



The KING'S Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020
Inside

MEET OUR PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Working to Improve Our School Community for All

Our parish school is a special place where staff help build “character, knowledge and spirit” in students from kindergarten to eighth grade. According to the school mission statement, this is accomplished through “living the Catholic faith through sharing the sacraments, promoting academic excellence and engaging in service.”



One way that staff, teachers, and parents and guardians of students may serve is by participating in the Parent Teacher Organization, or PTO.

Megan Giles has been an active PTO member for four years. She loves being involved in the work of the school where her children — Benton, fifth grade; Sammy, fourth grade; and Mary, preschool — attend.

“From day one, we have felt the love and warmth of this community,” Megan says.

The work of the PTO is important to the life of Christ the King School. In fact, their main goal is to enhance the quality of life of everyone who is a part of the school community.

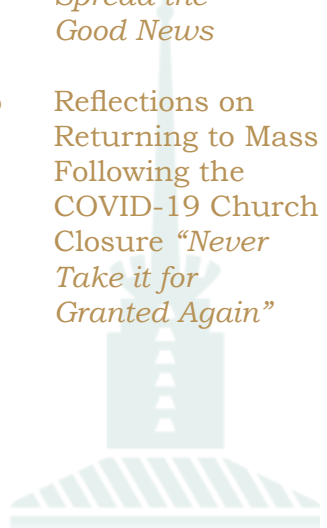
“We work to recruit, coordinate and monitor the parent volunteer base; support the faculty and staff; and allocate funds from the treasury for the benefit of the students’ educational experience,” Megan says.

This last year, Megan served on a number of committees. Most of her work was in fundraising and listening to the needs of staff and parents.

“I am always accessible to listen,” Megan says. “Our school community really

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Changes in Place for This Year's Oktoberfest Event

Ensuring a Safe and Fun Time for All

Working within the safety restrictions in place under the COVID-19 pandemic, our Oktoberfest committees are making sure that this 30-year parish tradition stays alive, even while it takes place under a different format this year.

"It has been a huge part of bringing our parish and school together for the last 30 years," says Lindsey Clickner, Co-Chair of the event. "It has been rated as one of the top Kentucky fall festivals. We've spent hours trying to work out how we can do this safely."

The decision reached by the committee is to have a "virtual" festival with two events in place. The Oktoberdash 5K and Half-Marathon will be held virtually. Participants will register online, run safely in their neighborhoods, and post their times online. For the latest details on this virtual event, check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ctkoko.

The Cummins family and Dan Cummins Chevrolet Buick have offered up an amazing prize this year. "It's going to be a very nice vehicle, with a 'wow!' factor. We can't wait to reveal it to everyone." Lindsey says.

The raffle will take place completely online as state gaming regulations will not permit the sale of paper tickets. Only a limited number will be sold and we will make sure everyone who wants a ticket will have access to purchase one. Tickets will be available by mid-September.

Although the committees had hoped to have a German food tent, it was determined that it was not feasible, given the ongoing safety concerns.

"We are restricted on what we can do," Lindsey says. "We hope in doing several things, such as the Oktoberdash and raffle, we can have some sense of normalcy. We know that Oktoberfest will be bigger and better in 2021!"

Serving with Lindsey and Christian Clickner on the committees are Jody and Kent Wedding, and Jason and Teresa Roper.

"We hate to lose the sense of community that Oktoberfest signifies, unfortunately during these times people are craving that more than ever, but we hope to keep the spirit of Oktoberfest alive by virtual means this year and will bring it back in 2021 bigger and better than before!"



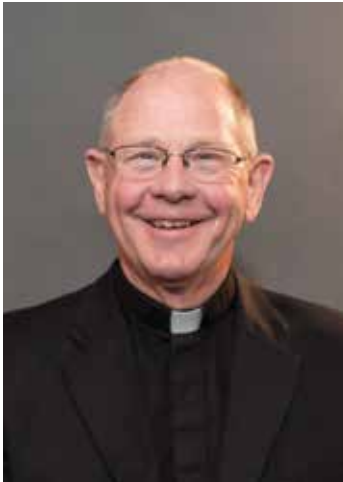
To stay informed of developments regarding the Oktoberfest event, log on to the parish website at www.cathedralctk.org or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ctkoko.

"How Can I Give Today?"

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In these times, it is helpful to begin the day with the question, "How can I give today?"

I suggest 10 ways to be a giver in these days which challenge us to be upbeat, or even to remain on an even keel. And, as we give effectively, we will spread and experience joy.



1. **Give encouragement.** Many folks are struggling to and adjusting to a new normal, which keeps changing — but they are moving along, trying to do what is right and good. Encouragement helps us all to keep making good decisions and to give and find zest. Especially as the school year opens, let's be people of encouragement to students, parents, teachers and administrators.
2. **Give gratitude.** Be grateful to God, to family and friends, and to professionals who are helping us through the pandemic. Find a way to express gratitude — maybe send a hand-written note.
3. **Forgive.** We are all victims in one way or another. People who have hurt us are usually victims themselves. Holding

on to the hurt or harboring resentment does no one any good. Start forgiving by praying for the one who has hurt you or a loved one. This is a good time to mend fences by expressing care and the desire to see beyond the rift.

4. **Forgive yourself.** During these days, many people report that their memories of their own mean, foolish and hurtful actions are flooding them with a vengeance. If others have forgiven us, if God and the Church have forgiven us, if we would forgive someone who did to us what we cannot forgive ourselves for — well then — what good reason is there to withhold forgiving ourselves.
5. **Give the gift of volunteer time.** There are many needs out there for folks to help in one way or another. We know this in our Church, in our neighborhood, in our places of work, in our community. In our bulletin, we regularly are inviting folks to volunteer, to make another person's life healthier and safer. Seldom do we

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If we start every day with the desire and the question "How can I give today?" we will have a spirit of dedication and build on the joy of giving day by day as we gradually work our way through this pandemic and all the fears, issues and problems which have surfaced.



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"How Can I Give Today?" *continued from page 3*

volunteer as a solitary person — we can make great friends among our fellow volunteers.

- 6. Give financial support.** These, of course, are uncertain times. Many charitable organizations are offering assistance to those in need. Our Church and parish face the challenge of making our budget while there are less people in church and, therefore, less income. There is a joy and a sense of peace when we give beyond our self-protective plan, when we trust God to provide enough for our well-being, and when we can see the good that our generosity and our sacrifices are accomplishing.
- 7. Give the gift of self-care.** Balance exercise, good and healthy meals, rest, staying in touch with family and friends, intellectual stimulation, finding ways to enjoy life with virtual assistance, staying safe and keeping others safe. Find ways to enjoy nature. Self-care is important so that we can be our best self in our relationships with others and as we encounter challenges both expected and unexpected.
- 8. Give time to listen to God.** Trust that God has words of encouragement, direction, clarification and peace for us. We pray speaking to God from our hearts, but also

by listening to the Divine Message which penetrates our hearts.

- 9. Give the gift of petitionary prayer.** Petitionary prayer works — the result is not always that our will is done, but petitionary prayer leads us to look for God, to trust in God, and to compassionately put those for whom we pray in the hands of God. Petitionary prayer unites us with those for whom we are praying and those who are also praying. We give a great gift when we pray for someone — we have the joy of bringing our hopes to God and feeling the Divine Presence.
- 10. Give the gift of the desire to give.** If we start every day with the desire and the question "How can I give today?" we will have a spirit of dedication and build on the joy of giving day by day as we gradually work our way through this pandemic and all the fears, issues and problems which have surfaced.

Let us trust the joy of giving as we move forward.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Paul Prabell, *Rector*

Stewardship and Evangelization:

Using Our Time and Talents to Spread the Good News

Jesus came to save the world and to draw all men to Him. When we think of the salvific work of Christ, many of us think of his life, death, resurrection, and His ascension into glory. And while those salvific events are of primary importance in salvation history, it doesn't end there.

Christ wants everyone to know the salvation He has won for them. He wants every soul to experience heavenly glory. Therefore, after having conquered death through His cross and resurrection, Christ commissioned His disciples to carry the Gospel to the world. They were charged to "preach the Gospel to all nations," winning, through their words and examples, souls for the kingdom! What a task! The disciples were overwhelmed at the thought of carrying the Gospel to all nations after Christ had returned to heaven. But the Lord assured them, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). When the Holy Spirit descended upon them on the feast of Pentecost, all those in the crowd were amazed. They all spoke in different tongues, preaching the same message, and everyone there could understand!

And so it was that the Church was established through the power of the Spirit and for the purpose of evangelization. Each of us has been baptized in that Spirit, and through that, made a member of the Church. It is, thus, up to each and every one of us to actively participate in the Church's mission – proclaiming the Good News to all the world and building up the Kingdom of God!

Each of us must re-evaluate how we are using the gifts God has given us to build up His Kingdom. Do we preach the Good News in all that we do and say? The same Spirit that descended upon the apostles that first Pentecost remains with us now, giving us the strength and courage to labor in the vineyard of the world.

Christ came to save the world, and He established the Church as the "universal sacrament of salvation" (CL 2), by which many people throughout the world



would know the glory of His truth. St. Paul describes the Church as one body with many parts. And just as each part of the body has a particular function, so each member of the Church has a particular calling, but united as one body in the Spirit, all of the members are to carry out the Church's one mission. How is God calling you to carry out this mission? What particular gifts has He given you with which you ought to build the Kingdom?

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Reflections on Returning to Mass Following the

At the end of May, Christ the King was able to open its doors to the public for the first time in over two months. During the time of church closure due to the COVID-19 crisis, parishioners were able to watch Masses being livestreamed over the internet. While this technology proved an incredible blessing in terms of keeping the faithful in touch with cathedral life, the livestream Mass could not compare with being in the true presence of the Lord Jesus and receiving Him in the Eucharist. Thus, for the many parishioners who decided to come back to Mass in person over the summer,

walking back into Christ the King was a joyous homecoming.

Taking into account the continuing pandemic, a great deal of planning needed to take place in order to ensure the safety of parishioners returning to church. To maintain six feet of social distancing, the number of people seated in the cathedral for each Mass was limited to 125. Masks were required, and people were asked to reserve a seat in the Mass through the Eventbrite ticketing page linked to our parish website. Those who hadn't reserved a spot online were still invited to come and be seated

in any remaining space. The Eucharist was only distributed in the form of the Body.

Even with all the changes, Deacon Tim Weinmann was thrilled when Christ the King was able to welcome the faithful back for Mass.

"It was great," Deacon Tim says. "It was odd because of the social distance and because you were looking at the masked people, but you knew they just couldn't wait to be there. And I think people understood we are doing what we are to protect people. As far as pro-life, the precautions we are taking are the most pro-life. I think people understand that



Masks and social distancing were in place for the parishioners' protection when public Masses resumed at the end of May.

COVID-19 Church Closure

“Never Take it for Granted Again”

nobody really likes this, but it’s a sacrifice we’re making to protect people, and it’s a worthy sacrifice. It was good to look out and see people again and give people the Body of Christ again.”

Mike and Irene Nuzzo, who served with Deacon Tim on a team tasked with planning the church reopening, were also focused on the best way to bring parishioners back safely.

“We are here to protect our parish,” Mike says. “That’s the most important thing because we want people to come back to church. We had two or three meetings every week on Skype, so there was a whole group of people meeting to come up with these plans. Then we went to the church several times to practice.”

As head usher for our parish, one of the first issues Mike ran into during the reopening planning was the vulnerability of his usual team of ushers. Since most of our ushers are in the older, at-risk population, Mike had to find younger parishioners willing to serve. Amazingly, many quickly volunteered to fill in, and the Nuzzos were able to schedule a minimum of six ushers for each Mass — the number needed to be able to help regulate adequate social distance as people entered and were seated.

The various ways that parishioners have found to continue lending their time and talent to Christ the King have



The first public Mass held at Christ the King following the COVID-19 closures was the Saturday evening vigil Mass celebrating Pentecost on May 30.

certainly been inspiring.

“They step forward when you need them,” Irene says. “Those young people gave up being able to sit with their families to help with ushering. Some have stepped up with sanitizing the pews. So now, even sanitizing has become a ministry! It’s been amazing.”

Reflecting on the months that we were not able to experience the liturgy in person, Irene has found a hidden blessing — a renewed love and fervor for the Mass.

“Until something is taken away, you don’t realize how valuable it is,” she says. “I think that is what COVID-19 has done for us. If something good has come out of all this, I think it has changed our perspective on what

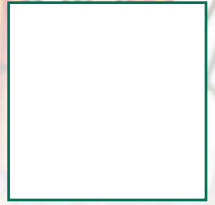
is really valuable in life.”

Moving forward in faith, Deacon Tim hopes that all Catholics will continue to have a greater appreciation for the incomparable gifts of Mass and the Eucharist.

“In terms of parish life, I really do want to get back to normal, meaning we can come together, shake hands and hug one another, or come together for coffee after Mass,” he says. “But I don’t want to go back to the normal of coming on Sunday and checking off a box. I hope that all of us, me included, are going to look at the Mass as a great gift to be able to celebrate and receive the Lord, and never take it for granted again.”

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Parent Teacher Organization *continued from front cover*

has become family for me. I want to help out and do what I can to help keep our school community culture strong.”

Megan was pleased with the response to the PTO capital campaign goal of \$20,000.

“We expected the fundraising to take more than two years, but we accomplished our goal of \$20,000 within three months,” Megan says.

One of Megan’s goals last year was for the staff to know how appreciated they are. Megan taught kindergarten and first grade for eight years prior to having children, so she knows how demanding this work can be.

“I wanted to put the bulk of our focus this year on just finding ways to say ‘thanks’ for those involved in

making our school community a great environment,” she says.

Megan is thankful she said “yes” when she was asked to get involved in the PTO more than four years ago. She appreciates the group’s goal of making Christ the King school the best it can be, as well as having the chance to build stronger relationships with those affiliated with the school.

“Past PTO presidents and the incoming have become really good friends and a support system,” she says.

Please refer to the church bulletin for information on PTO fundraisers throughout the year. The organization has a gift-wrap fundraiser, and days where a portion of sales at a store or restaurant goes to the PTO.

Parents and staff are always welcome at meetings and to get more involved. Dues for PTO are taken from the beginning-of-year school fees and are \$10 per family. If you would like to get involved, please contact Megan Giles at meganeglennon@aol.com.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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