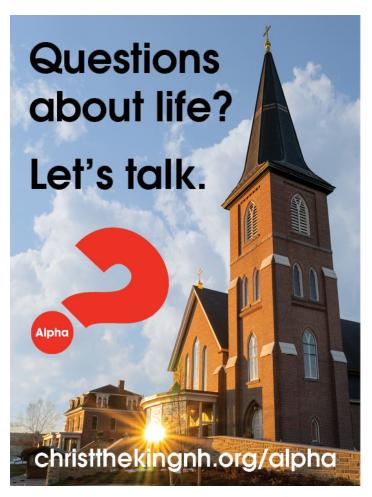
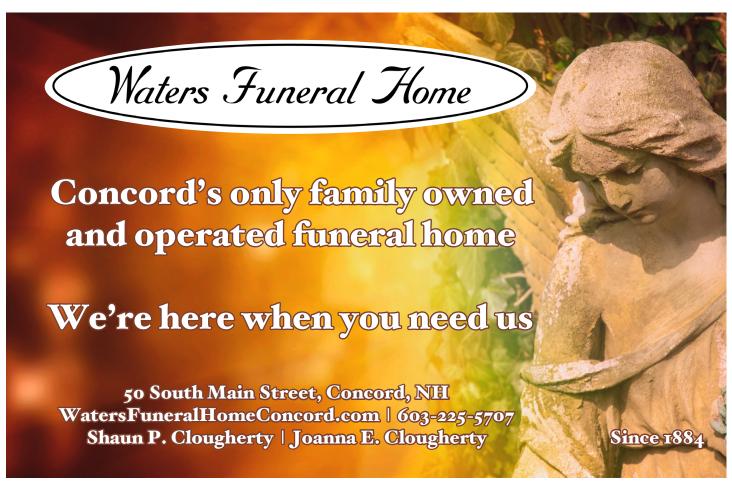
## CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE JULY 2023 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1 MINISTRY PROFILE Sharing Jesus **COME ALIVE** Did Jesus Have Brothers? OLIC CUE Flame of the Holy Spirit RIST at the Center

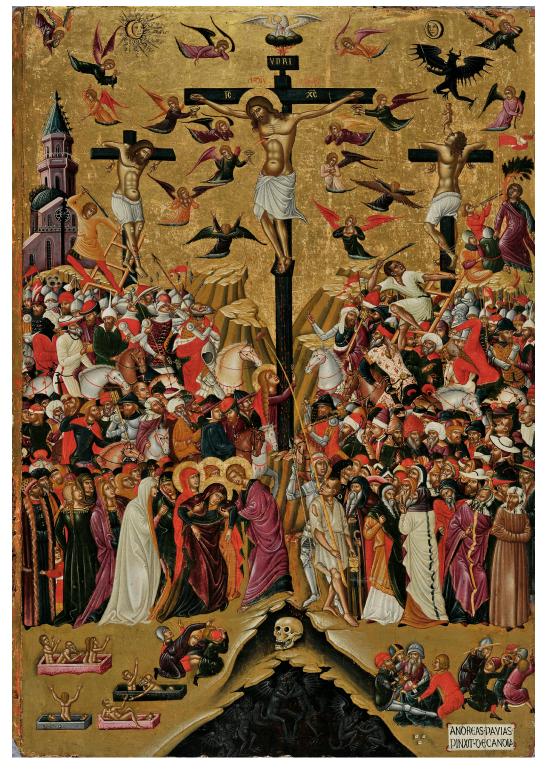








#### PASTOR'S LETTER



prejudice, unemployment, and poverty. As the Body of Christ, the Precious Blood of Jesus must pulsate through us in response to their needs.

On the Fourth of July, we as a nation, celebrate our independence and our freedoms. With every freedom, there is responsibility. As Christians and fellow citizens, we are called to pray and work diligently to safeguard our liberty and union, respecting one another, and strengthening our union as a nation admits our diversity.

As we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "our father" praying not for ourselves, but for all people. Saint Cyprian, reflecting on the Lord's Prayer said, "Rather, we pray in public as a community, and not for one individual but for all. For the people of God are all one. God is then the teacher of harmony, peace and unity, and desires each of us to pray for all men, even as he bore all men in himself alone."

As we enjoy the beauty of July, let us thank God for the many blessings showered upon us. May the Precious Blood of Jesus unite us is in His love and mercy.

Yours in Christ,

#### Father Rich

#### Dear Friends,

During the month of July, the Church commemorates the Precious Blood of Jesus. From his pierced side, flowed blood and water, the source of the sacramental life of the Church. Blood is vital to our life as human beings and the Precious Blood of Jesus is vital for our salvation and eternal life.

Over the centuries, many saints

and martyrs have also shed their blood in union with Jesus for our salvation. As we meditate on the Precious Blood of Jesus, let us find strength and courage to offer our sacrifice in union with Jesus for the salvation of the world. There are so many who do not know Jesus. There are so many who suffer from hunger, homelessness, war, violence, discrimination,



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish



This is my 25th piece for *Proclaim* and to be perfectly honest with you, I'm finding it hard to believe that I've written 25 articles! To commemorate having written for just over two years, I'd like to reflect back on my very first piece.

In July of 2020, the first issue of Proclaim was released. In that first issue, I wrote about the importance of celebrating your baptism day. It's a tradition that my family has adopted and we love it. We celebrate each boy's baptism (and our own) in a similar way that we would a birthday. We break out their baptismal candle, read a few readings from Scripture, and have whichever boy whose baptism day it is renew their baptismal vows. After that we sing a special baptism song and have some dessert! It's become such a cherished tradition.

This year, while we were celebrating Cooper's baptism at our friend's house, something spectacular happened. Cooper stood among the 13 of us holding his lit baptismal candle. As my husband Andrew read the readings, the little flame on Cooper's candle started flickering

and shrinking. I felt like all of us in the room were holding our breath as we heard the Word of God but watched this little flame flutter, sputter, and barely hold on. But no sooner had Andrew finished the readings and started to read the baptismal vows, the flame found new life.

Andrew read, "Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?" Cooper responded, "I do." The flame grew. Andrew continued, "Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?" "I do," Cooper replied, as the growing flame cast a lovely, golden glow across his face. Andrew read the rest of the vows, and Cooper's bold, "I do," rang out a few more times and the flame on his baptismal candle remained strong all throughout, until finally, he blew it out.

That candle-flame-event was such a beautiful moment that I'll treasure for as long as I can remember. It was a visual reminder of the fire of the Holy Spirit that resides in all of the baptized. And if we just hold on a little longer, dig a little deeper, surrender a little more every day to

Christ, that flame will grow.

If you don't know your baptism day, you can contact the parish in which you were baptized and they should have a record of it. For the script for the renewal of baptismal vows, you can visit **catholic.org** and search "Renewal of Baptismal Promises."

My prayer and invitation for you is that you will join me and my family in celebrating your and your children's baptisms. And may the flame of the Holy Spirit that you received at your baptism always remain strong and vibrant within your soul.



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

## Did Jesus have brothers?

During the Easter Season, we had a first reading from the Acts of the Apostles that ended with the line, "All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." (Acts 1:14) This is only one of several references to Jesus' "siblings" found throughout the Scriptures. One passage that is frequently mentioned is Matthew 13:55, which reads, "Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?" So what do these verses mean? Did Jesus have brothers?

While some Christians take these biblical statements at face value and believe that Jesus did, in fact, have siblings, the Catholic Church teaches otherwise. Catholic theology professes the doctrine of Mary's perpetual virginity, asserting that, even beyond the virginal conception of Jesus, and throughout her marriage with Joseph, Mary's virginity remained intact. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church declares, "The liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as Aeiparthenos, the 'Evervirgin." (CCC 499)

Matt Fradd, in an article for Catholic Answers entitled "Jesus ad Brothers?" wrote, "The earliest explanation of the 'brothers' of the Lord is found in a document known as the *Protoevangelium of James*, which was written around 150 A.D. It speaks of Mary as a consecrated virgin since her youth, and of Saint Joseph as an elderly widower with children who

was chosen to be Mary's spouse for the purposes of guarding and protecting her while respecting her vow of virginity. Though this document is not on the level of Sacred Scripture, it was written very early, and it may contain accurate historical traditions."

While it may seem strange to us today, this idea of Mary's perpetual virginity was accepted and taught in the Church from very early on. Athanasius of Alexandria stated in only 360 A.D., "Therefore let those who deny that the Son is from the Father by nature and proper to his essence deny also that he took true human flesh of Mary Ever-Virgin." (Four Discourses Against the Arians 2:70) Similarly, in 450 A.D., Pope Saint Leo I declared, "The origin is different but the nature alike: not by intercourse with man but by the power of God was it brought about: for a Virgin conceived, a Virgin bore, and a Virgin she remained." (Sermons

The Catechism continues, addressing our question for this month head on, saying, "Against this doctrine the objection is sometimes raised that the Bible mentions brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact James and Joseph, 'brothers of Jesus,' are the sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ, whom Saint Matthew significantly calls 'the other Mary.' They are close relations of Jesus, according to an Old Testament expression." (CCC 500)

Here we find an explanation as to these mysterious references to Jesus' siblings. The Catholic understanding is that these "brothers" are relatives of Jesus and sons of another Mary. Once again, Matt Fradd for Catholic Answers had some wisdom to share saying, "The first thing to understand is that the term brother (Greek adelphos) has a broader meaning than uterine brothers. It can mean a biological brother, but it can also mean an extended relative, or even a spiritual brother. Take Genesis 13:8... Here the word brother is being used to describe the relationship between Abraham and Lot, who were not biological brothers but uncle and nephew."

One last consideration is that in the Passion narrative of John's Gospel, Jesus left his mother in the care of the apostle John. This seems strange if Mary did in fact have other children. So, let us conclude this exploration in the clear words of our Catechism, which states, "Jesus is Mary's only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save." (CCC 501)



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

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

#### COVER PROFILE

For all the baptized, the Catholic Church provides a path allowing us to walk with Jesus throughout our lives. We are sustained and empowered by the Church's sacraments, especially the Eucharist, "the source and summit of our faith." As years pass, we come to see that a life centered on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the Body of Christ received there, is one full of God's blessings.

From his earliest years, Andrew Judd's life has been centered in just this way. Raised as a Catholic. attending Sacred Heart Church in Concord, some of his most formative experiences were as an altar server there. "I altar served for over 10 years," Andrew shares. "It was a really positive experience for me. When I started, I was eight, so I was pretty young. My parents were raising me Catholic, but I had no connection to it besides knowing 'this is what we do.' Being on the altar so much, so close to the Blessed Sacrament, I definitely had some very strong spiritual experiences, even as a child." Even as Andrew moved beyond his home parish, he still served saying, "As I got older, I continued to have a very strong connection to the altar, which is why I kept serving in college. It was something that kept me going when things were very tough and I was far from home."

Andrew's connection to the Eucharist only grew through powerful experiences he had during Eucharistic Adoration. One of these took place during a Steubenville East Conference that he attended after his freshman year of high school. There, he attended a praise and worship adoration event, a style of spirituality that Andrew was not used to. "It was much more charismatic, so it was a lot louder and there was a lot



# CHRIST at the Center

more moving about, but as the weekend progressed, I got much more engaged and loosened up a bit," he says. On the last night of the event, he encountered Jesus powerfully. "It was unbelievable. I felt overwhelmed, but so happy. I definitely cried. I remember just being so connected to the Blessed

Sacrament." In the years that followed, the deep reality of this encounter stayed with him and adoration became a place Andrew returned to often.

While attending Norwich University, where he was studying to be a civil engineer, Andrew enlisted and later was commissioned in the National Guard, an experience he describes as both challenging and rewarding. Andrew recently completed his tenth year serving with the Guard. This service mostly includes monthly drill weekends, but has also involved weeks or months long trainings. In the midst of these trainings, it is not always possible to get to Mass or receive communion.

"You recognize that it leaves a big hole, especially when you're going through a difficult time," he says. "You really feel like you're not being nourished spiritually, but also relationally without your church community." Andrew began his service with the Vermont National Guard but switched to New Hampshire in the last several years. Since this transition, Andrew has noticed the positive effect on his spiritual life and shares, "I've only very rarely been away from home and only very rarely had to miss Mass."

Centrality of faith is also evident in the love story of Andrew and his wife, Haley. They met through their mutual involvement in ministry at Christ the King Parish, shortly after Haley was hired on staff. "When Haley first got here, they really wanted to reach young adults." To do so, the parish hosted a Young Adult Alpha, which Andrew and Haley helped lead. "That's how we first became friends," he says. "Following on from that, we started our own group for young adults, and that's what really strengthened our connection."

Andrew and Haley shared a passion for building community, one that continues today. Andrew declares, "One of the best places you can look for community and fellowship is in ministries and worship at church." Furthermore, he says, "I wouldn't have met Haley in my normal sphere if I

wasn't looking at the church."

Andrew and Haley were married late in 2019, just a few months before the Covid-19 pandemic, which presented some unique challenges for the newlyweds. For one, Andrew's National Guard unit was activated several times to provide testing and vaccine support around the state. Still, Andrew and Haley lived out their vocation faithfully and courageously, supporting one another through the difficulties of that time. "If I'd had to deal with that without Haley, I would have been in much worse shape." Andrew admits.

Another great blessing of their married life was the arrival of their now almost two-year-old daughter, Noelle. Andrew says that fatherhood is "easily one of the things I'm proudest of. She's such a joy!" As all parents know, taking young children to Mass is not for the faint of heart, but knowing the importance, the Judds attend together every week. Andrew shares, "Even though it can be difficult, it is such a joy to see on her face such early encounters with Jesus, to show her and talk her through some of the symbols and parts of the Mass."

In the summer of 2022, Andrew was promoted to a Captain in the New Hampshire National Guard with Haley and Noelle by his side to celebrate the achievement with him. Our Lord tells us that He came so that we "might have life and have it more abundantly." As we turn to Jesus through life's ups and downs, putting Him at the center of our lives, we find that we flourish in ways that would be impossible otherwise.





Christ the King parishioner, Sharon Borkush, is extraordinary in many ways – not the least of which being her work as an **Extraordinary Minister of Holy** Communion (commonly referred to as a "Eucharistic Minister" or "EM"). As an EM, she, along with others, assists the priest in distributing communion to the faithful at Mass. Being an EM, and the Coordinator of all Christ the King's EMs, was not something Sharon ever thought she'd do, but sometimes God has a way of calling us to places we'd never thought we'd go.

Sharon was born in Hudson to a faithful Catholic family but after her Confirmation, she drifted away from practicing. It wasn't until she reached her twenties that she felt the nudge to return. Luckily, she found a kindred spirit in her now-husband Dave and they started attending Mass together. After their marriage in 2005, they moved to Concord and visited a number of parishes in the area but eventually settled on Christ the King, finding a home and a welcoming community. "It was bright and we felt relaxed," Sharon remembers.

While at Mass, Sharon would find herself fascinated by the "dance" the EMs would do – the way they would bow and move in perfect unison, but she never seriously considered becoming one. That all changed, however,

when she found herself alone at Mass one Sunday and learned there was a ministry fair happening that very day. "I battled with myself a bit, but I said, 'I'll go and I'll see what it's about," she says. Upon entering the fair, Sharon found herself going straight to the EM table. After her 40-minute training, she was pleased to find that what seemed like a complicated series of movements was actually quite simple. "I was nervous, like everybody is," Sharon remembers. "But once you go through the training and do it once or twice, the 'dance' is not as difficult as you think."

In her time as an Eucharisitc Minister and the Coordinator of EMs, Sharon has seen how truly wonderful the ministry is. As it doesn't require outside preparation or practice apart from the initial training, it's a great option for those who don't have much free time.

But convenience, though nice, isn't the reason Sharon loves it. It's the impact on her spiritual life that has made a real difference. "When I go up to the altar, I feel like I'm connecting right away with Jesus," Sharon explains, "and I'm asking him to bring me more comfort and strength." Sharon has also found that becoming an EM is great for those who want to gain a greater reverence for the Eucharist. "You are able to take Jesus and give Jesus – it's such a wonderful feeling," she says. "If you're looking for better connection and you don't know how to find it, then this is a great step."

Finally, Sharon has discovered that her service as an EM does not just connect her more with Jesus – it connects her more deeply with the Christ the King community as well. "You are sharing Jesus with the parish, with your fellow parishioners," Sharon says, "It's such an honor and such a gift to do it. I just think it's amazing." ◆

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **JULY 2023**

**July 4: Independence Day** The parish office will be closed today in observance of the holiday.

#### July 6: Parish Trivia Nights

Come and have fun with your fellow parishioners at Parish Trivia Night! Coffee, water, soft drinks, and desserts will be provided. Sponsored by the Parish Social Committee.

Who: Everyone ages 16 and older **Date:** Thurs, July 6 & August 24

**Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm

Where: Parish Activity Center RSVP to Lindavarelao33@gmail.com

#### July 17-28: Don Bosco Camp

This camp for boys ages 6-14 offers a fun, faith-filled environment for young boys to form healthy friendships, develop character, and grow closer to Christ. It is held from July 18-29. The cost is \$200/week, non-refundable, scholarships and family rates are available. For more information, visit **donboscoboyscamp.org**. The camp is sponsored by Holy Family Academy.

#### July 24-28: Fiat Days Camp

Young women, ages 14-18, who are exploring God's plan for their life are invited to attend the Fiat Days camp on July 24-28. This is an overnight camp including hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports, games, and daily Mass. For more information or to register, please visit **liveinblackandwhite.com**.

#### July 31-August 4: Quo Vadis Days Camp

Young men, ages 14-18, exploring the Lord's plan for their life are invited to attend Quo Vadis Days camp on July 31-August 4. This is an overnight camp including hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports, games, and daily Mass. For more information or to register, please visit **liveinblackandwhite.com**.

#### AUGUST 2023

August 7-11: Vacation Bible School



Please join us Monday, August 7, through Friday, August 11, for some Jesus-loving fun and games, singing and dancing as Christ the King hosts Vacation Bible School: Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments! This is available for children ages 4-12 (Grades Pre-K-5). Drop-off and check-in begin at 8:45 am everyday and pick-up is no later than 12:15 pm. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jen Albee at jen@ christthekingnh.org or Haley Judd at haley@christthekingnh. org. To register please visit christthekingnh.org/vbs.

## August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Assumption Day commemorates when Mary "the immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory." (CCC 966) This is a holy day of obligation and Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

#### September 4: Labor Day

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

September 11: Alpha

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 lifelong Catholic, an atheist, a skeptic, or just curious about the Christian faith, you are invited! Alpha will meet at the Barley House on Mondays at 6:00 pm for 12 weeks. For more information, visit **christthekingnh.org/alpha**.

### **September 23: Sacramental Preparation Parents' 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 23, at 9:00 am in the Parish Activity Center. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Albee at jen@christthekingnh.org.

#### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

July 1 & 2:

Food Pantry (Parish)

July 8 & 9:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

July 15 & 16:

Maintenance (Parish) Mission Co-op Appeal: Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary (Parish)

July 22 & 23:

no special collection

July 29 & 30:

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

Winton DeRosia, deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

#### **Director of Parish Life:**

Cynthia Tokos, cynthia@christthekingnh.org

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Liz Geary, liz@christthekingnh.org

#### **Business Manager:**

Charlie Burr, charlie@christthekingnh.org

#### **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

#### **Facilitator of Community Engagement:**

Jeff Litchfield, jeff@christthekingnh.org

#### **Parish Secretary:**

Kathy Planchet, kathy@christthekingnh.org



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Online	\$5,884.81	\$6,373.05	\$7,349.09	\$5,784.93
Total	\$16,230.81	\$15,301.05	\$16,259.59	\$14,758.93



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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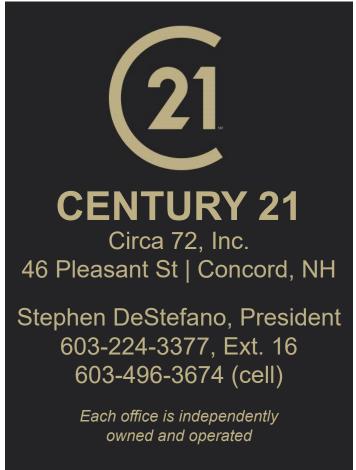
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