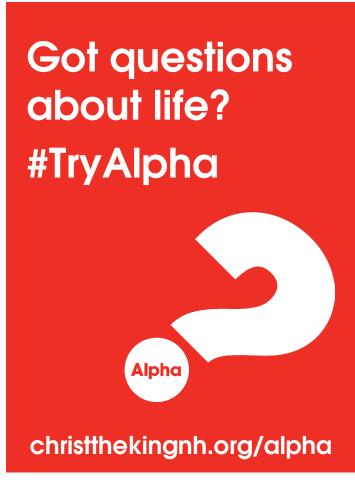
# PROCEAIN

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

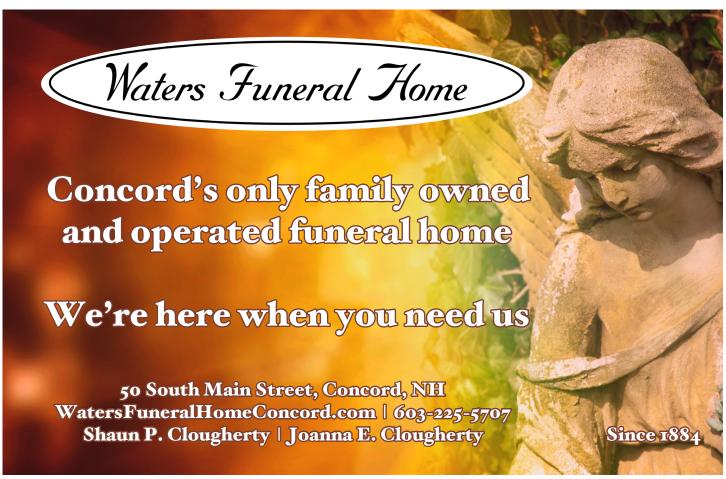
MAY 2024 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 11













## Dear Friends,

May is the month of Mary! Let us ask Our Lady to intercede for us, as we quickly approach the end of the Easter Season and prepare our heart, mind, and soul for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit is the spouse of Mary. In the Gospel of Luke, we read the story of the Annunciation:

"And the angel said to her 'The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.' Mary responded, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" (1:26-38)

With Mary as our model let us also say yes to God's will and be open to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Those who have participated in an Alpha Course will remember the Day Away dedicated to learning about the Holy Spirit and the power we receive to pray for others and ourselves. In fact, the Holy Spirit can empower us to face the challenges of life. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. Who among us is not in need of these gifts?

Similarly, in living connected to the Spirit, we experience the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. May we be more aware of both these gifts and fruits of the Spirit, allowing them to transform our lives. God's grace is at work in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us be receptive and allow the Holy Spirit to animate us.

We pray in a special way for the 24 children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 18, the day before Pentecost. May the Holy Spirit help them and their families to be strengthened in faith, hope, and love as they live out their Catholic Christian life!

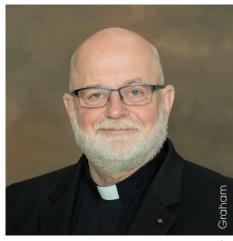
Let us end with the powerful words of the prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of vour love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Yours in Christ.

## Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge, Pastor of Christ the King Parish



"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." This quote is attributed to Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientific minds of all time. The story I'm about to share could easily be explained away by science, but I think a miracle happened at Casa de Albee.

About 10 years ago, we moved into our house and found so much iron in our water that we deemed our home "Iron Well." The iron in our water was so high that it took a nearly-commercial grade water filtration system to get clean water into our home. But that's not all, filters had to be changed and bleach and salt had to be added every few weeks. It was quite the arduous task simply to get good water in our home.

Finally, late last year, after our annual water check, our water-guy informed us that the quality of our water was getting progressively worse and he thought the best course of action would be to dig a new well. The thing is, we're up pretty high on top of a hill, so the dig wouldn't be easy and there were no promises of finding good water.

Wednesday, March 6, Capital Well began drilling. By Friday evening, they'd drilled about 1,000 feet into the earth, and still hadn't found water. We started to lose hope. Saturday morning, I went for a run and an outlandish idea came to me.

A couple years ago, my in-laws visited Lourdes, France, and brought me back some of the healing water from the Grotto at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. As I was running, I thought, "I'll use that Lourdes water to sprinkle the ground in which Capital Well is digging."

After I finished my run, Harry and I went out, stood by the drilling site and prayed a Hail Mary. I sprinkled the Lourdes water and prayed over the ground a "Catholic Blessing of a Well," which I had Googled. I then closed my eyes and started speaking to Jesus as if He were standing right there. "Lord, you told the woman at the well that you are the living water. You're the healer of all people. Please help these well-guys find good water from this site."

Three days later, on the morning of Tuesday, March 12, I was preparing for my day by listening to the daily Mass readings. My eyes started to well with tears as I realized that both the first reading and the Gospel had an overarching theme of water and I took that as a direct message from God.

Andrew was still asleep, but I texted him saying, "The Mass readings today all have a common theme of water in them. Let's pray for the well. Have faith."

That same night, around 6:00 pm the men from Capital Well texted Andrew. Andrew read the message out loud to me. "I finally have some good news," the message read. "Somewhere between 1400 and 1500 feet we found 10gpm [gallons per minute] and it looks clear."

Andrew and I were overwhelmed with emotion, realizing in that moment that our prayers had been answered. "This feels like a miracle to me," I said.

For 10 years we've prayed for our water problem to be solved. Our water now is better than it ever has been, and whether or not this was a miracle, I do fully believe that God's hand was in this, teaching us to persevere in prayer, remain hopeful, and trust in His timing. †



Jen Albee, Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King

# Where do I begin?

### INTRODUCING CATHOLIC THEOLOGY TO LITTLE ONES

Our question this month is inspired by my own life and a real challenge I grapple with as a Catholic mom. I have a deep passion for theology. I love finding ways to make the complexities of our faith more accessible and understandable. I love researching and ruminating on the building blocks of Catholicism. I've even been blessed enough to find a way to use this passion for my day job! And yet, this Easter, I found myself absolutely stumped as I tried to explain to my two-year-old daughter what the celebration was all about.

In my household, we pray together, regularly talk about the faith, and my daughter, Noelle, even sleeps with stuffed Mary and Jesus dolls. But Holy Week proved a new challenge. In her sweet, simple, toddler way, Noelle loves Jesus. How was I supposed to introduce the idea that he died - and brutally so? How would I begin to explain that it was because of our sinfulness – that he died for her? I'd open my mouth and find myself speechless. But my heart ached as I saw her little brain trying to work out what this "Easter" fuss was all about and landing on bunnies and colorful eggs.

It took far longer than it should have, but on Holy Saturday evening, inspiration struck! As you probably know, through the generosity of a family in our parish, every parishioner of Christ the King has access to FORMED, an online Catholic streaming platform. That Saturday, I opened the FORMED app on my smart TV and found a wonderful children's cartoon that walked through the story of Jesus' Passion in a toddler-friendly way. My family curled up together to

watch and afterward had a beautiful conversation about Easter and what we would be celebrating the next day. Thank you, FORMED!

Yes, raising little Catholics is hard, but we are not alone in the task. In fact, I believe it is an amazing time to be a Catholic parent! There are so many faithful and creative Catholic entrepreneurs out there making products and services for the Catholic family. Let me share a few of our favorites.

Our family diaper bag has the print of Our Lady of Guadalupe's veil and was purchased from The Little Rose Shop, which also makes amazing, free, Catholic coloring pages. My daughter's Catholic stuffies are from Shining Light Dolls. We frequent their store for toys, sticker books, saint magnets, and more – not to mention they put out a fantastic "Saint Stories for Kids" podcast. When Noelle was an infant, we had many beloved faith-based teethers from Chews Life. I also have to quickly shout out Be A Heart and Brick House in the City for making some of our favorite Mass-bag toys.

Beyond the Passion of our Lord, my mind spins thinking of all the theology I want to begin to introduce to Noelle – the concept of the trinity, the human and divine natures of Christ, the role of Mary and the saints, and so on. The whole premise for this column is my belief that understanding what we believe and why it is essential in order for our faith to come alive. I want this for my daughter.

But I don't have to figure it all out myself – praise be to God! FORMED, along with Word on Fire, Ascension Press, and others, are always working to create Catholic resources for children. In Concord, we are blessed with the Heart of the Heights Catholic Bookstore on the campus of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. From these places and also simple online searches, I have found fabulous Catholic children's books we all enjoy time and time again, that help introduce the beauty of Catholicism one little step at a time.

May all of us parents, godparents, and grandparents remember that we are not alone, but instead surrounded by a wealth of resources and a worldwide church here to help us raise our little Catholics! †

To gain access to all of FORMED's content, follow these steps:

Go to https://signup.formed.org/

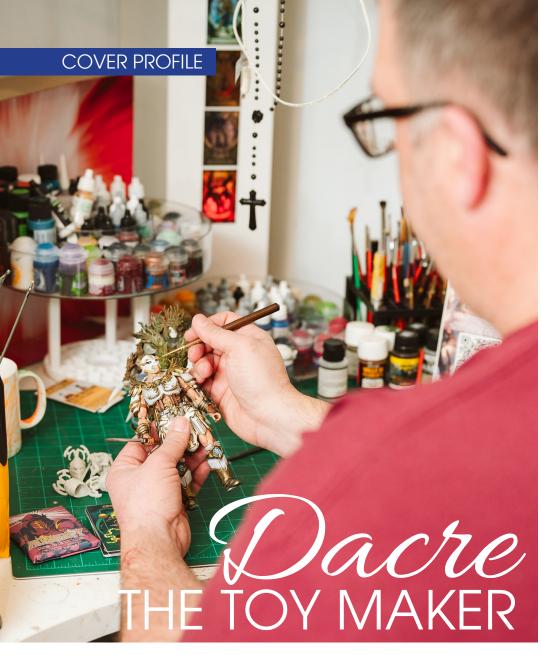
Enter our parish's zip code: 03301

Enter your name & email address

That's it! You're in. Now you can get the free FORMED app for your phone or smart device by searching "FORMED Catholic" in your app store.



Haley Judd, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King



Imagine a living room where kids are playing with winged figures wielding swords or an avid collector displaying his latest comic book acquisition, every panel depicting epic battles between Good and Evil. You might be tempted to think they're simply enjoying the latest Marvel superhero, but you'd be wrong. It's not the superhuman, but the supernatural – an action figure line of the archangels and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Could these biblical celestial beings be the next hit collectible? Christ the King parishioner Dacre Bush thinks so. In fact, he's counting on it.

To start up a whole new line of biblical action figures is a feat

of both creativity and faith, both of which Dacre has developed over the years. His exposure to the artistic world started from childhood in Plymouth, Massachusetts. His mother, a librarian, and his father, a lumber salesman, opened up a series of galleries across the country that featured original art from children's picture books of the '70s and '80s. Illustrators like Tomie DePaola, Ned Delaney, and Maurice Sendak all had original artwork featured. To help garner business, all three of them would travel to various conferences, like the American Booksellers Association or the American Library Association, and set up a table as a vendor. "That's where I

got my whole love of conventions," Dacre says.

Unfortunately, the whole venture ended with the death of his father when Dacre was just 13 years old. His faith too was deeply affected with his father's passing. Raised as an Episcopalian, Dacre had participated in many aspects of his church's life. "I was actively involved," he says. "After my dad died, I fell out of everything." However, after a few years of falling away, an invitation from a high school friend to attend a Christian youth program reinvigorated his dormant love of God. "I became a Christian again," Dacre says. "I even wanted to go school to study theology." Though that desire didn't pan out, he did continue to pursue his ignited faith during his years at New England College. But a question remained: which denomination would he join? "It was more about finding the church I wanted to go to," he remembers. "I was much more interested in the theological, philosophical side of religion." Throughout his search he tried Baptist and Pentecostal churches, but nothing quite seemed to click.

After Dacre graduated, he met and married his wife, Monica, and permanently moved to New Hampshire. Monica, a Catholic and graduate of Magdalen College, seemed to provide an answer to his search, though it took some time for him to act on it. After about six years, he finally made the decision to go through the OCIA process and was able to present himself for communion as a Catholic. It was a choice that would change the course of his life in more ways than one.

As a new Catholic, Dacre joined the Knights of Columbus. One day, a conversation with a fellow knight re-sparked a dream that he had always had. "We were talking about action figures and he said, 'Why don't you make an action figure based on the Bible?" Dacre recalls.



It was a question he had long asked himself. "I've always loved collecting toys and I've always wanted to make one," he says. But he didn't just want to make any type of action figure, he wanted one that that would be both epic and in alignment with his faith. "I wanted to do something cool that would also have a good message to it," Dacre explains. Thus, the idea for the Almighty Legends line was born.

For the first figures in the Almighty Legends line, Dacre opted for the three Archangels: Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael. The idea that the Bible could be seen as cool is a big factor in why Dacre chose it. With them he could write stories where angels help protect humanity from monsters like Behemoth and Leviathan in an epic quest; he could create a world where virtue is a superpower. "The main theme of the figures are the three virtues of faith, hope, and love," Dacre explains. "Gabriel the Messenger of Faith, Michael the Defender of Hope, and Raphael the Healer of Charity." These angels aren't depicted like other angel figurines you think of - mild, benign beings with placid faces and inoffensive smiles – but muscled heroes armed for battle, like any superhero or action star. He also developed the idea of creating the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, not as diabolical villains but as servants of God.

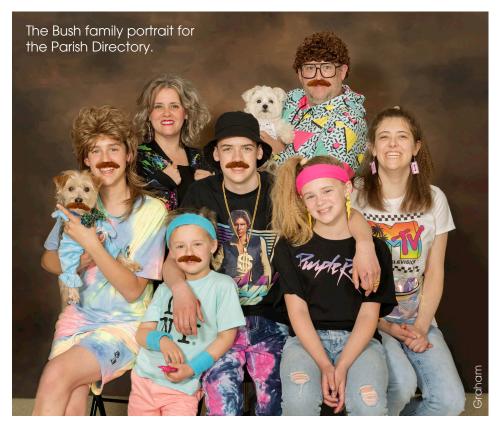
After coming up with the initial idea, there was still a lot to be done. He and a couple of his friends decided that they'd move forward together. Unfortunately, the Great Recession delayed those plans, but the wait did nothing to stem his enthusiasm. "I kept wanting to do it. I felt that there was a need for it," he says. "Finally, I said that I'm going to put some time and faith into this thing." With a whole lot of faith, Dacre started a crowdfunding campaign called "40 Days to Save" on Kickstarter during Lent, hoping that people would be inspired to donate to his project. The campaign was a success with donors giving over \$100,000 so that Toytally Rad Creations, LLC (the new name of his business) could move forward.

The amount of funds raised allowed him to put two of the

figures – Gabriel and Death (one of the Four Horsemen) – into production. Dacre hopes that the first of the finished products will hit the shelves by Christmas. Accompanying the figures will be promotional comic books about the figures as well.

Throughout this process, Dacre has not just learned about business, but also about his faith. "It's made my faith stronger," he says. "It's made me want to learn more from the Bible and from others." Even though it's still in the early days, he's already trying to give back. He's donating up to 60% of the proceeds from his online merchandise to the Christ the King Food Pantry. He has high hopes of success, and, if all goes well, will be able to get all the figures into production. In the end though, he just hopes that his creations are beloved not only by the collector but by those who will play with them. "That's the measure of success, if the kids like it," Dacre

To view photos of the action figures, visit **almightylegends. com**. †





There are countless pieces of parish life that take place behind the scenes. There are ministries and services that we may not see with our own eyes, but make a world of difference for our community. One such hidden ministry is the Seven Sisters Apostolate and the Fasting Brothers. These two groups weekly pray and fast for Father Rich – his sanctification, his health, and his intentions

Marie DeRosia coordinates the Seven Sisters and Fasting Brothers. The Seven Sisters are made up of seven women from our parish who each take a day of the week to pray for Father Rich. These women are committed to a holy hour on their designated day in front of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for Father. Fasting Brothers are six men who commit to fasting one day a week in conjunction with the Seven Sisters. Sunday is excluded as it is the Lord's Day and unsuited to penance. The one year commitment which begins on the feast of the Most Holy Sacred Heart of Jesus, which this year is June 7.

Marie became involved in Seven Sisters Apostolate in 2020 when she became the "anchoress," or leader of the ministry at Christ the King Parish. Marie, whose son is Father Volney, first heard about the Seven Sisters from a woman at her son's parish. The organization was founded in 2011 by Janette Howe, a lay woman from Minnesota, whose son is also a priest. One day while praying for her pastor in a local Eucharistic chapel, she heard a whisper in her ear saying, "Seven Sisters." That inspired her to ask six other women in her parish to offer a holy hour for their pastor, each on a different day of the week. Soon, the idea spread to other churches in the area, and eventually beyond. The ministry now exists in all 50 states, Canada, and across six continents.

Marie has found her time praying before the Blessed Sacrament for Father Rich to be one of the most important things she does. "This experience has helped me to appreciate the gift of priesthood, the Eucharist, and penance," she shares. "I believe that this is a much needed ministry and gift, not only for the priest, but for those who are praying and sacrificing for our pastor."

Marcia Wagner, a long time Christ the King parishioner, is also one of our Seven Sisters. Every Tuesday she spends time at the St. Padre Pio Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel on Loudon Road. There she prays the Novena of the Sacred Heart for Father Rich. "It's a good way to show appreciation for Father Rich who shows us the love of Jesus," she says.

Benoit Pelletier has been a member of the Fasting Brothers for three years. Each Monday is like a mini-Lent offered for Father Rich; he skips or postpones a meal, eats no meat, and drinks only water. "It is like a pebble dropped into water, the ripples going out in all directions," Benoit shares. He hopes this sacrifice will provide Father Rich with extra graces in his work for the Kingdom.

Each year, Marie looks for volunteers who want to become involved in the Seven Sisters and Fasting Brothers. Are you called to give one day a week for the year to pray or fast for Father Rich? If you feel called, please contact Marie DeRosia at m49derosia@yahoo. com or call the Parish Office at 603-224-2328.

Truly, we are all called to pray for our parish priests as they act as Christ among us and bring us His sacraments. We know that the Seven Sisters and Fasting Brothers are a blessing to Father Rich and therefore, to us all! †

PAGE 8 | PROCLAIM By Bill Judd

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

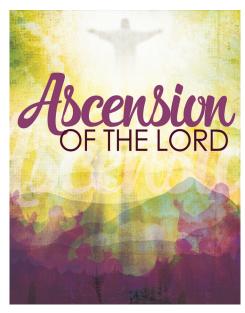
#### MAY 2024

#### May 6: Miraculous Medal Novena

Join us every Monday night at 5:45 pm in the church for the Miraculous Medal Novena. All are welcome!

#### May 8: Rock 'N Race

Come be part of the Christ the King Parish team at this year's Rock 'N Race held on Wednesday, May 8! There are three options: 5K Run, 5K Walk, or 1 Mile Walk. Make sure to select "Christ the King Parish" when selecting your team. Sign up at https://runsignup. com/Race/NH/Concord/ RockNRace

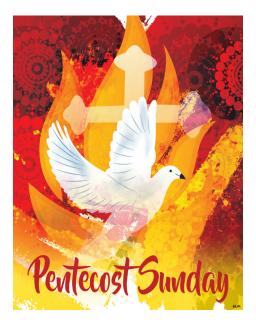


#### May 9: Ascension of the Lord

Today we celebrate the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection. This is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be available at 9:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm.

#### May 11: Men's Ministry

All men are welcome to come together for coffee and conversation! We meet in Barry Hall on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. For more information, email menofctk@gmail.com.



#### **May 19: Pentecost**

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

#### May 27: Memorial Day

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

#### **JUNE 2024**

#### June 2: Corpus Christi Procession

Please join us on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ for adoration and a procession. Adoration will begin after the 11:00 am Mass. The procession will then leave the church and proceed up Main Street to the State House and return to the church. Light refreshments will be available afterward in the Parish Activity Center.

#### June 20-22: Market Days

Come visit the Christ the King Parish and St. John Regional School tent this summer at Concord Market Days on June 20-22. Stop by the booth to say hello and enjoy a craft.

#### June 24-28: Vacation Bible School

Please join us this summer for our Christ the King Vacation Bible School! Kiddos ages 4-12 are welcome to join the fun playing games, doing skits, and singing songs, all while growing in faith and in their relationship with Jesus. The program will run June 24-28, 9:00 am-1:00 pm daily. For more information, visit **catholicnh.org/vbs**.

#### **JULY 2024**

#### July 22-August 2: 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. For more information, visit **donboscoboyscamp.org**. The camp is sponsored by Holy Family Academy.

#### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

#### May 4 & 5:

Food Pantry (Parish) NH Catholic Appeal (Diocese)

#### May 11 & 12:

Fuel & Utilities (Parish) Catholic Communications (National)

#### May 18 & 19:

Maintenance (Parish)

#### May 25 & 26:

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:**

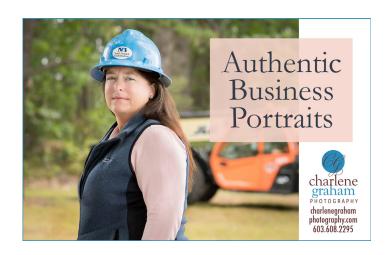
Michelle Dokka, michelled@christthekingnh.org

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

Jeff Litchfield, jeff@christthekingnh.org

#### **Parish Secretary:**

Kathy Planchet, kathy@christthekingnh.org





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#### MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

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Offertory	\$9,238.00	\$10,426.00	\$7,341.85	\$18,795.00
Online	\$7,756.77	\$8,372.41	\$7,019.67	\$4,941.71
Total	\$16,994.77	\$18,798.41	\$14,361.52	\$23,736.71



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.

# Parishioners of Christ the King Parish



**Gary R. Paquette**Senior Vice President/Investments



**Gregory Kerr**Assistant Branch Manager

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