

Christ the King THE BROADCAST



JULY 18, 2021

20800 Grand River Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48219

PARISH MISSION

We are Christ the King Parish, a richly diverse Christian Community in Northwest Detroit. We are on a journey of Discipleship with Jesus, seeking conversion, reconciliation and renewal. We reach out in welcome to all the people within our neighborhood, proclaiming the good News of Christ the King, building community, celebrating together, serving one another's needs and the needs of all our neighbors.

'Can I hold my Jesus?'



Photo by Josh Applegate on Unsplash

The Eucharist gave my nana peace in her dying days. She wouldn't want it to be politicized.

The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Catholic faith" as well as the heaviest anchor of mine. However, for most of my life, I could not articulate why. How could I express that no matter what, the Eucharist unceasingly calls me back home to the Catholic faith? That's why the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' recent decision to draft a document on the Eucharist shakes me.

If the Eucharist becomes a way to exclude and not a way to deeply connect, if I have to be concerned about my worthiness before God, I don't know why I would stay Catholic. Maybe the document that the bishops plan to draft will help me to speak more clearly about the sacrament. But right now the thought of it just gives me anxiety.

At best, the document from the bishops will help create a stronger understanding of the sacrament. At worst, it will tear us apart, exclude and push us away from the Eucharist entirely. They are touching the most profound part of my faith, the very reason I'm Catholic.

Graduate school allowed me to explore Eucharistic theology, and I am beyond grateful. Thousands of years of Catholic thought, prayer, theological reflection and wisdom provided the words to articulate this gravitational pull toward the Eucharist and the academics to back it up. Frankly, I felt like less of a weirdo for believing this piece of bread and cup of wine are actually the Body and Blood of Christ. Eucharistic theology fortified my faith.

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Yet, in addition to Eucharistic theology, a second track, equally as mighty, danced around my heart. It focused on how to *live* because of the Eucharist. Sometimes these two tracks grazed

one another, and sparks reverberated all over my spirit. But I couldn't manage to merge them consistently—until my nana showed me how. She didn't require a document, just a few simple words.

My nana went to a hospice house in the early summer of 2018. She had cancer all over her body except for her brain. My most trusted safe place, truth-teller, spiritual advisor and personal chef was about to leave me.

Of course, the campus minister in me kicked in. Intellectually, I knew: I couldn't fix this, God was with us, I could only accompany her to the end, blah blah blah. But I wasn't used to seeing her afraid, so I grasped for a task to provide her comfort in a time we all must face: the anticipation of death.

My eyes down, hands wrapped around the wooden bar at the bottom of the bed frame. I couldn't bear to look at her. It wasn't *her* bed in *our* house. She just kept deteriorating in front of my eyes, and I was at the mercy of it, thoroughly useless.

The *only* thing I could muster from my 27 years of faith was, "Nana, do you want me to bring you the Eucharist?" Relief filtered into the room and over her face. "Yes."

If Jesus wasn't presented to me in the flesh, in front of my very eyes, in such a concrete way, I don't think I could have seen him at all. Those moments in the morning—the routine of driving to Mass, picking up the Eucharist and gently placing it in the small golden pix, rubbing my fingers together to ensure not a crumb of God stayed on my fingertips—anchored me. It was a daily encounter with Jesus reminding me, *I'm here. I'm right here*. Because honestly, if Jesus wasn't presented to me in the flesh, in front of my very eyes, in such a concrete way, I don't think I could have seen him at all. I was too engulfed in her dying process; the grief and stress it caused us was consuming.

Before she received my grandmother received the Eucharist, we would sing a song and read some scripture.

"The Body of Christ."
"Amen." It was a declaration.

We did this each morning for a month, and then things started to turn. I wondered how long we would really have, and I dreaded the day when I wouldn't have to fill up that little pix.

Then something happened.

As I pulled the Eucharist out of my bag, she meekly whispered in desperate longing,

"T, can I hold my Jesus?"

"Of course," I replied.

She took the pix in her hand and simply held her Jesus close. I lost my breath. And it all merged. This connection to the Eucharist that I'd felt my whole life: eucharistic theology, praxis and spirituality, all colliding in one moment. And I changed.

She was about to meet Jesus on the other side, but she understood in the depths of her being that this was the closest she would get until then.

Because I witnessed what she recognized and lived out in her dying. She was about to meet Jesus on the other side, but she understood in the depths of her being that this was the closest she would get until then.

Jesus is with us here on earth in a way that we can sit with, be with, worship and *consume*. This is a God who is everlasting bread for the world, so we too may nourish one another.

This is a God who desires nothing more than to be close to us and *within* us.

That is why this potential document around the Eucharist is keeping me awake at night and genuinely causing me profound internal panic. Just ask my Catholic friends who have been receiving nightly 2 a.m. texts.

I'm still in deep reflection on this topic, but if I could storm into my Nana's kitchen and plop myself next to her on her dining room chair like I'd done so many times before, I'd say:

Nana, I am *sick* over this. The Eucharist is why I'm Catholic! Do you think I'd stick around through the frustrations if I didn't believe that wafer became God? The Eucharist must inspire us to protect life from womb to tomb. Anything less becomes political weaponization. No political party upholds Catholic Social Teaching in its entirety.

And a genuine question: Were the bishops who knew about the sex abuse crisis and did nothing denied the Eucharist? Why didn't the bishops feel the need to publicly clarify teachings on the Eucharist then? We begin each Mass by beating our chests and saying, "Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." Ask God for mercy. We reflect on our sinfulness

Continued on Page 3

Christ the King Parish ~ Grand River at Burt Road
Rectory
 16805 Pierson.....313-532-1211
School
 16800 Trinity.....313-532-1213
Parish website
 Www.ChristTheKingCatholicDetroit.org

St. Christine Christian Services
 15317 Dacosta at Fenkell.....313-535-7272
 Www.SCCSdetroit.org

Siena Literacy
 16888 Trinity.....313-532-8404
 Sr. Janice Brown, O.P.....jbrown@sienaliteracy.org

St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher
 Ms. Diane Renaud.....313-535-9200
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 feddy428@gmail.com

Little Scholars - Christ the King Campus
 Cora Rodgers, Director.....313-693-4260

Parish Council Elected Members:
 Joe Fitzgerald.....Council Chair
 Rachel Conner, Stacie Harris, Mark Barkey, Suzie
 Groenenboom, Jerry Randall, Sheila Fenbert, Nicky
 Marcot, Gary Beaman

Commissions
 Maureen Northrup.....Christian Service
 Carole Ann Beaman.....Worship
 Ron Hildebrandt.....Stewardship
 Michelle Lewis.....Faith Formation
 Dcn. Joe Urbiel.....Finance Council
 Lois Phillips.....Evangelization
 Bob Bruttell & Ron Eady.....Inclusion

St. Vincent dePaul.....313-535-7272

Liturgy Schedule
 Sunday.....10:45am
 Wednesday and Friday.....8:30am

Family Religious Education
 Contact Deacon Joe for more information.

becoming Catholic

Adults, Children, Youth: If you are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic faith or learning more about the Catholic Church, the Adult Catechumenate will prepare you for this decision. Please call the Parish Office if you would like more information.

Infants: Baptism is the public celebration of the beginning of life in the Church. At the celebration of Baptism, parents publicly affirm their decision to raise their child in the faith of the church. To make arrangements for your infant to be baptized, please contact the Parish Office. Pre-Baptismal classes for parents and godparents are necessary, held as arranged with families.

Holy Eucharist and Confirmation Preparation
 Call the Parish Office.....313-532-1211

Please let an usher know if you would like to receive Communion at your pew.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday July 18, 2021
 10:45am Int. of Gary Witt
 By The Bonello Family

*Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 No Mass at Christ the King*

For the summer, weekday Mass will be on Tuesday and Thursday at 9am at St. Suzanne/Our Lady Gate of Heaven

Tuesday 9am at SS/OLGH

Thursday 9am at SS/OLGH

Saturday ~ No Mass

Sunday July 25, 2021
 10:45am Beverly Eady
 By Ron & Adrienne Eady
 Joseph Tuan Sy Do
 By Family



**Plan To Attend!
 Festival Planning Meeting**

This Thursday, July 22, 6:30pm

Come and help us decide what kinds of SAFE activities we can offer on our Super Raffle Day, September 25. Let's make it a real Festival Day! Everyone is Welcome!

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

7/18 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Jer 23:1-6, Eph 2:13-18, Mk 6:30-34
Mon 7/19 Ex 14:5-18, Mt 12:38-42
Tue 7/20 Ex 14:21-15:1, Mt 12:46-50
Wed 7/21 Ex 16:1-5, 9-15, Mt 13:1-9
Thu 7/22 Sg 3:1-4a, Jn 20:1-18
Fri 7/23 Ex 20:1-17, Mt 13:18-23
Sat 7/24 Ex 24:3-8, Mt 13:24-30
7/25 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 2 Kgs 4:42-44, Eph 4:1-6, Jn 6:1-15

OUR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

For NEXT Sunday, July 25
Lectors: Luther & Kendall McCaskill

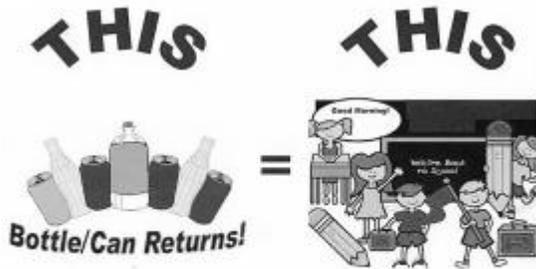
Servers/Liturgy of the Word for Children: None at this time

Serving at the Table of the Lord:
 Genny Singleton

Ministers of Service:
 Ron Eady

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 7/18 10:45am Mass
Garage Sale after Mass
6pm Youth BBQ
Mon ~ Saturday
11am — 5pm Garage Sale
Tue 7/20 9am Mass SS/OLGH
Thu 7/22 9am Mass SS/OLGH
 6:30 Festival Meeting
Sun 7/25 10:45am Mass



When you take your empties back to the store, save your deposit return and bring it to church. Place it in the jug in church, and we will see if in ONE year's time we can pay for tuition for one student (or more)!

Recently a young lady from Mercy High collected bottles and cans and donated the money to our school. She gathered \$1,800.00 in just a few weeks! We thought if we could donate the money from our own household bottles and cans, perhaps in a year we would have enough to cover tuition for one student. Let's challenge ourselves to do it!

If you happen to not have bottles and cans to return, you are still welcome to make a donation to our "Tuition Assist Jug." We will have the jug in Church every Sunday!

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from Page 1

and sing a song about it. Then we acknowledge our unworthiness *again*: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed." Isn't it because of our sin that we need God the most? Is taking away a direct encounter with God the way toward justice? I know this is about to sound insane, but I already miss Catholics whose political beliefs differ from mine. I might have disagreed with them on some things, but I haven't felt this far from them until right now. Because no matter the political differences, we could rest together and unite in the Eucharist. I could be with any Catholic of any flavor and be able to say, "Let's go to adoration." It may have been only one tie, but it was enough because it was God. So many of my fellow Catholics feel far away now. I already don't like what this church infighting is making me become. I'd put my head in my hands, and she'd be there in the quiet with me. Maybe rub my arm or take my hand. Through a cracked voice I'd ask: Should I even be Catholic anymore? If the Eucharist is going to be used like this, do I even want to be? Then I would take a deep breath and look at her with tear-glazed eyes, knowing she'd hold every word I said. I'm so upset right now about this whole mess that I can't fully hear what she might say back. I'm too knotted. But I know she wouldn't want anyone to weaponize the Eucharist. And she would remind me: That's still my Jesus.

-Tinamarie Stolz



Tinamarie Stolz is a campus minister at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa. and a former member of the Christ the King Service Corps. She holds a master's degree in theological studies from the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. This article was featured in the June 27, 2021 issue of America Magazine.



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christ the King Super Raffle. We have reached our goal of selling 300 tickets. Now we just have to wait until September 25th to see who wins the \$10,00.00 grand prize. Thank you again and good luck!

THE WISDOM OF POPE FRANCIS



Parish, diocesan and national Catholic charities help the Catholic Church live the Gospel by being a church of tenderness and closeness where the poor are blessed, where mission is at the center and where joy is born of service.

The Gospel teaches only one Christian lifestyle: It is the style of humble love, concrete but not showy, proposed but not imposed. It is the style of gratuitous love, which does not seek rewards. It is the style of availability and service, in imitation of Jesus who made himself our servant.

I would like to say thank you, thank you; thank you to the staff, the priests and the volunteers! There are tens of thousands of volunteers, among them many young people, including those engaged in civil service, who during this time have listened to and offered concrete responses to those in distress.

In recruiting volunteers and organizing service to anyone in need, we must pay attention to young people. They are the most fragile victims of this era of change, but also the potential architects of changing the way society is going. It is never a waste of time to dedicate time to them, to weave together, with friendship, enthusiasm and patience, relationships that overcome the cultures of indifference and appearance.

Garnering "likes" on social media is not enough for them. They need companionship and true joy. In imitation of Christ, the path of the church always must be the path toward those the world considers last.

It is from them that we start, from the most fragile and defenseless. From them. If you do not start with them, you do not understand anything. Charity is the mercy that goes in search of the weakest, that goes to the most difficult frontiers to free people from the slavery that oppresses them and makes them protagonists of their own lives.

Christians need to look into the eyes of the poor and learn to see the world through their eyes. That is where you learn if we are not able to look into the eyes of the poor, to look them in the eye, to touch them with a hug, with a hand, we will not do anything.

Seeing the world through their eyes, we look at reality in a different way from what is our mentality. History is not seen from the perspective of the winners, who make it appear beautiful and perfect, but from the perspective of the poor, because it is the perspective of Jesus.

It is the poor who put their finger on the wound of our contradictions and disturb our conscience in a healthy way, inviting us to change.

If one's heart and conscience do not become restless seeing the world from their perspective, we should stop because something is not working.



July is fading fast! Please be sure to bring in your donations for Christmas in July and place them under the tree in Church. Your donations are so important! Thank you for caring.

**Toilet paper
Paper towel
Napkins/paper plates
Feminine Hygiene Products**

You can leave your donation under the Christmas Tree in Church.



SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, August 13
7:30PM

Siena Literacy Center Presents UP.
A FREE community event!
Christ the King Church Parking Lot

Prizes

Raffle



Activities

Light Snacks

- Bring your blankets & chairs.
- Families must register at check in.
- All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Check the website for movie updates at www.sienaliteracy.org



Save the Date
Blood Drive

Sunday, August 1, 2021
9:00am to 3:00pm

St Scholastica Catholic Church
8201 W. Outer Drive Detroit

For appts. log onto RedCrossBlood.org
(sponsor code: stscholastica)
Or call Mary Anne Stella at 248-979-5917

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