CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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CATHOLIC CUE Easter Eggs

COME ALIVE What evidence is there for the Resurrection of Jesus?

MINISTRY PROFILE Growing In Knowledge

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Dear Friends,

He is Risen! He has truly Risen, Alleluia! This festive greeting reminds us of the great joy of the triumph of Jesus Christ over sin and death. Jesus is our life and our salvation and we as Christians are called to embrace Him fully.

There is much joy at Christ the King Parish as we welcomed **20** new members to our family of faith at the Easter Vigil. Hadil Battrawi, Michael Cooper, Mitchell Johnson, and Samantha Cooper are the adults who received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Kimberly Eaton and Isabella Gaby were received into full communion with the Catholic Church, along with Laura Fucella, Tracy Meacock and Daniel Perry who received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Jacques and Tyler Benitez, Emanuela, Kevin, and Tyler Meacock, and Leah and Mia Oviedo are the children who received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Carter and Connor Shaver are the youth who completed their initiation through Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. Also, one infant, Eloise Benitez, was baptized. Please join me in welcoming them and their families and thanking them for their witness of faith!

During the Easter Season, we

have an opportunity to deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of our Christian life, with a **Eucharistic Revival Retreat**. The Sisters of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love will lead the retreat here at our parish on Saturday, April 13, from 8:30 am–2:00 pm. To register for this event, go to **christthekingnh.org/retreat**

Then, beginning Monday, April 22, and continuing through Monday, June 10, Dr. James Beauregard, a member of our parish, will lead a reading group focused on Dietrich von Hildebrand's book, "*The Art of Living*." The book is a series of reflections on life written by Dietrich von Hildebrand and his wife Alice. Dr. Beauregard is an Associated Scholar at the Hildebrand Project. We are so grateful to him to be offering this program for us. You can email Dr. Beauregard if you have questions at drjamesbeauregard@aol.com or you can learn more and register at christthekingnh.org/discipleship-courses.

As we continue to move forward in the hopes of building our new **Food Pantry**, I want to express my sincere gratitude for those who have participated thus far in our campaign. As of writing this, we have raised \$137,000 from fellow parishioners. We will soon be reaching out to the business and professional community, as well as foundations, to reach our goal of \$750,000. No gift is too small or too big. I would ask all of us to prayerfully consider our contribution to this worthy project.

As Saint Teresa of Avila so beautifully tells us, "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours." This has been our work at the food pantry for over 48 years; it will continue to be our work as we move forward. For more information on the food pantry – to see its stories and how you might donate, go to **christthekingfoodpantry.org**

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish

CATHOLIC CUE

The sound of giggles and shrieks of joy burst into the air from the mouths of about 20 children as they all darted around searching for colorful treasure. It was the afternoon of Easter Sunday, Mass had been celebrated, and some friends and family gathered together at our house to celebrate the day of our Lord's Resurrection. At that moment, the majesty and holiness of Jesus defeating sin and death by his resurrection was swept up in an energetic Easter egg hunt.

With Easter being our most high and holy day of the year, isn't it a funny thing to think that ordinary eggs are some of the most notable ways we celebrate this day? Saint Augustine first described Christ's Resurrection from the dead as a chick bursting from an egg, but there are many different fables and stories of how the Easter egg came to be. My favorite tradition is from our Orthodox brothers and sisters who exchange red eggs at the end of their Paschal Liturgy. "Why red?" you might be asking. Let's go back a couple thousand years.

The Roman air felt different as it swept over her. This was not like the air in Magdala. "Nothing was like that air," she thought, "for



Easter Eggs

that is the air my Lord breathed." Goosebumps formed on her dark skin, caused by both the air and her nerves. So much had happened to her over the past few years. She encountered the man named Jesus of Nazareth while she had been tormented by seven demons and he healed her. She then watched her friend and Lord miraculously feed, heal, and love others countless times.

Then, she witnessed His horrible final days. She cried with Him as He was beaten at the pillar and on His agonizing walk to Golgotha. She wept with His mother and their friend John as they watched in horror as Roman soldiers nailed His hands and feet to a cross. And she clung to Jesus' mom and wailed when He took His final breath. But after all that pain, it was she, she to whom Jesus chose to reveal Himself, the day that He rose from the dead. So it was only fitting that it'd be she who would gain an audience in Rome with the men who put him to death.

She stood in front of Caesar, heart pounding as she spoke and denounced Pilate for his handling of Jesus' trial and then began to speak with Caesar with an excited composure about Jesus' resurrection. She picked up a hen's egg from Caesar's table to illustrate her point regarding resurrection. Caesar was unmoved and replied that, "there was as much chance of a human being returning to life as there was for the egg to turn red." Mary took a breath, ready to defend her unbelievable but true story, but before she could utter a word, she and Caesar both watched in shock and disbelief as the egg miraculously turned red in her hand! She smirked, cocked her head slightly and looked at Caesar as if to say, "See, I told you."

May this story prompt us to look at our Easter eggs differently and to have the courage and zeal of Mary Magdalene to proclaim our Risen Lord this Easter Season. For we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song! [†]



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

PAGE 4 | PROCLAIM

What evidence is there for the Resurrection of Jesus?

Happy Easter to one and all! I love the way our New England seasons complement our Catholic faith so beautifully. Out of the dark depths of winter and Lent, we enter into new life in the springtime Easter season. All around us we see "resurrection" and it reminds us of what our God has done. The Catechism of the Catholic Church declares, "The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ," and indeed, it is! As Saint Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15, without the Resurrection, our faith is in vain. Everything we practice and believe as Catholics hinges on the Resurrection of our Lord.

Many of us have heard of Christ's Resurrection our entire lives and take this remarkable profession of faith for granted. But the Resurrection of Jesus isn't meant to be "ordinary." It has always been life-changing information. That is, if it's true. Embracing this belief as our "crowning truth" and knowing its power to change lives, we are going to consider the evidence that exists for Jesus' Resurrection from the dead.

To begin, let's take a step back. There is historical evidence, beyond just the Scriptures, testifying that Jesus walked this earth and died by crucifixion. However, what we do not have is the body of Jesus, despite the fact that he was an extremely popular figure at the time. The empty tomb has long been seen as evidence for the Resurrection. Several theories exist for what happened with Jesus' body, but each comes with its problems. **Theory One:** The authorities took Jesus' body.

Problem: Why wouldn't they have come forward when the apostles were preaching his Resurrection?

Theory Two: Grave robbers took the body, as was common at this time.

Problem: The most valuable thing in that tomb was the grave clothes that were left behind and found folded.

Theory Three: The Apostles took the body to make it look like Jesus rose from the dead.

Problem: The Apostles were brutally martyred for preaching the Resurrection of Jesus. People don't typically die for a lie and not one of them ever declared anything but Jesus Christ resurrected.

To continue our exploration, we must next understand that the Scriptures are incredibly reliable as far as ancient manuscripts go. What we see in the Christian Scriptures are multiple documents from multiple authors written close to the time period of the events at hand, all saying the same thing. There are other historical events we take as a given that are less credibly recorded.

Keeping this in mind, when we turn to the Scriptures, we find evidence for the Resurrection in the radical change of the Apostles. After Jesus' crucifixion, they are terrified and hiding, fearing that they will be killed next. Shortly after, we see them traveling around and boldly preaching that Jesus is Lord, all the way to their deaths.

While these historical pieces of evidence can give us confidence in what our Church has always professed, I like to consider the present as well. In 2023, there were over 2.6 billion Christians in the world. Billions of people spread all over the globe believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And usually, they don't believe this because of any compelling historical evidence, but because they have encountered the Risen Christ.

If you struggle to believe in the Resurrection or if you feel far from the Lord this Easter season, I invite you to ask him to meet you. Because once you encounter the Risen Jesus, life is never the same.[†]

Do you have questions about the Faith? Submit them to parish@christthekingnh.org.



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

COVER PROFILE

According to the United States **Conference of Catholic Bishops** (USCCB), each year on Holy Saturday, thousands are baptized into the Catholic Church across the country. At the Easter Vigil this year at Christ the King Parish, four adult catechumens received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion and four adult candidates, who had previously been baptized, confessed their belief in the Faith and received Confirmation and Holy Communion. Receiving the sacraments was the culmination of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), formerly known as RCIA. OCIA is a process of discussion, prayer, and reflection through which adults discern if God is calling them to full communion with the Catholic Church. Leading this effort at Christ the King Parish is Emily Planchet, along with a team of dedicated catechists.

Emily was born and raised in Concord. She describes herself as a "cradle Catholic," though she thinks that word might not fully express the reality. "Some families are 'sport' families, some families are 'arts and drama' families, we are the 'Catholicism' family. Catholicism is what we do," Emily says. "When I was growing up, it wasn't a matter of just going to church, it was the whole 'kit and caboodle' of being involved in the church in every possible way." From a young age, she and her brothers were encouraged to learn the faith. "Both of my parents were excellent models of faith and my dad was a natural teacher," she says. "We were always learning, and Dad was always teaching us. If he had learned something new about the faith, he would pose the question to us and then we would discuss."

After graduating from college,



Emily had the chance to share the faith she had been brought up in as a catechist at Emmaus for elementary school students. After a few years, though, she was ready to try something new. "It was fun, but I was looking for a change," Emily says. At the suggestion of her father, she tried volunteering with OCIA and loved it. After participating as a team member for a few years, she was approached by the Director of Parish Life and asked to take over the volunteer OCIA coordinator role. "I was a little hesitant to take it on, but

there was a prompting that made me decide to accept," she says.

At Christ the King, those participating in OCIA typically meet weekly on Sundays for about an hour and a half to learn the basic tenets of the Catholic faith, and how they can incorporate those tenets into their own lives. However, OCIA is more than a course of instruction, it is a process of conversion which really takes a lifetime. "Traditionally it should be a three-year process but, because not everyone has three years to complete the program, we take the three-year course on the central basics of Catholicism and shorten it to nine months," Emily says.

While each person who goes through the process has their own unique journey, Emily has found that the people who want to become Catholic usually fall into one of two camps. The first camp includes people who have "thought" themselves into Catholicism. They studied and read about church history, they learned about the different Catholic doctrines and dogmas. For these individuals, the challenge is to remember that Catholicism isn't about facts and rules, it's about a Person. "People who have knowledge sometimes need to come down to a relationship level," Emily says, "So they are not just thinking about God, they are talking to God." She understands this tendency, though, as it mirrors her own faith journey. She was always eager to learn about the faith, but the relationship part with God was always not as easy for her. "As I've gotten older, I think I'm just beginning to learn how to pray," Emily shares.

The second camp holds people who are more spiritually or emotionally inclined. They may have been introduced to the Mass and were attracted to its beauty. They may have a sense that there is something wrong with this world and are searching for the good and true. "They love praying and they have that innate desire to know Christ, they just need to learn a little more," Emily says. "It is all about forming a relationship with Christ. At OCIA we learn about God because the more you know about Him, the more you can love Him."

Getting involved in OCIA has given Emily a greater love for the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Confession. "To have access to such a great storehouse



In 2024, eight adult catechumens and candidates were welcomed into the Church and the Christ the King Parish community.

of mercy and to receive Christ Himself is so incredible," she says. She's especially grateful to see the desire the OCIA participants have for what she so often takes for granted. "When I see people wanting to become Catholic, it is very validating and strengthens my own faith," Emily says. "I was born Catholic, but these people are choosing it and they are choosing it when it is sometimes difficult for them, because their families don't want them to or they will have to struggle to learn to live differently."

There have been many touching moments throughout her time in OCIA. Emily remembers a former participant who approached her after Mass to say that he will always remember the OCIA session when they discussed how, in the end, we are judged on how we love God and our neighbors. There was a catechumen who went through OCIA due to the evangelization of his sponsor, who had gone through the program a couple of years before. Another former student commented that going through the OCIA program and receiving

the sacraments was the "highest achievement" of his entire life.

These stories, and many more, are able to happen through the hard work of a small group of volunteer catechists who dedicate their time, energy, and talent to the ministry. Though as Coordinator, Emily does some of the background work, she can't say enough about the appreciation she has for the whole OCIA team. This year the group consisted of Michael Clark, Marcia Wagner, and Andrew Hardister. "They are amazing and their enthusiasm, and their love of Jesus opens the door to the important conversations we have in OCIA," she says. The volunteers are a mixed group, each bringing something to the table and sharing from their own experiences, which is the true beauty of the program. "No one is ever going to know everything, no one is ever going to be the perfect Catholic," Emily says. "Being a part of OCIA is helpful not only for the participants, but also for the catechists. Every year, we all learn together." †

Growing In Knowledge

"Discipleship Groups" is one of the elements of Christ the King Parish's Plan for Renewal. All who follow Jesus are called his disciples, and truly the entire life of a Christian is one of discipleship, but the word is often used in reference to those opportunities that allow us to gain a better understanding of our faith, to grow in knowledge. As with each element of the Plan for Renewal, we at Christ the King believe that engaging in discipleship groups leads to personal spiritual renewal and strengthening. This Easter Season, a new and exciting discipleship opportunity will be available, thanks to parishioner Jim Beauregard.

Jim was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he was brought up with a Catholic, Italian mother and a Protestant Franco-American father. Although one grandfather was killed in Europe in World War II, his other grandfather owned a farm just outside Worcester, and some of Jim's fondest memories are of helping him with the outdoor vegetables and other farm work. Jim attended public schools throughout his childhood, but experienced the Catholic faith through serving at the altar. He later attended St. John's College in Brighton where he sought out God's will regarding a call to the priesthood. However, God had other plans for him. Eventually, Jim went on to obtain a PhD at Northeastern University and since he has published two books on the ethics of neuropsychology.

Although Jim works two jobs, one as a neuropsychologist with a specialty in dementia at Generations in Manchester, and the other as a professor at Rivier College in Manchester, he still finds some free time for several other projects. These include writing a book, *The* Psychology of Dietrich Von Hildebrand, translating into English the work of Juan Manuel Burgos, a prominent Spanish philosopher, and not only that - for several summers he has attended and given seminars at the Hildebrand Project at Franciscan University in Ohio.

Dietrich von Hildebrand, and his wife Alice, were prominent 20th century Catholic writers and philosophers. Jim feels strongly that Von Hildebrand's understandings of philosophy and psychology are very relevant today as materialistic trends, such as the over reliance on "quick fix" treatments, psychiatric medications, and behavioral modifications, crowd out a more humane psychology. Von Hildebrand studied under the famous twentieth century German philosopher, Edmund Husserl, who had influenced him in a new field of philosophy/psychology known as Personalism which stresses the goodness of the whole person as redeemed by Christ. This is a positive psychology, not at all like the more well-known twentieth century schools of psychology, like that of Freud or Skinner, which treat human beings as if they had no free will or as if they are at the mercy of the subconscious. Other advocates of Personalism include Pope Saint John Paul II, Saint Edith Stein, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jim will be sharing his passion for Von Hildebrand in an eightweek discipleship group on the couple's book, *The Art of Living*. The class will be held on Monday evenings, starting on April 22. For more information and to register for the course, visit **www. christthekingnh.org/discipleship-courses.**[†]



Dietrich and Alice von Hildebrand

APRIL 2024

April 1-7: Easter Octave

The celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection continues for eight days and is called the Octave of Easter. Each day of the octave is ranked as a solemnity. So keep the celebration going!

April 5 & 7: 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 "Consecrated: The Sacraments of Holy Orders & Matrimony." For more information, visit **christthekingnh.org/emmaus**.

April 13: Eucharistic Revival Retreat

Join us for the Eucharistic Revival Retreat with the Sisters of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love. The retreat will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 8:30 am-2:00 pm at Christ the King Parish. \$5 registration fee. A light lunch will be included. Sponsored by the Women's Ministry. Visit **christthekingnh. org/retreat** for more information.

April 18: Trivia Night

Back by popular demand! The Social Committee will be hosting a Trivia Night. We can't wait to see you on Thursday April 18, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Parish Activity Center.

April 21: Praise & Worship Prayer Service

Please join us for our monthly Praise and Worship Prayer Service at Christ the King on Sunday, April 21, at 5:30 pm. These services include Praise and Worship music led by our Raised in Glory Band, scripture, prayer, and healing.

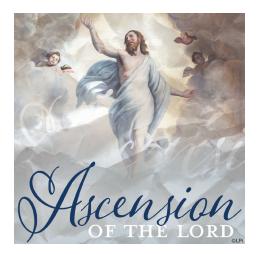
April 22: Discipleship Course The Art of Living

The Art of Living, by Dietrich von Hildebrand Christ the King Parish Reading Group, Mondays, 6:30-7:30 pm, starting Monday, April 22. The reading group will be led by Jim Beauregard, a member of Christ the King Parish, who is an Associated Scholar at the Hildebrand Project at Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio. Each meeting of the group will begin with a brief reflection on Dietrich von Hildebrand and Alice von Hildebrand's life and thoughts, and then move to a discussion of the week's reading. Visit christthekingnh.org/ discipleship-courses for more information.

MAY 2024

May 8: Rock 'N Race

Come be part of the Christ the King Parish team at this year's Rock 'N Race held on Thursday, May 18! There are three options: 5K Run, 5K Walk, or 1 Mile Walk. Make sure to select "Christ the King Parish" when selecting your team.



May 9: 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.

May 19: Pentecost

Pentecost always occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and 10 days after His ascension into heaven. The timing of these feasts is also where we get the concept of the Novena – nine days of prayer – because in Acts 1, Mary and the Apostles prayed together "continuously" for nine days after the Ascension leading up to Pentecost. Traditionally, the Church prays the Novena to the Holy Spirit in the days before Pentecost. (catholicnewsagency. com)

May 27: Memorial Day

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

JUNE 2024

June 2: Corpus Christi Procession

Please join us on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ 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 return to the church. Light refreshments will be available afterward in the Parish Activity Center.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 6 & 7: Food Pantry (Parish)

April 13 & 14: Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

April 20 & 21: Maintenance (Parish)

April 27 & 28: no special collection

CONTACT INFO



Christ the King Parish 72 South Main Street, Concord, NH 03301 603.224.2328 | christthekingnh.org

Weekend Masses Sat: 4:00 pm | Sun: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Weekday Masses Mon, Wed, Fri: 12:10 pm | Thurs: 5:30 pm

Confession/Reconciliation Thurs: 4:45-5:15 pm | Sat: 2:30-3:30 pm

Pastor: Father Rich Roberge, frrich@christthekingnh.org

Deacon: Winton DeRosia, deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

Director of Parish Life: Cynthia Tokos, cynthia@christthekingnh.org

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Communications Coordinator: Sarah Jane Roth, sarahjane@christthekingnh.org

Coordinator of Adult Discipleship: Haley Judd, haley@christthekingnh.org

Coordinator of Young Disciples: Jen Albee, jen@christthekingnh.org

Director of Music Ministry: Michelle Dokka, michelled@christthekingnh.org

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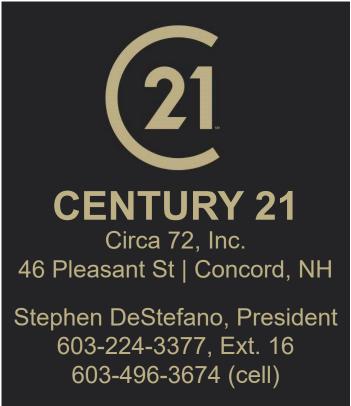
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For more information on the parish's online giving program, visit **christthekingnh.org/give**. To request monthly parish envelopes in the mail, call Kathy Planchet, Parish Secretary, in the parish office at **603.224.2328**.



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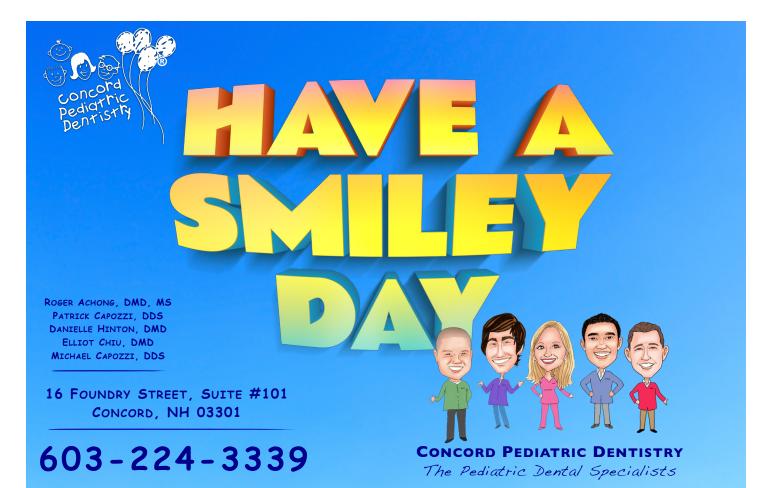


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