

Christ the King THE BROADCAST



DECEMBER 5, 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.

LOVE, PROMISE, JOY & FAITH

"This very morning I received a meme that I really appreciated because it tied into what I wanted this article to be about. It read," The communication between yourself and the Lord is within. Look at the signs, symbolisms, and synchronicities that occur day to day in your life. This is where God's messages can be found."

I'm sure we all can attest to many moments in our lives when something was going on and the scripture readings, Fr. Vic's homily, a beautiful hymn, prayer or a simple kind word or gesture would really hit home.

Last year I remember writing that the slower pace of life brought on by the coronavirus was a blessing in a sense because there were so many less distractions. For me, Advent of 2020 was such a deliberate time to focus on the real meaning of Christmas.

This year as we enter into the second week of Advent, we have been asked to especially reflect on the **LOVE**, the **PROMISE**, the **JOY** and **FAITH** that this season brings. Due to the circumstances of my son's accident almost two years ago and his present incarceration, I can reflect on these words with so much more appreciation for Christ's birth.

Our Father blessed us with Jesus so He could show us how to teach and **LOVE** others and to show us the way to Him. Despite our sins and wrongdoings we are loved unconditionally. I am grateful for this ultimate example of **LOVE** as it is what gave me the strength to support my son in the worst time of our lives.

The **LOVE** and concern of others is also what sustained Eddie and our family for the past two years and until this very moment. We witnessed God's **LOVE** through all of you and I can never thank you enough!

Throughout scripture God has made many **PROMISES**. The Lord **PROMISED** Abraham a great nation because of his faithfulness, thus a Messiah was born from his lineage.

God's **PROMISE** that He will never leave or forsake us, is a scripture I lean on and find very comforting during this time in my life.

All of you reaching out and offering your words of wisdom, prayers and donations are also symbols of God's **PROMISE**.

Eddie's attorney **PROMISED** Eddie would indeed graduate from high school and he did! Trust and **PROMISES** go hand in hand and placing my trust in God's word is what has sustained me.

JOY to the World, the Lord is come!

What better word can describe this wondrous time of year? No pandemic, no pain or sorrow can diminish the **JOY** we feel as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! It is everlasting! Sure we may experience some sadness and depression during the holidays but if we focus on the true reason for the season, **JOY** will prevail.

As a mother, the pain, the regret and the immense sadness from this accident has caused me many inconsolable days and just as many sleepless nights. I have never been so unhappy in my life. But ironically, in this tragedy I have found a **JOY** that I could have never known without this experience.

"If you've knelt beside the rubble of an aching broken heart,

When the things you gave your life to fell apart

You're not the first to be acquainted with sorrow, grief or pain

But the Master promised sunshine after rain, hold on my child,

JOY comes in the morning"

Today's second candle of Advent represents **FAITH**. It is sometimes referred to as The Bethlehem Candle as a reminder of Mary & Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. As we light this purple candle today we continue the preparation for the coming of the King!

FAITH is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. -2 Corinthians 4:18

Initially it was my prayer and so many of yours that Eddie would receive probation for his actions that night. Two horrible decisions were made that resulted in another person's demise; Eddie's decision to speed, the deceased gentleman's to drive while intoxicated. After so many days and months to pray, contemplate, wish and hope, my **FAITH** allowed me to accept that whatever the outcome, my

son would be covered. That as long as we remained believers, the Peace of Christ would be with us throughout his time served and the days to follow.

So just to update you all, Eddie has just completed one month of his twenty-two month sentence in a correctional facility one hour away. His charges were dropped from second degree murder to reckless driving and vehicular manslaughter. It is with the **LOVE**, **PROMISE**, **JOY** and **FAITH** of the Lord, family and friends that Eddie was placed in the Hyta Program which will upon completion of his sentence, allow for his records to be sealed.

Honestly I can say, we could not have made it to this day without the love and support of so many of you. This is the unconditional love that Jesus speaks of and why Eddie asked to be blessed in front of our parish family before he left. You all made us feel like we could enter these doors without judgment and contempt. You held us up when we were at our lowest. I am sure I can speak for him and say that we feel so blessed to belong to such a wonderful parish!

This is why it is extremely bittersweet that I have recently resigned as the office manager here at Christ the King. A very wonderful opportunity to do similar work at Angela Hospice came about and I could not pass it by.

I will still be here as a parishioner, Minister of Service and a very grateful person to continue my faith journey alongside all of you!



May God Bless Us All,
Nicole

Clergy Assignment Announcement from Archbishop Vigneron Sunday, November 21, 2021

Reverend Marko Djonovic, appointed Moderator of the *In Solidum* team of priests who, with the other priests of the team, will lead the newly formed Trinity Vicariate Family 2 (Christ the King Parish, Detroit; St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Detroit; St. Moses the Black Parish, Detroit; St. Peter Claver Parish, Detroit; St. Suzanne/Our Lady Gate of Heaven Parish, Detroit), effective July 1, 2022. Father Djonovic currently serves as Administrator of St. Moses the Black Parish, Detroit.

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
diane.renaud@svscenter.org

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Mr. Ivan Branson.....Principal
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Ms. Bethanne McCall.....Choir Director
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

Other Sacraments

Reconciliation.....By Appointment

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

PRAYER & WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday December 5, 2021

10:45am Durward & Seda Stuart

By Friends at Christ the King

Larry Vingleman & James Gallagher

By Maureen Leen

Monday ~ No Mass

Tuesday 9am at SS/OLGH

Wednesday CHRIST THE KING

8:30am Special Intention

By T.G.

Thursday 9am at SS/OLGH

Friday CHRIST THE KING

8:30am David Aerts

By Chet McLeod

Saturday ~ No Mass

Sunday December 12, 2021

10:45am Gerry Woznak

Mike Price

By Dave & andi Kovach

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

12/5 Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:4-11, Lk 3:1-6

Mon 12/6 Is 35:1-10, Lk 5:17-26

Tue 12/7 Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14

Wed 12/8 Immaculate Conception

Gn 3:9-20, Eph 1:3-12, Lk 1:26-38

Thu 12/9 Is 41:13-20, Mt 11:11-15

Fri 12/10 Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19

Sat 12/11 Sir 48:1-11, Mt 17:9a-13

12/12 Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a, Is 12:2-6, Lk 3:10-18

OUR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

For NEXT Sunday December 12

Lectors: Michele Rochester & Rita Neal

Serving at the Table of the Lord:
Genny Singleton

Ministers of Service:

Mary Beth Seefelt

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 12/5 10:45am Mass

2nd Sunday of Advent

Rosary after Mass



7pm Intercessory Prayer Zoom

Tues 12/7 9am Mass SS/OLGH

Wed 12/8 8:30am Mass *All School*

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Thu 12/9 9am Mass SS/OLGH

Fri 12/10 8:30am Mass

Sun 12/12 10:45am Mass

Don't forget to mark your calendar for

December 18

11am

Reconciliation

Service

In the Church

THE WISDOM OF POPE FRANCIS

The presence of the poor is often



seen as an annoyance and is put up with. Sometimes we hear it

said that those responsible for poverty are the poor! So as

not to carry out a serious examination of conscience

on one's own actions, on the injustice of certain laws and economic

measures, on the hypocrisy of those who want to enrich themselves

excessively, blame is laid at the feet of those who are weakest.

The faithful could learn from the example of St. Francis and those

who offer shelter to the poor and marginalized. Hospitality means

opening the door, the door of our house and the door of our heart,

and to allow the person who knocks to come in. And that they might

feel welcome, not ashamed.

Don't Forget!



Bottle/Can Returns!

As you entertain over the holidays, save your bottle return money to put in our Tuition Assistance Jug!

Thank you.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second Sunday of Advent:



In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Ad-

vent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Or would you like to help a child whose parent is incarcerated. Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

Christ the King Conference
15317 Dacosta St. 48223
313-535-7272



When you come to Mass this Christmas, please remember those who are less fortunate and bring a set of sheets or a blanket for a Twin or Full size bed, and

place it near the manger. Beds are one of the most requested items at our Outreach Center. It would be great if we could outfit every bed with a new set of sheets and a nice warm blanket! Thank you for your kindness.



Congratulations to our Quilt Winner....

Tracey Woznak
Of Alexandria, Virginia
(former Christ the King parishioner)

Special thanks to everyone who participated in this raffle. As you know, The St. Vincent dePaul Committee normally has a pancake breakfast to build some funds for assisting our neighbors through the winter. Your ticket purchase helps so much to take the place of the breakfast. If you would still like to donate to St. Vincent dePaul, please see Maureen or use the Thanksgiving Day envelope in your box.

Have you ever had the experience of being touched very deeply by something that left you, in its wake, strangely inarticulate? The experience is profound – it moves you, frightens you, teaches you, changes you and you know it is doing you good – but you are left stunned, wondering how to respond. I feel that way now, sitting in this, the hugest, dirtiest, most congested and poorest city I have ever been in: Cairo, Egypt. I remember my naïve enthusiasm in coming here. The quick, smug, letters to friends: "I want to go and rub shoulders with the poor, see the Third World, taste its dirt, its overcrowdedness, its inhumanness. "I want to see poverty, first-hand, let it jar me into making a deeper response. A response to what? I don't know. I just know that I need to see that kind of poverty for myself!"

I am seeing it now and the experience is more than I want it to be: 12 million persons, all living in an area capable of giving even minimally adequate space, water, sanitation and human living conditions to only one-quarter of that number! It is a megalopolis of dirt, noise, lack of privacy, overcrowdedness, smell and poverty. For a Westerner, like myself, it is overpowering.

Superficially, it is overpowering because I am unable to find for myself the sanitary food, the clean air and water, the space, and the privacy and quietness I am used to. More seriously, it is overpowering because, while it is ripping open inside of me very serious questions about the validity of my own lifestyle and my normal concerns (and Western affluence in general), it is leaving me powerless to respond in any truly useful way. Perhaps what I am feeling is what is so generally felt in the face of the disturbing fact of social injustice and poverty. It is real.

We know that we should be doing more, sharing more. But what? Everything seems so huge, so hopeless, so beyond us! We are locked into a huge system, more powerful than ourselves. So are the poor. Our efforts to help seem puny and impotent. Moreover, we have our own limitations and problems, deep, painful poverties of our own which seemingly already demand more energy than we have. There is in our lives, already, more than enough malnourishment and dirt with which to contend. It is an overpowering helplessness that I feel here.

I look at the magnitude of the problems and I am depressed. I look at my own abilities (and inabilities) to respond... and I am further depressed. What can I do? I can come and look. I can, as I have already done, stay in a poorer section of Cairo. I can walk through Cairo's worst slum, the "Red Alley," Darb el Ahmar, (where few tourists venture). I can ride the city buses, look at faces, talk to some people. I can spend some time talking and working with Sister Emmanuelle, among Cairo's very poorest, sitting on a dirt floor teaching Arab kids (crawling with fleas) kindergarten. I can help hold a young girl of five as the doctor disinfects her wounded foot and be moved with pity and compassion. But... in the end, I am playing a game and I know it. Even my looking has a safe antiseptic distance to it. Yet, I am not sure what, barring prayer, I can do.

I do not have the charisma of a Mother Teresa, a Sister Emmanuelle, nor a Sister Kathleen (who works with Sister Emmanuelle in Cairo). I can't drink the water, eat the food, speak the language, nor, in fact, even offer proper empathy and support to those who have the charisms for the front lines.

In the end, I am helplessly distanced. What can I do? I am a priest and teacher. Turn my theology classroom into a social justice seminar? Preach on social justice more often? Perhaps. But is that an answer? And what of the very real problems within our own society? Are our pains less real? Less urgent? Does social injustice in the Third World bring about more pain and death than psychological, emotional, and spiritual injustice in the First World? What types of dirt and malnourishment dehumanize more?

I have seen the worst slums of Cairo, but I have also seen the seamiest sides of San Francisco, New York, London, Amsterdam, and Frankfurt. Which is worse and which would I choose to live in? I am not sure! Right now I am only sure of being deeply unsure. *Veni, vidi, non-vici!* The riddles grows thicker, the glass darkens, the exile is further from home! I am here with two friends. Occasionally, when the noise, dirt, and lack of space seem a bit overpowering, one of us asks the others: "What are we doing here?"

I suspect the answer will be slow in coming. The transfiguration of Christ always stuns those who witness it. However, like the earliest followers of Christ sensed when their normal perception of Christ was transformed, "It is good that we are here!"

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI



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