

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, June 11, we celebrate Corpus Christi, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* professes, "The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life." (CCC 1324) We celebrate the solemnity this year in the context of the National Eucharistic Revival. I invite and encourage all to join us on June 11 after the 11:00 am Mass for adoration and a procession to the State Capital, as we witness to the centrality of Jesus and His Eucharistic presence in our lives.

In the Catholic tradition, we are now re-entering "ordinary time," the period we enter after Easter that will stretch until the beginning of Advent. At its origin, the word "ordinary" has a rich meaning, much more than what we typically think. Oftentimes, ordinary is considered boring and is to be avoided at all costs. Think again.

Msgr. Bill King of "Simply Catholic" writes that the word "ordinary" has its "source in a Sanskrit, or Indo-European, word, which entered into Latin as the verb *orior*, meaning to rise up, to be stirred up and to grow." This season comes at a time when everything is green and budding – and its origin tells us it is the time to rise up and grow. Who could have imagined this to be the root of "ordinary?"

For many, June is a time of change and, perhaps, a time of uncertainty – between graduations, coming home to live for the summer, new jobs after college, and vacations. In the Church, ordinary time takes place without the big celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Yet it is during these quiet months that much can occur; this can be a time when God stirs us up to help us grow.

I speak often of having a



personal relationship with
Jesus. Ordinary time offers us
an everyday opportunity to pay
attention to this relationship. What
does it look like? Where might
we be invited to listen to what is
being stirred up within us? We
may consider sitting quietly in
church and listening to Jesus in
His sacramental presence during
Eucharistic adoration. Perhaps the
biggest question is: are we taking
the time each day to hear what
Jesus might be asking of us?

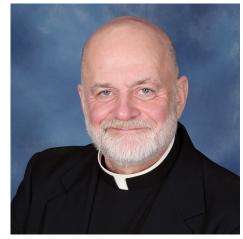
As is the case with any relationship, whether it be family or friends or the Lord, to grow in relationship takes time and effort. Consider these upcoming beautiful days of summer, this ordinary time, as a chance to bring some quiet into your life, either at the beginning or at the end of the day. We need Jesus in our lives. We need to know we are not alone in this world and that we have someone who loves us regardless of what we do for work or how short of perfection we see ourselves.

In growing this relationship with Jesus, notice what brings contentment to your heart when you allow yourself a few minutes of silence during the in-between moments of your life. What might you say to Jesus in response to any stirring you feel? Maybe it's "thank you" or "please, can you..." or perhaps "how beautiful." Whatever the response, give yourself the space to pay more attention to Jesus and your relationship with Him during these months of ordinary time.

God bless you in these days of summer!

Yours in Christ.

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish



"Let's pray," said our friend Mike, right before we all dove into our appetizers at Giuseppe's Pizzeria in Meredith, New Hampshire. We had just spent a beautiful summer day on Lake Winnipesaukee and were quite hungry. We were a party of twelve seated around a large jumble of chairs and tables that the wait staff had pushed together. Eight of that party of 12 were children, so we were hard to miss. When Mike requested we pray, my heart skipped a beat. It's one thing to pray aloud within the walls of your home, but I had never prayed grace in public before and I was not comfortable with it.

I looked around to see if anyone was watching and speedily made the Sign of the Cross. I remember the prickles of nervousness that coursed through my body as our 12 voices rang out in unison, "Bless us, oh Lord, and these thy gifts..." When we finished praying, I sped through the Sign of the Cross again and looked up, anticipating judge-y eyes from fellow patrons. No such eyes were found. In fact, it seemed no one noticed and I breathed a sigh of relief.

This was many years ago and since then my family and I have adopted the practice of praying grace when we're out at a restaurant. It doesn't matter if we're at a fast food joint or if we're having a nice sit-down meal, we pray. I love that we've been doing this for so long now that my boys have no memory of us not doing it. It's second nature to them. A few times we have been approached by other people, commenting positively after having seen us pray. Not once have we been approached by a naysayer. Sure, we've gotten some sideways glances, but that doesn't deter us.

We've heard it so many times but it bears repeating – as Christians, we are called to be in the world, not of the world. This public display of prayer and thanksgiving for the gift of our meal sets us apart and can be a powerful witness to our faith.

We also find ourselves praying out in the world when we're traveling. I pray a little prayer before I begin to drive. If we're traveling by plane, we all make the Sign of the Cross on the airplane before we take off and ask our guardian angels to carry the plane safely to where we're going. Upon hearing sirens from emergency vehicles, we cross ourselves and pray, "Lord, be with them in their time of need." Also, anytime we pass a Catholic church, we say "Hi, Jesus!" and make the Sign of the Cross.

If you aren't in the habit of praying aloud with your family while you're out to eat, or in other public places, I gently invite you to join me and my family in doing so. It might be a little awkward at first, but you never know whose eye you might catch and whose heart you might change.



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

Who are the Saints?

Recently, I was visiting my home state of Connecticut and looking for a local church to attend Sunday Mass. I headed to Masstimes.org, a favorite resource of mine when I'm traveling, to learn more. In a nearby town, three churches had merged to form a new parish. For obvious reasons, this pulled on my heartstrings. But, I was especially delighted to see that this new parish had taken the name "Saint Gianna Beretta Molla."

Saint Gianna lived from 1922-1962 in Italy. She was a pediatric physician, a wife, and a mother of three. As Franciscan Media writes, "Early in her final pregnancy, doctors discovered that Gianna had both a child and a tumor in her uterus. She allowed the surgeons to remove the tumor but not to perform the complete hysterectomy that they recommended, which would have killed the child.... In April 1962, [her daughter] Gianna Emanuela Molla was born...but post-operative complications resulted in an [deadly] infection." (franciscanmedia.org) Saint Gianna was canonized, or made an official saint, in 2004, her feast day is April 28, and she is the patron of mothers, physicians, and unborn children.

Obviously, Saint Gianna's story is a powerful one to all who hear it, but I have a unique connection to this remarkable woman. It was in learning about Saint Gianna that I began to understand "sainthood." I was preparing a teaching on the saints for Emmaus here at Christ the King, but the truth was I knew very little about this area of my faith. The saints felt like

unrealistic, distant examples of a holiness that I could never achieve. But this all changed when I came across the story of Saint Gianna. She was a saint but she was also an ordinary, modern working mom and wife! Her life challenged my assumption of the saints and pushed me to look deeper.

This push led me to the life-changing truth that a "saint" is simply a person who is in Heaven. It isn't necessarily someone who lived long ago or died horrifically. If we are hoping to go to Heaven one day, then we are hoping to be a saint! A title that once felt completely unattainable instead became what had always been the goal of my life.

There is a distinction, however, between any soul in Heaven and a canonized saint, someone whom the Church has affirmed is in Heaven. The USCCB outlines the path to sainthood saving, "In official Church procedures, there are three steps to sainthood: a candidate becomes 'Venerable,' then 'Blessed' and then 'Saint.' Venerable is the title given to a deceased person recognized formally by the pope as having lived a heroically virtuous life or offered their life. To be beatified and recognized as a Blessed, one miracle acquired through the candidate's intercession is required.... Canonization requires a second miracle after beatification." (usccb.org)

So what does all this mean for us here on earth? Our Church teaches that the Church exists in three states: those on earth (the church militant), those who have died and are being purified (the church suffering), and those in Heaven (the church triumphant). While in different states, the Church remains united. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* declares, "The union of the wayfarers with the brethren who sleep in the peace of Christ is in no way interrupted." (CCC 955)

Because of this, as we might turn to a friend and request prayer or support, we can turn to the Saints! We are not meant to keep them on a shelf as examples of holiness, but to join together with them as brothers and sisters! The Catechism says, "It is not merely by the title of example that we cherish the memory of those in Heaven.... Exactly as Christian communion among our fellow pilgrims brings us closer to Christ, so our communion with the saints joins us to Christ." (CCC 957) The saints are our biggest champions in this life, as the Catechism states, "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness.... They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us." (CCC 956) Saint Gianna, pray for us!



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King

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



From Emmaus to Damascus, the Bible shows that the road can be the perfect place to meet Jesus. Christ the King Parishioner, Larry Hennessey, is someone who knows this well. And though his life has been filled with travels far and wide – like Vietnam, El Salvador, and Israel, just to name a few – he's found that many of the most significant spiritual moments of his life have taken place on roads closer to home.

Reflecting his actual travels,
Larry's faith life has been a
journey. Born in New Jersey to
a very religious family, he had
a strong faith growing up. "I
used to go to daily Mass with my
Nana," he recalls. However, after
numerous bad experiences with
a severe parish priest, he became
disenchanted with Catholicism.
"After I got done with my
Confirmation, I didn't go to Mass
for a long time," he remembers.
"I liked the Catholic ritual, but I
didn't like the Catholic religion."

While the practice of his faith seemed to be left behind, Larry was still a man on the move. Accordingly, the day he fell in love with the woman who would become his wife reflects this. Though he had known her his whole life, they were never more than just friendly. However, when Larry was driving down the road with a friend on a free weekend after having enlisted in the Marines, something changed for both of them. "My wife, Elaine, and her best friend were walking down the street," Larry remembers, "She turned – and was kidding around – so she stuck her thumb out." Though Larry knew she was only pretending to hitchhike, he stopped anyway to pick her up and never let her go again. "When that woman got in the car, I knew I wanted her to have my children," he says.

Soon after, they were married in a civil service, though both were Catholic. It was only when it came time for their three children to receive their sacraments that they decided to get married in the Catholic Church. "I went to church a few times, but not every Sunday," he explains "I never really pushed going to church, but I did push for them to be baptized, get communion, and be confirmed."

Having fallen in love with New Hampshire after regular camping trips there, Larry and his family moved to Franklin in 1982. It was after that, Larry came to his second life-changing moment on the road. Unlike the day he met his wife, this moment was much more difficult. Driving home from work in May of 1990, Larry had a head-on collision with a moose. The consequences were severe. "I broke my neck in 31 places," Larry says. But it wasn't the injuries that made the biggest impression; it was what happened afterwards in the hospital. "I was lying in the ER and there were eight people working on me. They were pulling glass shards out of

my hands and face. And then somebody yelled, 'We're losing him,' and the next thing I know, I'm looking down at everybody and my mind is trying to understand what just happened. Then I heard somebody say 'Clear,' and then the body on the table bounced up in the air and suddenly I was on the table looking up again," he recounts. "It took about a month for me to come to terms with the fact that I had an out-of-body experience."

As a result of his injuries,
Larry spent over three months
in traction. A positive, if maybe
unexpected, result of his extended
convalescence was that he had
ample time to ponder the deeper
questions of his mortality. "I'm not
a body with a soul, I'm a soul with
a body – and my body can go away
– so now I got to take care of my
soul," Larry explains. "I decided
that I better start going back
to church." After that decision,
Larry began practicing his faith in
earnest.

After that, the years passed quickly. Almost two decades after his reversion, with retirement in view, Larry and Elaine began to plan all the trips they would take together – including giving back by joining the Peace Corps. But their plans changed when Elaine was diagnosed with cancer in 2016. Even with faith, it was devastating. "I prayed and prayed and prayed that my wife would be healed, and I was so strong in my faith that I thought it would happen," Larry remembers. "But it didn't." About a year after her diagnosis, Elaine passed away.

On the day she died, as Larry was driving home from the hospital, he had his third unexpected encounter with God while on the road. "I had to pull over a couple of times because I was crying so hard," Larry remembers. The way to his house took him past the Veterans Cemetery, the place

where he knew his wife would soon be laid to rest. Then something strange happened. The lyrics of the song "The Last Kiss" popped into his mind: "Where, oh where, can my baby be, the Good Lord took her away from me. She's gone to heaven, so I have to be good, so I can be with my baby when I leave this world."

It struck him deeply. All through his wife's sickness, he thought God wasn't listening to him, that God had abandoned them both. But after thinking of the song, he realized that God was still with him. "After she passed, I was mad," he says. "It took a while to marinate that God is talking to me, I'm just not listening."

Armed now with the knowledge that he would see his wife again through the grace of God, Larry's life had a new trajectory. "That's when I came back to church and signed up for the trip to El Salvador, because I just wanted to help people after that," he says. When he had found out about the annual Christ the King Parish (the parish he had started attending during his wife's illness) mission trip to El Salvador, he knew he needed to go. It wasn't the Peace Corps, and he wasn't with his wife

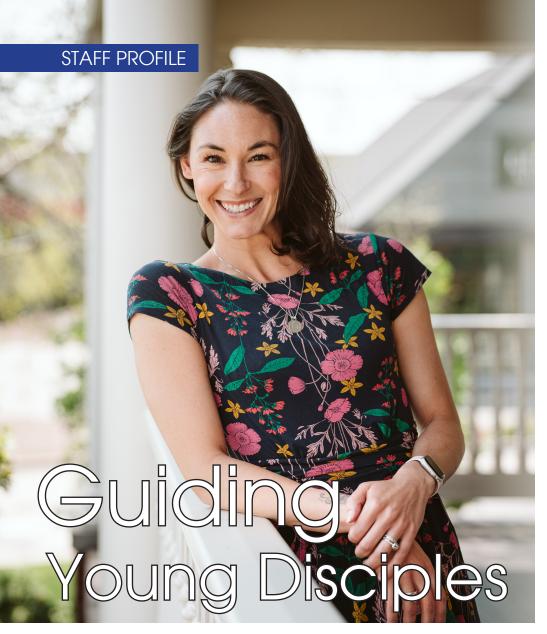
as they had planned, but it was something.

On his first trip down, he took his wife's beloved bathrobe with him, as a reminder that she was still with him. The time he spent in service to those living in El Salvador made such a difference. That first trip turned into four more, and Larry has not missed an opportunity to go back.

Since then, Larry has expanded his travels – both spiritual and physical – most recently, fulfilling a dream to go on pilgrimage to Israel. That too, was an eye-opening experience, "When you're at home, you're only familiar with your own surroundings," he says. "But when you travel, you get to see more of God's creation – and it constantly keeps wowing me."

His time in New Hampshire has changed as well. The man who once rarely attended church is now a sacristan, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and a Stephen Minister. "My happy time is Sunday when I go to church," he says. Though Larry loves to travel, and has so many significant life experiences on the road, his travels are sweeter knowing he has a home like Christ the King to return to. •





Kids delight in the truth, they see with eyes unclouded by judgment, they are hungry to learn and excited to discover the wonders of the world all around them. Jen Albee, Christ the King Parish's Coordinator of Young Disciples, greatly enjoys the task of forming children to be like Jesus and helping them to belong to Him and His Church.

Jen was offered her position on the Christ the King parish staff in the summer of 2020. She had previously served as a catechist, teaching children at Emmaus, the parish's whole-community discipleship program, and had been a parishioner attending Mass with her growing family since 2010.

Jen lives with her husband,

Andrew, in Pembroke. They have been blessed with four boys -Cooper, Jack, Charlie, and Harry. As Jen's youngest, Harry, entered school full-time, Jen was looking for a part-time opportunity to serve and to enrich her life. "I love the faith so much and I knew I wanted to do something part-time that would allow me enough flexibility to be with my family at any time," Jen says. "After discernment and prayer and talking to my husband and the children, I felt that it was much more of a calling than a job and all the pieces fit. It was far too perfect for me not to jump on it."

As the Coordinator of Young Disciples, Jen leads the First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation sacramental preparation in addition to coordinating the children's portion of Emmaus. From an attendee to a catechist to a leader, Jen has given so much to the Emmaus program. "Emmaus is not a program where information is crammed into the children's heads," Jen says. "It is a program that cultivates a relationship with Jesus. That is what it is all about: the relationship comes first, and as that relationship grows, there is the natural inclination to want to learn more. You want to learn more about Jesus because you like Jesus."

Parental involvement is critical in developing young disciples, so Jen works hard to support parents as the primary teachers of the faith. This is lived out at Emmaus, as the entire family attends the sessions together, but Jen also follows this model in her sacramental preparation. In fact, sacramental preparation begins with a meeting with only the parents.

For both Emmaus and sacramental preparation, Christ the King utilizes curriculum from Sophia Institute for Teachers. Jen loves these resources and the way they support living the faith at home. "Sophia Press equips parents with easy-to-understand and easy-to-consume material that both the parent and the child can learn from," Jen says. "At the end of it all, to see these children receive the sacraments is just incredible. It is truly among the greatest joys of my life to witness them receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time or to see the joy on a child's face after they've made their first reconciliation."

Christ the King is also blessed by Jen's work for *Proclaim Magazine* in her column, "Catholic Cue." It is here that Jen shares openly about her experience living the faith with her family. Although her passion for her work is evident to all who encounter her, Jen says, "my greatest body of work is my children."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2023

June 9: Rediscover the Mass Join us to watch Bishop Robert Barron's life-changing course, *The Mass*, in our beautiful church. The evening will end with a reception and refreshments in the parish activity center. Join us, on Friday, June 9, from 6:30-8:00 pm, and rediscover the Mass.

June 11: Corpus Christi Procession



Please join us on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, June 19, 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 proceed back to the church. Light refreshments will be available afterward in the Parish Activity Center.

June 15: Parish Trivia Night

Come and have fun with your fellow parishioners at our first Parish Trivia Night!

Who: Everyone ages 16 and older

Date: Thursday, June 15 **Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm

Where: Parish Activity Center Coffee, water, soft drinks, and desserts will be provided. Sponsored by the new Parish Social Committee.

June 22-24: Market Days

Come visit the Christ the King Parish and St. John Regional School tent this summer at Concord Market Days. Stop by the booth to say hello and enjoy a craft.

JULY 2023

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

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, email 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.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

June 3 & 4:

Food Pantry (Parish)

June 10 & 11:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

June 17 & 18:

Maintenance (Parish)

June 24 & 25:

Peter's Pence/Works of the Holy Father (National)

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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MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

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	4/9/23	4/16/23	4/23/23	4/30/23
Offertory	\$23,693.98	\$10,139.00	\$8,225.00	\$8,823.48
Online	\$5,925.06	\$7,019.30	\$5,351.58	\$5,232.21
Total	\$29,619.04	\$17,158.30	\$13,576.58	\$14,055.69



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.



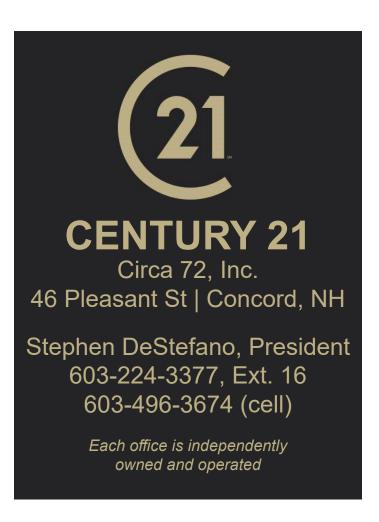
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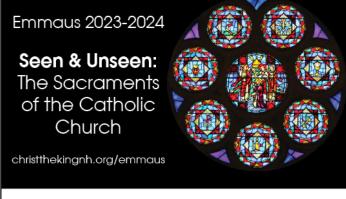


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OCTOBER 6 & 8

Seen & Unseen: An Introduction to the Sacraments

NOVEMBER 3 & 5

Indelible Mark: The Sacrament of Baptism

DECEMBER 1 & 3

Sealed with the Spirit: The Sacrament of Confirmation

JANUARY 12 & 14

Body & Blood: The Sacrament of the Eucharist

FEBRUARY 9 & 11

The Conversion of the Baptized: The Sacrament of Reconciliation

MARCH 8 & 10

Christ the Physician: The Anointing of the Sick

APRIL 5 & 7

Consecrated: The Sacraments of Holy Orders & Matrimony





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