

PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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STAFF PROFILE

Work of the People

COME ALIVE

What does it mean that the Bible is inspired by God?

CATHOLIC CUE

Surrender to God

A Holy Walk

Beth Gaby shares her story of becoming involved in the pro-life movement

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RESPECT

Life

Dear Friends,

Life is a continuum from birth until death when God calls us home. Imagine God coming to *you*, sharing your life and accompanying *you*. That has happened and is happening every day.

Two thousand years ago, God came and shared our humanity. Things have never been the same since. We were given a dignity in Creation by this same Lord who loved us enough to become man. From the moment of conception, God has a plan for our lives. Whether it be the miracle of birth, childhood tragedies, meeting our future spouse, sickness, addiction, job fulfillment, aging, disabilities – the continuum of life – God allows all this to be. God has a plan to be with us and accompany us. The beauty is that God reveals himself in the joy of life and in our brokenness.

When I was in seminary, I used to run. One day while I was running, I was struggling with a

question on this topic from class. All of a sudden, I received great clarity. “What if all the struggles, pain and suffering we have on this side, what if when we die, we see them as perfection?”

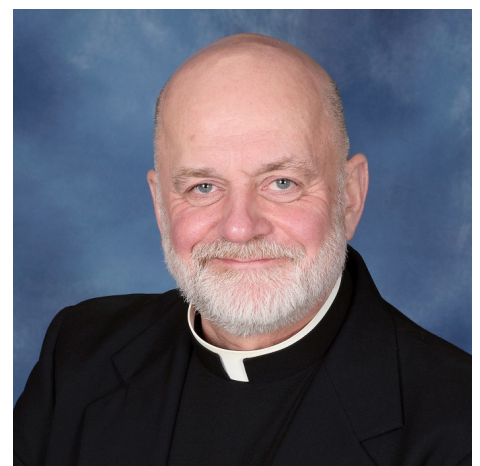
I once heard an interview with Stephen Colbert, host of *The Late Show*, where he shared that when he was 10 years old, he lost his father and two brothers in a plane crash. Colbert was raised in a Catholic family and turned to his faith to help make sense of the tragedy. Faith helped form his perspective about loss. Although Colbert is a comedian and not a theologian, he has words of wisdom for us. He said, “I love the things that I most wish had not happened.” Colbert also said, “We’re asked to accept the world that God gives us and to accept it with love. If God is everywhere and God is in everything, then the world as it is, is all just an expression of God and his love, and you have to accept it with gratitude.”

This month of the year is

dedicated to promoting the dignity of all human life. We as disciples of Jesus must defend the sanctity of life, from the moment of conception to natural death, during each moment of life from the sorrowful to the joyful. We are called to pray and persuade others to safeguard life at all its stages this month and always!

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish



Surrender to God

October is Respect Life Month, and so, to honor that, my column is a little different this time. Let's go back in time to meet a younger me...

Sitting on the edge of my boyfriend's bed in his Boston apartment, I was shaking my head, whispering "No." I was 24 years old, unmarried, uninsured, and staring down at a positive pregnancy test. Through watery eyes, I looked up and asked my boyfriend, Andrew, "What are we going to do?" His tears reflected mine, as he unwaveringly answered, "We're having a baby." His declaration was so strong and confident and there was a profound sense of warmth, security and reassurance in his four words. I was convinced in that moment that everything was going to be okay.

But that night, I tossed and turned. No longer was I convinced everything would be okay and

I spent the night researching abortions. By dawn, I had made up my mind. "I can't do this, I'm not ready for a baby," I said to Andrew when he woke. He was calm and listened attentively to all my reasons for not being able to have this baby.

When I finished, Andrew said, "Let's go to Mass tonight." I looked at him quizzically. He had invited me to go to Mass so many times, and every time I declined. It was actually a source of contention for us. This time was different though; if there was ever a time that I needed some church-y stuff, this was it. I agreed to go.

A great peace swept over me as I stepped into Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church in Boston's Back Bay. Every Catholic who has fallen away and then returns always says this, but it *really did* feel like coming home. I grabbed a bulletin, genuflected, and Andrew and I knelt to pray.

After our prayer before Mass, we sat back and I opened the bulletin. I was flabbergasted by the words that stared back at me. Among the parish announcements was this life-changing message: "Choose Life! Regardless of how a child is conceived, God has a plan for their life."

As Christians, we are called to surrender ourselves to the will of God. I don't know about you, but oftentimes it's hard for me to discern what is or isn't the will of God. But the moment that I read that bulletin, I knew God was calling me to surrender to His will. He was calling me to go out into the deep and completely trust in His son, Jesus.

Last month, that baby that I "just couldn't have" turned 13. (Happy Birthday, Coop!) Cooper changed everything I knew about life and about trusting God. He, working in tandem with the Holy Spirit and Andrew, brought me back to this Church that I have come to love so much and I am beyond grateful for that.

So, what is it in your life that God is calling you to surrender to Him? Is it something huge, like your child's life? Or something smaller, like choosing to be humble during an argument? Whatever it is, surrender it all to Him. His plan for your life is greater than your plan and He will not fail you. ♦



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

What does it mean that the Bible is inspired by God?

Welcome back! Last month, we began our first ever *Come Alive* series exploring some basic questions about the Bible. We started by asking the question: Where did the Bible come from? From there, we discussed Ezra's compilation of the Old Testament. We considered the early Church's need to establish official New Testament writings and the Council of Carthage's approval of this canon through five critical criteria. In many ways, all this answered last month's question, but you may be thinking, "Isn't there a deeper level?" After all, we do call the Scriptures "the Word of God." There has to be more at play than simply the organization of man!

In Saint Paul's second letter to Timothy, he writes, "All Scripture is inspired by God." (2 Timothy 3:16) Other translations interpret this line as, "All Scripture is God-breathed." But what does this mean? If we know the authors and we know the compilers, what role did God play in establishing the Bible? The answer to this question can be explored through what is called "inspiration theory." There are three differing ideologies which provide answers to this question. Most likely, without even thinking about it, you have fallen into one of these three understandings of inspiration.

The first ideology is called "mechanical inspiration." In this framework, human authors wrote the Scripture directly as they heard it from God. There

were no options and there was no involvement on the author's part regarding the content of the text. Now, this theory has a basic problem given the many stylistic differences between authors in the Bible. Consider *Proclaim*: you may be able to tell who wrote what in this magazine simply by our way of writing. If mechanical inspiration took place, you would think all books of the Bible would sound the same.

Continuing on, the second option is called "dynamic inspiration." Here, God simply uses human writing. He was not involved in the process, but uses what mankind has created to inspire us.

"God inspired the human authors of the sacred books."

The third and final alternative is called "organic inspiration." This theory is all about a partnership between man and God, wherein God utilizes the talents and skills of man, where He uniquely prepares each author for their writings, but where these authors are free and bring their own mind

and heart to their text. Organic inspiration is what the Catholic Church professes. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "God inspired the human authors of the sacred books. 'To compose the sacred books, God chose certain men who, all the while he employed them in this task, made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever he wanted written, and no more.'" (CCC 106)

While it is good for us to know the history and evolution of the Bible we have today, as discussed last month, we must never forget that, in the words of our Catechism, "God is the author of Sacred Scripture. 'The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.'" (CCC 105) There is more than simply the actions of mankind at play in developing our Bible because the Bible is not just another book, but the Word of God. ♦



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

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

A Holy Walk

Beth Gaby shares her story of becoming involved in the pro-life movement

by Michael Clark | Photography by Charlene Graham

A belief in the sacredness of all human life from conception until natural death is central to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Because of the controversy and strong emotions that surround this topic, many Catholics understandably see the issue of the sanctity of life through a political lens. However, a commitment to the sanctity of life ultimately transcends politics and can be a guiding light in every aspect of how we live if we take it seriously.

Beth Gaby has been involved in the pro-life movement for many years. “I think that everybody should study the Sanctity of Life as it is not reserved only for ‘pro-life’ people,” she says. “My goal is to show just how wide ranging and universal are the implications of a belief in the sanctity of life. The sanctity of life is a holy walk.” From her perspective, a pro-

life philosophy, far from being something that divides us, should be a uniting force. “It entails a deep belief in the dignity of all people as well as a recognition of our shared humanity, given that being pro-life is about rising above the walls, because this is about Jesus,” she says. “A commitment to the sanctity of life should unite us because God supersedes all of the walls.” These are principles that not only motivate her pro-life work, but have, in one way or another, been a part of her life and faith journey.

“I was raised Catholic. I did the whole catechism thing, but I didn’t understand much about my faith at all,” she says. She never felt any antipathy for the faith, it was simply something that didn’t figure prominently in her mind throughout her youth. “I always had a good relationship with the Church,” she recalls. “I just didn’t

think about it too much and if there was something that came up that didn’t make sense to me I was just like, ‘Oh well, I’m not really that Catholic.’” This would change when she and her husband began to have children.

Since her husband is Jewish, Beth knew that eventually their children would become curious about the differences between their parents’ respective traditions and she wanted to be ready with answers. This set her on a course of learning about the faith and discovering its richness and beauty. “I started reading about the faith and it really hooked me,” she says. “I just delved in more and more, and I have continued ever since.”

Speaking of her journey to a closer relationship with God, Beth credits the help and guidance of Our Lady. “Mary has had a very big impact on me.” Her devotion

to Mary has had a major effect both on her faith and how it is lived out. “One time I said, ‘Okay Mary, I work for you,’” she recalls. It turned out that Mary was happy to take her up on this. “It was from that moment when I said those words, I can literally see that she took me at my word and I immediately started going down a very fruitful path. Mary gets the job done!” Beth says with a smile.

A major part of that fruitful path has been Beth’s work with 40 Days for Life, an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful vigils. “I jumped feet first into that ministry,” she says. “This little thought said to me, ‘I think Mary would like this in Concord.’ And I thought to myself, ‘Who’s going to do that?’” She knew upon asking this question that Mary was listening and gently anticipating her response. In 2017, Beth signed up to bring 40 Days for Life back to Concord.

Another critical part of Beth’s life that has greatly influenced and complemented her pro-life commitments is her career as a homebirth midwife. This work has given her a great deal of insight, as well as a confidence, to boldly witness to the deep truths regarding the value of life. “As a midwife, I feel like Jesus has given me a place of authority to talk about the sanctity of life,” she says. “I deal with the baby before it’s born, and all of the things that go into early pregnancy and beyond into babyhood. My profession and Pro-life activities have dovetailed into who Jesus wants me to be on this earth.”

Beth is motivated by a belief that the sanctity of life is a truth that can never be fully suppressed. “It’s not ever going to go away, because there is a Truth about it, and it’s

a capital ‘T’ Truth. It’s like if you cover the earth with pavement, there will eventually be a crack, and grass will inevitably grow up through the crack in the pavement. In the same way, the Truth of the sanctity of life will keep rearing its head.”

Throughout the course of her pro-life work, Beth has had to face many challenges. “I have been on the verge of quitting several times,” she says, “because it’s not an easy ministry and it can get very muddy when people throw politics in.”

Beth recalls receiving a renewed sense of strength and commitment when at one point. “I asked myself, ‘Do I really care enough about this ministry to put myself out there like that?’” Surprisingly, the answer she arrived at was, “No, I don’t think I really care enough.” However, God had his own input into the question. “Right then I realized that it doesn’t matter whether I care enough. It was bigger than me. God would give me what I need to care. God would give me His heart.” ♦

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES Respect life volunteers uphold that each individual has intrinsic wholeness and dignity from conception to natural death. Using prayer as a foundation, volunteers affirm this value in the community emphasizing peace, compassion, and nonpolitical activism, which includes participation in 40 Days for Life. For more information, email Beth Gaby at concord40dfl@gmail.com.





Work of the People

By Emily Planchet | Photography by Will Judd

What is liturgy? One definition describes as public worship, a work of both Christ and the Church. For Catholics, liturgy is often synonymous with the Mass. Many of us are guilty of becoming desensitized to the Mass – going through the motions, with our minds wandering – but for the parish’s Liturgical Coordinator, Gus Planchet, liturgy, and all that it entails, means so much more.

Coming from a devout Catholic family, the Mass was very much a part of Gus’ childhood faith. He fondly remembers playing “priest” as a child – shaping hosts from pieces of bread and dressing up in a makeshift chasuble (the vestment a priest wears). Of course, while pretending was always fun, Gus admits that reality was not always that way. “When I was a child, I broke up the Mass into parts,” he says, “the stand up, the big sit down, the kneel-stand-kneel, and the go-home.”

When he became an altar server at the age of seven, Gus knew he had to become more attentive. Even so, it was not until years later,

when he was in his late teens, that he really gained an understanding and greater appreciation for the Mass. This was prompted by the pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Concord who took the time to explain the parts of the Mass and what they meant. This new knowledge deepened his faith and compelled him to teach this information to others. “Once you begin to understand, the little pieces all come together and then you see the great beauty of what it is,” he explains, “and you want to share that with people.”

Gus spent the next years of his life involved in one ministry or another – RCIA, Eucharistic Minister, altar server coordinator, and sacristan – but he always kept a special love of the Mass. Then, in 2019, he was asked to become the Liturgical Coordinator for Christ the King Parish.

As Liturgical Coordinator, Gus oversees and supports all the ministries associated with the liturgy. He works with the readers and the extraordinary ministers, but also the greeters and ushers, the

cleaners, the environment team, and even the Recording Ministry volunteers. Gus helps them work through problems, answers their questions, and prays with them. And this work has shown itself to be a two-way street; Gus is continually inspired by those he serves. “By seeing these amazing people that I work with and their journeys, I realize that if I’m to assist them, I need to become closer to the Lord,” Gus says.

In the end, Gus does what he does in the hopes that Catholics will begin to more deeply appreciate the Mass. “I want people to grasp hold of what’s going on and see the mind-boggling event that it is,” he says. There are so many wonderful volunteers at Christ the King who contribute to the celebration of the Mass, culminating in the Eucharist, the source and summit of Christian Life. “Liturgy literally means ‘the work of the people,’” Gus explains. “It’s the liturgy that brings people together. Bringing people closer to the Lord: that’s our mission, and that’s what we’ve been designed to do.” ♦

OCTOBER 2022

October 5: Adoration

Please join us 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.

October 7 & 9: 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. We share a meal, enjoy time as a whole community, and then divide for age-appropriate lessons on the same topic. This year's topic is "A Surge of the Heart: Understanding Prayer." This month, we will discuss "Prayer in Salvation History." For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

October 10: Columbus Day

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

NOVEMBER 2021

November 1: All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. This is a holy day of obligation and Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

November 2: All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. Consider using the provided All Souls' Day envelope to add your prayer intentions. These intentions will be prayed for throughout the year.

November 4 & 6: 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 "The Fullness of Time: Jesus and Prayer." For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

November 11: Veterans Day

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

November 20: Solemnity of Christ the King



"He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.'" (*Quas primas*, 33)

November 24: Thanksgiving

Mass will be offered today at 9:00 am. "We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus your Son who came to our Earth and lived in a simple home. We have a greater appreciation of the value and

dignity of the human family because he loved and was loved within its shelter. Bless us this day; may we grow in love for each other in our family and so give thanks to you who are the maker of all human families and our abiding peace." (*The Catholic Prayer Book*)

November 24 & 25: Thanksgiving Break

The parish office will be closed for a Thanksgiving break.

November 27: Advent Begins

"Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!" (Pope Francis)

DECEMBER 2021

December 2 & 4: 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 1: Exploring the Lord's Prayer." For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

October 1 & 2:

Food Pantry (Parish)

October 8 & 9:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

October 15 & 16:

Maintenance (Parish)

October 22 & 23:

no special collection

October 29 & 30:

no special collection

CONTACT INFO



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Deacon:

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Emmaus 2022-2023

**A Surge of
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OCTOBER 7 & 9

A Surge of the Heart: Prayer in Salvation History

NOVEMBER 4 & 6

In Fullness of Time: Jesus and Prayer

DECEMBER 2 & 4

We Dare to Say - Part 1: Exploring the Lord's Prayer

JANUARY 6 & 8

We Dare to Say - Part 2: Exploring the Lord's Prayer

FEBRUARY 3 & 5

Our Heart's Resolve: Expressions of Prayer

MARCH 3 & 5

In the Age of the Church: The Tradition of Prayer

MARCH 31 & APRIL 2

The Battle: Guidance in Prayer

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