life did she learn that both her parents served at their church in many different capacities. Despite that fact, faith was never discussed. As a result, she stopped attending church in her young adulthood. "I kind of fell away in my later years," Brenda admits.

Despite the fact that religion was not a priority, when the time came for marriage, both ended up getting married in the Catholic Church – Jeff to a Catholic woman whom he met in high school and Brenda to a man whom she knew from her hometown. Since Jeff thought it was important for a married couple to agree on religion, he went through RCIA, though his heart was not in it. "I was just checking the box," he says. Similarly, Brenda and her husband did not practice faithfully, nor did they know any who did. "We knew nothing about our faith. My friends knew nothing," Brenda says. "The world spoke so much louder than my parents ever did." For both Brenda and Jeff, it was not until after their respective divorces that religion began to take a bigger part in their lives.

Brenda was the first to come back to the faith of her childhood. Now single with one young son, Brenda began a path of spiritual awakening. "I had a lot of beautiful single years," she recalls. "It was a time of healing and going to church. I prayed a lot." Initially, Brenda thought she would never marry again. However, she was

inspired to pray for the man who might become her new husband. Eventually God answered her prayers through Jeff.

Jeff and Brenda had become aware of one another through the running community in Manchester and Jeff was prepared to pursue her – even literally. He remembers when he first asked Brenda out on a date, while running with a friend in Manchester. “One day I’m running up Elm Street in one direction and Brenda was running down in the opposite direction,” Jeff says, “And I told my friend, ‘I’ll see you later,’ and I crossed the street, ran back with her, and asked her out.” From there, everything seemed to fall into place. Within six months, they were engaged and married within ten. “We just knew,” Brenda says.

Jeff and Brenda were married in a small civil ceremony in 2002. Marriage in the Catholic Church had not even occurred to them. However, Brenda was still committed to learning more about Catholicism, and soon she learned Jeff was as well. On the Sunday after their wedding, Brenda got in the car to go to Mass and found Jeff was right there beside her. “When he got into the car, I looked at him and said, ‘This can’t be something you do for me,’” Brenda recalls. “He just said, ‘I want us to be together on this.’” And they were.

As they learned to live as a blended family with four boys, Jeff and Brenda were also learning what it was to live as Catholics – getting involved with youth ministry and even teaching religious education. It was during this time that the priest at St. Theresa Parish in Henniker, where they were attending at the time, learned of their circumstances and urged them to start the annulment process.

Annulment is sometimes mistakenly considered the “Catholic version of divorce.” According to the United States Conference of

Catholic Bishops, “What is often referred to as a ‘marriage annulment’ in the Church is actually a declaration by a Church tribunal (a Catholic Church court) that a marriage thought to be valid according to Church law actually fell short of at least one of the essential elements required for a binding union.” (usccb.org)

Jeff and Brenda were eager to start the process. While the typical annulment can take anywhere between 6-18 months, their process took much longer. Lost paperwork, deferred communication with ex-spouses, and a number of different life circumstances delayed the outcome. “We gave up for a bit,” Jeff admits. Eventually through perseverance and determination, they were finally able to move forward.

Far from bringing back painful memories, the annulment process allowed them to take a good look at their previous relationships. One thing they both wanted to do, out of respect, was to explain the process to their ex-spouses. “We wanted them to understand that it didn’t deny their marriage and it didn’t deny their children. All those rumors, all those myths, we had to

cut through those,” Brenda says. Jeff adds, “It was healing. I realized more about my first marriage than I previously had.”

And so, in 2016 at Christ the King Parish, 10 years after they started the process and 14 years to the day of their legal marriage, Jeff and Brenda were finally able to enter into a sacramental marriage through a convalidation ceremony.

Even despite all the setbacks and delays, Jeff and Brenda say they would have gone through it again, because the change has been noticeable in their marriage. “It’s been incredible. There’s such a difference to get married in the church,” Brenda says. “I never would have suspected what it has done to our marriage. There is such a sense of grace.” Jeff adds, “We’ve always been close, but it brought us closer.”

For those who might find themselves in a similar position, Brenda urges them to start the process. “I would encourage everyone to pursue it – no matter how long it takes,” Brenda says. “I can’t believe the journey we’ve been on. But to be married in the church is powerful.” ♦





Serving God

Night Prayer

by Joe LaChance

O my dear God, bless me on this night and keep me safe within your holy hands. May your holy angels guard me with their love. Amen.



By Michael Clark | Photography by Will Judd

For 46 years, Joe Lachance has been a faithful altar server at Sunday Mass. He began altar serving at the age of 18 at Sacred Heart Parish, and has continued ever since. Over those years, he has rarely been absent and has built a longstanding reputation for being faithful, reliable, and reverent in his duties.

Joe's favorite duties as an altar server include carrying the cross and lighting the candles. Joe's spiritual life is very rich and includes daily prayer. Often, when he prays, he makes use of prayers that he thought of himself and wrote down so that he could remember them. Joe's favorite saints are Saint John the Baptist, Saint Joseph, and Saint Francis of

Assisi. In fact, one of his favorite prayers is the *Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi*, the prayer in which we ask God to make us instruments of his peace. "I know it by heart," he says.

Joe is also an avid fan of movies and many of the films he likes are religious in nature. One of Joe's favorite movies, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, is about Saint Francis. Other favorites include *The Ten Commandments*, *The Nativity Story*, and *The Robe*. Additionally, Joe also enjoys the comic books about Saint Francis and Saint John Paul II, which were published by Marvel Comics.

When asked, "What was the most meaningful part about serving as an altar server?" Joe

answers, "God!" Joe is a strong witness to us all that no matter who we are or what specific work we are doing in our lives or for the Church, service to God needs to be front and center at all times. Keeping God in focus throughout the days and years and serving him faithfully, as Joe has, is, of course, very challenging. However, Joe has some very good advice for how this can be accomplished: "Say your prayers." ♦

JANUARY 2023

January 4: Adoration

Come for an hour of adoration every Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 pm in the church. All are welcome!

January 6: Epiphany



The Journey of the Three Kings, by Kupelwieser

Many families will celebrate Epiphany with an opportunity to bless their homes in the New Year by taking the first two numbers of the year, adding the letters CMB - to honor the three Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar - and then adding the last two numbers of the year and displaying this sign over the top of the door of their home: 20+C+M+B+23.

January 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 month, we will discuss “We Dare to Say - Part 2: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer.” For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

January 7: Women’s Ministry Coffee Connect

The Women’s Ministry will be launching our Winter Bible Study: Reclaiming Friendship with a Coffee Connect Saturday, January 7, at 9:30 am in the Parish Activity Center including a fun regifting swap. Silly, crazy gifts are

welcome for more fun! For more information and to register, please email ctkwwp20@gmail.com

January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

January 17: Alpha

Got questions about life? Alpha meets every Tuesday evening for 12 weeks. All are welcome to attend and no questions are off the table. Join us for a meal and conversation! For more information, please visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.



January 17: Youth Alpha

Explore the basics of faith with other teens in a relaxed way – faith, fun, food, and friends. Youth Alpha is for all teens including those with no Christian or church background and also those with a lot of experience. The winter session will meet on Tuesdays for 10 weeks. Register at christthekingnh.org/alpha.



January 20: Rediscover the Mass

Join us from January through June, on one Friday night a month, 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 as they share their experience of the Mass. The evening will end with a reception and refreshments in the Parish Activity Center. Join us, beginning on Friday, January 20, from 6:30-8:00pm, and rediscover the Mass.

FEBRUARY 2023

February 3 & 5: Emmaus

This month, we will discuss “Our Heart’s Resolve: Expressions of Prayer.” For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

February 20: President’s Day

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

February 22: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday 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. This is **not** a holy day of obligation. Mass and distribution of ashes will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

February 24: Fridays in Lent

During Fridays in Lent, we are asked to abstain from meat. “From the first century, the day of the crucifixion has been traditionally observed as a day of abstaining from flesh meat to honor Christ who sacrificed his flesh on a Friday.” (*Catholic Source Book*)

February 24: Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the church at 5:30 pm every Friday during Lent.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 7 & 8:
Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

January 14 & 15:
Maintenance (Parish)

January 21 & 22:
no special collection

January 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

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

Deacon:

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



Beauty
We capture your family's authentic beauty

15% off family portrait session fee with this ad


charlene graham
PHOTOGRAPHY
charlenegramphotography.com
603.608.2295



NEW HAMPSHIRE
print&mail

Reliable • Dependable • Local

Call or email us today!

30 Terrill Park Dr
Concord, NH 03301
www.nhprintmail.com

p: 603.226.4300
e: info@nhprintmail.com



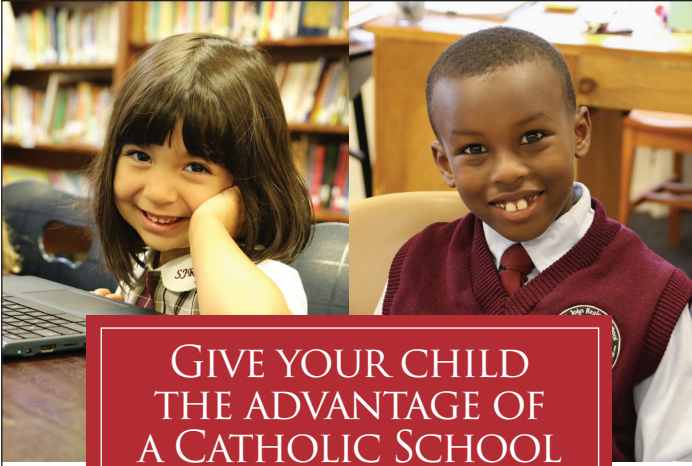

WILLIAM JUDD PHOTOGRAPHY
A wedding and portrait photographer serving Northern New England

 williamjuddphotography.com 
will@williamjuddphotography.com 

MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	11/13/22	11/20/22	11/27/22	12/4/22
Offertory	\$7,775.00	\$15,559.62	\$11,062.76	\$11,243.00
Online	\$10,962.86	\$6,370.49	\$8,100.70	\$4,901.26
Total	\$18,737.86	\$21,930.11	\$19,163.46	\$16,144.26

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**.



**GIVE YOUR CHILD
THE ADVANTAGE OF
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL
EDUCATION**

We offer an educational experience for Pre-K through Grade 8 that instills a love of learning and builds a strong foundation for a lifetime of academic success. To learn more or schedule a tour, call 603-225-3222.



ST. JOHN REGIONAL SCHOOL
Generation after Generation...Since 1888

61 South State Street, Concord NH · stjohregional.org

CENTURY 21
Circa 72, Inc.
46 Pleasant St | Concord, NH
Stephen DeStefano, President
603-224-3377, Ext. 16
603-496-3674 (cell)
*Each office is independently
owned and operated*

**THE FLORIST AT
COLE
GARDENS**

Flowers help express your feelings
430 Loudon Rd, Concord | 603.229.0655 | colegardens.com

DESIGN-BUILD • CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT • GENERAL CONTRACTING

JH SPAIN
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

40 Years of Building/Renovating
the Concord Community
(603) 224-8583 • jhspain.com
189 North Main St., Ste. 101 • Concord, NH

**Christ the King
Parish Directory**

You are invited to be
included in the
**Fall 2023
Parish Directory**

Photos taken by
professional
photographers in
January-May 2023
Pets welcome!

To sign up for your
photo session, visit
**christthekingnh.org/
directory**



*We Love Taking
Care of Kids®*



DR. ROGER ACHONG



DR. PATRICK CAPOZZI



DR. DANIELLE HINTON



DR. ELLIOT CHIU



DR. MICHAEL CAPOZZI

16 FOUNDRY STREET, SUITE #101
CONCORD, NH 03301

603-224-3339

CONCORD PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
The Pediatric Dental Specialists

*Parishioners of Christ
the King Parish*



Gary R. Paquette

Senior Vice President/Investments



Gregory Kerr

Assistant Branch Manager

Stocks | Bonds | Mutual Funds | Insurance | Annuities
CDs | UITs | ETFs | Managed Accounts

(603) 526-8130
276 Newport Road, Suite 104
New London, New Hampshire 03257

STIFEL

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated | Member SIPC & NYSE | www.stifel.com



DIAMOND+
TOP 1%
INVISALIGN PROVIDER
2022

Children, Teen & ADULT Orthodontics
Invisalign DIAMOND
Provider

603-333-2538



Concord
orthodontics™

DR LYNNETTE NYBERG, DMD, MSD
The Orthodontic and Invisalign Specialist
16 Foundry Street, Suite 202, Concord, NH
www.concordorthodontics.net