



Parish Life!

NEWS FROM CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT

SPRING 2021

Parish Pastoral Council to Expand

ELECTION FOR NEW MEMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE IN JUNE.

Christ the King's Parish Pastoral Council voted at its last meeting to adopt revised by-laws and expand the size of the council, as well as reestablish parish standing committees that focus on various parish endeavors.

Over the past several months, the Pastoral Council has been considering how to improve the council's structure, to make it more representative of the parish and accountable to the parish's needs. To do this, the council first reviewed its existing constitution and its by-laws, which had changed substantially from its original form established in 1990. The consensus of the council was that it would be beneficial to return the size of the body to 12 elected,

voting members (from the existing seven elected / six appointed) and reestablish the standing committees that support various parish activities.

Election for new members

Over the first two weekends in June, the Pastoral Council will hold an election for six new members to serve four-year terms beginning in September. (The six existing members will continue to serve another two years, when another election will be held for their spots on the council.)



A call for nominations went out during the first week of May. All registered parishioners are welcome to nominate themselves or others. (Nominees must be at least 16 years of age and have expressed a commitment to the Church through reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.) Nominations will close on June 1, and the elections will be held on the weekends of June 5-6 and 12-13.

So what does this mean, to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council? What does the pastoral council do? What is its purpose?

As stated in the Pastoral Council's Constitution, the purpose of the pastoral

council is multifaceted, encompassing spiritual, advisory, and collaborative roles:

1. To pray and grow together in holiness as we make the gospel known and live the gospel message in a partnership of faith under Jesus Christ the Lord;
2. To serve the pastor and to help discern the needs of the parish and to set goals and priorities in meeting the needs of the parish family;
3. To discover talents in the parish and encourage active participation in the life of the parish;
4. To serve as a medium whereby any and all members may make known their needs;
5. To be a sign of the truly Christian community before the Church and the world, one that is joyous, faith-filled, hopeful, and truly determined to reflect the mind and will of Jesus, our model of service for others;
6. To collaborate with other religious bodies of the community or diocese and with civic, educational, business, and professional organizations in working for the common good of the community.

In addition, the council's Constitution

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Faith Formation Classes Complete Full Year

In March 2020, when everything else shut down, so did Faith Formation classes at Christ the King. But over the summer, businesses began to open up again. The diocese allowed in-person attendance at Mass to resume, and when it came time in September to register students for religious education classes, Director of Faith Formation Louise Young felt that we could hold the classes safely. “The Lyme/Old Lyme schools were doing in-person learning, and our classes are much smaller. With masks and distancing, I felt that we should go ahead with it.”

And so we did. Registration numbers were down a bit, as some families were uneasy about taking part. Some home-schooled their Faith Formation. And even among those registered, attendance varied as local COVID case numbers fluctuated. But the classes continued on, and our students finished out the year of Faith Formation at the end of April. It was an unusual year, to be sure, but it still had some elements of normalcy, as well as some new twists.

One of the innovative ideas that Confirmation students worked on this year was preparing for a palm burning ceremony just before Ash Wednesday. The students came up with prayers and planned a brief service that was to be held on a Sunday morning in February during the Faith Formation class time so that the younger classes could take part. Parishioners were asked to bring in their old palms for the burning, and these were collected in the Narthex for a few weeks prior. Unfortunately, when the day came to hold the palm burning, a snowstorm caused the ceremony to be canceled! Confirmation class instructors

Adam and Peg Kuhn hope that they’ll be able to do the palm burning next year.

The fourth grade class had a tasty lesson during Lent. It involved the legend and history behind the pretzel and its significance in the Church. The twisted shape is similar to the position that early Christians took when praying: folding their arms over each other across their chest, hands on their



Fourth-graders making pretzels.

shoulders. The three holes that form between the twists represent the Trinity. And they learned about the pretzel’s place in Lenten observances too: Lenten fasting rules of the time did not allow any eggs, fat, or milk. Pretzels, made of just flour, salt, and water, satisfied those rules. The best part, perhaps, was spending a class making pretzels — and then getting to eat them!

In October 2020, last year’s First Communion class received the Eucharist for the first time (postponed from the previous May). This year’s class of 12 students celebrated their First Holy Communion on May 15.

Also this spring, the Graduates’ Mass will take place on Sunday, May 30 at 10:30 am. At this Mass we pray as a community for our high school graduates, and announce the recipients of the Graves and Paracelsus scholarships.

Registration for the 2021–22 year of Faith Formation classes will open up in September. Watch for emails, and notices in the bulletin and on the website.



Twelve second-graders made their First Holy Communion on May 15.

Niche in Narthex Houses St. Joseph Statue

You may have noticed that the statue of Mary is missing from its niche in the narthex. No, nothing happened to it. For this “Year of St. Joseph,” Fr. Joe decided it would be fitting to temporarily replace Mary’s statue with one of St. Joseph.

In December 1870, Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph as “Patron of the Universal Church.” This past December, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of this declaration, Pope Francis proclaimed this year as the “Year of St. Joseph.” The observance began on December 8, 2020 and continues until December 8, 2021.

So why are we observing a year dedicated to St. Joseph?

In his apostolic letter from last December, *Patris Corde* (“with a father’s heart”), Pope Francis outlines how Joseph — a working man, a “lowly carpenter” — became the legal father of Jesus, accepting the responsibilities of



fatherhood quietly, courageously, and lovingly. But in this time of pandemic, the Pope also relates the actions of St. Joseph to those of so many quiet and courageous people who have fought on the front lines to provide essential

services to all: doctors and nurses, store workers and delivery people, cleaning personnel and caregivers, priests and teachers, and more. “Saint Joseph reminds us,” he writes, “that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.” He goes on: “Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet, and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support, and a guide in times of trouble.” You can find a link to the *Patris Corde* and related documents on the parish website.

During the month of May — a month traditionally devoted to the Virgin Mother — you will find the statue of Mary located in a prominent place in the sanctuary. And on December 8, 2021 — the feast of the Immaculate Conception — she will return to her niche in the Narthex.

Harvest Festival Scheduled for September 18

After the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of Christ the King’s 2020 Harvest Festival, organizers are looking forward to hosting this year’s Festival on September 18.

Plans are under way to have all the usual components of the fair: the popular King’s Rummage Sale, a Silent Auction, a Bake Sale, Kid’s Games & Crafts, Fall Plants & Produce, lunch by the Men’s Club, and maybe some live musical entertainment!

At this point, organizers are just beginning to discuss whether modifications will need to be made to assure the safety of both workers and visitors. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please email

ctkharvestfestival@gmail.com.

The Harvest Festival is our parish’s main fundraising event of the year, typically bringing in about \$15,000. (The 2019 Harvest Festival raised a record-setting \$23,000, which helped defray the cost of refinishing the wood floors of the church.)

Many volunteers are needed to ensure the success of the Harvest Festival — both to plan now and to staff the event in September. We also need an organized person (or two) to chair the event. If you’re interested, please email ctkharvestfestival@gmail.com.



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states that the pastoral council “shall be the policy-formulating body in all matters of the parish, including but not limited to the spiritual, educational, and social, except to the extent limited by faith and morals, church civil law, or diocesan policy / norms.”

You can find the Constitution and By-Laws of Christ the King’s Pastoral Council at the parish website.

The Parish Pastoral Council meets six times a year. Meetings are open to all parishioners, and minutes are posted on the church website.

Specific questions about the pastoral council may be directed to Fr. Joe or to any of the existing members of the pastoral council. (See box below.)

Standing committees are another way to share time and talent.

The newly revived standing committees of the parish pastoral council will operate with the support and oversight of the council, but will consist of parishioners who are not pastoral council members. All interested parishioners are encouraged to lend their time and talents

to these committees, which will start up in the Fall of 2021 (Descriptions are taken from the newly adopted bylaws):

Liturgy, Spirituality, and Christian Service:

“The committee members share their talents to improve, deepen, and strengthen the spiritual life and worship of the parish community. The committee is responsible for developing prayer services and special liturgies, as well as outreach opportunities to those within and beyond our parish community to address issues of social justice and special needs.”

Education: “Growth in faith is a life-long process which parish life nurtures and nourishes through study and the living example of its members. Members of this committee work with the Director of Religious Education [now Faith Formation] in developing and supporting present programs and in implementing new programs for different age groups within the faith community.”

Parish Life and Stewardship: “The committee generates and coordinates parish community fellowship and

social activities to bring about a sense of faith and enjoyment of belonging to our parish community. They also challenge and educate the faith community to share its time, talent, and financial resources in response to God’s blessings. This committee is responsible for the annual stewardship recommitment program.”

Property Management: “The committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all parish property to ensure that all parish property is safe, clean, properly maintained, and provides an environment for meaningful worship and parish activities.”

Communications: “The committee is responsible for timely communications to the parish community and the community at large of parish events and stewardship opportunities. As such, the committee works closely with all other committees to provide a consistent flow of parish news and information to all interested parties.”

Anyone with interest in these aspects of parish life should consider participating in these committees.

Current Pastoral Council

Currently, there are seven elected members on the Parish Pastoral Council. Kevin Hogan, who has chaired the council since about 2006, will step down from the pastoral council when the new council convenes in the Fall. Six new members, to be elected in June, will join the remaining six on the council.



Kevin Hogan
chair
(outgoing)



Bill Clinton



Lauren Girasoli



Dorothy Paine



Ron Paine



Mike Rafferty



Sharon Torrenti

Nominees Sought for Pastoral Council Election

The Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council is currently seeking nominations to fill six new slots on the council.

Pastoral Council members work with the Pastor to ensure the spiritual well-being of the parish. They should be active, registered members of the parish, with a sound working knowledge of Church teachings, structure, and policy

and a general familiarity with the mission and ministries of the Catholic Church. Members should also be actively committed

to the identity and mission of Christ the King Parish.

Responsibilities include acting as a conduit of communication between the pastor and the congregation; advising the pastor in effectively ministering to the needs of the parish; assisting the pastor in responding to those needs; and helping the pastor equip parishioners to carry out the mission of Christ the King.

Please consider nominating yourself or another parishioner to serve in this essential ministry.

Nomination forms can be found in the Narthex and on the parish website, and are due at the office by June 1. Elections will take place over the weekends of June 5-6 and 12-13.

For more information, read the expectations for Pastoral Council Leadership posted on the parish website.



New Holy Oil Vessels and Case

Have you ever wondered what is in those bottles displayed at the entrance to the church?

Between the two doors leading into the church from the Narthex, a glass case, or ambry, displays three vessels, each containing one of the holy oils used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Healing. Once a year, during Holy Week, representatives of the parish attend the diocesan Chrism Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich and return with new oils that will be used in the coming year. (This year, because of the pandemic, only Fr. Joe and Fr. Walter could attend the Chrism Mass.)

Until recently, our holy oils were kept in nondescript glass bottles with unattached labels. And because we didn't have a suitable case in which to transport them, our parish representatives carried them to Norwich in whatever they could find — often a cardboard carton.

Now, thanks to the generosity of a parishioner, we have a

beautiful matching set of holy oil vessels, each etched with the mark of the oil it contains:

“SC”— for *Sanctum Chrisma*, the Holy Chrism or “Oil of Gladness,” is used in baptisms and confirmations as well as in the consecration of various items in the church.



New holy oil bottles and carrying case

“OS” — for *Oleum Sanctum*, the Oil of the Catechumens; it is used in baptisms, confirmations, and ordinations.

“OI” — for *Oleum Infirmorum*, the Oil of the Sick, is used for the anointing of the sick.

These new vessels were purchased just in time for Fr. Joe and Fr. Walter to transport them to this year's Chrism Mass.

But this year they didn't have to use a cardboard box! When parishioner Ralph Skaar, a local contractor and skilled woodworker, got word that a carrying case was needed, he built one specifically for the oil vessels. Constructed of mahogany and lined with fabric, the box is not just useful; it is also a beautiful work of art and a generous gift of time, talent, and treasure.



Holy oils in their ambry.

Some Covid Restrictions Relaxed

MASKS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED.

On May 10, the four bishops of the Connecticut Catholic Conference — including our own Bishop Michael Cote of the Norwich Diocese — issued a joint statement about attendance at Mass.

This statement comes at a time when vaccination rates against the SARS-CoV-2 virus are rising in Connecticut and Covid cases are dropping.

Encouraged by these numbers, the bishops decided that it was time to welcome the faithful back to church to “reestablish our ecclesial life as a community of faith.”

The main purpose of the bishops’ statement was to declare an end to the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and encourage the faithful to come together as before to worship in a communal setting. As they explain, “when we gather as a community at Sunday Mass, we do so as members of Christ’s Mystical Body.” And by worshipping together “we strengthen our bonds of unity and renew our shared mission to bring Christ’s message of redemption, forgiveness, and hope to our troubled world.”

The bishops stress that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to people who are ill or vulnerable to

illness. You can read the full statement from the bishops on our website.

Shortly after the joint statement, Bishop Cote announced new protocols for the celebration of Mass in the Norwich Diocese, which coincide with recent changes announced by the State of Connecticut and the CDC.

“It is time to reestablish our ecclesial life as a community of faith.”

Beginning on Pentecost weekend, May 22–23, social distancing will no longer be required in the church. And so, at Christ the King Church, tape will be removed and alternate pews will no longer be blocked off.

We will return to having two lectors at each weekend Mass, and will again welcome altar servers to assist. The

Offertory procession will return; however, we will still refrain from an Offertory collection and ask that you continue to place your offerings in the marked receptacles. The Sign of Peace will remain a distanced wave, nod, or other safe sign.

Because social distancing is no longer necessary, we will return to having two lines up the main aisle for Communion. For now, however, only Fr. Joe and Fr. Walter will distribute the Eucharist. In addition, Communion will return to its place within the Liturgy, and we will end Mass as we used to do, with a recessional hymn.

Please note: despite recent changes from the CDC and the State of Connecticut, the diocese is still requiring people to wear masks while at Mass.

Fr. Joe reminds us that masks should be worn throughout Mass, except when receiving Communion: keep your mask over your mouth and nose right up until you receive the Eucharist in your hand; lower your mask and immediately consume the host, then replace your mask and return to your pew.

We will continue to live-stream at least one weekend Mass.

Do you shop on AMAZON?

Now you can earn a donation for Christ the King Church just by shopping through Amazon’s charitable portal, Amazon Smile!



Visit www.christthekingchurch.net for easy instructions and a link to get started.

Did you know that Christ the King Church has a YouTube channel?



Visit our channel to find recordings of all the Masses we have celebrated since we started live-streaming last year, plus selected choir anthems and a few other videos.

Please subscribe to get notifications of new postings — more subscribers means we can do more with our channel!

Check it out: <https://bit.ly/3dblnLv>

Or, search YouTube for “Christ the King Church” and look for the CTK logo!



Men's Club Hosting Another Food Drive

Last fall, in the midst of the pandemic, the Men's Club at Christ the King hosted a nonperishable food drive to help those experiencing food insecurity. It was incredibly successful — collecting more than 1,500 pounds of food and \$700 in cash donations, which was distributed to area food pantries.

This spring, with vaccinations on the rise, we look hopefully toward an end to the pandemic. But unemployment rates continue to be high in Connecticut, and many people still are having difficulty feeding their families. So the Men's Club has organized another food drive, scheduled for May 15–23.

Nonperishable items such as rice, pasta, canned vegetables, cereals, peanut butter, and pasta sauce may be dropped off at the parish hall entrance to the church anytime during the drive. Volunteers will staff the site on

May 21 & 22 from 10am to 4pm.

Donations may also be dropped off at Nightingale's Acoustic Café, 68 Lyme Street,



between May 12 and May 22 at the following times: Wednesday through Friday,

11am–4pm and Saturday 10am–2pm. As a special incentive, our friends at Nightingale's will offer you a free cup of brewed coffee when you make a donation there!

And for those who want to help but find it hard to get to these locations, the Men's Club is offering a pick-up service! Just text Mark Gilbert at 860-598-0813 or call Peter Gallagher at 860-598-9060 and a Men's Club member will pick up your donation at your doorstep.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks (made out to CTK Men's Club) may be mailed to Christ the King Men's Club at 1 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme, CT or dropped off at the church.

Food items and cash donations collected during this drive will be donated to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Food Pantries at First Congregational Church and St. Mark's, Westbrook.

Join the Men's Club at Christ the King!

By Bob Brinkerhoff, Men's Club President

Christ The King Men's Club invites all interested men to join us as new members.

We are an active organization that meets once monthly, at 6pm on the first Thursday, to support the needs of both the church and the community. We operate under three guiding principles:

- *Spirituality* — We pray together, encourage retreats, and provide motivational guest speakers.
- *Stewardship* — We raise money and support many charitable organizations and conduct maintenance projects to maintain the church and church grounds.
- *Socializing* — We hold monthly meetings enjoying pizza and camaraderie, and we support numerous church social functions.

What's in it for me?

We may each benefit in different ways, but I can tell you from personal experience, for the past ten years of my club involvement, that this has been a most fulfilling and rewarding

experience. I have met terrific guys, some with incredible life stories. I have felt love, support, and inclusion, especially during life's tough times, when I struggled in other parts of my life.

Participating in the Men's Club is one way I thank God for my many blessings. This club provides a way to give back to others, to people with needs so much greater than my own, to help our church which has helped me more than I could ever repay. We all have different skills and can contribute in our own way. You are welcome to just sit with us for pizza on a Thursday evening. You can be as involved as you like ... come to many meetings or just a few. Participate in many activities or just a few. There are no musts.

Please visit the Men's Club page on the parish website to learn more about what we do.

For additional information or if you have an interest in joining, please contact me, Bob Brinkerhoff, at 860-748-9378 (call or text) or email at rnbrink@comcast.net.



Men's Club members doing grounds work.

Important Dates:

May 15-23	Men's Club Food Drive
May 30	Graduates' Mass
June 1	Parish Pastoral Council Nominations due
June 5-6/12-13	Parish Pastoral Council Elections
September 18	Harvest Festival

In an effort to keep down costs, we have emailed this edition of *Parish Life!* to those parishioners who have a valid email address on file. If you have received this newsletter by US Mail, it means we do not have a current email address for you. You can update your address by visiting the church website, www.christthekingchurch.net, and clicking on "Subscribe to receive email notifications."

