

The KING'S Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

GIVING TREE

Lets Us Show God's Love

The Giving Tree has once again taken its place in Christ the King Cathedral, inviting us to share our blessings with those in need in our community, and to show God's love to others.

The Giving Tree Ministry, under the direction of Tracie Woodard, places a tree in the cathedral and hangs cards on it, as well as on the walls throughout the church. The cards are in six different colors representing the six different organizations that benefit from the Giving Tree. Dedicated volunteers worked with Tracie on Nov. 22 to fill out the cards with the requested gifts and hung them around the church.

The Giving Tree Ministry serves Christ the King's St. Vincent de Paul Ministry; Hope Center; Birthright; Christ the King's Christians in Community Service; our sister parish, Holy Trinity in Harlan, Ky.; and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lexington.

Gifts can be a wide variety of items. The cards post requests for things that are needed, such as clothing, baby items, bus

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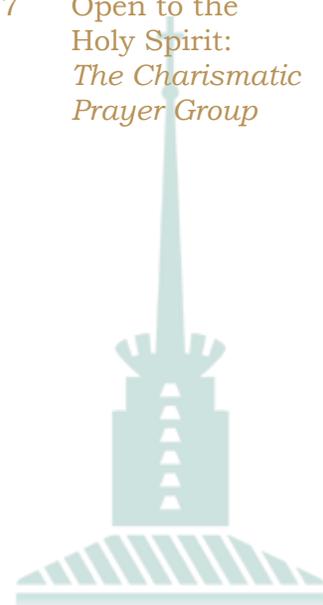


The Giving Tree Ministry, under the leadership of Tracie Woodard, places this tree, along with dozens of colored cards, in the church in late November. Different colored cards represent the six agencies requesting gifts. Parishioners can choose cards and either purchase gifts or make monetary donations.

DECEMBER 2019

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THE NATIVITY SCENE REMINDS US OF THE Joy OF THE Christmas Season

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

One of the most beautiful and heart-touching ways to observe the Advent and Christmas seasons is to have a manger scene. History and legend are intertwined, but the story's spiritual message is timeless and touches our souls. In the 12th century, St. Francis was growing deeper and deeper in his love for God. He sensed that God's grandeur was with every creature and every aspect of creation. He had an exquisite closeness to Jesus. He had great joy that Jesus came for the world and that the world welcomed Jesus as the One who brought Light to humanity's darkest occasions. And so, on Christmas Eve, in a cave near Greccio in Italy's Rieti Valley, Francis laid out some hay, "borrowed" a baby, and simply recreated Bethlehem. When neighboring people heard of this, they came that night, young and old, and they were joined by a few animals. A priest celebrated Mass, Francis preached — Francis spoke not only about the joy and glory of God so loving the world that Jesus was born of Mary, but also stressed how God loves us so much that this King of Kings was born in poverty



in a very humble and vulnerable circumstance.

In our homes, in our churches, in our yards, very often in public parks we often have our own manger scene. It is one of the most popular and heart-warming pictures on Christmas cards. A tour of an art museum will inevitably have Nativity paintings that are masterpieces.

Many of us can remember our own childhoods and the manger scenes we had in our homes and our roles in setting them up. Many

folks have built their own stables for their homes or crafted or painted their own figures. One of the highlights of our Advent season is the Nativity set we have in our courtyard and the invitation to the children to participate as part of the Holy Family. I am always touched as we begin our first Christmas Mass, with our overcrowded church, and one of the children in the opening procession brings Baby Jesus to His crib, which is in our sanctuary.

I enjoy visiting displays that offer a number of Nativity sets that are from many different countries. It is good to see the Holy Family portrayed as people

of color or wearing clothes that represent other nations and cultures. This is a sweet reminder of the universality of Christianity and the extent of the desire of Jesus to bring Good News to everyone throughout the world.

Many families have had their manger scene for many years, perhaps even a few generations. Sometimes one or the other of the figures are nicked, faded or they are missing a part. For me, these guys are reminders that Jesus came to the real us — wounded, broken and flawed as we are. Jesus came to redeem us, but also counts on us to respond and share the Good News, even if we are broken and flawed, faded or fading.

Very often, our manger scene has an empty crib during Advent and the Magi are not yet present — they are somewhere else, often placed to the East of the Bethlehem's manger. If space permits, it might be inspirational to place pregnant Mary, Joseph and their donkey somewhere to the north of the manger until Christmas Eve. The shepherds and their herds can be at the manger; maybe even the angels are preparing the bed — but Mary and Joseph are making a forced and difficult journey. They are one with migrants searching for sanctuary and Mary is one with unwed mothers.

Latino Catholics inspire us with the *Posada*, an Advent-season re-enactment of Joseph and Mary knocking on hotels doors and hearing there is no room in the inn, no room to make a special welcome for the unknown and distrusted strangers. Every night's *Posada* episode ends with a welcome and then a joyous party, as people celebrate their faith and their solidarity. I have also been touched by the Latino custom of a congregation sitting in Church, singing, waiting for Christmas Eve Mass to begin, and passing the Baby Jesus statue from person to person, and rocking Baby Jesus.

The manger scene has a way of touching our hearts, young and old, jaded and faded, believer and searcher. My prayer as I write this column is that we all do everything we can to help ourselves and others to welcome Jesus into our hearts as we use our own creativity and skill to become present at the manger scene. It is the first historic occasion of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Paul Prabell". The signature is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Fr. Paul Prabell, Rector



Christ the King Offers Many Opportunities to Grow During the Advent and Christmas Seasons

In the hustle and bustle of the weeks preceding Christmas Day, it is often difficult to pause and recognize Advent as a time of preparation, prayerfulness and renewal of faith. We are blessed at Christ the King this year to have so many opportunities to increase our spiritual awareness during the Advent season. By opening our hearts and minds during this special time, we answer the call to deepen our faith as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

As Deacon Tim Weinmann points out, the weeks of Advent are a wonderful time for us to pause and reflect on the blessings of the upcoming Christmas season.

“The Church recognizes how busy our lives are and how easily we get pulled into the day-to-day responsibilities and distractions,” Deacon Tim says.

“So, as with Lent, during Advent the Church gives us a few weeks to step back and look at our relationship with God and what He’s getting ready to reveal to us in these holy days, and to get us into a place where we are ready to receive what God is going to give us.”

Throughout Advent, we can deepen our faith by seeking God’s presence in the small, ordinary moments of each day.

“There is certainly a lot that goes into preparing for the holidays, and we can’t just dismiss that,” Deacon Tim says. “So rather than fight that, we can look at how we can ask the Lord to step into those busy days. When we’re in the car to go shopping, maybe we turn the radio off and just talk to God while we’re going to the mall. While we’re taking the kids to the Christmas program, maybe we take time to talk about what we’re celebrating. Little things like that can bring God into those moments of our life and make them holy moments.”

In addition to bringing God into the ordinary moments of our lives this Advent, we also have the opportunity to prepare for the Christmas season by attending some of the special events that will take place in our parish this month.

On Dec. 4, Christ the King welcomes guest speaker Christopher West, a well-known teacher of St. John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body*. Together with folk musician Mike Mangione, West will present



our parish with *Made for More*, a beautiful evening of reflection on some of life’s deepest questions. According to Mike Mangione, this event is for the married, single, celibate, Catholic, non-Catholic, devout, skeptic, young, and experienced. In short, we hope that anyone and everyone will consider taking a break during this busy season to come experience *Made for More*!

In addition to *Made for More*, Christ the King will once again offer many of our beloved annual traditions, including the blessing of the Advent wreath, the St. Nicholas Brunch and live Nativity, the Christ the King School Christmas program, and our Giving Tree service project. On Dec. 7, Bishop John Stowe will say a special Mass for the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, preceded by a group Rosary and followed by the dramatization.

This year’s musical offerings include the Night of Divine Singing, the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra’s “A Cathedral Christmas”, and a performance by the 177 Project with Aly Aleigha Band. Individuals and families can further enter into the spirit of the season by coming to our Advent Reconciliation service on Dec. 19 and by gathering on Dec. 22 to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas Masses.

Whether parishioners and visitors choose to attend our children-centered 4 p.m. or the low-key 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Masses, or any of the others,

everyone is sure to find a Mass to suit their schedule and needs.

There is certainly no lack of opportunity for those wishing to experience a fulfilling Advent and Christmas season here at Christ the King! We hope all parishioners will take a moment to look over our schedule of events for December and mark their calendars with some ways to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ this month.

“Everyone will be in a better place to celebrate Christmas if we’ve been able to walk with Jesus for

the four weeks before that,” Deacon Tim says. “With everything we’re doing in December, we’re offering a place to spend time with your parish family. Amidst the busyness, we’re providing these opportunities for a chance to breathe and get enriched and ready to celebrate Christmas.”

A note for the New Year — the Sunday 11:15 a.m. Mass will move to 11:30 a.m. beginning on Sunday, Jan. 5, and the new CCD times will be 10:20 a.m.-11:20 a.m.



CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING

2019
Advent / Christmas
Schedule

Sunday Advent Mass Schedule:
SATURDAY 5 p.m.
SUNDAY 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Confessions:
WEDNESDAY 4:45 – 5:20 p.m.
SATURDAY 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH After 7:30 a.m. & 9 a.m. Masses

Rosary:
WEEKDAYS 7:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Adoration:
24 HOURS IN ADORATION CHAPEL

ADVENT EVENTS

November 30.....Blessing of the Advent Wreath at the Saturday 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

Nov. 30/Dec. 1.....**First Sunday of Advent:** Saturday 5 p.m. Vigil Mass; Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. Masses

December 1.....Confessions after the Sunday 7:30 & 9 a.m. Masses

December 4.....**Made for More Event** with Christopher West & Mike Mangione (7–9:30 p.m.) in the Cathedral

December 7.....**Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Rosary 11:30 a.m.; Mass at noon with **Bishop John Stowe** followed by the dramatization

December 7.....**Divine Night of Singing** at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral

December 8.....**Second Sunday of Advent:** Saturday 5 p.m. Vigil Mass; Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. Masses

December 14.....Lex. Philharmonic Orchestra: **A Cathedral Christmas** at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral, tickets available at: www.lexphil.org

December 15.....**Third Sunday of Advent:** (Giving Tree gifts due back) Saturday 5 p.m. Vigil Mass; Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. Masses

December 15.....**St. Nicholas Brunch** at 12:30 p.m.; Join us for the LIVE Nativity in the courtyard from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

December 15.....**177 Project** with Aly Aleigha Band 7–9 p.m. in the Cathedral

December 16.....**Christ the King School Program** at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral

December 19.....Advent Reconciliation Service at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral

December 22.....**Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Saturday 5 p.m. Vigil Mass, Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. Masses

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

December 22.....Family Event! **Church decorating** — help beautify our church following the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass

December 24.....Mass at 4 p.m. (Boys and Girls Choirs/Brass Quartet/Tympani/Organ); (*Nursery for children 0-5 years*)
Mass at 6:30 p.m. (Cantor/Brass Quartet/Tympani/Organ); (*Nursery for children 0-5 years*)
Mass at 8:30 p.m. (Cantor/Piano)
Midnight Mass (Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.)
(Christmas Choir/Brass Quartet/Tympani/Organ) **Bishop John Stowe**

December 25.....Mass at 9 a.m. (Cantor/Organ/Trumpet) Mass at 11:15 a.m. (Cantor/Organ/Trumpet)

December 26.....Daily Mass schedule resumes

December 29.....**Feast of the Holy Family:** Saturday 5 p.m. Vigil Mass, Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m.

December 31.....8 a.m. daily Mass; 5:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass for **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**); Midnight Mass (**Holy Day of Obligation**)

January 1.....**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God** (Holy Day of Obligation this year) 10 a.m. Mass only

January 2.....Daily Mass schedule resumes

NOTE: The Sunday 11:15 a.m. Mass will move to 11:30 a.m. beginning on Sunday, January 5 and the new CCD times will be 10:20 a.m.–11:20 a.m.

Giving Tree *continued from front cover*

passes, prepaid grocery/gift cards, or financial contributions. The requests are based on the needs of each organization. Many of the organizations request a combination of these items.

Taking part in the Giving Tree is a way to help spread the love of Christ to others who are less fortunate.

“As we all shop for our loved ones at Christmas, or purchase food to serve our families, participating in the Christmas Giving Tree helps us remember those who don’t have the money to not only buy food and gifts to celebrate with their families, but also remember those who don’t have the most basic of necessities we take for granted,” says Meg Campos, Social Outreach Director. “Many of those in need don’t have food, clothing, stable housing, reliable transportation, or money to pay for heat or a roof over their head during the coldest time of the year.”

Last year the Giving Tree received a total of 425 grocery/gift cards valued at \$9,258, and monetary donations totaled \$7,590. There were 687 gifts ranging from infant-adult clothing, baby and maternity items, reading glasses, backpacks, toys, and household items.

The gift, along with the colored card, must be returned to the O’Neill Center by Dec. 15,



Giving Tree Ministry volunteers hang gift request cards around the church. The gifts requested on the cards are to be returned by Dec. 15 for sorting. Tracie Woodard directs the ministry.

assistance. And during their regular home visits, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers make a list of families who could especially benefit from extra food for Christmas. Fifty very grateful families are given a Christmas food basket to brighten their Christmas celebration.”

As a parish, we can help the Giving Tree Ministry not only by providing gifts, but also by the giving of our time. Besides helping to hang the gift cards in church, help is always needed to gather and store the gifts after weekend Masses, and to sort all the gifts collected by the deadline so they can be distributed in time for Christmas.

when we will count, sort and box each charity’s gifts. The charities will come get their gifts on Monday, Dec. 16.

We can be assured that as we choose a card and purchase a gift or donate money, we are receiving thanks — perhaps not directly, but felt deeply — from the recipients.

“All organizations that benefit from the Christmas Giving Tree donations express their gratitude for the generosity of the parish donations received,” Meg says. “Many, like Christians in Community Service, rely on these donations to continue to operate. They are serving people in need of food, rent and utility

Open to the Holy Spirit:

The Charismatic Prayer Group

There are lots of images that come to mind when we think about God — pictures that we mentally shape, that help us grasp and connect with the Divine. For many, God the Father appears as a wise, elderly man, while Jesus perhaps looks more like a brother, a friend. But then, it become more abstract as we picture the third Person of the Trinity — a dove, perhaps “Tongues of Fire?”

For many people, the Holy Spirit is the most mysterious of the three Divine Persons. However, for those who have come to know the Holy Spirit and His work in their lives, it’s now hard to imagine going back to practicing the faith without inviting His active presence.

“By virtue of any Christian’s Baptism and Confirmation, we all have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us,” says parishioner Joan Root. “So, when we pray and actively seek the Gifts of the Spirit and the Spirit’s direction in our lives, that’s a normative way of growing deeper in our faith.”

Two years ago, a group of people met on a retreat and felt God was calling them to begin a prayer group that would invite and encourage people to get to know the Holy Spirit more personally — thus, the Charismatic Prayer Group was born.

“A small group of us felt the Lord was prompting us to meet and see what happened, and we started some praise and worship and prayer, and it just kept growing,” says Joan, who has been involved since the beginning, and currently serves to coordinate the group’s communications.

The word “charismatic” refers to an openness to the gifts or “charisms” of the Holy Spirit. While some of the expressions of this kind of spirituality may seem unfamiliar to many Catholics, this type of prayer has been a part of our tradition since the early Church.

The Charismatic Prayer Group meets twice a month, on the first and third Fridays of each month, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the Parish Life Center. The evenings include a time of praise and worship, a teaching, a time for people to share how God is working in their lives, and prayer for specific needs and intentions.

In addition to supporting members in their faith, the prayer group also seeks to help people recognize their gifts and call to service in the community.

“We don’t meet just to pray and go about our merry way,”



The Charismatic Prayer Group is an opportunity for people to pray together and grow in their relationship with the Holy Spirit.

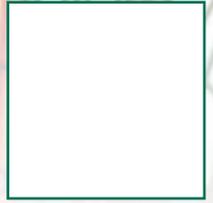


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If you would like more information about the Giving Tree, please call the Social Outreach office at 859-269-3771.

The KING'S Connection

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cathedralctk.org | (859) 268-2861



The Charismatic Prayer Group *continued from page 7*

Joan says. “We pray and worship and listen to the Spirit’s direction, and then ministries spring up from that, for us to go out. It’s all to evangelize and build the Kingdom.

“We can think of the Holy Spirit as the power by which we are to fulfill our Baptismal calling of making disciples of all nations,” she adds. “We can’t do anything without the Holy Spirit.”

Joan encourages her fellow parishioners to consider coming to see what the Charismatic Prayer Group is all about. She hopes people will come, ask questions and learn more about what it means to deepen your relationship with the

Holy Spirit.

“Give it a try and be open,” Joan says. “Some people come just to be prayed over. Some people are coming to deepen their understanding.

“In my personality and my faith journey, I don’t think I’d fall into what people would consider a ‘typical’ Charismatic expression of faith, but all different types of people are being drawn into this,” she adds. “I think it’s for anyone who is feeling the tug of the Lord on their heart to get closer to Him in prayer, or to discern and grow in whatever gifts they’ve been given, to build the Kingdom.”



At the gatherings, people spend time praying with and for each other, and learning more about their faith.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil - 5:00 p.m. | Sunday - 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Daily (Monday to Saturday) - 8:00 a.m. | (Monday to Friday) - 5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation: *Wednesday 4:45 - 5:20 p.m., Saturday 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. | First Sunday of the month 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.*