

# PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 3

## MINISTRY PROFILE

Singing Their Faith

## COME ALIVE

Where did the Bible come from?

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Hands and Feet

# My Greatest Hope

Tyler Simms shares his experience of raising his children in the faith



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## Dear Friends,

In the latter part of July, seven members from Christ the King Parish, attended the Divine Renovation Conference in Dallas, Texas. Spending this time with learning about the process of parish renewal helped me realize how far we have come here in our own community!

We have been a Divine Renovation Parish for over six years! In 2016, we joined an international network of parishes committed to renewal in the Church. This renewal is based on the book *Divine Renovation* by Father James Mallon and the model that he developed as pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The goal is to move from “maintenance to mission.” While we continue to maintain and care for the flock, we must be outward focused, invitational, welcoming, and bringing others to Jesus.

We are a strong, vibrant commu-

nity with over 40 active ministries serving people within and outside of our church walls. Our parish vision is to “bring people to Jesus, to form disciples and send them out to transform our world.” We do this by focusing on the seven key tenets of our Plan for Renewal:

- Worship
- Being an Invitational Church
- Alpha
- Leadership Development
- Connect/Fellowship Groups
- Discipleship Groups
- Ministry

There is always room for growth and our parish is no exception. If you have not had the chance to attend Alpha or Emmaus, give it a try this year. If you have been holding back extending an invitation to Mass, now is the time. Get involved at the parish in a way that utilizes your talents and passions. Listen to the voice of God calling you to renew your own faith. Parish renewal is no small task. Yet if our church and our faith is to thrive, there is

no other way. And it starts with one person at a time.

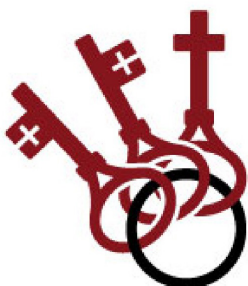
Being at this conference with over 550 people, 140 of them brother priests, with everyone sharing the same goal of revitalizing our parish communities, was nothing short of remarkable. To feel the presence of the Holy Spirit amongst our team as we worshipped together at Mass was powerful and moving. To know that this, and more, continues to be possible in our own parish community inspires us.

It is my sincere hope that we as a parish community, all of us, may commit ourselves to the call to be disciples of Jesus. Let us be reminded of the gifts we have here at Christ the King. As we move forward into this fall season, remember your commitment to the “Discipleship Challenge” which you made in this spring. Recall what you chose to do to be a more committed follower of Jesus. Let us be mindful of what we **can** do and what we **are** doing, all for the greater love and glory of God!

Yours in Christ,

*Father Rich*

Father Richard Roberge  
Pastor of Christ the King Parish



The logo for Divine Renovation International is a key ring with three keys. The **key ring** represents the **Eucharist** and **Prayer**. The **three keys** represent the principles of Divine Renovation:

1. The Power of the Holy Spirit
2. The Primacy of Evangelization
3. The Best of Leadership



# Hands and Feet

Do you see Christ in your kiddos? As Christians, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ here on earth. I don't know about you, but my hands and feet often fail to live up to that call and I have to look to others for their Christ-like example to lift me up again. But what does it look like when those "others" happen to be our children?

Recently, I got angry. Like, *really* angry at one of my boys. Although what he had done wasn't a terribly nefarious offense, I caught him doing something he definitely shouldn't have been doing. I got in his face, pointed my finger at him and yelled near the top of my lungs. It was awful. I'm embarrassed to share it, but here it is.

I was yelling. And this still, quiet voice in my head kept telling me to stop, that my other boys could hear me, but my anger overtook me. Finally, clarity broke through and I just had to walk. So I did. I walked out of our house and down our driveway to our barn, crying all the way. At this point, I was so angry with *myself* for behaving this way.

After a few minutes, several deep breaths and a lot of self-

deprecating-talk with a dash of prayer, I turned to walk back to the house. Once inside, my son met me at the door and hugged me. Through tears, he kept repeating, "I'm sorry mom, will you forgive me?" Letting a few moments of quiet pass by – just he and I embracing and crying with each other – I answered, "Of course I forgive you, but you need to know that what you did was wrong."

"I know," he said, looking down and sniffing. I gently pulled up his chin – a movement that was in stark contrast to how I just treated him minutes earlier – and through my own tears I said, "You also need to know that the way *I* behaved just now was really wrong, too. My behavior was unacceptable. I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?" Through a quivering lip, he said, "Yes," followed by a tight hug.

The air had cleared a bit and we gathered for our morning prayer. In the middle of it, I asked aloud for the Lord to forgive me and I asked my boys for their forgiveness too. I explained to them that my behavior was unacceptable. "I did not set a good example for you," I said. "I'm embarrassed and ashamed and I'm sorry." Almost

in unison, they said, "We forgive you, mom," and wrapped me in an eight-armed hug. And there He was. Christ in the actions of my children.

So, I invite you to look for Christ in unexpected places, especially in the children that God has given us. My boys are far from perfect (aren't we all?), but man, they teach me so much about Christ's love. That day, my boys showed me unconditional love and endless mercy even when I didn't deserve it. And they did it with no questions asked. It's a glorious thing when your children are the hands and feet of Christ to you. ♦



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King



# Where did the Bible come from?

“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” These immortal words from Saint Jerome often startle my cradle-Catholic ears. There is a stereotype that Catholics do not know our Bible. If we take Saint Jerome’s words to heart, that would mean we also do not know Jesus. But for many of us, the Bible has become a challenging topic, a mysterious book full of controversial and confusing statements. Where are we even to begin in coming to know this book and therefore our Lord?

Here in *Come Alive*, we are beginning our first ever series to tackle some of the basic questions that repeatedly arise regarding the Scriptures. This month, we are considering the origins of the book itself.

The Bible did not just drop out of Heaven. It is instead a beautiful demonstration of how God works in our brokenness and uses human talents to accomplish His will. But before we go further down this road, let’s establish what exactly this thing we call “the Bible” is.

The Bible is made up of two parts called testaments: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is comprised of 46 books, most of which were written in Hebrew and were written in the years prior to the birth of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament contains many different types of books, such as history or poetry, written by many different types of authors, including prophets, kings, and even slaves.

The Old Testament tells the story of the People of God, the Israelites, and the ups and downs of their journey of following God and awaiting the Messiah. These 46 books were collected and arranged in 450 B.C. by Ezra, a priest and scribe. However, even before Ezra, throughout the Old Testament, there are references to “the book” or “the writings,” implying that some of these works were grouped together for use longer than we know.

The New Testament is comprised of 27 books, most of which were written in Greek and were written after the birth of Christ. Once again, there are different types of books including the Gospels, historical books, and many letters. The New Testament tells about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, in addition to the birth of the Church and the spread of Christianity. These books and letters were passed around between communities in the early Church to be shared and studied.

However, during this time, some books and letters were mixed in that were inaccurate or held false teachings. The Church needed to respond and to determine the official “canon” of the New Testament. Athanasius, a theologian and bishop, proposed the list for the New Testament that we have today. Then, the Council of Carthage approved this list in 381 A.D.

There were five essential criteria used in determining which writings would be included in the

New Testament. The first was the date: the book needed to be written during the lifetime of the Apostles and not over 100 years after Jesus. This was so individuals were alive who were present during the events of Jesus’ life and the early Church to challenge anything that might be inaccurate. The second criteria was apostolic connection, meaning written by one of the Apostles of Jesus or close acquaintances, such as Saint Paul. The third and fourth were orthodoxy and theological outlook, meaning the theology within had to be consistent with main Christian communities and other established writings. Lastly, the fifth criteria for consideration was active liturgical usage.

From the leadership of Ezra, Athanasius, and many others, we were given the canon of the Bible, Old and New Testament, that we have today. However, there is still much to unpack in our exploration of the Bible! Join us the next few months as we explore translations, interpretation, and much more! ♦



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

Have questions about another topic within Catholicism? Send them anytime to [parish@christthekingnh.org](mailto:parish@christthekingnh.org).





# My Greatest Hope

by Emily Planchet | Photography by Charlene Graham

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it,” Proverbs says. While it seems a simple instruction, parents know it is anything but. Raising children in the modern age is tough enough. Raising children in the Catholic faith? Well, that’s a feat only accomplished with the help of God. But, if anyone knows the value of striving to raise Catholic children, it’s Tyler Simms.

Tyler’s own faith journey was certainly not smooth. Growing up in Weare, New Hampshire, his father was Catholic but his mother was not. Despite the difference in faiths, Tyler’s parents still took him to church every Sunday. Even after his parents divorced when he was six, his mother continued to bring him to religious education and church on Sundays, even though she was not Catholic herself. “She made a vow to do it, and she kept that promise,” Tyler explains. He also attended St. John’s School

through eighth grade and was impressed by the strong faith of the sisters there.

While Tyler always believed in God, as he got into his teens and twenties, his participation and attendance in church wavered. “I just wasn’t into it,” he explains. Tyler would have periods of trying to get back into church life, but they would soon fizzle. “It’s always been a kind of in-and-out thing for me,” he says. “I wanted to get back to church, but the desire would peter out.”

Even when Tyler married, religion still was not much of a factor in his life. His wife, Cate, whom he had first met in elementary school and then reconnected with in high school, believed in God but was not religious. For the young couple, faith was not something on their radar. “It was not something we really talked about,” Tyler says.

However, that all changed for Tyler when he learned that their

first child was on the way. “I knew that once my wife was pregnant, I needed to find help,” he says. Their children needed something solid to build their lives on and Catholicism was the most solid thing he could think of. “It’s always been a good base for me and I always knew that I wanted that for my kids,” he explains.

The family had recently moved to Concord from Portsmouth and Tyler started attending St. John the Evangelist Church for Mass and reading more about his Catholic faith. “I started going to Mass regularly, and it just became a routine for me,” he says. Eventually, he found a comfort attending Mass and meeting new people at the parish. “It started to feel like home,” Tyler remembers.

In the midst of his own religious reawakening, his first child, Will, was born. Then came Anna, Theo, and finally Violet. As Tyler grew in his faith, he knew that he wanted the sacraments for his children.



His wife, though still not religious, supported him. “She was okay with it. She participated in the baptisms,” he explains. “She knows it’s important to me and she loves me, so she tries to meet in the middle.” While participating in baptism preparation and Mass was important, it was his involvement – and his kids’ involvement – with Emmaus, that really made all the difference.

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“My greatest hope for my kids is that they become who they were meant to be in God’s eyes.”

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Emmaus is Christ the King Parish’s faith formation program for all ages – families, couples, and single people. As his children were required to participate in Emmaus as a part of their sacramental preparation program, Tyler volunteered to be a facilitator and lead table discussions for the adults. Facilitating was definitely out of his comfort zone, but it was the one thing that helped him to learn and become connected to God more than anything else. “Doing it really helped me grow,” he says.

For example, Tyler remembers feeling discouraged after a December Emmaus team meeting for facilitators. “I thought, ‘I don’t know anything about God.’” The next day, acting on a recommendation from a fellow

facilitator, he began listening to Bishop Robert Barron’s Word on Fire videos while painting his upstairs. In one video, Bishop Barron explained the meaning of God’s name “I Am Who Am” – how God is not just a being but Being Itself. Hearing that explanation hit Tyler like a thunderbolt. “It was a truly felt experience where I just started crying and my whole body shook. Maybe I wasn’t properly fumigating,” he says with a laugh, “but I felt the real presence of God.” After that, Tyler began to understand things as he never had before. “Mass became the highlight of my week and not just another obligation to check off.”

Tyler’s two oldest children have now received all their sacraments, and he intends that his two youngest children do the same. He admits that – like many families – it can sometimes be a struggle for his children to want to participate. There is the constant battle of wanting what is best for them while not becoming too forceful. However, Tyler notices that every time his children participate, they always enjoy it. “They all say, ‘That was really fun,’

or ‘That was actually pretty cool,’” when they talk after Emmaus or Mass. Of course, they may forget how much they liked it by the next time! However, Tyler knows bringing his children to Mass is a powerful witness. “Every time we go to church, people are always excited to see us,” he says. The fellowship at Christ the King has also made an impression on his children. “Everybody was saying ‘Hi’ to me and the kids. My kids were surprised and said, ‘Wow, you know everybody!’” he says with a laugh.

Tyler wants his children to be interested and enthusiastic about their faith, but he knows that is not always the case. “Don’t give up. Just keep trying and then leave it up to God,” he encourages. It can be hard to get lost in the day-to-day struggles of living a Christian life with kids, but Tyler knows it is a fight worth fighting. “My greatest hope for my kids is that they become who they were meant to be in God’s eyes. I hope they have a relationship with God and they have it through their entire lives.” ♦







# Singing Their Faith

By Susan Eberth | Photography by Cynthia Tokos

“Studies show that children who sing their faith are not only more likely to continue attending church as adults, but they are also more likely to be in Church leadership,” Michelle Dokka, Director of Music Ministry at Christ the King Parish, shares. “Similarly, adults can hear the same things about faith over and over again, but when they hear it sung by a child, it is as if they never heard it before; and that is the power that only children have. Scripture and faith blend our children’s voices and reach our ears in a way that is unique.”

The parish’s Children’s Choir, which Michelle started in 2021, currently has five members ranging from second to fifth grade. The children are always excited to see each other, they are exceptionally self-motivated, and they love to sing at Mass. Michelle chooses music for them that is fun and works well with the readings of the day. “They know they are doing a

good job and they ask questions about Jesus through the music they are singing,” Michelle says. “Children’s Choir practice is truly the highlight of my week!”

And these children have plenty to say themselves about their experience singing in the choir. “Singing in the choir makes me happy because I get to meet a lot of new people and I enjoy the Mass. I learn the songs and how to sing them and what conductor’s arm movements mean,” Henry (fifth grade) says. Adam (third grade) adds, “*Resucito* is my favorite hymn. I really like the trumpet. I sing and practice and watch the songs on YouTube at home with my mom.” Suzie (fourth grade) chimes in, “We do fun things in choir like going up to the choir loft to practice. It is fun to be up there and singing feels so good.” Peter (third grade) agrees, “Singing in the choir and singing during Mass makes me happy. One of

my favorite hymns is *Lord, Send Out Your Spirit*.” Riley (second grade) adds, “Singing in church makes me feel brave. Singing at the Capital Center stage makes me feel nervous and excited at the same time. Choir is fun because I made friends who I see at church.”

## THE CHILDREN’S CHOIR

is open to all school-aged children. The choir sings several times throughout the year for Mass and special occasions, such as Christmas Eve Mass. Their rehearsals take place throughout the school year on Thursdays from 5:15-6:15 pm beginning on September 22. An added bonus for parents: take a break from dinner planning and stay for the weekly Parish Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm! For more information, contact Michelle Dokka at [michelled@christthekingnh.org](mailto:michelled@christthekingnh.org). ♦



**SEPTEMBER 2022**

**September 5: Labor Day**

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

**September 8: Adult Choir**

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

**September 15: Alpha Launch**

Alpha is for everyone. It is judgment-free. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Whether you are a life-long Catholic, an atheist, a skeptic, or just curious about the Christian faith, you are invited! Alpha will meet for a meal and discussion on Thursdays for 12 weeks. For more information, visit [christthekingnh.org/alpha](http://christthekingnh.org/alpha).



**September 17: Sacramental Preparation Parent's Meeting**

If you have a child in the second grade, they are eligible to receive First Reconciliation. Children in the third grade are eligible to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. There will be a Parents' Meeting on Saturday, September 17, at 9:00 am in the Parish Activity Center. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Albee at [jen@christthekingnh.org](mailto:jen@christthekingnh.org).

**September 21: Handbell Choir**

This is a multi-generational group open to ages 9 to 99. If you can count to four, know your left from your right, and can see in color, you have all the skills you need

to be in this group. The Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm in the choir loft beginning Wednesday, September 21. For more information, please contact Michelle Dokka at [michelled@christthekingnh.org](mailto:michelled@christthekingnh.org).

**September 24: Harvest Bazaar**

Come for fun, fellowship, and fresh air at this year's outside event including a flea market, country store, raffles, baking table, and so much more! For more information, visit [christthekingnh.org/harvest-bazaar](http://christthekingnh.org/harvest-bazaar).

**September 25: Women's Bible Study**

We live in a self-centered culture that all too often leaves us feeling empty and dissatisfied. A fuller view of God and His glory is the perfect antidote, which you will experience in Beholding Your King. CTK Women's Ministry will study King David, select psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets, and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This is a nine-lesson Bible study and will begin the week of September 25. In-person and on Zoom options available. For more information, email [ctkwwp20@gmail.com](mailto:ctkwwp20@gmail.com).

**OCTOBER 2022**

**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,

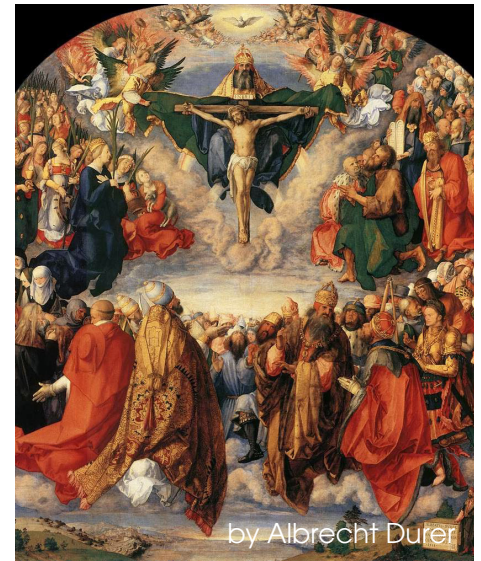
visit [christthekingnh.org/emmaus](http://christthekingnh.org/emmaus).

**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.

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**September 3 & 4:**  
Food Pantry (Parish)

**September 10 & 11:**  
Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

**September 17 & 18:**  
Maintenance (Parish)

**September 24 & 25:**  
no special collection



## CONTACT INFO



### Christ the King Parish

72 South Main Street, Concord, NH 03301  
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### 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](mailto:frrich@christthekingnh.org)

### 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)

### Business Manager:

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### Coordinator of Adult Discipleship:

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### 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)

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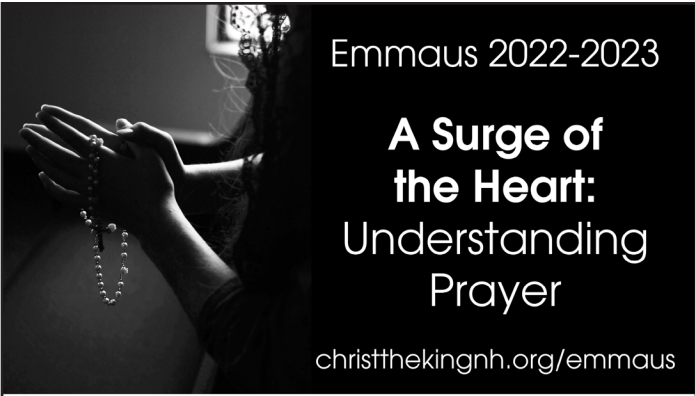
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<b>Offertory</b>	\$8,861.00	\$9,770.00	\$13,136.00	\$8,969.00
<b>Online</b>	\$5,515.52	\$5,217.35	\$6,623.57	\$6,839.82
<b>Total</b>	\$14,376.52	\$14,987.35	\$19,759.57	\$15,808.82

For more information on the parish's online giving program, visit [christthekingnh.org/give](http://christthekingnh.org/give). To request monthly parish envelopes in the mail, call Kathy Planchet, Parish Secretary, in the parish office at **603.224.2328**.





Emmaus 2022-2023

**A Surge of the Heart:  
Understanding Prayer**

[christthekingnh.org/emmaus](http://christthekingnh.org/emmaus)

**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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