

PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 12

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The Traveling Catholic

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"Let's see what we can do together!"

COME ALIVE

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A Future With Hope

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Dear Friends,

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. On this day, the apostles of Jesus received an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that gave them the courage to continue spreading the Good News of the Resurrection and making disciples in His name. This is the same mission given to each of us today and we have access to that same Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is portrayed in a number of ways, but two of the most common depictions are of a dove or a flame. These images can seem incompatible. The dove is a delicate symbol, one we often use for peace, while fire is powerful and destructive. However, both of these capture a part of who the Holy Spirit is. The Spirit is the gentle voice of God guiding you through life. But the Spirit is also powerful and can change your life when you encounter it.

Once, when I was in seminary graduate studies, I was stressed out preparing for a major exam so I went to the chapel to pray. After this, I went to the student lounge for a cup of tea where a couple of my classmates invited me to join

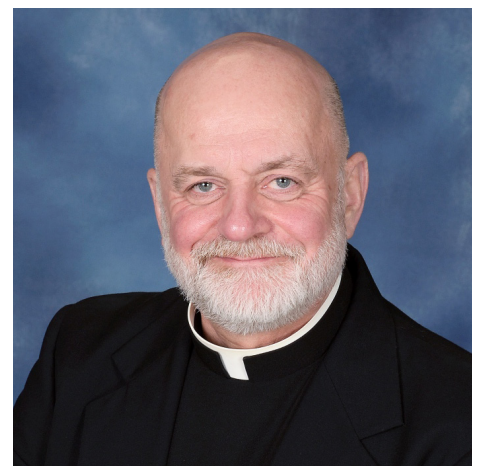
them in prayer. As we prayed, one of my classmates began to speak in tongues (one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit). It sounded like Aramaic or Hebrew and I had no idea what he was saying. Another classmate then began to interpret (another gift of the Holy Spirit) and he said, "Do not fear, trust in me, I am your wisdom and strength." I was overwhelmed with peace. Just recalling that moment brings forth emotions of gratitude and joy. What an awesome God!

Many of our parishioners have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit through Alpha. Our cover story this month highlights the transformational experience that an Alpha course can be. As always, we invite everyone to participate in Alpha. You can encounter the same community and love that Michael Patten did. Whatever might be holding you back, I encourage you to let go of. When we are open to God's grace, He can do powerful things in our lives. Often we are afraid to let go because we want to feel like we are in control, but Holy Spirit-God knows exactly what we need and what He wants for us and from us.

Finally, I'd like to welcome our new Director of Parish Life, Cynthia Tokos. I'm excited to have Cynthia join our parish staff. She comes with fresh eyes and ears and filled with enthusiasm to help us grow and thrive as a community of faith. As we enter the summer months, may we at Christ the King experience a renewed outpouring of the Spirit like the apostles on the day of Pentecost!

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor at Christ the King Parish

The Traveling Catholic

“Wow! That’s from her big toe?!” exclaimed one of my boys as we looked upon a piece of bone – a first class relic – from the big toe of Saint Faustina Kowalska at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The word “relic” comes from the Latin word *reliquiae* – meaning “remains.” From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have revered the physical remains and personal possessions of saints who lived exemplary lives of holiness or suffered and died for their faith.

It was February vacation and the week that Lent would begin. I wanted to do something special with the boys during vacation, but also something that kept our faith at the center, especially because the Lenten Season was upon us. So, we explored LEGOLAND, visited some of our very best friends, and then spent a couple days at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy, where we went to confession and attended Mass on Ash Wednesday. We prayed through the life-size Stations of the Cross on the shrine’s grounds and visited some of the smaller chapels there too.

Now that summer is upon us,

many of us will be taking vacations that bring us out of the state and out of our regular routines. As Catholics, no matter where we are or what we’re doing, Sunday Mass remains top priority, an obligation even, but really it’s a privilege (this is the Eucharist after all!).

Before devoting myself to the faith, my Mass attendance was poor. When traveling, I didn’t even think of going to Mass. Once I realized the life-changing importance of our faith, missing Mass quickly became out of the question. Google makes it easy to find a Catholic church at or near your vacation destination (or try masstimes.org). As a matter of fact, as I write this, I am on vacation, sitting on New Smyrna Beach in Florida having just gone to Sunday Mass with my family at the local Catholic church, Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Even when our travels don’t fall on a Sunday, we still really enjoy visiting Catholic churches or shrines in other areas. A shrine is a bit different from a church; a shrine is a place regarded as holy because of its associations with a sacred person or relic. We treat

it almost like visiting a museum (just with a lot more reverence). It’s fun to see the different church architecture, statues, art, altar and tabernacle design and, of course, spend some time in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It’s a really beautiful reminder of how we are all united as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

So, the next time you’re planning a trip, be sure to include a visit to the Catholic church nearby. Who knows, you might even find yourself looking upon the big toe of a famous saint! ♦



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

What is the Church's role in politics?

It is no secret that these are politically strenuous times. While discussing politics has always been a sensitive matter, sometimes frowned upon or even feared, the unique challenges of the past few years seem to have exacerbated this. In my life, several political conversations over the past few months have brought forth the question: What role does the Church play in politics? Or, perhaps, how involved should the Church be in the political world? As we have done before, we will be turning to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to search for Church teaching on this matter.

The Catechism clearly states, "The Church, because of her commission and competence, is not to be confused in any way with the political community." (CCC 2245) The Church and any government are fundamentally different, serving different purposes in the world. The Church exists to spread the Gospel, the Good News of salvation found in Jesus Christ, in word and deed. However, there are times when this "commission" will require the Church to come face to face with politics. The Catechism continues saying, "It is a part of the Church's mission 'to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it.'" (CCC 2246) And here we find the key point the Catechism makes about the role of the Church in politics: The Church must become involved whenever the dignity of the human person is called into question.

Obviously, this statement itself leads to a great deal more questions about different political topics, but instead of addressing those, I would like to ask a question of you. Who or what was the "Church" that came to mind when you thought about "the Church's role in politics?" Was it the pope? Perhaps your bishop? Maybe even the local church? However, one of the most powerful definitions of the word "Church" is the community of believers, meaning you and me. So perhaps we should be asking ourselves, what is our role as Catholics in politics?

"[Christians] reside in their own nations, but as resident aliens. They participate in all things as citizens and endure all things as foreigners...They obey the established laws and their way of life surpasses the laws," the Catechism poetically states. (CCC 2240) In political matters, Catholics must remember that we are Christians first and citizens second. Our identity and our values first come from our faith in God and our allegiance lies with Him.

From there, the Catechism does hold a few important instructions regarding the duties of Catholics as citizens. We are instructed to respect and collaborate with civil authorities for the good of society. Sometimes this will mean, "voicing just criticisms of that which seems harmful to the dignity of persons and to the good of the community." (CCC 2238) And it is clearly stated that "the citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities

when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel." (CCC 2242)

A few specifics are provided as the Catechism continues, telling us: "Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country." (CCC 2240) In this statement, we are reminded of the words of our Lord Jesus. This question we explore is not new. In fact, it is the same question that was used by the Pharisees to try to trap Jesus as they asked him if it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor. His famous response followed, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 12:17) His wisdom rings true even still. We are citizens of Heaven before any country or state and it is with prayer and discernment that we as the Church navigate our role in politics. ♦



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King



A Future With Hope

Michael Patten reflects on his journey from homelessness to stability

by Michael Clark | Photography by Will Judd

At the Last Supper, Jesus declared to his disciples, “Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other.” (John 13:34) This Scripture passage emphasizes the importance of community in Christian life and of the great love that we are called to have for one another. Michael Patten has experienced that love through the Christ the King Parish community.

After many years of loneliness

and hardship, Michael happened upon the parish’s Alpha program. “I used to do a lot of walking at night,” he says, “and I happened to walk by the church and I saw the sign in the foyer that Alpha was going to be starting up.” Upon seeing the sign, Michael recalled a conversation he had with Jack Eberth, a parishioner at Christ the King, during which Jack recommended Alpha to him. At that time, Michael had been unable

to attend Alpha because of his work schedule. This time around, however, he was able to go and decided to give it a try. “I called and signed up,” he says.

Michael’s experience of Alpha was full of joy, friendship, and healing. “When I first went, I didn’t know what to expect,” he says, “but I really enjoyed it. It taught me a lot.” However, even more profound for him than the lessons, was the experience of community he encountered in the program.

The years prior had been very difficult for him. “I was homeless for quite a while,” he says. During that period of homelessness, he experienced very little kindness from others. This made the experience of community at Alpha all the more dramatic. “It taught me to believe in people again,” says Michael. “I had pretty much given up on myself,” but that changed when he realized, “I’ve got people who actually care for me.” He was overcome by his realization of a simple fact: “People actually love me.”

The love that Michael encountered at Alpha was deep and genuine. Jack Eberth recalls that Michael missed two Alpha sessions, and “each time, I was chewed out by the rest of the group for not making sure that he was there,” he laughs. The love and support shown to Michael did not just occur within the planned Alpha sessions. “As a matter of fact,” Michael says, “they even found out it was my birthday. So they surprised me and had a cake and everything! No one had wished me a happy birthday in 20 years.”

Michael’s appreciation for the friendships he made is so powerful because of all the difficulty that he had experienced before then. “I just can’t thank everybody enough,” he says, “I’m back in a family.” Along with the trials of the previous years had come a sense

that he could not forgive himself, but he found healing through his Alpha experience. “I put myself through the wringer,” he says, “and this got me out of that. I can actually forgive myself now.”

“I had given up on myself. This community and program have given me a reason to actually try to do the right thing again.”

The benefits Michael received from finding community at Alpha have extended beyond the walls of the Parish Activity Center. When Michael went to Alpha, he was in a period of unemployment. “I was unemployed for two years,” he says. Because of the connections he made at Alpha, he was able to get a job through an Alpha graduate. His hard work and dedication to his job has earned him the recognition and respect of his manager and his co-workers. On one occasion, Michael’s manager called all of the employees together to acknowledge Michael’s work ethic and praise him for his good performance. With steady work, Michael has been able to find housing.

Michael made another life changing decision at this time: he started attending regular AA

meetings again to deal with an alcohol addiction he has struggled with for many years. “I’m going back because I went to Alpha,” he says. “I had given up on myself. This community and program have given me a reason to actually try to do the right thing again.”

When reflecting on these transformative experiences, Michael is filled with thankfulness for the friendships he has made and the love that has been shown to him. Particularly, he expresses gratitude for the help and friendship of the Alpha team members, participants, and Father Rich. Michael feels that he has reached the end of a very rough period in his life and now looks forward to the future with hope.

In the fall, Michael is excited to begin the process of becoming Catholic. He will participate in RCIA classes and hopes to receive the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist – at the Easter Vigil.

Recently, Michael went to dinner at a Chinese restaurant with Jack and Susan Eberth. After the meal was over, their table was served some fortune cookies. They were all surprised by just how fitting the message was that Michael found within his cookie: *Any rough times are behind you*. “The Holy Ghost is at this Chinese restaurant!” Jack declared.

Welcome to the parish community, Michael! ♦





“Let’s see what we can do together!”

By Emily Planchet | Photography by Will Judd

While Cynthia Tokos’ path to Christ the King as the new Director of Parish Life could not be called predictable, anyone who hears it will see that it is marked by one constant: her faith in God. “I have a deep desire to serve God and a deep love of God,” she explains. It is this love, instilled in her by her parents, grandmother, and cousin, combined with a strength that comes from her proud eastern

European heritage that continues to shape her life.

Brought up in Johnson City, New York, Cynthia holds a special nostalgia for her Catholic school days, even though she spent her later education at public institutions. She first had dreams of becoming a lawyer, but soon decided her path lay in politics. “I felt like I could make a difference,” she explains. After over a decade

in the field, however, she found herself yearning for a change. After a solo trip to Paris, she came back and did the next logical thing: “I decided I was going to lead bicycle tours,” she says with a laugh.

The four-month job leading groups of cyclists through Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, though unconventional, did have one major impact. “In politics, I was more hands-off,” she explains, “but bike-leading showed me that I wanted to be hands-on.” And hands-on she became. After her bike position ended she started a community building and marketing business. Then Cynthia sensed a familiar nudge from God. “I felt this pull that I needed to be more out in the world,” she says. So, she packed her bags and made the move from Northern Vermont to New Hampshire.

In New Hampshire she worked on many different projects, including taking courses on elder care and spirituality, as well as gaining her certificate to become a spiritual director. Still, all throughout this time she knew God was leading her not to just another position, but a place where she could develop a deeper relationship with Him. After a few years of searching, she found the Christ the King Parish job posting.

As Director of Parish Life, “I’m here to support Father Rich, the staff, and the ministry leaders. Let’s see what we can do together!” Cynthia says. “Success for me would be to get to know people, to become part of this community, and to let the Holy Spirit work through me.

“I’d also love to journey with a group of parishioners on the *Camino de Santiago* in Spain. This pilgrimage would be a chance to walk the Way of Saint James and deepen our relationship with each other and God.” ♦

JUNE 2022

June 5: Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter and concludes the Easter Season. On this day we celebrate the beginning of the Church. "Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the Upper Room... The Holy Spirit also gave the apostles the other gifts and fruits necessary to fulfill the great commission - to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations." (Catholic News Agency)

June 19: Corpus Christi Procession

Please join us on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, June 19, for adoration and a procession. Adoration will begin after the 11:00 am Mass. The procession will then leave the church and proceed up Main Street to the State House and proceed back to the church. Light refreshments will be available afterward in the Parish Activity Center.

June 23-25: Market Days

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

JULY 2022

July 2-3: Mission Co-op

This weekend, Father Walter Gaudreau of the Marist Fathers will be speaking at and celebrating all of the weekend Masses. He will speak on the work of the Marist Fathers.

July 4: Independence Day

The parish office will be closed today in observance of Independence Day.

AUGUST 2022



by Juan Martin Cabezalero

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) Because this holy day is on a Monday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 12:10 pm today.

JOIN US ANYTIME

Adoration

Come for an hour of adoration every Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 pm in the church. All are welcome! Come for a few minutes or stay for the whole hour.

Coffee Hour

A Coffee Hour is available after the 9:00 am Mass every Sunday. Come join us for coffee, pastries, and fellowship in the Parish Activity Center!

Men's Ministry

All men are welcome to come together for coffee and

conversation. We meet in Barry Hall on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. For more information, email menofctk@gmail.com.

Miraculous Medal Novena

Join us every Monday night at 5:45 pm in the church for the Miraculous Medal Novena. All are welcome!

Potluck Dinners

We have a Potluck Dinner after the 5:30 pm Mass every Thursday. Please join us for this time of fellowship in Barry Hall.

Woman's Ministry

Women of all ages are welcome to participate in book studies, Bible studies, and a walking group. Mission: To help every woman open her heart and grow closer to Jesus Christ. For more information, email ctkwwp20@gmail.com.

Young Adult Ministry

Christ the King Young Adult Ministry is for those in their 20s and 30s looking to explore the Catholic faith in fellowship with their peers. Contact Andrew Judd at ajudd92@gmail.com for more information.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

June 4 & 5:

Food Pantry (Parish)

June 11 & 12:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

June 18 & 19:

Maintenance (Parish)

June 25 & 26:

Peter's Pence/Works of the Holy Father (National)

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Weekend Masses

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

Weekday Masses

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

Reconciliation Times

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

Pastor

Father Rich Roberge
frrich@christthekingnh.org

Deacon

Deacon Winton DeRosia
deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

Director of Parish Life

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Facilitator of Community

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Parish Secretary

Kathy Planchet
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MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	4/17/22	4/24/22	5/1/22	5/8/22
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Online	\$7,015	\$8,523	\$8,308	\$6,889.17
Total	\$19,257	\$18,444	\$23,195	\$15,016.17

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



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