



# The King's Crier

Christ the King Parish

March 2022

## Education options increase for many Catholic families

by Kelly Lucas

In 2021, the Indiana General Assembly significantly increased the income threshold used to determine eligibility for the state's Choice Scholarship Program, a state-funded scholarship that helps cover the cost of tuition at a private school. As a result, more Indiana families can — and do — choose Catholic schools for their children's education.

Christ the King Catholic School's tuition for students who qualify for the parish rate is, in many cases, now covered by the Choice Scholarship award. While the non-Catholic tuition rate is slightly higher than the Choice Scholarship provides, the award significantly reduces a family's tuition bill.

"These new guidelines have been a welcome relief for our current families, ensuring that they can continue to provide a Catholic education for their children," Christ the King Principal Ed Seib said. "Many who have received the scholarship now receive a larger amount, and many more were able to qualify for the first time."

By significantly increasing the program's household income eligibility guidelines, lawmakers expanded the number of Indiana students eligible for the Indiana Choice Scholarship (commonly referred to as a voucher).

Program changes also increased

individual award amounts. Under the 2021 law, Choice Scholarship awards amount to: tuition and fees charged at the eligible school or 90% of the per-student state funding for the student's school corporation of residence. On the north side of Indianapolis, awards range from approximately \$5,800 to \$6,500.

According to *Edchoice.org*, 78% of all Indiana families now qualify for the Indiana Choice Scholarship.

The Income Eligibility Chart (on page 6) shows the maximum income that families of varying sizes can earn to qualify for the Indiana Choice Scholarship. While there are a few exceptions or potential add backs to this number, the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) listed on the tax return is the dollar amount used. For example, under the new law a family of five earning up to \$172,272 will qualify for the Indiana Choice Scholarship.

Less than a year in, CKS is already seeing the impact of the eligibility changes. During the 2020-21 school year, 90 students benefited from the Indiana Choice Scholarship. In 2021-22, that number rose to 150. Christ the King School's current enrollment is 343.

Education leaders predict that families who previously thought they could not afford a Catholic education will increasingly revisit the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Upcoming events

**Fridays in Lent at 6 p.m.** Stations of the Cross in church

**March 18 Lenten Fish Fry** in Tuohy Hall (begins at 5:30 p.m. for seniors; at 6 p.m. for all others)

### Holy Week:

**April 14** at 7 p.m.

**Holy Thursday**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**April 15** at 2 p.m. **Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

**April 16** at 11 a.m. **Blessing of the Easter Foods**

**April 16** at 8 p.m. **Easter Vigil Mass**

**April 17** at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. **Easter Sunday Masses**

**April 20 King's Court Meeting** Begins with Mass at 11:30 a.m.

**April 23** at 6 p.m. **SNL Trivia Night** in Tuohy Hall

**April 27 Confirmation** at 7 p.m. at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

**April 30** at 10:30 a.m. **First Communion**

**May 1 Ministry Fair** 8 a.m. to 12 noon in Tuohy Hall

**June 24-25 Summer Social**

Thanks and a

Tip of the King's

Crown to . . .

— all who contributed to the Giving Tree project providing more than \$20,000 of support to families in need;

— organizers of the Lenten fish fries: Rochelle and Nathan Bailey, David Buskill, Chris Duffy, Kathy Ester, and Matt Hooker;

— those who retired from the food cart ministry: Barb Hall, Diane and Jesse Lihota, and Chris Williams;

— everyone who contributed to the Spread the Warmth clothing drive for the homeless and those who brought socks and children's books for other collections;

— volunteers who work at St. Vincent de Paul's Pratt-Quigley and Boulevard Place food pantries;

— parishioners who donate materials for comfort quilts which are made for the Holy Family Shelter;

— volunteer teachers in the religious education program.



# Springtime at Christ the King!

by Fr. Todd Riebe

Just as springtime makes its annual arrival in nature, so too we are witnessing a springtime in our parish.

For the last two years, the pandemic limited and curtailed many parish and school activities. We are now enjoying a flurry of activity as old and new traditions are finding their way to our parish calendar.

Most importantly, attendance at Sunday Mass continues to grow each week as people feel safe to return to in-person services. The sacramental life of the parish is also in full swing as we celebrate baptisms, confirmations, first communions, and weddings.

The King's Gala, which had been postponed for a year because of the pandemic, saw a large and enthusiastic crowd at the Northside Events and Social Club and raised nearly \$60,000 for the parish and school.

The first of this year's Lenten fish fries drew a huge crowd that was

hungry for both food and fellowship. The joy of being together again was palpable in Tuohy Hall.

The liturgical celebrations of Holy Week will take front and center stage in the coming weeks. The time between Easter and Pentecost will offer us a very special opportunity for continuing faith formation as speakers from around the archdiocese and beyond will be with us each Tuesday evening. We will join the men and women of this year's RCIA as we all grow together in faith.

May 1 will feature a ministry fair. Parish groups will have the opportunity to present themselves to parishioners, and parishioners will have the opportunity to volunteer to roll up their sleeves and share in the good work that is being done in the parish and beyond.

After the long winter of the pandemic, spring is coming! At Easter we will greet this new season with a word that says it all: Alleluia!

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*The King's Crier* is published by Christ the King parish. Your contributions (articles, letters, ideas, or photos) are welcome. Send them to [kingscrier@ctk-indy.org](mailto:kingscrier@ctk-indy.org).

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**THUMBS UP!** — Fr. Todd Riebe and Msgr. Tony Volz express their approval for the new vestments purchased with proceeds of a parish bake sale. Sponsored by the St. Anne's Women's Group, the sale netted over \$9,800.

Fr. Todd reported that the parish was able to purchase two vestments of each liturgical color (white, green, red, and purple) to replace those which have been in use for more than 30 years. The new vestments were made in Italy.

In addition, the parish was able to buy a new ciborium and a funeral pall to be used with urns when the deceased has been cremated and no casket is present.

And, finally, some funds are still available when new altar linens are needed. (Photo by Melissa Buechler)

# SVdP: retail stores and so much more

by Rose Sterger

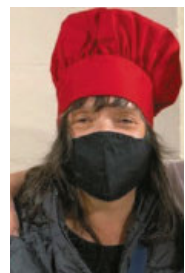
Parishioner Phyllis McNamara calls Mission 27, St. Vincent de Paul's retail store, a place where it should be mandatory for Catholics to shop. There are two locations: 132 Leota Street and 1618 Shelby Street, both near the Fountain Square area.

It is indeed an interesting place to go and possibly find bargains on such things as clothes, shoes, household items, cleaning supplies — even furniture or over-the-counter health supplies.

As with all funds generated by St. Vincent de Paul, money from the stores goes to help the poor.

But Mission 27 is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg at 132 Leota Street. Behind the store is the St. Vincent de Paul warehouse, a veritable beehive of activity with staffers and volunteers working together to help the poor of Indianapolis.

I was privileged to go with Debi Mitchell, former president of Christ the King's St. Vincent de Paul Society, to tour the facility that serves as the nerve center for all of the society's work in Indianapolis.



Evon (pronounced Yvonne) Ducker, General Manager of the retail stores, guided us through the huge facility (the building formerly housed a mattress factory), explaining each department as we moved along.

At first glance, a visitor seems to be faced with a multitude of piles of junk. But Evon explained that SVdP works to make use of everything donated to them.

Nice clothes? Thank you, they'll take them for the stores. Seriously worn-out clothes or blankets? They're fine, too — those can be rel-

egated to a rag pile which is eventually baled and sold by the truckload as a commodity to an organization in Canada. Used appliances that still work? Again, they're happy to have those. Broken appliances? Don't throw them away — their parts may be useable. An old manual typewriter? Bring it on — a collector may want to buy it.

Evon talked of the stores, the clients, and the homeless. Items are regularly donated to St. Vincent de Paul by individuals, but also by such retailers as Target and Costco. If they think they can't sell an item, they will donate it for Mission 27 or to be used otherwise to help the poor.

Macy's also donated fixtures from a store which was being closed. Those are in use in the Shelby Street Mission 27.

Many donated items are saved for clients, people who have called the St. Vincent de Paul help line. They are visited by volunteers from parishes around the city who verify the need for various requests and submit a voucher to the SVdP warehouse. The client can then pick up the items needed at a specified time.

Evon noted that some people only need a few items while others, possibly after a house fire, will need nearly everything necessary to set up housekeeping.

St. Vincent de Paul has a special program for the homeless. On Wednesday and Saturday they are welcomed to the Leota Street dock where they can get a hot meal and snack bags plus any needed items — no telephone calls or client visits are necessary.

On Saturdays, a St. Vincent de Paul group known as the Beggars for the Poor goes to Roberts Park with food and other items needed by the homeless.

Evon also spoke proudly about St. Vincent de Paul's involvement with



The two Mission 27 stores are filled with a variety of items for purchase.

“Changing Lives Forever,” a program consisting of 18 weeks of sessions to educate individuals in poverty about how to break that cycle of poverty and find a better life.

Several Changing Lives graduates are now working on the staffs of one of the stores or in the warehouse.

Obviously, St. Vincent de Paul is a big operation providing help to hundreds of people in the city. (And St. Vincent de Paul Society has organizations like this one throughout the world.)

There is much more to their work as can be seen by their food pantries, but that will have to wait for another story.

New volunteers are always needed and welcomed. If you are interested, you may contact Lina Parr ([Lina\\_Parr@yahoo.com](mailto:Lina_Parr@yahoo.com)), the current president of Christ the King's SVdP conference, or Debi Mitchell ([debi76mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:debi76mitchell@gmail.com)), the former president. You'll be overwhelmed by the number of opportunities available.

# STEM program engages CKS students

by Jenny Annee

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) has been all the buzz over the past several years in all educational settings.

Charter schools have made it their focus, and many schools have implemented programs that have enhanced learning of these important subjects.

Christ the King School wasted no time in getting on the STEM train thanks to the help of our generous parishioners

“We are entering the sixth year of our STEM program,” said Ed Seib, principal of the school. “We are very grateful to the parish for their support. We’ve used funds raised at Mardi Gras to create the St. Patrick’s STEM Lab and to get our initial materials,” he added.

The goal of this program is to motivate and challenge students through cross-curricular, project-based learning. All STEM activities require students to collaborate to solve problems which promotes great lifelong skills.

“We get our materials, curriculum, and training from Project Lead the Way, an educational non-profit organization that is based in Indianapolis,” said Seib. “All grades participate. We started off with each grade level completing one unit per year and now they complete two — one in science class and one in technology class.”

Christ the King teachers are actively involved in the success of STEM. Mrs. Miller runs the middle school classes, Mrs. Wagner handles the technology classes for K-8, and Mrs. Charboneau is the teacher coach. The elementary science teachers implement the science class units.

A few of the highlights of the CKS STEM program are: 8th grade – App Creator course – students

create their own apps; 7th grade – Automation and Robotics – students build different gears and then build and program a remote-control car; 6th grade – Design and Modeling – students apply surface area and volume concepts to create three-dimensional shapes and end up printing on a 3D printer; 2nd grade – States of Matter – students build their own coolers to keep a popsicle cold; Kindergarten – Design and Function – students create their own paint brushes and paint pictures.

“Our STEM program has been a success. It is something that our students look forward to,” said Seib.

“The hands-on activities have

given students a great opportunity to apply the knowledge they are learning in other classes. The collaborative problem-solving skills students are developing will serve them well in high school and beyond.

“Inspired by our success with STEM, we have purchased an entirely new science curriculum that will provide even more hands-on activities and opportunities for our students to collaborate and apply their knowledge.”

Mr. Seib and all the teachers at Christ the King would like to thank parishioners and those who have contributed to the STEM program. You’ve truly made a difference and are helping our students learn important life skills.

## Spring: time to grow your faith

by Ruth Warner

Are you looking for ways to strengthen your spiritual life? Christ the King parish has two opportunities to help during Lent and the Easter Season this year.

The Lenten opportunity is sponsored by the Evangelization Team, established a few years ago, and headed by Ben Olsen.

The team started with cleanup on Broad Ripple streets to be a presence in our community, and also provided welcoming breakfasts for new parishioners. Covid-19 halted those activities, but the welcoming breakfasts may start again soon.

The Evangelization Team is now meeting monthly and has started small discipleship groups which meet in parishioner homes during Lent. The meetings are at different times and on different days to provide convenient times and places for all who are interested.

Discussions are based on a booklet published by the archdiocese and

aimed at evangelization. The first meeting attempted to determine where Christ has been in the lives of the group members. Short written testimonials were shared with others in the group. The main goals are to strengthen relationships in the community by being witnesses to family, friends, co-workers, and all those encountered in day-to-day life, and to bring Jesus to others in living our lives. Another goal is to expand the program beyond Lent.

The Easter Season program is Mystagogy, the final period in the RCIA process. Quanah Jeffries, Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization, explained that this period often gets overlooked. He stated that it happens after a person enters the Catholic Church and described it as “a period of catechesis to delve deeper into the mysteries of faith.”

The program will be on the five Tuesdays in May with the following speakers and subjects:

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Scenes from the long-awaited King's Gala



Parishioners were happy to celebrate at the King's Gala in February after waiting through COVID delays. At left, Pat and Laura Chesebrough socialized with Sheila and Chris Kaufman. At right, an ice sculpture drew lots of attention. Below, party-goers enjoyed the ambience.



(Photos by Jennifer Priser)



## Haiti update

Pere Max reports that Haiti has been facing some serious challenges.

Some of the students at his two parish schools in Bois de Lance have been absent due to COVID, and Pere Max may have had the virus himself, though he is vaccinated.

School remains in session. These are primary schools for grades 1 to 6. Grades above 6 are not currently certified because of the difficulty of organization and staffing and the tuition cost of \$400 per year per child which parents cannot afford.

Christ the King recently sent a \$5,000 donation to provide lunches for the school children. Pere Max says food has made a tremendous difference in the health of the students, who greatly appreciate the meals.

Violence has been another problem in Haiti, making Port au Prince a dangerous place to be. No English or American citizens are visiting at this time. — Mary Kivela

## Did you know?

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House has a library of books on spiritual and theological subjects that are free for you to take home to read and return at your leisure.

Subjects include biographies of saints and Popes, along with their writings. A large section holds volumes of prayers and suggestions on how to improve your prayer and spiritual life.

Scripture and commentaries, books on spiritual direction or preparing seasonal liturgies are among the choices available.

In addition, generous donors have made a few shelves of books available for resale at reasonable prices. There are some real treasures awaiting you there. Check it out!

— Helen Burke



The library at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House is stocked with books on many subjects and welcomes interested readers. (Photo by Helen Burke)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME ELIGIBILITY
2	\$96,681
3	\$121,878
4	\$147,075
5	\$172,272
6	\$197,469
7	\$222,666
8	\$247,863
9	\$273,060
10	\$298,257

## Education options (from page 1)

decision in light of the new guidelines, leading to increased enrollment at many Catholic schools. The Indiana Choice Scholarship is essentially a person’s tax dollars coming back to serve their family.

According to Mr. Seib, 91% of the CKS students who currently receive this award are Christ the King parishioners and receive the parish rate of tuition.

Establishing income eligibility is the first step toward receiving the Choice Scholarship. The second is determining a pathway or qualification for the award.

Families that are income eligible but have always attended Catholic school will likely be required to wait one year to receive the Choice Scholarship. These families are advised to contact CKS to begin the process of securing a Tax Credit Scholarship (commonly referred to as an SGO), which will put them on a pathway to receiving the Choice Scholarship.

The most common pathways are attendance at a public school for the last two semesters; previously having an SGO or Tax Credit Scholarship for the enrolling child or a sibling; or a special need and documented IEP or ISP.

Indiana has operated as a school choice state since 2011. According to the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, about 273,000 children have benefited from the program by being able to attend the non-public school of their choice.

“Given the economic uncertainty that the pandemic has brought, these new guidelines couldn’t have come at a better time,” Mr. Seib said. “If you have always thought a Catholic education was out of reach, that may not be the case! Please contact the school if you are interested in learning more about this program. Visit [www.cks-indy.org](http://www.cks-indy.org) or call us at 317-257-9366.”

## St. Joseph’s Men’s Groups provide support

by Tom Hayes

In 2008, then pastor Msgr. Tony Volz responded to a need for faith sharing among the parish men by supporting the formation of the St. Joseph’s Men’s Groups. Today, 14 years later, two groups of approximately 20 men continue with this ministry.

“I enjoy the fellowship in the meetings, and I love it that the group members are so strong in their Catholic faith,” said Walt Steinfeld, who leads the Tuesday morning group that meets in the parish rectory.

The Tuesday group is one of two that remain from the original seven. The other group meets every other Wednesday evening at 7813 White River Drive.

“We get to know each other and the God who lives in each of us,” said Chris Rivelli, who leads the Wednesday group. “We’re getting to know God in getting to know each

other.”

Both groups follow similar formats -- they read from Catholic literature and answer discussion questions. More importantly, they share their Catholic faith and their lives.

“The support and prayers I get from the guys help me follow Christ,” said Steve Hoaglin, host of the Wednesday night group.

The St. Joseph’s groups are open to any parish man. The Wednesday group meets at 7 p.m. and the Tuesday group meets at 9:45 a.m. If interested in joining, just attend a meeting. If enough men in the parish are interested, other groups can be formed.

In addition to attending regular meetings, the members have helped pastors relocate when necessary, have helped set up the gym when Masses were moved from the church, and have helped set up the summer social. Members also serve as lectors, ushers, cantors, and eucharistic ministers.

# The Lewis Family

by Helen Burke

What brought a Catholic Notre Dame engineering graduate, a “sometimes Baptist” Indiana State University fine arts major, and Christ the King together? Well, in a word, music, specifically trombone music, plus a well-timed invitation.

Amy Fletcher grew up in Crawfordsville with two brothers and a sister. She started playing trombone in sixth grade and continued all through high school. Dave Lewis grew up in Montpelier, Indiana, with four sisters, including his twin, Debbie. His late father was the choir and band director there for decades. Dave was also a trombone player.

## Both move to Indianapolis

They each moved from their hometowns to Indianapolis to start their career paths. Dave pursued electrical engineering with Naval Avionics. Amy used her expertise in photography in the art department of RCI’s *Endless Vacation* magazine.

Enter the Christ the King connection. Ellen Schmidt (currently the president of our parish council and one of our Mass lectors) was also working at RCI. She issued an open invitation for musicians to join her in the Indianapolis Municipal Band.

Amy accepted the invitation and was seated next to another new recruit who had joined just three weeks earlier — David Lewis. Apparently, Amy and Dave hit the right notes with each other; they were married three years later at Christ the King in 1994.

Amy and Dave found Christ the King to be a welcoming parish, and Amy officially joined the Church the year after they married. They welcomed their first son while living in Broad Ripple, but they soon moved to Carmel.



Nick, Amy, Dave, and Ben Lewis

Despite a bit of a drive, both sons, Ben and Nick, enjoyed Cub Scouts, religious education, and sacramental preparation at Christ the King, the parish they still call home.

Dave joined the choir in 2001 and now volunteers as a cantor. That establishes something of a legacy for Dave, as his father filled those roles in the parish where Dave grew up. Dave also sings in the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir.

## Amy changes course

After seven years with RCI, Amy developed an interest in Montessori teaching methods and took a position for a year at a Montessori school to learn more about them. She took time off when Ben was born, and later became certified in early education, then taught for ten years at the Westfield Montessori school which both sons attended before they enrolled at Carmel High School.

The boys, now young men 25 and 22 years old, share an apartment in Castleton. Ben is pursuing an interest in insurance services, and Nick is using a communications and

sports media degree recently earned at Butler University to produce webcasts of high school sports on the Indiana Sports Radio Network.

Amy and Dave find plenty to do in the “empty nest” shared only by the dog, Gracie, and cat, Reggie. Amy is a quilter and is also using her interest in art and paper crafting to head the St. Anne’s Card Ministry group at Christ the King.

Nine women form the group right now but they hope to recruit others to expand the reach of the ministry. They meet once a month at Christ the King School to hand-make simple cards which are then sent to homebound parish members and those in nursing homes.

## Card ministry expands

Their next project proposes to send encouraging cards to ICU staffers at a local hospital to combat the fatigue they are experiencing in treating Covid patients. Amy invites others to join the card-making group; she promises it is easy and fun.

Dave remains quite busy programming software and managing IT projects for AT&T. He and Amy both love to read: she likes historical fiction and biographies; he likes Dean Koontz books and anything about aviation. He earned his private pilot’s license last September.

## Bucket list is half completed

In the back of his mind, he hopes this will enable them to fulfill one of the items on their joint “bucket list” — visiting all 50 states. They are only halfway to that goal now but they are working on it.

While they don’t currently pull out the old trombones, they are still making beautiful music together and will visit those remaining states with a song in their hearts.

## Grow your faith (from page 4)

**May 3** — Fr. Vincent Lampert —  
Pastor of St. Michael, Brookville,  
and St. Peter, Franklin County —  
spiritual life

**May 10** — Fr. Patrick Beidelman  
— Rector of SS. Peter and Paul  
Cathedral and Executive Director,  
Secretariat for Spiritual Life and  
Worship — the Liturgy

**May 17** — Theresa Chamblee and  
Laura Sheehan from Catholic  
Charities — Catholic social  
teaching

**May 24** — Brian Goshorn, teacher  
at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo —  
Eastern Rites of the Catholic  
Church

**May 31** — Quanah Jeffries —  
Christ the King Director of Faith  
Formation and Evangelization —  
apologetics

The program is open to the entire  
parish and will also be advertised to  
other parishes in the North Deanery.



**AT THE FISH FRY** —  
Ben Deichmann, Brad  
Bobemoyer, and David  
Rusbasan, at left,  
manned the fryers on  
March 4. Below, teen  
volunteers helped in the  
serving lines. (Photos by  
Johnny Henninger)

