



February 2, 2024

Dear CTK family,

Although in the United States “Groundhog Day” is celebrated today, for Catholics it is **the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**. According to Jewish custom/law, a woman was ritually impure after childbirth. This, the 40th day after Christmas, marks the time when Mary was allowed to present her newborn son in the temple. Joseph would make an offering as a gesture of “redeeming” him and dedicating the child to the Lord; a tradition that goes back to the time of Moses and the death of the first born of Egypt prior to the Exodus.

Today is also known as “**Candlemass Day**”. This morning, a symbolic representation of candles that will be used throughout the year are blessed as they will highlight Jesus as the Light of the world. We are all called to consider and be drawn to the light of Christ’s presence in our world and within our lives. May the light of Christ dispel the darkness of sin, selfishness, and whatever else separates us from the love of God and neighbor.

There is much going on this week . . . I offer bullet points for your consideration.

- February 3 is the feast of St Blaise, a traditional day of blessing for health and protection. We will bless throats **after** all Masses this weekend.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr David Wichlan**, longtime pastor of St Rita.
- **Deacon Dave Dille** had successful hip replacement surgery this morning; pray for his ongoing health and recuperation. Thanks to **Deacon Joe** who will be filling in some of the gaps in the interim.
- We bid farewell to **Deacon Dave Harpring**, who assisted us during the transition time since August. Deacon Dave has taken on a new assignment at St Ann Parish in Normandy. We wish him well and I personally thank him for his wonderful service in assisting me during our five years together at St Rita parish from 2018 until its being subsumed in 2023.
- We wish **Deacon Ray Kiely and his wife, Jane**, every blessing as they move to Our Lady of Life Apartments in Shrewsbury. Come back often and visit us often; know that we will keep you in our prayers for a smooth transition.
- The **CTK Trivia Night** is this Saturday. I understand that at this time it is “sold out.” **St Joseph and St Rita** are hosting Trivia Nights next week. It’s always good to relax and enjoy the company of one another. Thanks to all those who will be doing so.
- Our **CTK Annual Giving** continues to impress with participation and generosity. We currently have received **\$197,224** in donations. It would be awesome to realize the \$200,000 mark by the February 14 deadline. If you have not as of yet participated, please consider helping us to attain this lofty dream come true.

- **ALLELUIA!** Our phones are back online both at school and the rectory. We appreciate your patience through this extended time without phone service. The issue we have encountered has to do with the antiquated and inadequate wiring in the buildings that now require additional upgrades for the demands of the 21st century phone system equipment. We are working with a company and hopefully all phones and voicemails will be fully functioning soon.
- Congrats to the **Ladies Sodality** for hosting a successful retreat last month (see picture below). Now, the **men of the parish** are invited to be part of an amazing weekend **March 1- 3**.
- **Fr Michael Rozier, SJ and Dr John Metzler, MD** will be panelists on the **Joy of the Gospel for those in Healthcare this Wednesday, February 7, via ZOOM**. You may want to check it out. Additional info is elsewhere in this letter.

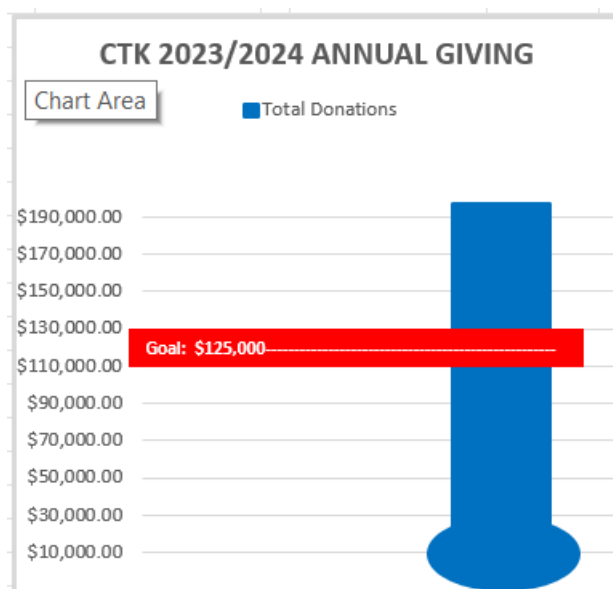
May Christ the King reign in our lives.

Msgr Mike



And in Other Parish News.....

Annual Giving Total as of February 1, 2024 -- \$197,224



If you would like to receive a 2023 year-end contribution statement, please email the parish office (rectory@ctkstl.com). If you are an online giver, you can download a giving statement by logging i nto your giving account.

*CTK Parish Social Justice Assembly
Report and Follow-up*

On a *beyond frigid* January 14 at Christ the King Church, a group of about 40 members representing All Saints, Christ the King, St. Rita and St. Roch challenged the weather and gathered to brainstorm social justice issues concerning us all, and our planning for the future as a new larger parish. At the end of the 90-minute meeting, two overarching topics were agreed upon as the main focuses for further attention:

1. Environmental issues, especially the issue of flooding in University City: assigned to the "Environment Team". Identified the following tasks: assessment of what is currently being done, CTK's "environmental footprint" (including solar panel grant, in-process), use of cleanup programs, etc. Team members participating in follow-up on the tasks identified include Patrick Connors, Todd Dean, Diane O'Brien, and Lora Ionatti. This team has scheduled its next meeting for February 25 at 11 a.m. at CTK.
2. Continuing the outreach to families serviced by each church despite "All Things New" changes in our parish structure: assigned to the "Needs Team". Mary Abkemeier (from St. Roch) and Mimi Taylor-Hendrix (from Christ the King) are co-chairing the gathering of data on this issue. They have asked each parish to report all activities carried out in each of the four parishes to address the needs of residents in their community. Parish leaders have been asked to return this information by February 15 so that it can be reported to the SJ Committee.

Based on the schedules of these Teams, the next meeting of the CTK 2.0 Social Justice Committee has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 28 to review the input and results of their work. It will be held at 7 p.m. in the Monsignor Ryan Center, immediately after the 6:30 p.m. Mass.

Many, many thanks to all of the CTK, All Saints, St. Rita's, and St. Roch's parishioners who made this process possible and so productive. Our four parishes have contributed outstanding talent, commitment, passion, and leadership to our efforts to become a community dedicated to the mission of Catholic Social Teaching. Please continue to participate by sharing your input, talents, and passion for our community.

Christ the King will be hosting a *National African American Read-In* on [Sunday, February 11, 2024, following the 10:00 Mass in the MRC.](#) Everyone is welcome.



African American Read-In

The National African American Read-In (AARI) is a groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to read together, centering African American books and authors. It was established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. This initiative has reached more than 6 million participants around the world.

Sue Anne Whitener will read the children's book, ***Leola and the Honeybears***, by Melodye Benson Rosales. A fun retelling of Goldilocks and the Three Bears that is appropriate for ages 3-5, but enjoyed by all ages.

After the children's book has been read, Art Wynkoop will give a brief overview, and read a few passages from, ***Intellectuals and Society (2nd Ed.)***, by Thomas Sowell.

Unfortunately, the activity that was planned for the children during the second story reading has been cancelled.

As we approach the season of Lent, we might ask, "What should I do with the dried palm from last year? Blessed items, also known as sacramentals, are to be treated with respect and not thrown into the trash. Dried blessed palm is being collected in containers at the Church entryway from now until Sunday, February 11. This collected palm will be burned; palm ashes can be used on Ash Wednesday, or they may be buried.





It's time again for our Christ the King Fish Frys! We look forward to seeing everyone **Friday, February 23 and Friday, March 22, 4:30-8:00pm.** Reach out to Carissa Minder, Katie West, or Kirk Wonio on how you can help with this community favorite.

St Joseph Fish Fry

Knights of Columbus presents 14th Annual Ash Wednesday Fish Fry
St. Joseph Parish Hall (basement of church) **February 14 4:00 - 7:00pm**

Baked Fish - Fried Fish - Shrimp - Fish & Shrimp
Reservations preferred - Walk-ins welcome - Carry-outs available

All meals include slaw, mostaccioli, hush puppies, dessert, and beverage! Thanks to those who make our delicious, homemade desserts! For more questions or to make a reservation, email St. Joseph at parishoffice@stjosephclayton.org or call at 314-726-1221.



MUSIC NEWS

ALPHORNS AT CHRIST THE KING

The musical Jöstlein family from our parish, along with Eighth Graders from Christ the King School, will be sharing their talents on **Saturday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m. Mass.** Thomas and Tricia will play alphorn songs for prelude and postlude. Members of the Eighth Grade Class will cantor, lead singing, and share a Communion Meditation. What a special Mass this will be as we prepare for Lent.

The Saint Louis Wind Symphony will be presenting a free concert on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 3:00 p.m. at the 560 Music Center on the campus of Washington University. The concert will feature music from exciting young composers Omar Thomas and Katahj Copley, as well as Aaron Copland's beloved "Lincoln Portrait" narrated by Kathy Lawton Brown of Classic 107.3 FM. One of the featured pieces by Omar Thomas entitled "Of Our New Day Begun" was written to honor the nine beautiful souls lost to a callous act of hatred and domestic terrorism on the evening of June 17, 2015 while worshipping in their beloved sanctuary, the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Saint Louis Wind Symphony is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and performing quality wind band music, supporting music education and commissioning new works. Established in

the late 1990's, the all volunteer Wind Symphony's 65-member ensemble is staffed by musicians from across Missouri and Illinois. The majority of the ensemble consists of current and former music educators who believe that the importance of music is demonstrated not only by passing the knowledge of it onto others but also by participating in its creation. Learn [more about the Saint Louis Wind Symphony](#) on their website.



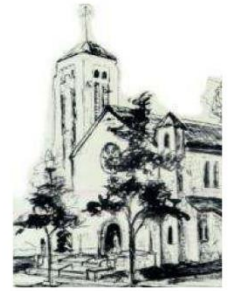
COMING SOON

“The Song of Mark” is a musical by Marty Haugen which is based on the life of Jesus as recounted in the Gospel of Mark. Careful theological reflection, colorful story-telling, and accessible music bring to life this telling of the Good News of Jesus’ life and passion. Members of our Adult and Children's Choirs will join musicians from a variety of Churches to perform this musical during Lent. Performances are free and open to the public, an offering will be received.

- Friday, February 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 567 St. Joseph Lane in Manchester
- Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, 5800 Oleatha in South City
- **Friday, March 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 7316 Balson in University City**



Christ the King Parish, 2024 Men's Retreat
Friday, March 1st - Sunday, March 3rd
Cedar Creek Conference Center, New Haven, MO



"Take, Lord, Receive"

Dear Brothers,

Please join us for our annual Men's Retreat! We are offering a two-night retreat and we will be gathering at the beautiful Cedar Creek Conference Center in New Haven. The retreat will begin with the first session on Friday evening and end before lunch on Sunday morning. Steve Givens will be the Retreat Facilitator. Please see his bio on the next page.

The address of Cedar Creek Conference center is:

1401 Olive Road, New Haven, MO 63068 (which works in all GPS systems and is about a 1 hour and 15-minute drive from U City)

All participants are encouraged to arrive Friday night by 7:00.

The suggested cost for the retreat is \$200 for two nights. This cost includes meals and a single room. **However, any amount is acceptable** and please contact Dave Dille (314-320-8210, ddille@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about the retreat.

All registrants will be contacted to confirm directions and travel arrangements. Carpooling is encouraged. The web site for Cedar Creek is <http://www.cedarcreekcenter.com/>

Please Register by February 19th

Payment may be made at the retreat (Please make checks to Christ the King)

Registration is very easy –

please **email** the information below to ddille@yahoo.com

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I need a ride to Cedar Creek
Emergency Contact _____



Christ the King is pleased to introduce Steve Givens as our Retreat Facilitator. He is a retreat and spiritual director and a widely published writer on issues of Catholic-Christian faith and spirituality. He is the executive director of the Bridges Foundation, which brings Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola to everyday life for those in the St. Louis region. He is also a musician, composer, and singer who lives in St. Louis, Mo., with his wife, Sue. They have two grown and married children and five grandchildren.

He has been a regular contributor to the daily devotionals “Living Faith,” “Living Faith Kids,” and “Living with Christ” for 35 years and writes a blog at givenscreative.com. For the last ten years, he has given retreats and presentations at parishes and retreat centers — to, for, and with lay people and religious orders, including the Jesuits, Marianists, Dominicans, Franciscans and Alexian Brothers.

Diagnosed in 2007 with a rare blood disease, he underwent chemotherapy treatment for more than three years, and that experience is the subject of his book, “Embraced by God: Facing Chemotherapy with Faith,” released in 2010 by Twenty-Third Publications.

A native of St. Louis and a long-time (and now retired) administrator at Washington University, Steve is a graduate of the Spiritual Direction program at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis and now sits on the Institute’s Board of Trustees.

The JOY of the GOSPEL for Those in Healthcare



Wednesday, February 7, 2024

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

via Zoom



Zoom Link: bit.ly/JoyforHealthcare

Meeting ID: 876 3838 9745

Passcode: 147520

On this 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*,

An Evening of Reflection, Discussion, and Sharing as a Community of Faith and Caregivers

How do we respond to our call to live out the social dimension of evangelization,
"to care for the vulnerable of the earth"?

Featured Panelists

Michael Rozier, SJ, PhD
Department Chair,
Health Management and Policy
Saint Louis University

Nathaniel Hibner, PhD
Senior Director of Ethics,
Catholic Health Association

John Metzler, MD
Washington University

Theresa Curdt, OTR/L
Mercy Hospital

Lindsey Kerley, NP
St. Louis Children's Hospital

Moderator

Amanda Emke, MD, MHPE
Washington University

Questions? Contact Marie Kenyon at 314.792.7062 or mariekenyon@archstl.org.



Peace & Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis

April 20, 2024



5k Start Time: 8am
5k Awards: 8:45am
1/2 mile Fun Run: 9am
Post-race refreshments

<http://tinyurl.com/ctk5k2024>