



# Christ the King Parish / Parroquia de Cristo Rey

5711 SW 9th St, Des Moines, Iowa 50315-5006

christthekingparish.org (515) 285-2888

Parish Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00AM—5:00PM,  
Friday 8:00AM—Noon

Pastor: Fr. PJ McManus

Associate: Fr. George Komo

Hispanic Pastor: Fr. Jose Reynaldo

## Sunday, May 2, 2021

**Mass times:** Monday—Friday 5:30PM, Saturday 5:30PM, Sunday 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 3:15PM in Spanish.

**Confession times:** Monday—Friday 6:00PM—7:00PM, Saturday 4:30PM—5:30PM, Sunday 4:30PM—5:30PM

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021

# TRUE

“I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the  
vine grower.”

JOHN 15:1

SCAN ME if you wish to donate to CTK!

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
OLPI

Welcome to Christ the King Catholic Church

Christ the King Catholic Church Mission Statement

Christ the King is a Catholic community centered on The Risen Lord Jesus, proclaiming His Word and celebrating His presence in the Eucharist. Our commitment to spiritual growth as individuals and families is enhanced by providing opportunities for lifelong spiritual and faith formation. We are committed to becoming good stewards by sharing our time, talent, and treasure in gratitude to God for His many gifts to us. If you are interested in joining Christ the King please pick up a newcomer packet in the back of the Church, or go to our website: [www.christthekingparish.org](http://www.christthekingparish.org)

# A Letter From Father P.J.

Once upon a time I had a mother reach out to me shortly before it was time to celebrate First Holy Communion for her daughter.

"I just don't think she's ready," the woman said. "She doesn't seem to really understand."

So I sat the girl down with her mother and asked her why she wanted to receive her First Holy Communion. "Well, I want to go to First Reconciliation first," was her reply.

"Why's that?"

"To get all the yucky sins off me," she said.

"And then, why First Holy Communion?"

That little girl gave me a look that said, "Seriously, Father?" But all she actually said was, "Jesus!"

She understood plenty. And she taught both Mom and I a lesson: don't underestimate the little ones.

In our part of the world it's become the custom to celebrate First Holy Communion in about second grade, around the ages of seven or eight. But in many places it is still the custom (as was the case in the early Church) to give Communion to infants. Once there was a woman from our part of the world used to our custom who visiting Greece where they give Holy Communion to babies. After the Mass she got angry with priest and said, "How can you give Holy Communion to that baby? She doesn't even know what she's receiving!"

The priest looked at her with what I expect was the same look that little girl gave me and said, "And you, Madam, do you think you understand just *WHO* you are receiving?"

First Communion is a big deal, but not because of white dresses or cute little suits, Godparents and gifts, parties and play. First Communion is a big deal *because JESUS*. Because, if we've done our jobs as parents and priests and teachers and friends, then receiving Communion will become one of the most regular and important parts of our kids' lives. And that has far less to do with *how much* anyone *understands*, and *far more* to do with *how deeply they know HIM*.

I've heard several First Confessions in the last couple of weeks. And the parents were at least as nervous as the kids, mostly that they could recite the Act of Contrition properly. To be honest, I could give a rip if a kid or an adult can memorize the prayer (especially since there are dozens of versions running around); I care *very much* whether the person—child or adult—understands what they've done, is genuinely sorry, and wants God's help to try and do better.

I don't care if you can't spell transubstantiation, but I want you to bow or genuflect towards the Sacrament for the same reason I want you to kiss your mom on the way out the door—because it's how you say, "I see you. I love you. I want to be with you." And I want all of us, children and adults, to pay as much attention to our Ten-Thousandth Communion as to our First—*BECAUSE JESUS*.



Fr. PJ

# A Letter From Father Reynaldo

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO – ALENTAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA

2 de mayo 2021  
5º Domingo de Pascua

El domingo pasado, el Señor Jesús se presentaba como el Buen Pastor, y ahora nos da la imagen de la vid y los sarmientos. *"Yo soy la vid verdadera y mi Padre es el labrador. Toda rama que no da fruto en mí, la corta. Y todo sarmiento que da fruto, lo limpia para que dé más fruto". (Juan 15:1-2)* La vida del cristiano es de un constante cambio de limpieza y permanencia. Todos los días se presentan oportunidades nuevas de crecimiento humano y espiritual. Aquí se trata de crecer en Dios y dar fruto, y darse cuenta que sin Dios no se hace, ni se es nada. Es la prueba del discípulo, dar fruto en las cosas ordinarias, en las cosas sencillas. Haciéndolas extraordinarias por el amor.

¿Cómo estamos vinculados a Jesús en el mundo actual? ¿De qué manera doy fruto en este tiempo? Muchas veces, es difícil permanecer unidos, hay tantas cosas que nos separan de Dios. La frialdad hacia el que sufre, el enfermo, el pobre y desamparado. Nos urge un cambio radical en el amor y en la confianza, de que unidos podemos movernos hacia el amor cristiano. Debemos esforzarnos día a día en hacer el bien, especialmente para dejar algo provechoso a las generaciones venideras. Jesús lo afirmó claramente, al permanecer en él podremos pedir lo que queramos y sea de provecho para la salvación, y se cumplirá. Ese es el testamento. No hay vuelta de hoja. ¡Padre Santo, ayúdanos a permanecer muy cerca de Jesús siempre! Especialmente, en tiempos de prueba. Te pedimos fe y esperanza.

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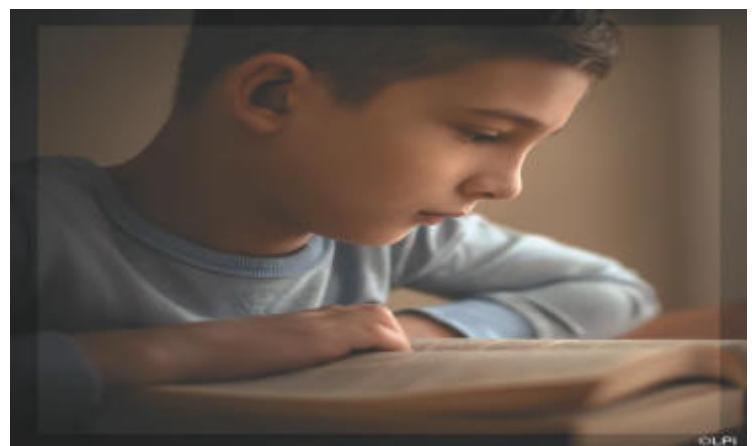
¡Sorprendentemente, ya estamos en el último mes de clases con 19 días escolares restantes! Qué viaje tan loco este año ha sido de muchas maneras diferentes, pero no hay mejor grupo de personas para ayudar a navegar las aguas del aprendizaje en una pandemia que nuestro cuerpo docente y personal. Todos han dado un paso adelante de innumerables maneras y nuestros estudiantes son mejores porque han estado en Cristo Rey este año.

¡Todavía hay tiempo para inscribirse para el próximo año! Si no está seguro de si es la opción correcta para usted o si puede pagarla, ívenga y reúnase con nosotros! Por lo menos, me encantaría conocer a más feligreses y hablarles sobre el estilo y la forma de educación adecuados para sus hijos.

¿Sabías? ¡Cristo el Rey está implementando oficialmente un programa STEM a partir del próximo año escolar! Nuestros estudiantes están preparados para estar bien equipados para el futuro, sin importar a dónde los lleve Dios.

¡Espero que tenga un gran comienzo de mes que significa esperanza y nueva vida!

Dios los bendiga,  
Daniel



“Permanezcan en mí y yo en ustedes. Como el sarmiento no puede dar fruto por sí mismo, si no permanece en la vid, así tampoco ustedes, si no permanecen en mí. Yo soy la vid, ustedes los sarmientos; el que permanece en mí y yo en él, ése da fruto abundante, porque sin mí nada pueden hacer”. – Jn 15, 4-5

Lc 10:2-11 | CNS Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano

# Going On In Our Parish

## Library News

### **Parish Library Opportunities:**

We are looking forward to the time we can reopen our parish library. Would you like to join our great group of library volunteers? You do not have to have any special skills, just a desire to make faith-filled books, movies, and activities available for parishioners of all ages. There are many ways you can help. **Please call Betty McGehee at 515-240-2751 or email**

[library@christthekingparish.org](mailto:library@christthekingparish.org) We would love to have you!



*National Day of*

## **PRAYER**



## Mass Intentions

**Starting on March 20th the 8:30am Mass intentions will be held privately in the rectory:**

Saturday May 1st

**8:30am– Our Clergy, 5:30pm– Mary Jane Harper+**

Sunday May 2nd

**7am– Colleen Black+, 9am– Russ Bair+, 11am– Our Parish**

Monday May 3rd

**8:30am– Thomas May+, 5:30pm– David T. Gardella**

Tuesday May 4th

**8:30am– St. Frances School Tanzania, 5:30pm– Sister Mary Martin+**

Wednesday May 5th

**8:30am– Our Clergy, 5:30pm– Michael Zawistowski+**

Thursday May 6th

**8:30am– Bruce Johnston+, 5:30pm– Louis & Alice Lose+**

Friday May 7th

**8:30am– Our Deceased Sisters+, 5:30pm– Our Deceased Priests+**

Saturday May 8th

**8:30am– Ray Ceretti+, 5:30pm– Sally Bruner Drees+**

Sunday May 9th

**7am– Teresa Adame+, 9am– Ralph & Mariangela Carlino+, 11am– Our Parish**



# Going On In Our Parish

## Magnificat's

The May Magnificat is now available to be picked up at the parish office. Please call ahead at 515-285-2888

## Lectors And Host Ministers

If you are interested in being a Lector or Host Minister, we are looking for help at all the Masses. If you are interested please give the office a call at **515-285-2888**. If I have missed scheduling anyone for Lector or Host Minister please let me know so I can make sure you are put on the schedule.

## Mass Intentions

If you have someone you would like to have a Mass said for please contact Julie Lang at **515-285-2580**. She will get you put on the schedule for a Mass to be said for your loved one.

## Prayer Chain

For prayer requests, please call one of the Prayer Chain Leaders listed below. We are always praying for you and for each other, God Bless.

Julie Bruner: 515-256-0216

Mara Camacho: 515-865-8093

Darlene Hiatt: 515-244-9205

Evelyn Shaw: 515-201-0280

## Faith Formation

Jason Feeney, our director of Faith Formation is looking for volunteers to join in the mission of providing faith formation to the children and youth of the parish.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the normal Faith Formation Program for grades PreK-8, our Middle School Youth Ministry Program for grades 6-8, and our High School Youth Ministry Program for grades 9-12.

Sacramental prep for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. We are also looking for folks to help with this summer's Vacation Bible School. Please email Jason at the parish office and let him know how you can help and where you would be interested in serving.

[jfeeney@christthekingparish.org](mailto:jfeeney@christthekingparish.org)

## Confirmation

**There is a special Mass on Sunday May 9th at 6pm.**

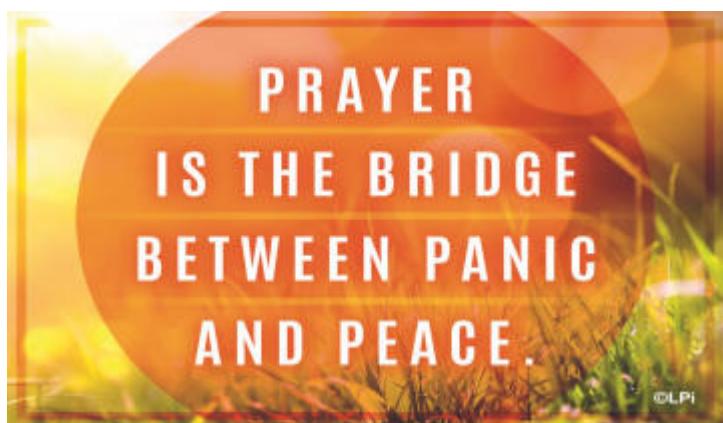
## Coffee and Donut Volunteers

Who wants to have coffee and donuts back! Who would like to help volunteer after a Mass to help with coffee and donuts? Contact the parish office, we can't do this without your help!

**515-285-2888**

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Holy Mary today we lift up all our prayers to you, wrap them in your mantle of grace, and take them to your Son Jesus, our Savior, that all our prayers will be heard. O' Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, hear our hopes and our pleas. Keep us all close to your love and teach us how to love the way we should. We all need to put our love and trust back in God, the Father and Son, and the Holy Spirit! Let us all make a joyful noise unto the Lord for He is good, even in hard times, God is good. Amen.



# Going On In Our Parish

## St. Joseph Consecration Mass

Saturday May 8th at the 5:30pm Mass will be a special Consecration to St. Joseph for all those who participated in the Consecration to St. Joseph with Deacon Tony.

## A Message From The School

Remarkably, we are already into the final month of school with 19 schools days remaining! What a crazy journey this year has been in so many different ways, but there is no better group of people to help navigate the waters of learning in a pandemic than our faculty and staff. Everybody has stepped up in countless ways, and our students are better because they have been at Christ the King this year.

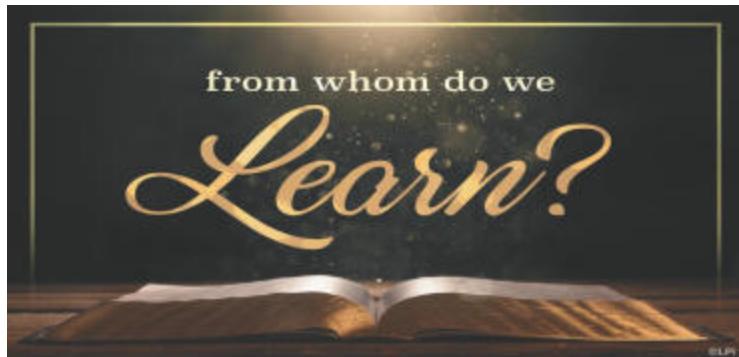
There is still time to register for next year! If you're unsure whether or not it's the right choice for you or if you can afford it, come in and meet with us! At the very least, I would love to get to know more parishioners and talk to you about the right style and form of education for your child(ren).

Did you know? Christ the King is officially implementing a STEM program beginning this upcoming school year! Our students are set to be well-equipped for the future, no matter where God may lead them.

I hope you have a great start to this month that signifies hope and new life!

God bless,

Daniel



## St. Vincent de Paul Reflection

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." Indeed, by helping the poor we can "bear much fruit" and we find that with Jesus we can do everything.

Have you considered answering the call to "help the poor find forgiveness and healing in their life" by joining Christ the King/ St. Vincent de Paul.

Contact Kathy at [kahiatt67@gmail.com](mailto:kahiatt67@gmail.com) for more information.

## Divorced Or Separated Classes

Divorced or separated and wondering what your next step is?

Join us Tuesdays starting May 11, at 6pm at the Christ the King Pastoral Center in the Blessed Virgin Mary room.

We'll help untangle the knots from a Catholic perspective in our 12 week program. \$35 for the materials.

Call Deacon Tony Valdez at 515-979-2301 or the church office 515-285-2888 to pre-register.

## Rosary For The Unborn

If you cherish all life born or unborn, please join us in saying the Rosary to help save the unborn each Saturday at 10am. In front of Planned Parenthood, 1040 E Army Post Rd on the public sidewalk.

**Everyone is welcomed to join us.**

If you have any questions contact: Kathy 515-953-6330



# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples,

but they were all afraid of him,  
not believing that he was a disciple. (Acts 9:26)

## PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.  
(Ps 22) Or Alleluia.

## SECOND READING:

And his commandment is this:  
we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,  
and love one another just as he commanded us.  
(1 Jn 3:23)

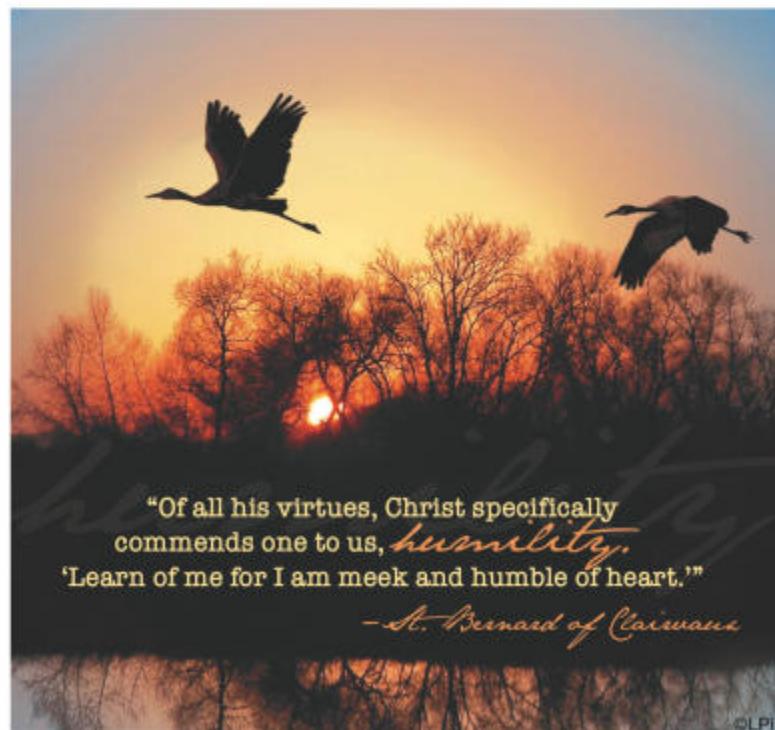
## GOSPEL:

"I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,  
because without me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)

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## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021

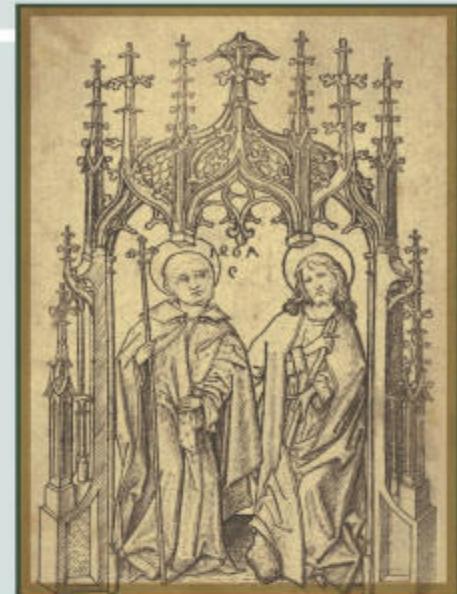
Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter  
Monday: Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles  
Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo  
Thursday: National Day of Prayer  
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day



*"Of all his virtues, Christ specifically  
commands one to us, humility.  
'Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart.'*"

*- St. Bernard of Clairvaux*

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



*Sts.* PHILLIP & JAMES  
A P O S T L E S

## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?

### SECOND READING

John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?

### GOSPEL READING

Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced?

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