

# PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

MAY 2022 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 11

## MINISTRY PROFILE

Bringing the Faith to Main Street

## COME ALIVE

Why can't women be Catholic priests?

## CATHOLIC CUE

OMG!

*Rediscovering Jay*

Julie Perkins describes how her son's journey strengthened her faith

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*Dear Friends,*

Happy Easter! While the Easter Season is comprised of just 50 days, we carry the spirit of Resurrection in our hearts all year long. In the words of Saint Pope John Paul II, "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!" I know that many of you have experienced loss in the past several years. It has been a time marked by unexpected challenges. But Easter reminds us of the hope of Resurrection. Not only is there hope of life beyond death, but there is hope in a God who raises his people to new life each day.

My hope for you this Easter Season is that it might be a time of resurrection or resurgence for your relationship with God. Throughout the season of Lent, we explored the theme of Cultivating ACTS – Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Just as cultivating the earth allows it to be more fruitful and bring forth the beautiful flowers of spring, as we incorporate these practices into our prayer lives, we see the fruit of a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Julie Perkins shares her story

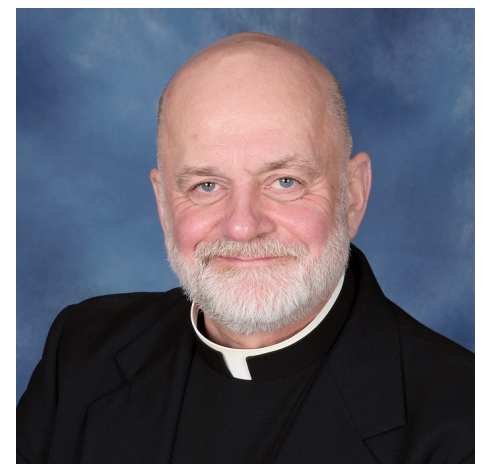
with us this month, a resurrection of faith inspired by her son Jacob. Many times I have seen kids inspire the faith of their parents and even bring them back to church! Children can have the most incredible thirst for faith. They are often drawn to the sacraments and ask their parents if they can be baptized or receive first communion. Some, like Jacob, seek involvement in the community, becoming altar servers or filling other roles. The witness of these children brings to light why, in the Gospel of Matthew, our Lord says, "Truly I say to you, unless you change and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

And just as these children witness to their parents, we are reminded of our call to be missionary disciples and to take the hope of the Resurrection to others. At Christ the King Parish, we are always working to increase our community engagement. This month's *Ministry Profile* features our Market Days Ministry. Our parish is proud to have had a booth at the Concord festival for the last six years. Also, over 100

parishioners will be participating in the Rock N' Race this month as a part of the first ever Christ the King team. As the Church, we cannot simply stay confined in our pews. We must go out and be a part of the broader community. To be the Easter people, we must reflect the women at the tomb of Jesus who, upon learning of the Resurrection, ran forth declaring to all who would listen, "Our Lord has risen!"

Yours in Christ,

*Father Rich*



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor at Christ the King Parish



A few weeks ago while the boys were climbing in the car after their day at school, Cooper, my oldest, asked, “Mom, do we have any little bottles of holy water?” I looked at him, my face distorted as if to say, “What kind of question is that, of course we do!” Cooper answered, “Well, I mean, can I have a bottle to bring with me to school?” “Oh!” I exclaimed, “of course!”

A slight look of worry with a hint of mischief crossed Cooper’s face as he said, “Some of my friends use the Lord’s name in vain a lot and I don’t like that. I’m not sure how to kindly tell them not to, so I was just going to give them a little splash of holy water any time they said it.” Cue the laughter from all the brothers and then their own requests for holy water. But then they all chimed in with some form of, “Yeah, a lot of my friends say ‘Oh my G-O-D’, too.” (They all spelled it out so as not to say it.) Harry has apparently been telling classmates that using the Lord’s name in such a way is like swearing. He’s right!

Now, don’t get me wrong, prior to really engaging in my faith, I used “Oh my God,” without ever giving it a second thought. But as my faith deepened, something

didn’t seem right about using the Lord’s name in such a flippant way. Then, it clicked! I’m going against the second commandment! “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it perfectly, “Respect for his name is an expression of the respect owed to the mystery of God himself and to the whole sacred reality it evokes.” (CCC 2144) His name is holy and sacred and must be treated as such.

Anyway, after the giggling and heightened discussion of holy-water-assaults subsided, I called everyone back to the original request. “Cooper,” I said, while trying to stifle my laughter and this strange sense of pride, “I love that you want to stand up *in* and *for* the name of our Lord, but dude, you can’t weaponize holy water!” I laughed as those words left my lips. “You have to be careful in your defense of the faith. If you hear someone using the Lord’s name with disrespect, lead first with humility, love, and a sense of humor. Be mindful of your tone of voice, your facial expression and your body language. But if you don’t feel comfortable with saying anything, you can make the Sign

of the Cross to yourself and offer a prayer for the person.”

For me, it took work to drop the habit of using the Lord’s name in vain. It can roll off the tongue so easily, right?! Especially when it seems everyone around us uses it. But I kindly invite you, if you use “Oh my God” casually, to put that habit to rest. As we continue to celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection this Easter Season, let’s not assault anyone with holy water, but let us all remember, truly, how much power is in the name of Jesus, the Name of all names. Let us praise Him! ♦



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

# Why can't women be Catholic priests?

Our question this month is perhaps the one I am most frequently asked by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. And in truth, this has always been a difficult topic for me to speak to. I find the terse answers typically given in response to this query to be somewhat unsatisfying. “Jesus only chose men.” “The Church has only ever had male priests.” “Women can have other roles in the Church.” None of these responses, regardless of their accuracy, truly scratch the itch that this question raises in my heart as a Catholic woman. But as with all questions of our faith, let us strive to enter this exploration with an open heart and with sensitivity to this emotionally charged topic.

In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, there is section regarding who can receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders, and, therefore, become a Catholic priest. The Catechism reads, “Only a baptized man validly receives sacred ordination. The Lord Jesus chose men to form the college of the twelve apostles, and the apostles did the same when they chose collaborators to succeed them in their ministry. The college of bishops, with whom the priests are united in the priesthood, makes the college of the Twelve an ever-present and ever-active reality until Christ’s return. The Church recognizes herself to be bound by this choice made by the Lord himself. For this reason the ordination of women is not possible.” (CCC 1577)

In response to this declaration, I have often heard it said that

Jesus only chose men because of the cultural norms of His time and that He would have done things differently if He had come into today’s world. While there are bits of truth in this rebuttal, there are two serious concerns.

First, do we truly believe that Jesus was controlled by the societal norms of his time? Do any of his actions demonstrate that reality? Consider the Samaritans, outcasts shunned by the Jewish people. Yet, Jesus ministered to the Samaritan woman and used a Samaritan as the protagonist in his tale of neighborly love.

Secondly, to make the above claim that Jesus would do things differently now implies that Jesus is not alive and active today. As Catholics, we believe that the Church is and has always been guided by the Holy Spirit – including in its teaching and practice of the exclusive ordination of men.

Continuing, we believe that an ordained priest acts *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ. The Catechism tells us, “In the ecclesial service of the ordained minister, it is Christ himself who is present to his Church as Head of his Body, Shepherd of his flock.” (CCC 1548) This is why priests are able to celebrate Mass and forgive sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our priests stand in the place of Christ, who, while God, was also a human man.

It is possible to take our question a step further and ask why Jesus came to earth as a man to begin with. But the answer, and ultimately this whole matter,

comes down to trust. Trust in the Church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit and trust in God’s plan.

In my opinion one of the reasons this question is so prevalent and this topic finds its way under our skin is because it raises fundamental questions about our identity as men and women. Women need to know that our Church and more so, our God, do not see them as less than or inadequate.

The Catholic Church is not one that diminishes or puts down women. The Scripture teaches that God created us male and female, both in the image and likeness of God. The Catechism tells us, “God gives man and woman an *equal* personal dignity.” (CCC 2334) Our Church has a rich, beautiful lineage of female saints from all backgrounds culminating in our Blessed Mother. With Mary as the Mother of the Church, we trust that she guides holy men and women to find their place in serving the Kingdom. ♦



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King



# Rediscovering Joy

by Michael Clark | Photography by Charlene Graham

Catholics who drift away from practicing their faith often find great joy upon returning to their roots. Julie Perkins had just this kind of experience. “Growing up,” she says, “I attended Mass on Sunday and completed my religious education classes as other Catholic kids did. When I was in high school, though, I really got involved with my faith. A group of us, one of these individuals now being my husband, started a youth group at our church. Sunday became my favorite day of the week because it was a day that I spent with my friends honoring God.” Her faith would remain a part of her life in the years that followed, but she experienced a challenge to practicing her faith when her first son, Jacob, came along.

“When I was about eight months pregnant with Jacob, I found it physically hard to go to church.” Although she stopped attending

Mass, Julie says, “I didn’t stop praying, I didn’t stop believing, there was no anger, there was no resentment.” The difficulty with attending Mass continued after Jacob was born. Like many parents, she experienced anxiety about bringing a newborn to Mass. From there, “it kind of became a habit – not going to Sunday Mass. I became what my family calls a ‘C and E Catholic,’” she says meaning she only attended Mass on Christmas and Easter Sunday.

Soon Jacob was ready to begin preparing for the Sacraments of Penance, First Communion, and Confirmation. “When he hit this point of his religious education, I knew that in order to continue along that path, attending Mass on Sundays was something we were going to need to do again. So, we started attending weekly.”

Around this time, the family moved from Auburn to Bow and

rejoined Christ the King Parish. Among the programs Julie encountered at Christ the King was Emmaus, the parish’s faith formation program. “One of the things I love about this parish is Emmaus,” she says. “I absolutely loved the fact that I had the ability to become acquainted again with the basics, while Jacob, at the same time, was also learning the faith.”

Julie was very impressed with the welcome extended by Emmaus to the whole community. “At Emmaus, parishioners are gathering as families, even those who don’t have kids in religious education. Emmaus was the best welcome to the parish,” she says.

Julie found great joy in meeting other parishioners of diverse age groups and walks of life. “I was overjoyed to be able to share my experiences with people my own age and those younger than me, as well as learn from those who

were older than me.” The Emmaus experience brought back memories of her involvement in the Church when she was younger: “It felt like I was in youth group again.”

Along with the educational and communal aspects of parish life that they encountered at Emmaus, the Perkins also found opportunities for greater involvement. Jacob, after having received the sacraments, decided that he wanted to become an altar server. The initial motivation for this decision came when public Masses resumed after a temporary hold due to Covid-19. At this time, there was assigned seating at Mass so that social distancing could be properly maintained in the church.

“We were occasionally assigned to the balcony,” says Julie. “Jacob loved being up high and getting that overview of the church. Once assigned seating was done, Jacob kept asking if we could sit in the balcony so that is where we sat. He was able to watch the altar servers in action and wanted to become one.” Jacob’s experience as an altar server has been a very positive one for him. “Being an altar server is fun, because you hold the candles

and get to sometimes ring the bells,” he says.

Aside from his service at the altar, Jacob and his mother are also volunteer at the Christ the King Food Pantry. Jacob is a special part of their team. “He, to my knowledge, is probably the youngest person they have volunteering there. Greeting visitors is a big part of the work he does. He’s had a lot of great conversations with individuals who are there,” says Julie. “He’ll welcome them when they come in.” Jacob also provides help with locating sought after items within the food pantry. If a visitor is looking for some item in particular, he’ll run and get it.

Returning to a regular practice of her faith has motivated Julie to reflect upon the reasons why she stopped going to church to begin with. Although children are always welcome, Julie, like many parents, feared that her young ones would cause a distraction for other parishioners. She feels this common concern is the primary reason she drifted away. “I received some guidance on this concern during a virtual Emmaus session

at which we broached the topic about bringing kids to church,” Julie says. The facilitator of the session was Jen Albee, Christ the King Parish’s Coordinator of Young Disciples. “In response to the concerns about bringing kids to church, Jen described how the majority of people enjoy seeing little kids come to church because they know that the next generation is being exposed to the Catholic faith,” Julie says.

Though Julie’s concerns about bringing her young child to Mass kept her from attending for a time, ultimately it was her son Jacob who helped her rediscover the joy of being involved in her parish community – through weekly Mass, faith formation, and service. Her story is one to which so many parents can relate. As Julie reflects on her experiences, she no longer fears bringing her younger son, Alex, to Mass with her. “My hope,” she says, “is that the majority of parishioners will find joy in watching me teach him the signs and gestures that we forget that we once needed to be taught too.” ♦



48th Annual

# MARKET DAYS FESTIVAL

## Bringing the Faith to Main Street

By Emily Planchet

There is nothing quite like Concord Market Days. This three-day summer festival is all about celebrating the Concord community. Food, laughter, and music are everywhere you turn. Booths for businesses, vendors, and nonprofits line Main Street, inviting passersby to take a closer look. All in all, it's the perfect opportunity for a parish to engage with the community. And so, in 2016, when Christ the King was looking for volunteers to serve in its booth, Susan Stevens stepped up.

Susan's role as a volunteer in the Christ the King booth at Market Days was simple enough: spend a couple of hours chatting with people who pass by, offering them a book or a pamphlet, answering questions, or even extending an invitation to attend Alpha or Mass. During her first time volunteering, Susan discovered that many were more than willing to speak to her, provided she engaged them first. "It's amazing how people want to tell you their story," she says, "I

quickly found out that everyone has a similar question: Is there a God?"

Though it may seem a little intimidating at first, Susan has found that the positive atmosphere of Market Days seems to bring everyone together. One of her favorite things about volunteering is being able to interact with so many people – friends, acquaintances, and even complete strangers – in such a fun setting. "You really feel the community," she says. "Everybody's in a great mood." The conversations she has are always enlightening. Even when conversing with those of different faiths (or no faith at all) she finds there is always common ground. "I met people who are different religions," she says. "One thing I learned from Market Days is that we all say, 'Peace be with you.'"

Susan feels her role as a volunteer at Market Days does make an impact. "I give them a different opinion of the Church. I tell them, 'Since the church

accepts me, they take anybody,'" she laughs. Just by respectfully listening to others and sharing her own experiences, Susan hopes they may take away a different view of Catholics. "I go to Market Days and they realize I'm just a regular person trying to make it in this world," she says.

When asked about the necessary characteristics of a Market Days volunteer, Susan doesn't have a long list. The most successful are those willing to be authentically themselves, while also being able to listen without judgement. It may seem that it takes a special kind of person, but Susan says with a laugh, "I want people to think, 'If she can do it, anybody can do it.'"



**Come join us at Market Days this year on June 23-25!**

To volunteer at the parish booth, please contact Sarah Fraser at [safjff@comcast.net](mailto:safjff@comcast.net) or call the parish office, 603.224.2328.



**MAY 2022**

**May 2: Miraculous Medal**

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

**May 2: Young Adult Group**

This spring, our Young Adult Ministry is diving into Bishop Barron's *Pivotal Players!* The group will be meeting on Mondays from 6:00-8:00 pm in the IHM Room of Barry Hall. Dinner will be provided. Contact Andrew Judd at [ajudd92@gmail.com](mailto:ajudd92@gmail.com) for more information.

**May 3: Women's Ministry Bible Study**

The Women's Ministry is offering a spring Bible Study: Harmony. Harmony is a five-lesson Bible study that helps you get a grip on your life by looking at the importance of authenticity, setting priorities, managing expectations, and having healthy relationships. We'll meet in small groups from May 3-June 10 with your choice of in-person small groups on Tuesday at 6:30 pm or Fridays at 1:00 pm both in the IHM Room or Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. For more information, email [ctkwwp20@gmail.com](mailto:ctkwwp20@gmail.com).

**May 4: 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.

**May 4: Children's Choir**

This choir is open to children in grades three and above. The choir sings several times throughout the year for Masses and special occasions. The Children's Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm, through the school year, in

Barry Hall. For more information, please contact Michelle Dokka, Director of Music Ministry, at [michelled@christthekingnh.org](mailto:michelled@christthekingnh.org) or 603.224.2328.

**May 5: Potluck Dinners**

We have a Potluck Dinner after the 5:30 pm Mass every Thursday. Please join us for this time of fellowship in the IHM Room of Barry Hall (the building behind the church). If you have any questions, please email Caroline Judd at [Cjudd35@gmail.com](mailto:Cjudd35@gmail.com).

**May 5: Jam Sessions**

For those interested in singing or learning a musical instrument. We meet on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in Barry Hall. For more information, email Greg Malette, [regalmalette@gmail.com](mailto:regalmalette@gmail.com). We welcome musicians young and old, no experience necessary. We will set goals each week to practice and learn songs.

**May 5: Parish Choir**

The parish choir meets every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm. All are invited to attend (musicians as well). The choir will sing every weekend at Mass. For more information, contact Michelle Dokka at [michelled@christthekingnh.org](mailto:michelled@christthekingnh.org) or 603.224.2328.

**May 8: 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!

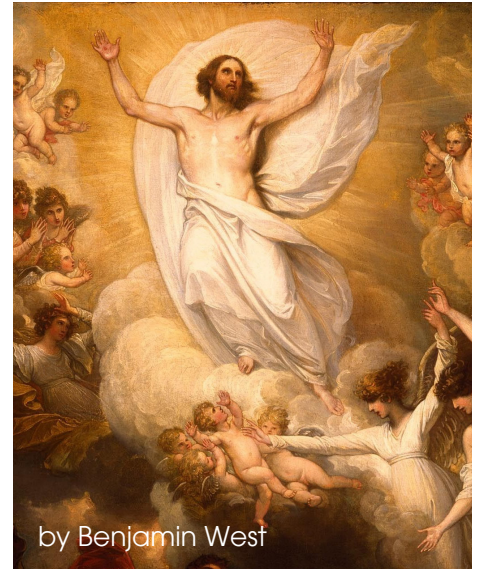
**May 14: Men's Ministry**

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, contact Ken Roth at [menofctk@gmail.com](mailto:menofctk@gmail.com).

**May 19: Rock 'N Race**

Come be part of the Christ the King Parish team at this year's Rock 'N Race held on Thursday, May 19! There are three options: 5K Run, 5K Walk, or 1 Mile Walk. To register visit [runsignup.com/Race/NH/Concord/RockNRace](http://runsignup.com/Race/NH/Concord/RockNRace).

**May 26: Ascension of the Lord**



Today we celebrate the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection. This is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

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### Weekday Masses

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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](mailto:frrich@christthekingnh.org)

### Deacon

Deacon Winton DeRosia  
[deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org](mailto:deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org)

### Director of Parish Life

Cynthia Tokos  
[cynthia@christthekingnh.org](mailto:cynthia@christthekingnh.org)

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Liz Geary  
[liz@christthekingnh.org](mailto:liz@christthekingnh.org)

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Charlie Burr  
[charlie@christthekingnh.org](mailto:charlie@christthekingnh.org)

### Communications

**Coordinator**  
Sarah Jane Roth  
[sarahjane@christthekingnh.org](mailto:sarahjane@christthekingnh.org)

### Coordinator of Adult

**Discipleship**  
Haley Judd  
[haley@christthekingnh.org](mailto:haley@christthekingnh.org)

### Coordinator of Young

**Disciples**  
Jen Albee  
[jen@christthekingnh.org](mailto:jen@christthekingnh.org)

### Director of Music Ministry

Michelle Dokka  
[michelled@christthekingnh.org](mailto:michelled@christthekingnh.org)

### Facilitator of Community

**Engagement**  
Jeff Litchfield  
[jeff@christthekingnh.org](mailto:jeff@christthekingnh.org)

### Parish Secretary

Kathy Planchet  
[kathy@christthekingnh.org](mailto:kathy@christthekingnh.org)

## MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	3/20/22	3/27/22	4/3/22	4/10/22
<b>Offertory</b>	\$8,238	\$8,686	\$10,363	\$10,460
<b>Online</b>	\$6,664	\$5,350	\$5,893	\$5,975
<b>Total</b>	\$14,902	\$14,036	\$16,256	\$16,435

### SACRIFICIAL GIVING

For more information on the parish's online giving program, visit [christthekingnh.org/give](http://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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