PROGLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2021 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 4

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MINISTRY PROFILE

Be Christ to the World

The Miracle of Rose Mary

Mary Vicinanzo shares the story of her daughter's precious life



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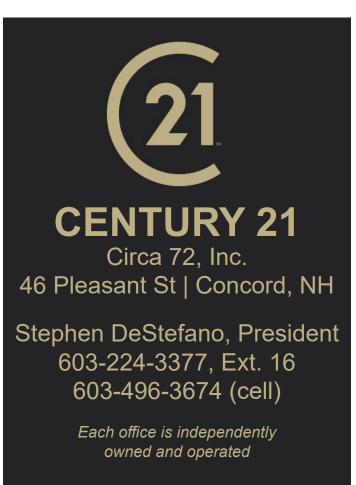
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Dear Friends,

During October, the Catholic Church celebrates **Respect Life** Month. This designation is about more than just standing against abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment, as it is often reduced to. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning to the end of their lives, and at every point in between. So certainly, we stand in defense of the unborn and the elderly. However, how often do we see this as a call to stand for the dignity of the poor, the homeless, and the disabled? Can we say that we cherish our local homeless population?

Being prolife is a pervasive attitude that should penetrate our approach to all people we encounter, indeed, even towards ourselves. Life is precious. It can be hard, it can be filled with suffering and demands, with mistakes and challenges, but it is still miraculous. God wants you to cherish every day that you are alive. He wants you to cherish those he puts in your path, those

he entrusts to your care. No one lives this perfectly, but isn't it a good goal to strive for?

This year we are celebrating Respect Life Month in the midst of the **Year of Saint Joseph**. In every circumstance, Saint Joseph cared for, defended, and protected the gift of life that had been given by God. He was a wonderful husband to Mary and father to Jesus. In seeking to better live out our call to respect life, we can ask for Saint Joseph's intercession. Saint Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!

October is also the time of year we have chosen as a parish to annually review and renew our commitment to **stewardship**. We believe that everything is a gift from God and what he has given us should be used to give him glory. As missionary disciples, we are called to use our time, talent, and treasure to support the mission and serve God's people. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship this coming year.

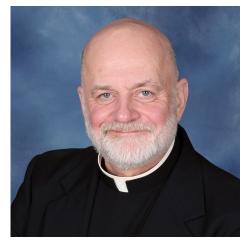
Last year, over 200 individuals expressed interest in a new ministry. The weekly collection saw an increase of over \$1,500. This support helped us to live out

our mission more faithfully and meet our financial obligations. Let us respond with gratitude and generous hearts!

In the spirit of this month's theme, I wish to express to you all that I cherish each of you. You are each a unique and wonderful gift of God to those who know and love you, and to this parish. May we all live the wonder of life and cherish each other as children of God.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



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



If you're like me, as soon as you see the calendar switch from September to October, you immediately think of Halloween (and all the Reese's Peanut Butter Cups you're going to steal from your kids)! As a Catholic, you might also be aware that Halloween can be a controversial topic for some. Many believe this holiday has pagan roots and should not be celebrated or participated in by Christians. Halloween, in fact, has deep Catholic roots! Halloween is All Hallows' Eve (i.e. All Saints' Eve), which is the vigil of All Saints' Day, a holy day of obligation. (Yup, you've got to go to Mass!)

As a family, we don't go "all out" for Halloween. I throw up a few festive decorations, our boys dress in their costumes (nothing too scary, nothing gory, or disrespectful) and we go trick-ortreating with friends. We make it a lighthearted and fun evening, while also ensuring that we focus on its true origin. The night ends with the semi-obligatory sugar high, a huge crash and a look ahead to the Church's big feast day the next day.

On the Feast of All Saints', our celebration is bigger than

Halloween! Our boys dress up as a favorite saint and we go to our friends' house for an All Saints' Day Party. Ellen and Karl Jackson can throw one heck of a holy party, complete with saintly games, themed snacks, adult beverages, and, of course, we pray a *Litany of* the Saints. Last year, Cooper was Saint Sebastian, and Jack dressed as his Confirmation saint, Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Charlie was Saint Nicholas (so, he basically dressed as Santa Claus), and Harry dressed as a tool belt wearing, tool box carrying Saint Joseph.

Consider the lyrics of *When* the Saints Go Marching In and sing that on All Saints' Day! Research and dress up as a saint. Consider your Confirmation saint or a saint to whom you have a particular devotion; or perhaps dress as a family member who was particularly prayerful and led a life in union with God, whom you believe to be in heaven.

On All Saints' Day we celebrate the big saints who have been canonized, but also all those who haven't been. Prior to really knowing/practicing my faith, I thought sainthood was only reserved for biblical characters and really well known, super religious people. Little did I know that regular folks, like you and me, are all called to be saints. Simply put, a saint is anyone and everyone who is in heaven. It's a great comfort to know that our deceased family and friends are walking among saints, are saints themselves and are cheering us on from heaven.

Celebrating the Feast of All Saints' is a fun and tangible way to engage the whole family in remembering those who lived on this earth, just like us, but made their mark in a holy way, just as we are called to do.



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

COME ALIVE

Is Natural Family Planning Effective?

This question once fell from my own lips as an engaged young woman, terrified that following my Catholic faith would lead to far more abstinence in marriage or more children than I could handle. It is a question some have come straight out and asked me, while I can see it percolating in the anxious eyes of others. But, before we dive into this question head on, we need to step back and ask the question: What is Natural Family Planning?

Like many of you, I grew up in a Catholic environment, even went to Catholic schools, yet only ever heard faint whispers about the "outdated" and "out-of-touch" stance that the Catholic Church held against contraceptives. My Catholic school even taught me about all the types of contraception and threw in something called the Rhythm Method that we were told didn't work anyway.

Natural Family Planning, or NFP, is not the Rhythm Method. NFP is also not a contraceptive measure. NFP is the process of a woman learning and monitoring the physical signs her body displays to alert her to her natural fertile and infertile window in a given cycle and then using that information to make informed choices about whether or not to engage in sexual intercourse. Therefore, couples trying to become pregnant can identify and take advantage of a woman's fertile window and couples wishing to avoid a pregnancy can abstain during that same fertile window and come together during the period of

natural infertility.

NFP allows each woman to approach her own body day by day and determine what is happening. At this time, there are three main methods of NFP. The Creighton Method focuses on monitoring a woman's cervical mucus. The Sympto-Thermal Method monitors both cervical mucus and basal body temperature. Finally, the Marquette Method utilizes a daily urine test.

The original question, "Is NFP effective?" is inherently flawed. Effective at what, you might ask. Effective at helping a couple become pregnant? Effective at preventing an unwanted pregnancy? Effective at bringing a couple closer together? Effective at helping women appreciate their bodies? Effective at slowly driving vou crazy sometimes? Yes, to all of the above!

If you are interested in the effectiveness of NFP, I'd encourage you to look into it! The Couple to Couple League, an organization which teaches the Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP, has this to say: "Modern methods of NFP are as or more effective than all contraception options except sterilization." The Marquette Method's website shares that with regular cycles, it is, "98.4% effective in perfect use, 98% effective in typical use." The Creighton Model website boasts similar results. In one word, ves. Natural Family Planning is effective!

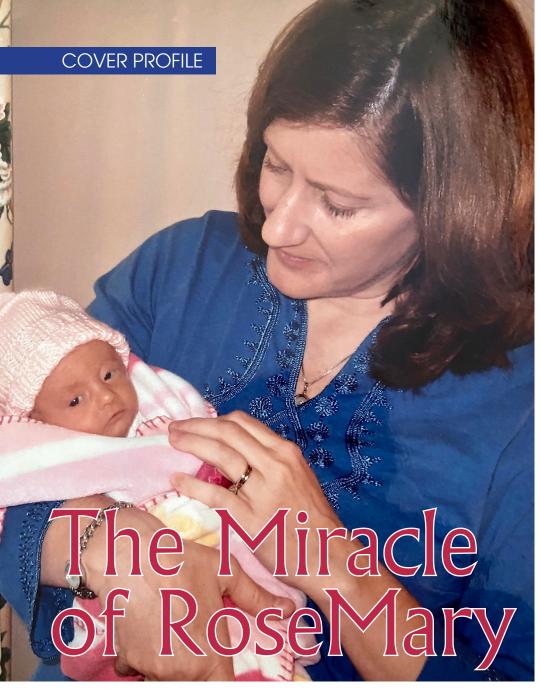
As we wrap up, I'd like to briefly remind us all why NFP is

practiced in the first place. The Catholic Church teaches that sexual intimacy between a married couple serves two purposes: the joining together of the spouses and the creation of life. These purposes cannot be separated. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "The spouses' union achieves the twofold end of marriage: the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life. These two meanings or values of marriage cannot be separated without altering the couple's spiritual life and compromising the goods of marriage and the future of the family." (2363)

In today's society, we have separated sex and life and we see the repercussions all around us. We are called to something greater. God gave us our fertility. It is not something to be feared, ignored, or "cured." It is a wonderful gift to be appreciated and enjoyed with prayerful responsibility! •



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



Mary Vicinanzo shares the story of her daughter's precious life

by Emily Planchet | Photos Courtesy of the Vicinanzo Family

Her name was RoseMary Teresa Vicinanzo. Her life was one that changed the lives of not only her family and community but also those around the world.

The story started commonly enough. In 2007, Mary and David Vicinanzo, long-time members of Christ the King Parish and parents of nine boys, were excited to learn that a tenth child was on the way. Eager to know whether it was a boy or girl, they were in

good spirits, laughing and joking together during the sonogram appointment. From the change in the technician's mood as she viewed the screen, however, it became apparent that something was wrong. Their suspicion was soon confirmed when their doctor, followed by a genetic counselor, came in to discuss the results.

The diagnosis was not official until a few days afterward. Their child – a girl – had Trisomy 18, a

very rare genetic condition that results in defects in a baby's brain, heart, and kidneys. Most babies diagnosed with the condition don't make it to birth, and even those that do very rarely see their first birthday.

The diagnosis was devastating. But even as they were driving home from the doctor's appointment, Mary felt that the situation was in God's hands. "I had this very deep sense of God's love and care. It was overriding my fear and anxiety," she says. However, they also knew that they had to face the very real probability that their child was going to die.

Early on, Mary had called her brother, a priest, to ask him to be there at the hospital to baptize her daughter and to say the funeral. After agreeing, her brother told her, "You've planned for her death, you need to plan for her life," and those words shifted her perspective immediately. After that, Mary was determined that whatever time God gave her with her daughter would be filled with as much love as possible. "We were just going to enjoy her while we had her," she says.

Even though the diagnosis loomed large over her pregnancy, the Vicinanzos never lost their trust in God or the knowledge that he could work a miracle if it was in his plan. Though they prayed for healing, Mary's main prayer was much simpler. "I wanted to give birth and hold my baby in my arms, alive," she says. Even her prayers for her daughter's healing were always given with the intention that God's will would be done. Her openness to God's will helped keep a sense of peace. While others might commend her for her bravery in continuing the pregnancy, Mary felt it was the most natural thing in the world to want to protect her child.

For many reasons – including the fact that the Missionaries of

Charity had heard about their situation and were praying for her – Mary had chosen Mother Teresa as a special intercessor for her daughter. Small things that happened over the course of the pregnancy seemed to show that Mother Teresa was praying for RoseMary. After one appointment, when her daughter's kidneys looked like they would fail immediately after birth, the family prayed. When Mary came back a couple weeks later for another check-up, her daughter's kidneys had improved. The date of the appointment? September 5, the anniversary of Mother Teresa's death.

Later, when the doctor was scheduling the C-section, he had randomly decided on October 19. It was not until later that Mary realized that that was the date of Mother Teresa's beatification. Mary had thought this fitting because Mother Teresa was always focusing on taking something small and making it beautiful for God, and her daughter "was an excellent example of this."

On October 19, through the prayers of friends, family, and (through word of mouth) people from all around the world, the day came that doctors thought would never happen: the day that RoseMary Teresa Vicinanzo was born and immediately baptized.

The following days Mary considered some of the most joyous. She, whose only prayer was to hold her baby, was granted it many times over. RoseMary quickly surpassed the 12 hours she was given to live and was well enough to be taken home. The family settled into a routine. "It was very much a time of living in the moment," Mary says, "Every day we just breathed her in and cherished her."

Each morning, in gratitude for another day with her daughter, Mary would start the day with the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." RoseMary would then spend the rest of the day being held in the arms of friends and family. "It was so easy to love her," Mary says. They loved everything about RoseMary, even the physical manifestations of her condition: her smaller head and the way her fingers would cross. In the quiet of the day, Mary would read Mother Teresa's book *Come Be My Light*.

Then, on the morning of the first Sunday of Advent, the family realized something was wrong. A visit from a physician (who was also a family friend) soon gave them the news they had all been dreading: RoseMary's heart was failing. Hearing this, Mary held her daughter close in her arms and repeated a line from Come Be My Light. "I said, 'I take what you give and I give what you take,' even though my heart was not quite ready to give to God what he was taking." Despite a fierce snowstorm, extended family gathered at their house and kept vigil. Everyone took turns holding RoseMary, praying, singing songs, and waiting.

Finally, around 11:00 pm, RoseMary Teresa Vicinanzo peacefully passed away while being held close by her father, David. Mary recalled being greatly comforted by that fact. "I remembered thinking that she was going from the arms of her earthly father into the arms of her heavenly father," she says.

Even though the grief that followed was intense, Mary would not have changed a thing. "The pain and the grief lessens," she says, "and then you're left with the memories of loving your child." Though they did not get the exact miracle they prayed for, Mary still saw the hand of God throughout. "God did things with her little life," she says. Due to friends and family spreading the word, it seemed that everyone had heard of RoseMary.

Emails poured into the Vicinanzo household from all over the world, stories of people who had been touched by her life.

There was a blind man in India who had gone to pray at the tomb of Mother Teresa to ask her to intercede for the baby. There was a seminarian from an African country who had been struggling with the knowledge that so many children were born only to live a life of suffering, but when he received a picture of RoseMary, something changed for him. "He saw that she was loved and treasured," Mary says, "He saw the purpose and the point: all life is sacred. We're all born into suffering but we're all loved by God."

To the Vicinanzo family, and many others, RoseMary is a shining example of the dignity of a human person. Even though God had determined that her life would be brief, it was still worth living. "It didn't matter how long her life on earth was going to be, it was valuable. It was beautiful," says Mary. "She was who God wanted her to be." ◆





By Michael Clark | Photography by Will Judd

When reflecting on her work in parish life, Angie Glendinning has a very clear sense of her work's meaning in the context of her life as a Christian: "This is what I know God wants me to do," Angie says. Indeed, over the years, God has been at work in her life in ways that are various and profound. A significant moment in her faith journey occurred when she was 15, and she and her family had moved from Quebec to Oklahoma. The

differences between the two places were sharp and jarring.

"It was a culture shock to go from a place that is culturally very Catholic but nobody goes to church to a place that is very culturally not Catholic but everybody goes to church," she says. Many of the people she met "had a lot of false beliefs about what Catholics actually believe," and yet she found that she was unable to defend her faith. The experience inspired her to ask the question, "What do I really believe?"

Her desire to learn more about her Catholic faith motivated her, while she was attending a boarding school for her last two years of high school, to participate in a Bible study. "That was a really eye-opening, faith-growing experience," she says.

Her faith deepened further when she went to college. It was there, at Notre Dame, where she "went back to Confession and developed a relationship with Mary." Through Mary, as is so often the case, she was able to draw closer to Jesus.

God continued to work in Angie's life in the years that followed, eventually bringing her to New Hampshire, where as a volunteer she began work in parish ministry, and this work has since blossomed into a full-time career. She is now Director of Parish Life at Christ the King Parish. She sees the responsibilities of her position as threefold: "To support renewal in the parish, to support the leaders of our ministries, and to cast vision for where God wants us to go."

The fruit of her work has been inspiring to her. "My greatest joy right now in my ministry is seeing how the people of our parish are really starting to realize that the parish doesn't serve them, but that *they* are the parish," she says. In this realization, Angie has seen a transformed perspective on what parish life is all about.

The whole purpose of a parish, in her view, is that "We are here for each other. We are Christ to each other. And we are Christ to the world." That so many in the parish are now living out this vision is truly a testament to what can happen when we, like Angie, are committed to doing God's will and allowing him to accomplish his purposes through the work that we do. •

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2021

October 5: Miraculous Medal Novena

Join us every Monday night at 7:00 pm in the church for the Miraculous Medal Novena.

October 6: Adoration

Men's Ministry hosts adoration on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00-8:00 pm in the church. All are welcome!

October 7: Potluck Dinner

Thursdays after the 5:30 pm Mass, there is a potluck to get to know parishioners in the IHM Room of Barry Hall. All are welcome! Please bring a dish to pass if you can.

October 7: Jam Sessions

Jam Sessions are for those interested in singing or learning a musical instrument. We meet on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Apostles Room of Barry Hall. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. We will set goals each week to practice and learn songs. For more information, email Greg Malette, regalmalette@gmail.com.

October 9: Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00 am for coffee and conversation in the IHM Room of Barry Hall. For more information, email menofctk@gmail.com.

October 11: Columbus Day The parish office will be closed in

observance of Columbus Day.

October 15 & 17: Emmaus

The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This weekend we will be talking about "The Father Almighty: Who God Is." For more information and to register, visit **christthekingnh.org/emmaus**.

NOVEMBER 2021

November 1: All Saints' Day
All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day
of the Catholic Church celebrated
annually. The day is dedicated
to the saints of the Church, that
is, all those who have attained
heaven. Because this holy day falls
on a Monday this year, there is no
obligation to attend Mass.

November 2: All Souls' Day



All Souls' Day is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. Consider using the provided All Souls' Day envelope to add your prayer intentions. These intentions will be prayed for throughout the month.

November 2: Stephen Minister Training

Every day you see people who are hurting from life's difficulties. Stephen Ministers are God's representatives who bring them Jesus' love when they need it most. Are you called to be a Stephen Minister? Our next training classes will be on Tuesday evenings, beginning November 2, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Classes will meet via Zoom. For more information, please contact Susan Rock at 603.848.2088 or Pat Fredette at 603.491.8068.

November 12 & 14: Emmaus

The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This weekend we will be talking about "Before All Ages: Jesus Our Savior." For more information and to register, visit **christthekingnh.org/emmaus**.

November 25: Thanksgiving

"We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus your Son who came to our Earth and lived in a simple home. We have a greater appreciation of the value and dignity of the human family because he loved and was loved within its shelter. Bless us this day; may we grow in love for each other in our family and so give thanks to you who are the maker of all human families and our abiding peace." (*The Catholic Prayer Book*)

DECEMBER 2021

December 10 & 12: Emmaus

The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This weekend we will be talking about "Incarnate: God Became Man." For more information and to register, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

MONTHLY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

October 2 & 3: Food Pantry (Parish)

October 9 & 10: Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

October 16 & 17: Maintenance (Parish)

October 23 & 24: World Mission Sunday (Diocese)

October 30 & 31: no special collection

CONTACT INFO

Christ the King Parish

72 South Main Street Concord, NH 03301 603.224.2328 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 frrich@christthekingnh.org

Deacon

Deacon Winton DeRosia deaconwinton@christthekingnh.org

Director of Parish Life

Angie Glendinning angie@christthekingnh.org

Business Manager

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Bookkeeper

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Parish Secretary

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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 Parishioner Engagement

Jill Galvin jill@christthekingnh.org

MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

	8/22/21	8/29/21	9/5/21	9/12/21
Offertory	\$11,435.00	\$8,683.00	\$10,198.00	\$8,407.00
Online	\$9,275.09	\$5,390.96	\$4,986.92	\$7,731.05
Total	\$20,710.09	\$14,073.96	\$15,184.92	\$16,138.05

ONLINE 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**.

ENVELOPES

To request monthly parish envelopes in the mail, call Kathy Planchet at **603.224.2328**.





www.nhprintmail.com







EMMAUS 2021-2022

Fridays: 5:30-8 pm OR Sundays: 12:30-3 pm

REGISTER ONLINE: christthekingnh.org /emmaus OCT 15 & 17: The Father Almighty Who God Is

NOV 12 & 14: Before All Ages Jesus Our Savior

DEC 10 & 12: IncarnateGod Became Man

JAN 14 & 16: For Our Sake Jesus' Death & Resurrection

FEB 11 & 13: Giver of LifeUnderstanding the Holy Spirit

MAR 11 & 13: One Baptism The Role of the Church

APR 8 & 10: The World to Come The Return of Jesus









