



The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

MARCH 2018

VOL 1.6

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One in Spirit

Lucifer's plan is to sow miscommunication and mistrust. And it's effective. All of us are affected by it.

My wife and I have been married for almost 22 years, and I have learned many things from being married. (I think that is the point. ☺) One of the things I have learned is that most fights and conflicts stem from miscommunication. We spend hours discussing a problem or hurt that occurred, and when we finally come to the point, to the real core of the disagreement, the kernel reveals itself: We didn't

really understand what the other person was saying. There was a misunderstanding, which caused us to think the other one was deliberately trying to hurt us. But it wasn't true. They weren't.

Isn't that how it is for the whole of humanity? All the wars, enmity, contract negotiations, divorces, company splits, fractured friendships ... doesn't it always start that way? Most people want what is good,

but they misunderstand what the other party's intentions are.

It goes back to the Garden of Eden. "Did God *really* say that you were not to eat of every fruit in the Garden?" In other words, "Do you really understand what He wants? Do you really think you can trust Him?"

That is Lucifer's plan: sow miscommunication and mistrust. And it's effective. All of us are affected by it.

"We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit." - Mission Statement of Christ the King

Healing divisions and building unity

One of the great gifts of Alpha to us is an enhancement of our ability to listen, to charitably be present to the other person, even if we stridently disagree, and to try to see things from their perspective.



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

There is a joke in the Jewish world that if you have three rabbis you will have four opinions. Obviously, there is a Catholic counterpart to that, e.g. three priests, four opinions; three theologians, a dozen opinions; etc.

People of faith often disagree about things. Sometimes the disagreement is simply based on a misunderstanding. After literally centuries of discussion, it became apparent in dialogue between the Church and international Lutheran groups that we actually agree on some issues where we thought we were in diametric opposition!

It is amazing what can happen when charity and respect are included in the process and polemic and detraction are forced to take a back seat! Ego-driven “dialogues” are particularly susceptible to failure, especially when they are not actually dialogues but simply pre-packaged sequential monologues.

One of the great gifts of Alpha to us is an enhancement of our ability to listen, to charitably be present to the other person, even if we stridently disagree, and to try to see

things from their perspective. St. Ignatius of Loyola has some great insights on this and recommends that when faced with an ambiguity, we try to interpret it in a way that is the most charitable. How many arguments and conflicts would not have taken place if that approach was followed?

But what if the bottom line is that we actually do disagree? Can we be unified with someone we disagree with?

The Church teaches that our ultimate source of unity is our Baptism and that Baptism incorporates us into the family of the Lord Jesus.

The most crucial dimension of being part of that family is that we are called to love one another.

What is the source of our unity? Is it that we are in agreement? The Church teaches that our ultimate source of unity is our Baptism and that Baptism incorporates us into the family of the Lord Jesus. The most crucial dimension of being part of that family is that we are called to love one another.

It doesn't say love one another if and only if you agree. The Lord Jesus simply commanded us to love one another as He has loved us.

Love is the foundation for our relationships: first, His love for us, then, our love for Him and then for each other. Truth is obviously a key component, and there are circumstances in which a disagreement can be about something so profound and essential that the relationship is disrupted over it, but that should be most rare and only concerning the gravest of issues. Most of the disagreements that damage our relationships are about far less pivotal issues.

Can we choose to love first, pleading with the Holy Spirit to empower us to love, especially those He has given us as family? May He Who is our source of unity empower us to live that family unity well!

— Fr. Ed Fride

One in Spirit

Continued from page 1

Have you ever been in the presence of a married couple when they are fighting? It's not a happy place. It's miscommunication out loud and in full force. Sometimes even worse is the "silent treatment." It's like a cold, lifeless, frozen wasteland. We do this outside of marriage, too. We don't understand how someone can think and act as they do, so we mistrust and judge them.

We need to stop judging others based on what we think is best. We need to stop creating camps: charismatics vs. traditionalists, home-schooling vs. public or private schools, organ vs. guitar, saints vs. sinners. There are few concepts more diabolical than the idea of Christians fighting with each other.

What is God's response to all of this?

We need to love them. Not just a patched in, easy, patronizing love, like a "BE MINE" sticker slapped on a Valentine's Day candy box. We need to love them with Christian love: to suffer for them, to suffer *with* them, with missionary-like compassion. We need to know them, to live with them, to eat and drink with them. We need to marry them, to immerse ourselves in their lives in order to really understand them. We need to eat and drink with sinners, at the risk of being accused of it.



Does this sound too hard? Can we really spend time with them, neglecting our important commitments to sit down and eat with atheists and sinners? Yes. (See the Alpha course, coming to a parish near you. ☺)

Marriage has taught me that I also need to listen more, to listen better, to understand people's stories. Everyone has a story. Each of us interacts with God in a grand drama, with amazing plot twists and epic struggles around every bend, with a glorious finale.

My wife and I are going to see *Les Misérables*, and I am so excited. This extremely popular work of art and literature hinges on a single plot twist that dramatically changes the life of the protagonist. A priest, crossing over the border of class, culture, and propriety, reaches out a strong hand of love and mercy to a thief who has just stolen from him.

A thief who had just been released from prison, who the priest had sheltered for the night, to whom he had given warmth and comfort. When everything in his mind must have been screaming, "I don't understand the insanity of your choices!", he chose to see that thief as his brother.

Millions of people have paid millions of dollars to hear the story about it. Why?

Because we all want unity, we want to love each other. We want our God to reach out His hand to us across a gulf of disconnection and disunity, the length and breadth of which we cannot even fathom, to hear our story, to know us, to understand our broken ways, and to redeem us.

Thanks be to God, that hope is not only possible, but it is real.
— *Martin Doman*

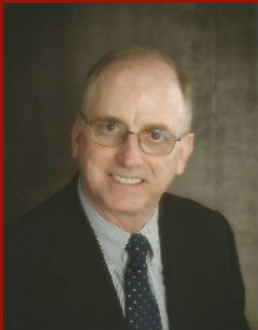
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Martin Doman is Director of Worship at Christ the King.

God's love is amazing!

Have you ever felt that living the Christian life is like trying to push a car uphill? I have good news. That car has an engine and fuel, and you have the key.



David Mangan and his wife Barbara are charter members of Christ the King. They have been married 45 years and have five adult children and 16 grandchildren. He recently retired after many years teaching mathematics and theology at Father Gabriel Richard High School. David was part of the Duquesne Weekend in February 1967 that is commonly looked on as the beginning of the modern Catholic Charismatic Renewal.



I remember the scene as if it had happened yesterday. I was a junior in high school, sitting in English class listening to a debate. Whatever the topic was, I interpreted it as a significant Christian issue. As I listened I kept thinking, "Talk, talk, talk; it doesn't change anything. The truth is still the truth. I don't care what they decide about this. I stand for Christ!"

It was dawning on me that having faith made me different – sometimes very different. This was strictly a private moment. I didn't announce my findings to anyone. Yet announcing this fact to myself made a big difference in my heart.

By the grace of God, I decided to embrace that difference. The way I saw it, God had given me everything and had asked me to give Him myself in return. I wanted to learn

what that meant and live it out.

God is absolutely amazing. We deserve nothing, and yet He gives us everything. We turn our backs on Him, and He still reaches out to us. When we

were yet sinning, the Father sent Jesus, His only Son, to die for us, to save us, and to bring us into a relationship with Him (see Romans 5:6 – 11). And as if that were not enough, He gave us the Holy Spirit so that we could live out that relationship with His power.

Have you ever felt that living the Christian life is like trying to push a car uphill? Haven't you ever wished the Christian life was a lot easier? I know I have. I want God to endow me with some special ability so that I always know the right thing to do and have the power to actually do it.

I have good news: even though the Christian life on this side of Heaven will never be problem-free, there *is* power to be had for living it out. That car you're pushing uphill has an engine and fuel, and you have the key.

What is the key I speak of? It's God's amazing love for us. God walks with us in this life, not as an observer, but as a loving Friend Who carries us in our times of greatest need and Who imparts His power to us even in our weakness. Knowing this and being able to tap into this love is nothing less than spiritual dynamite.

Do you need this spiritual dynamite? You bet your life you do! As we discover and acknowledge God's love, a whole new life opens up for us. Through that love, we can discover how to appropriate His power to live the Christian life in an effective and grace-filled way.

Does that sound too simple? It's true. His love for us is so deep and wide that we can spend a lifetime discovering it. As we do, we will see remarkable things.

The best part is this: the Holy Spirit is more eager to act on our behalf than we are to have Him do it. How does He do it? He only does it by our invitation. So I invite you to pray with me, "Come, Holy Spirit!" And thus, the adventure begins!—*David Mangan*

Humility that brings healing

Last fall I took a graduate class at Sacred Heart Major Seminary that required writing a research paper on an ecumenical topic. The professor emphasized that the purpose was to teach us to listen closely to what others are saying, and not to respond with pre-packaged apologetic answers that we assume will apply, but may not.

I duly spent time reading various authors and trying to understand their views. I included many of their quotes to make sure I was appropriately representing their beliefs. But when I got my paper back, my professor's first comment was that my paper "assumes from the outset an antithetical and apologetic stance, and hence you are not first listening."

It made me wonder how often I think I'm listening to someone, but am not really doing so. Perhaps I think I already know the answer, or how to solve someone's problem. If I've known someone for years, I may assume I know what she is about to say. Sometimes I'm right...and sometimes I'm not.

It's hard to admit when we're wrong. Our pride flares up and we may point to our good intentions. The last thing we want is to feel that we're doing something wrong.

Yet we've all been on the other side of this, too. We've been hurt by others who make false assumptions and are unwilling



Jesus sacrificed His life in order to bring reconciliation and healing. He invites us to merely sacrifice our pride to do the same.

to consider that they may be wrong. We want them to apologize and to reconsider what we've said.

Apologies bring healing. They offer a path to rebuilding the part of the relationship that was hurt. They recognize the dignity of the one who was wounded and give the gift of humility to the one who apologizes willingly.

Jesus never expects us to get everything right. On the contrary, He knows what we will do wrong before we even do it. He doesn't condemn us or withdraw His love from us. Rather, "God proves his love for us in that *while we were still sinners* Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, emphasis added)

Jesus sacrificed His life in order to bring reconciliation and healing. He invites us to merely sacrifice our pride to do the same.

As Lent continues, let's ask God to give us the gift of listening with humility, the grace to apologize when we're wrong, and the joy of receiving forgiveness—both from others and from Him.—
Christy Whiting

My professor's first comment was that my paper "assumes from the outset an antithetical and apologetic stance, and hence you are not first listening." It made me wonder how often I think I'm listening to someone, but am not really doing so.

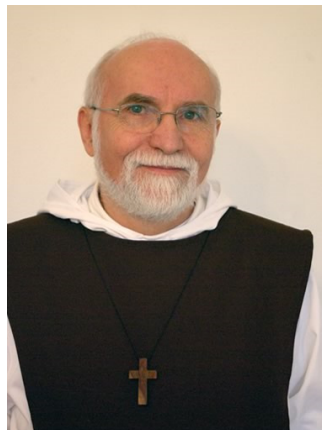


Christy Whiting is Upper Room Director at Christ the King. She is pursuing a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

2018 Parish Mission

Fr. Jacques Philippe returns March 11-14

"This is very important. When we start doing mental prayer we are not saints, and the more we do it the more we realize that fact. People who never come face to face with God in silence are never really conscious of their infidelities and faults, but when we pray, such things become much more obvious. That may give rise to a lot of suffering and the temptation to stop praying. We should not be discouraged at that stage, but should persevere, convinced that perseverance will obtain for us the grace of conversion."
 —Fr. Jacques Philippe,
Time for God



Renowned author and spiritual guide Fr. Jacques Philippe will be returning to Christ the King to lead our Parish Mission on prayer.

Christ the King is pleased to welcome back Fr. Jacques Philippe for our 2018 Parish Mission, Sunday through Wednesday evenings, March 11 through 14. Fr. Jacques led the Christ the King Women's Retreats in 2013 and 2015, both of which were occasions of great blessing for our women. We look forward to what the Lord has in store for all our parishioners through the Parish Mission.

Fr. Jacques plans to speak on the following topics:

Sunday:
 Prayer as a source of peace and fruitfulness

Monday:
 Prayer as an act of faith and hope

Tuesday:
 Prayer as an act of love

Wednesday:
 Living in God's Presence

A KidMission will be available for children 1-13 years old. If you would like your children to participate, you must register them by March 8; we will not be taking walk-ins for the KidMission. Please go to www.ckcc.net/parishmission to sign up. We also need many volunteers for the KidMission and to help with setup and hospitality for the main mission. To help or for more information, please go to www.ckcc.net/parishmission or contact Director of Adult Discipleship Aimée Godfrey at agodfrey@ckcc.net.

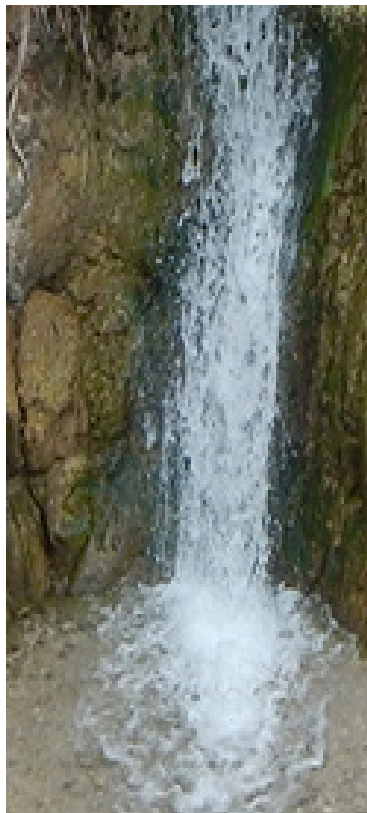
2018 Women's Retreat

Women experience "Streams in the Desert"

It's funny to think about deserts during the middle of winter, as most of the images conjured contain heat, sun, and lack of water. However, if you think about what it means to be in a desert (dryness, isolation, monotony), most of us can admit that we sometimes spiritually feel like we're in a desert, regardless of what season it is.

The 2018 Christ the King Women's Retreat, "Streams in the Desert," sought to address just that experience and consequently rejuvenate and restore retreatants with Living Water. Mary Healy gave three talks on the book of Isaiah and the nourishment we can gain from studying God's word. Each talk focused on a different part of the book of Isaiah and the wisdom therein.

We started in the beginning with Isaiah's call to be a prophet and discussed how intimacy with God is the battle we most need to win. We then moved to Isaiah 40 and the Book of Consolation, discuss-



ing how God's omnipresence reassures us that we don't need to ever be afraid. We also looked briefly at Jeremiah 2:13 and the image of a broken cistern that "holds no water." We asked ourselves, "What are the broken cisterns in my life? What things do I turn to for life instead of God?"

Finally, we looked at Isaiah 54 and the theme of the barren woman. We discussed how the power of praise in the midst of trial draws us closer and casts out temptation. The hopeful message was that anytime there is a breaking or tearing down in our lives, the Lord's intent is to rebuild with "precious stones" (Isaiah 54:11-13).

During praise and worship, the power of the Holy Spirit was present. It was beautiful to see all the women in the room with their hands on each other's shoulders, spread out like a giant net. Throughout the weekend, we had time for Confession, quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and small groups. We were also blessed to be able to celebrate Mass each day. Through these streams, we left the retreat refreshed with God's grace.
— *Melisa Carroll*



Melisa Carroll has been a member of Christ the King since 2004. She and her husband Patrick served on the Life Teen Core Team together before marrying in 2014. Melisa teaches at Huron Valley Catholic School.



More than 180 women came to the Faholo Conference Center in Grass Lake Feb. 2-4 to hear Dr. Mary Healy (inset) speak on "Streams in the Desert." She reminded them that "the battle that the enemy fears most is the battle for intimacy with Jesus. If we have that, if we put our relationship with Him first, we have everything."

In September 2016, the Parish Council and other parish leaders held a strategic planning meeting at which we recognized the need to be more intentional and focused. We developed a new parish mission statement and decided to use Alpha as a means to make evangelization a priority. The DRN was the logical next step to help us move forward.



Bill Pressprich is Chair of Christ the King's Parish Advisory Council and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

What's all this about Divine Renovation?

The February issue of The Open Door included an article by Bill Pressprich that began with a quote from the Divine Renovation Guidebook. You may have wondered, "What's all this about Divine Renovation?" With Bill's help, we're providing some questions and answers about the Divine Renovation Network and Christ the King's decision to participate in it. We'll have more Q&A in the April issue.

What is the Divine Renovation Network?

It started with Fr. James Mallon, who was assigned to be pastor of St. Benedict's Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He inherited a brand-new church facility, built after three parishes were merged. He recognized, though, that if they continued to "do church" as they had always done, there was nothing to prevent further decline.

So, with the permission of his bishop, Fr. Mallon made some changes, particularly emphasizing

- The primacy of evangelization
- The importance of raising up parish leaders

The result was a vibrant, growing parish. In 2014, he wrote a book about

their experience, *Divine Renovation: From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish*. They subsequently established a ministry to assist other parishes. One part of that ministry is the Divine Renovation Network (DRN).

How did Christ the King hear about the DRN?

In June 2016, Fr. Ed and several others from CTK attended the Amazing Parish Conference in Detroit. Fr. Mallon was one of the speakers and mentioned a conference



they were holding in Halifax in July. Several parishioners attended the conference. Fr. Ed, who couldn't make the conference, visited St. Benedict's for five days later in the summer to see for himself what was going on.

When Fr. Mallon and his team began talking about starting a network of parishes, we said that we were interested. We joined the DRN in September 2016. We were one of the first ten parishes to get involved.

Why did CTK decide to get involved in the DRN?

In many ways, our parish is doing remarkably well. However, it seemed like we weren't seeing the fruitfulness as a parish that we might expect: many families were struggling; some kids were falling away from the faith; we weren't doing a good job of evangelizing new people.

In August 2016, the Parish Council and other parish leaders held a strategic planning meeting at which we recognized the need to be more intentional and focused. We developed a new parish mission statement and decided to use Alpha as a means to make evangelization a priority. The DRN was the logical next step to help us move forward.

What does Bp. Boyea think about it?

Fr. Ed talked to him before forming the Senior Leadership Team and again before we joined the DRN. Bp. Boyea has been very encouraging and supportive. He's invested in his pastors and glad to see the positive impact on Fr. Ed and the parish.

Parishioner Profile

Sr. Kelly MacDonald, SGL

Sr. Kelly MacDonald was born and raised in Stratford, Ontario, Canada, one of seven children. She entered the Servants of God's Love at age 33 and has been a member for 19 years.

What was your religious upbringing?

I am a cradle Catholic. My Mum deeply loved the Catholic Church and had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother; her faith was quietly lived out. My Dad became a convert when he married my Mum and had a deep faith as well. In hindsight, I am very grateful to my parents for their quiet faith passed onto me. Faith really was ingrained in us.

When did you start sensing a vocation to the consecrated life?

A vocation to religious life was the last thing from my mind! I first started sensing a nudge from the Holy Spirit when I was working as a graphic designer in Canada's arctic. I met some missionary sisters up there and was very intrigued that women still did this! Giving up everything, *everything*, to live a life for God? I began to ask myself, "Could I do that?"

What drew you to the Servants of God's Love?

Fr. Graham Keep of the Diocese of London, Ontario, invited a friend (now Sr. Mary

Boersen) and myself to come and meet the sisters on one of his visits. My first impression was how cool they were—and still are! They were down-to-earth and joyful.

I later went on a mission trip with Renewal Ministries to Ghana, Africa. Sr. Ann Shields and Sr. Sarah Burdick were on that trip. It was really the first time I met sisters who were head

over heels in love with God. They had a freedom and joy about them. The clincher was, they laughed...a lot. With that question "Could I do this?" still looming in my mind, Sr. Ann and

Sr. Sarah gave the witness that I needed to see that, Yes! It is more than possible to live this kind of life!

What is your favorite part about being a religious sister with the SGLs?

There are many things I love about being an SGL, but one of the things that drew me to the sisters was our fourth vow to our common life. It is a vow that means we are committed to each other for the rest of our lives. We call each other to go deeper in and higher up in our call, to live a life in freedom and, most importantly, a life to be completely spent for our Bridegroom.



I heard you were an Alpha table host last fall. What was that like for you?

I love the simplicity of the Alpha message, loving people where they are at and letting God do the rest. I was really called on in my faith going through Alpha in the fall as a host. We had a group of lovely women along with Fr. Bill Spencer and Paul Godfrey as a helper. These women carried some very heavy crosses throughout their long lives. Throughout those weeks, they began to open up more and more until they trusted us with those stories. I was very humbled and honoured to have been a part of that table.

What advice would you give to someone discerning a religious vocation? Or to someone considering getting involved with Alpha?

To both questions, I would answer the same: Come and see! You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain! Jump in! We'll catch you! The water's great!

Sr. Kelly MacDonald (second from right) and other members of the Servants of God's Love at the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica during a pilgrimage to Rome for the Year for Consecrated Life in 2016.

*Come and see!
You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain!*

Christ the King Financial Update

Christ the King Catholic Church
as of December 31, 2017 (for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018)

\$ in thousands

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash and savings with Diocese	\$ 872
Other assets	-
Total Assets	\$872

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 59
Mortgage payable to Diocese	-
Total Liabilities	59

Net Assets

With donor restrictions	333
Without donor restrictions	480
Total Net Assets	813

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$872
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Income & Expenses

Income

	Annual Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Regular collections	\$ 1,301	\$ 678	\$ 692
Other unrestricted income	80	39	57
Faith formation revenue	94	64	12
Revenues with donor restrictions	94	30	6
Total income	1,569	811	767

Operating expenses

Parish operations	420	205	208
Faith formation	418	217	188
Parish facilities	305	155	132
Liturgy	188	94	86
Tuition assistance	183	87	42
Capital expenditures (facilities)	-	-	-
Other	55	45	9
Total operating expenses	1,569	803	665

Net income over expenses	\$ -	\$ 8	\$ 102
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Notes:

These are year-to-date statements for the parish at the half way point for our fiscal year end June 30, 2018.



Ken Bogan is Business/Operations Manager at Christ the King. He can be reached at kbogan@ctkcc.net.

Heard in passing...

One child to another going down the Parish Center Hall:

"Stay on the black ones. The others are water, and you will sink."



Schedule of Major Events

- 3/2-4: LifeTeen Spring Retreat
- 3/2, 9, 16, 23, 4/6: Upper Room
- 3/3, 10: Every Day in Love
- 3/11: Daylight Saving Time begins
- 3/11-14: Parish Mission with Fr. Jacques Philippe
- 3/17: Classical Education Conference
- 3/25: Palm (Passion) Sunday
- 3/29: Holy Thursday
- 3/30: Good Friday, office closed
- 3/31: Easter Vigil
- 4/1: Easter Sunday
- 4/2: Easter Monday, office closed

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ctkcc.net.

MAJOR EVENTS—MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	Mar. 1	2	3
4	5	5	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Apr. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Save the Dates!

Father-Son Event, Saturday afternoon, April 28
Mother-Daughter Tea, Sunday afternoon, April 29
 Last year's Mother-Daughter Tea was such a success that this year we're doing an event for fathers and sons as well! Contact John Hoving for details.



Confirmation Mass with Bp. Earl Boyea
 Thursday evening, May 10.
 Please pray for our students as they prepare to be sealed with the Holy Spirit.



Pentecost Vigil Mass
 Saturday evening, May 19.
 You won't want to miss this celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!



Check future bulletins for more details about these great events!



Christ the King Catholic Church

4000 Ave Maria Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-665-5040
www.ckcc.net
[Facebook.com/ckcc](https://www.facebook.com/ckcc)

Senior Leadership Team

Fr. Ed Fride, Pastor: fr.ed@ckcc.net
Ken Bogan: kbogan@ckcc.net
Sr. Dorcee Clarey, SGL: srdorcee@att.net
Dcn. Dan Foley: dcndan@aol.com
Rick Hendricks: rdhendricks51@gmail.com
Bill Pressprich: wpressprich@comcast.net

Deacons

Dcn. Dan Foley: dcndan@aol.com
Dcn. Gerry Holowicki: dcngerry@ckcc.net
Dcn. John Ozog: dcnjohn@ckcc.net
Dcn. Larry Randolph: dcnlarry@ckcc.net
Dcn. Lou Russello: dcnlou@ckcc.net
Dcn. Wayne Slomiany: dcnwayne@ckcc.net

Parish Advisory Council

Fr. Ed Fride, President: fr.ed@ckcc.net
Bill Pressprich, Chair: wpressprich@comcast.net
Veronica Cherney
Pete Cooney
Christian Fenton
Nuala Holowicki
Betty Meredith
Don Mierendorf
Katie Perrotta
Greg Stout
Colleen Vermeulen

Coming in future issues...

- Easter: A season, not a day!
- Alpha testimonies
- Parishioner and ministry profiles

Look for this and more in future issues of

The Open Door

Parish Staff

Dorothy Babcock, Facilities Manager: dbabcock@ckcc.net
Ken Bogan, Business/Operations Manager: kbogan@ckcc.net
Martin Doman, Director of Worship: mdoman@ckcc.net
Aimée Godfrey, Director of Adult Discipleship: agodfrey@ckcc.net
Theresa Hofer, Communications Coordinator: thofer@ckcc.net
John Hoving, Director of Youth Discipleship: jhoving@ckcc.net
Sharon Messiter, Parish Secretary: smessiter@ckcc.net
Barbara Morgan, Director of Religious Education: bmorgan@ckcc.net
Harrison Raney, Life Teen Music Director: harrisonraney@gmail.com
Lauren Sauter, Secretary to the DRE: lsauter@ckcc.net
Hannah Stroup, Clerical Assistant: hstroup@ckcc.net
Christy Whiting, Upper Room Director: cwhiting@ckcc.net
Mark Zielman, Liturgical Coordinator: mzielman@ckcc.net

Newsletter Contributors

Theresa Hofer, Editor: thofer@ckcc.net
Ken Bogan
Melisa Carroll
Martin Doman
Fr. Ed Fride
Sr. Kelly MacDonald, SGL
David Mangan
Bill Pressprich
Christy Whiting

We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ckcc.net.

The Open Door is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Classical Education: The Essentials

with Laura Berquist and Maggie Hayden

Saturday, March 17, 2018

10:00am to 3:00pm

For more information and to register,
go to www.ckcc.net/parish-life/homeschooling