

PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2022 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 7

CATHOLIC CUE

Get Off Autopilot

COME ALIVE

How Do I Know
God's Will For My
Life?

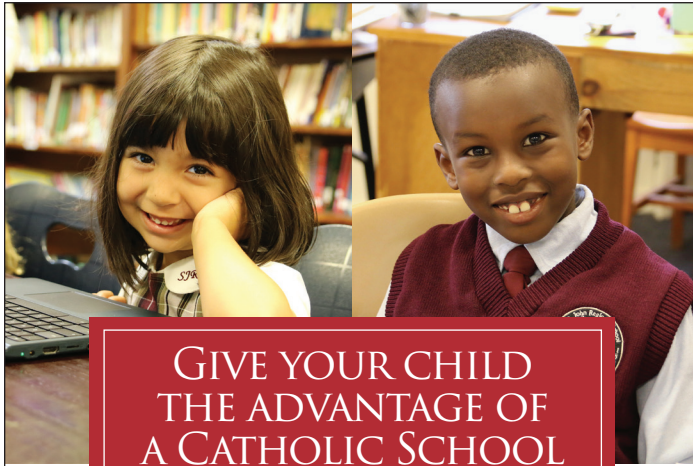
MINISTRY PROFILE

Blending Faith &
Fellowship



Moment of Peace

Jack Reynolds tells us about his journey from participant to team member of Youth Alpha



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Planchet

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! Yes, it is still Christmas. The Christmas Season ends with the Baptism of Our Lord, celebrated this year on January 9. So don't feel guilty about not getting those Christmas cards out yet. You've still got a little time...

Our parish certainly has a lot to celebrate recently, over and above all of the special holy days in this season. On the weekend before Thanksgiving, we entered our first ever Christ the King Parish float into the Concord Christmas Parade. Not only was it a wonderful collaboration between ministries and talented parishioners, but the float won "Best Non-Commercial Float" of the parade! Congratulations to all who put in many hours of hard work to pull that off. They also took the opportunity to hand out invitations for all to come to our Christmas liturgies and to attend Alpha this next session. We're always looking for ways to be more invitational!

There are many community engagement opportunities, like the parade, available in the Concord area. To help our parish

participate in more events like this, Jeff Litchfield has joined the staff as our Facilitator of Community Engagement. We are grateful to Jeff for taking on this volunteer role, so that our parish can build more bridges of invitation for people to know Jesus. Our mission, as a parish, begins with proclaiming the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. We must always look for new and innovative ways to do so.

Finally, I would just like to say a word about the outstanding young men and women, missionary disciples, that we have in our parish. Those featured in this issue of *Proclaim* are certainly worthy of note. Jack Reynolds is faithful to the mission of Alpha and helping others to know Jesus better. Nate Mullen and Nell Malette have been leading our youth ministry program, Encounter, for two years now. Beyond those we can feature, however, are many others serving the needs of our community. Grace Parisi is a catechist in our Emmaus program. Keegan Franklin is serving on our Pastoral Council, as well as being a Hospitality Minister. Many high school students serve at the altar during

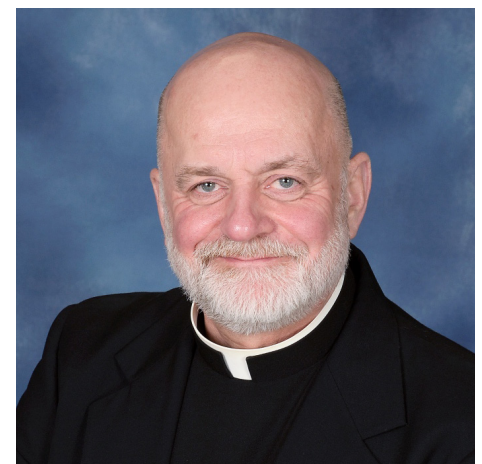
Mass. The list goes on and on.

I am inspired by the youth of our parish and the depth of their faith. "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12) Our community is blessed by the example of these young people.

I pray that you all have a wonderful beginning of the new year. May God bless you abundantly in 2022!

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge is the pastor at Christ the King Parish.

Get Off Autopilot

Happy New Year! Okay, well technically the new liturgical year began back on the first day of Advent, but you know what I'm saying. January 1st is the day most of us look at and say, "This! This day is the day I'm going to change it all! I'm going to exercise every day, I'm going to eat well, and I'm going to go to bed earlier!" The list goes on and on, right? But then, in just few short weeks we find ourselves back to our old habits. Of course we do! Because usually those New Year's resolutions are simply too big to just throw into our already extraordinarily busy lives.

Something that I always find on my list of resolutions or things to improve is my family's relationship with Christ. How can we infuse more of Him into our daily lives, how can we deepen our faith this year? In the September issue, I wrote about "Praying on the Move," which was about our morning prayer time in the car. Well, I'd like to invite you into my car again to focus on a small resolution we can all do this year!

I'm willing to bet that if you spend a lot of time in your car you're probably spending some (if not most) of that time on autopilot. What if we became more intentional with that time? For me and my boys, the intentionality comes in what we listen to. Instead of listening to just any music, we try listen to contemporary Christian music on Sirius XM's *The Message* or *K-Love*. (I know, I know. You might be thinking, "Christian music? Blech." But seriously, some of it is really good! (At the very least it's better than Cardi B.)

Another channel we listen to a lot is Sirius XM's *The Catholic Channel*. Yes, they have a whole channel! Our favorite shows are *The Busted Halo Show* and *The Catholic Guy Show*. If you don't have a Sirius XM subscription, both of these shows have podcasts and I encourage you to check them out. They make the faith joyful, relatable, and fun! Speaking of podcasts, my boys love *Saint Stories for Kids*, by Shining Light Dolls. Each podcast episode is 5-10

minutes long and (just as the title says) tells a story about a saint!

Last year during Lent, Father Rich's theme was "One Holy Moment at a Time." That's how I try to approach resolutions: one moment (holy or not) at a time. For myself and my family, it's in these small, approachable adjustments, like what we listen to in the car, that I see big changes that ultimately bring us closer to Christ. ♦



Jen Albee is the Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King Parish.

How do I know God's will for my life?

This fall, I became a first-time mom to a beautiful little girl. As those who know me can attest, I am famous for over-preparing. I am the friend with a Band-Aid, floss, snack, or whatever else you might need in my purse. So naturally, I spent my pregnancy preparing my hardest for becoming a parent. I read books, spoke with parents I respected, talked with health care professionals, and much more. But as all you parents know, having a child is not something you can fully prepare for.

Perhaps the part of parenting I was least prepared for is the near constant decision making. Each day, I make a thousand little decisions for my daughter. I have never been an expert decision maker, always agonizing over the options, so this aspect of being a mom is challenging me to grow. In selecting a topic for this column, the question of decision-making was raised by an Emmaus attendee and also a dear friend. God was clearly giving me a divine nudge!

How do we make decisions as a Christian? Ordinarily, in making a decision, you consider the factors involved – people, timing, consequences, etc. As Catholics, we are called not only to make God a factor in our decision but to involve Him in the process. We are called to discern the will of God, to ask the question, “What does God want me to do?”

Ultimately, the will of God is that all people love and serve Him during their time on earth and therefore, spend eternity with Him. But we also believe that God has a specific plan for each of us. Often times, the will of God is described like a straight path we must find and if we venture off, we are lost. For example, if you went into the “wrong” career, you would be off God's path for you for good.

But this is not what we believe. We understand that God's plan for us adjusts according to the decisions we make. He does not forsake us when we choose against His will, but bends to meet us where we are and lovingly guide us back to Him. This is what took place in the incarnation! Instead of humanity being left behind after choosing to turn from God, God sent His son to pull us back. Now, this does not mean we do whatever we want because God will make it a part of his plan for us. If we did this, we would only be hurting ourselves. God's path is the one that is best for us!

I want to focus in on that word “discern.” How do we discern, or come to know, God's will? I would like to refer back to the ways I prepared for my daughter's arrival. I read books and spoke with those I admired and with professionals. These are great steps toward discerning the will of God. But most importantly, discerning requires prayerful

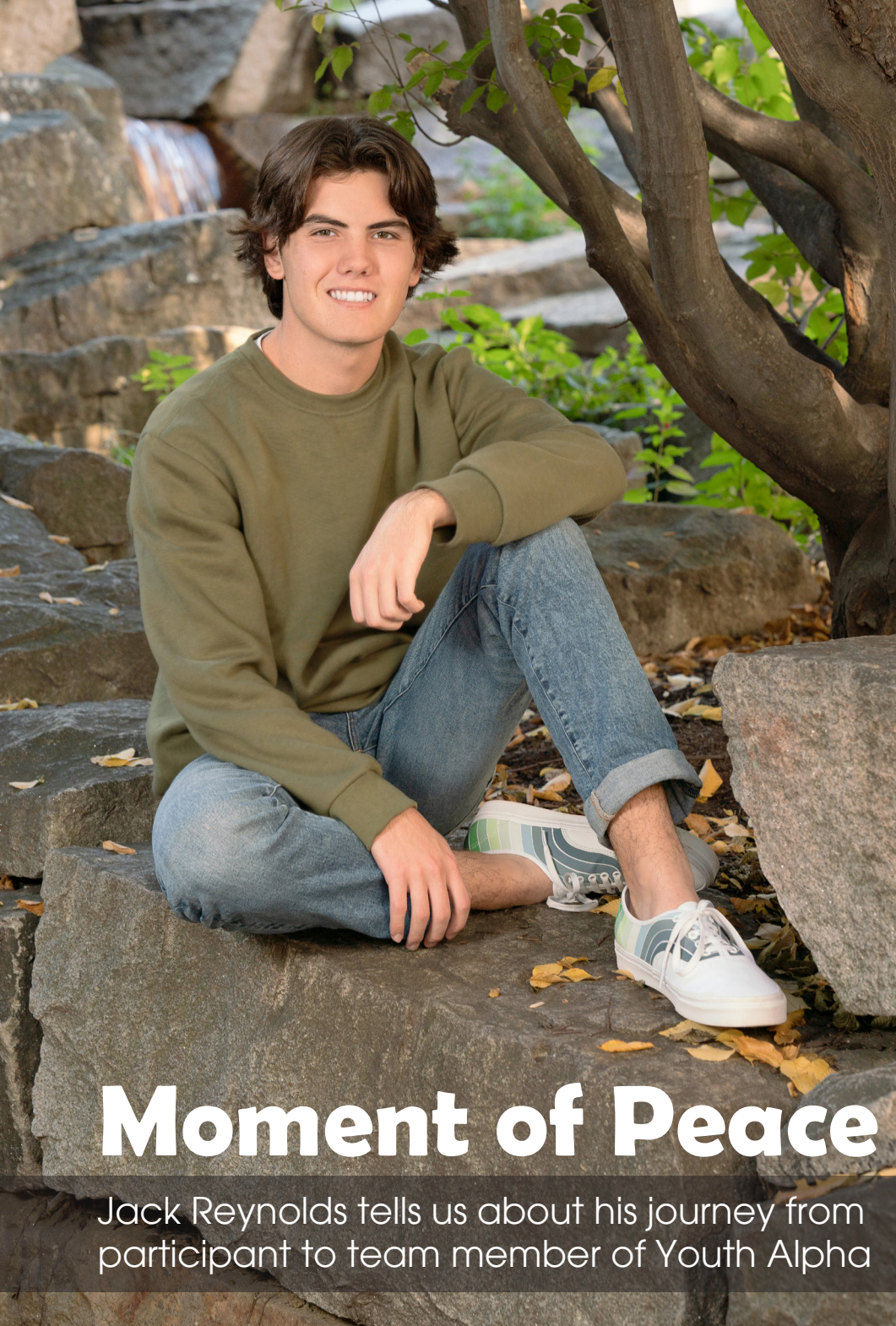
listening for the still, small voice of God. Sometimes God might speak through a friend, a homily, a song – but sometimes He will speak through a whisper in your heart. Discernment takes practice, just as being a good listener takes practice.

Finally, keep in mind that we can discern God's will both in our big, life-path decisions, but also in our smaller, daily decisions. We believe that God cares about the little details of our lives and can move through them. Not that every decision requires discerning; God may not care about your breakfast choice! But perhaps you discern where to donate your time in service or which friendship God is calling you to deepen. What would happen if we approached each day as an opportunity to discern the will of God? What if each of us started our day in prayer asking, “Lord, what would you like me to do today?” Imagine how God could move among us! ♦



Haley Judd is the Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King Parish.

Please consider submitting your questions about the Catholic faith! No question is too big or small. Email parish@christthekingnh.org with the subject line “Come Alive.”



along some other friends to mitigate the unpleasantness of what he expected would be a dull experience. “I thought, we can just bring all our friends. If they talk about religion and it’s boring, we can just sort of hang out.” His experience of the first Alpha session surprised him. Where he had been expecting a lecture, he found instead a presentation that was informal and laid-back. “It was definitely not aggressive,” he says. When summing up his impressions of that first meeting, he recalls, “I was not totally captivated by it yet, but intrigued enough to continue attending.”

Over the course of the next few sessions, Jack’s faith was renewed and invigorated. He recalls that when he first started Alpha, he felt uncomfortable given his experience of religion up to that point: “For someone in my position who didn’t know anything about their own religion, it felt odd. I felt more out of place than someone going in with no religious background, because it felt like I should know. I felt like a stranger in my own house.”

Throughout the ensuing weeks, however, he began to feel more comfortable and more at home with his faith. “After a few sessions, I no longer felt like a stranger and was figuring out what my faith was to me,” he says. Moreover, Catholic practices that had seemed merely routine in past years suddenly started to seem more important, given what he had been learning in the Alpha sessions. He began going to church more often and was surprised to find that he knew the different parts of the Mass for the first time in his life.

A crowning experience of Jack’s journey through Alpha occurred during the weekend away, an overnight experience near the end of Alpha focused on learning

Moment of Peace

Jack Reynolds tells us about his journey from participant to team member of Youth Alpha

by Michael Clark | Photography by Charlene Graham

Jack Reynolds’ experience with Youth Alpha demonstrates just how much good can occur when we set aside our pre-conceived ideas and try something new. Jack was raised in the Catholic faith, but for much of his life the faith did not play a substantial role in his day-to-day experience. “The faith was always there in our family,” he

says, “but we never really talked about it. I don’t ever remember really having a solid faith before Alpha, besides going to church on Sundays and religious education.”

When Jack first attended Youth Alpha at the invitation of a friend, he did so with some skepticism. “I was reluctant to go,” he recalls. In fact, when he did go, he brought

more about the Holy Spirit. At one point during the weekend, Jack and other Alpha participants were praying in a church. Jack recalls, “I definitely had a moment after praying that was a defining moment for me. I started crying.” But these tears were neither tears of joy nor were they tears of sadness. “I would call them tears of peace,” Jack says. After experiencing this moment of peace, Jack says, “I went outside. It was freezing and I was in a short-sleeve shirt, but I remember not feeling cold. I sat down on a rock and looked up at the perfectly clear sky. It was a really surreal moment for me. To this day, that experience has stuck with me. I even wrote my college essay on it.”

Another aspect of Alpha that Jack found rewarding was the experience of community and friendship that goes along with it. Unique to the Youth Alpha program is its incorporation of live music, with Alpha leaders playing instruments and leading the participants in song. “The music really engaged me,” he says. “That was one aspect that really hooked me because I love music.” All of the fun that can be had at Alpha gatherings is a way of bringing people together and forming lasting ties. “The food, the music, and the friends,” says Jack, “all help in building this community that is awesome.”

After going through his first Alpha course, Jack was asked to come back and serve as a leader of future Alpha courses. The experience of being an Alpha leader served to reinforce and deepen the rewards he had first received as an attendee. He says, “It is a great experience to see how different participants approach their journey through Alpha and the insights that they gain from it.” When he first began leading

discussions, “I expected that participants would answer the questions the same way I had and would react to the lessons in the same way I did. I had a great experience and I wanted them to have it also. However, I learned that people would have a great experience in different ways than I did. They might answer questions in a totally different way or think about things in ways I had not thought of them and still have an amazing experience.”

Now a senior in high school, Jack is set to be a leader again at the next Youth Alpha course. “I hope I can keep growing through this experience and help others grow,” he says. Whether as a first-time guest or an experienced leader, Jack has found that there are always opportunities for learning and growth with Alpha.

On the question of what one might say to encourage others to try Alpha, Jack is aware that such encouragement might inspire skepticism, just as he was skeptical when he was first invited to Alpha. He points out, “There are many different programs that encourage prospective participants to just

come and experience it. I feel like people say that about everything they want to get someone to try. I understand if some people might be hesitant or be skeptical.” Skepticism can be especially pronounced when the program is about religion. “Religion is a touchy subject,” he says. “However, with Alpha the promise of no pressure is absolutely genuine. They do a great job of easing you into it, making you comfortable, and letting you figure out what religion is to you at your own pace. The leaders are not preachy or pushy at all. Alpha breaks all stereotypes of what people might expect from a Christian program.”



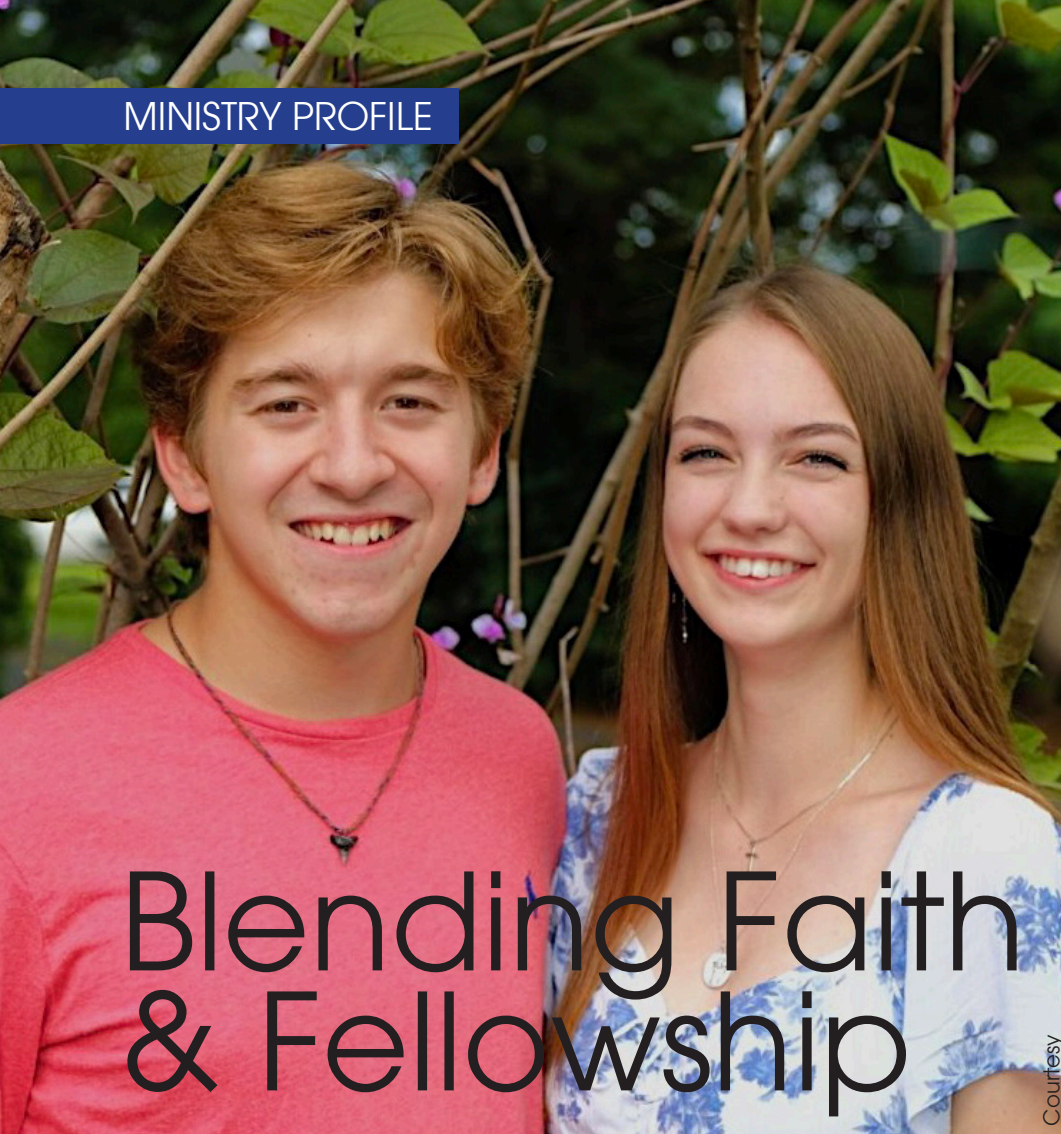
YOUTH ALPHA

Explore the basics of faith with other teens in a relaxed way – faith, fun, food, and friends. Youth Alpha is for all teens including those with no Christian or church background and also those with a lot of experience. The winter session begins on Tuesday, January 18. For more information and to register, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.



Courtesy

The 2020 Youth Alpha Team.



Blending Faith & Fellowship

Courtesy

By Emily Planchet

“Let no one have contempt for your youth,” Saint Paul writes to Saint Timothy, “but set an example for those who believe.” And just like Saint Timothy, Nate Mullen and Nell Malette seem to have taken these words to heart. Through their leadership of the parish youth group, Encounter, they have set an example for what Catholic youth can do.

Nate and Nell, both seniors at Concord High School, met as freshman at Encounter. They both loved the experience. A few years later, when, due to a number of factors, no adult was able to oversee the group, Nate and Nell decided to take things into their own hands. They both stepped up to run the youth group themselves – turning it into a truly youth-led experience.

The group started out on Zoom at first but eventually they were able to meet in-person. During meetings, Nate and Nell (or later on, one of the group members) would introduce a topic, like prayer or the Holy Spirit, and then everyone would share their thoughts. “We never wanted it to feel like it was a class,” says Nate, “but a discussion group where you could feel comfortable saying anything.” From there, the conversation flows.

Due to interest from group members’ siblings or friends, they decided to open Encounter to middle school students as well. If anything, that decision has only made the group discussions richer. “I like the different perspectives that we get from the different age groups,” says Nell. “Some of them

look up to us, but I learn so much from them.” Due to hearing about positive experiences, non-Catholic friends participate as well.

One of the things Nate and Nell love about Encounter is the perfect blending of faith and fellowship that the group creates. From speaking about prayer to how they see God in others, it’s introduced new perspectives to their faith. “Encounter helps us think about how Jesus would like us to live in modern times,” says Nell, “It’s made it more personal.” But Encounter isn’t just about talking; they also put their faith into action – and have fun, too. “We’re not just a discussion group, we’re friends,” says Nate. Typically, the group likes to do service in the community – but they also offer activities like beach days, water gun fights, and movies nights, to name a few.

Though both are going off to college next year, Nate and Nell are excited to see Encounter continue on. Because, in the end, it’s the people in Encounter that have made their experience so wonderful. “I have grown so much hearing what everyone has to say,” says Nate, “It humbles me.” Nell agrees, “They’re people that we wouldn’t have known otherwise, and they all want to be here – and that’s pretty special.” ♦

JOIN US FOR ENCOUNTER

All high school-aged teens are welcome to Encounter! Encounter is a teen-led discussion group where we can learn about the Catholic faith. We also have a lot of fun together! We meet every Sunday from 12:30-2:00 pm in Barry Hall. To connect with us, email encounter@christthekingnh.org.

JANUARY 2022

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



by William Adolphe Bouguereau

Today, we celebrate Mary as mother of Jesus Christ. Because this holy day falls on a Saturday this year, there is no obligation to attend Mass. Mass will be available Friday, December 31, at 4:00 pm and Saturday, January 1, at 10:00 am.

January 5: Adoration

Men’s Ministry hosts monthly adoration on the first Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm. Come join us on Wednesday, January 5. All are welcome!

January 14 & 16: Emmaus

The theme for the year is “We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed.” This month, we will be discussing “For Our Sake: Jesus’ Death & Resurrection.” For more information and to register, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

January 16: Word on Fire

Join us for a new parish initiative - free access to Word on Fire courses! Each Sunday, the inspiring Bishop Robert Barron will arrive in your inbox to help you grow in your faith. Email parish@christthekingnh.org for more information!

January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The parish office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January 18: Alpha

Alpha meets every Tuesday evening for 12 weeks.

All are welcome to attend and no questions are off the table. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.



January 18: Youth Alpha

Explore the basics of faith with other teens in a relaxed way – faith, fun, food, and friends.

Youth Alpha is for all teens including those with no Christian or church background and also those with a lot of experience. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.



FEBRUARY 2022

February 5: Epilogos Dinner

Join us for Pupusa Night! Come enjoy Salvadoran food and hear about the El Salvador mission in the Parish Activity Center from 5:30-7:30 pm. Cost \$10/adult, \$5 child/senior, \$25 max per family. All proceeds will go to support the upcoming mission trip to San Jose Villaneuva, our sister parish in El Salvador.

February 11 & 13: Emmaus

The theme for the year is “We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed.” This month, we will be discussing “Giver of Life: Understanding the Holy Spirit.”

February 13: Marriage Course

The Marriage Course is for any married couple who wants to work together on their relationship, whether it is strong, or going

through difficulties. It is a seven-week course, held on Sunday evenings from 5:25-8:00 pm, in the Parish Activity Center. The cost per couple is \$130. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Kathy Planchet at 603.224.2328 or kathy@christthekingnh.org.

February 21: President’s Day

The parish office will be closed in observance of President’s Day.

MARCH 2022

March 2: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence, meaning a person should eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. This is not a holy day of obligation. Mass and distribution of ashes will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

March 4: Fridays During Lent

During Fridays in Lent, we are asked to abstain from meat. “From the first century, the day of the crucifixion has been traditionally observed as a day of abstaining from flesh meat to honor Christ who sacrificed his flesh on a Friday.” (*Catholic Source Book*)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January 1 & 2:

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Parish)
Food Pantry (Parish)

January 8 & 9:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

January 15 & 16:

Maintenance (Parish)
Seminarian Fund (Diocese)

January 22 & 23:

No Special Collection

January 29 & 30:

No Special Collection

CONTACT INFO

Christ the King Parish

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www.christthekingnh.org



Weekend Masses

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

Weekday Masses

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

Reconciliation Times

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

Pastor

Father Rich Roberge
frich@christthekingnh.org

Deacon

Deacon Winton DeRosia
deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

Director of Parish Life

Angie Glendinning
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Business Manager

Charlie Burr
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Bookkeeper

Liz Geary
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Parish Secretary

Kathy Planchet
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Haley Judd
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Coordinator of Young Disciples

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Director of Music Ministry

Michelle Dokka
michelled@christthekingnh.org

Facilitator of Community Engagement

Jeff Litchfield
jeff@christthekingnh.org

MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	11/21/21	11/28/21	12/5/21	12/12/21
Offertory	\$11,140.54	\$6,517.00	\$12,056.94	\$13,459.00
Online	\$6,933.52	\$8,692.34	\$5,617.04	\$6,578.15
Total	\$18,074.06	\$15,209.34	\$17,673.98	\$20,037.15

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

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



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