



COURIER

Newsletter

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Christ the King School Awarded Green Ribbon Designation

by Mrs. Stephanie Engelhardt, Principal

Christ the King was awarded a Green Ribbon School Designation from the U.S. Department of Education for its offerings in environmental science, sustainability, and health. Mrs. Gagnon, the school's STEM Coordinator, and Mrs. Engelhardt, the principal, both traveled to Washington D.C. this past September to receive the award. "What an exciting opportunity for CTK and the Diocese of St. Augustine," said Mrs. Gagnon. Christ the King Catholic School is the only school in the state of Florida to receive the Green Ribbon this year and the first Catholic School in Florida.

The school's Nomination Package can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov>. Some specifics about the school's curriculum that led to us being chosen were our efforts in agriculture. The school maintains over 800 square feet of raised bed gardens. This program is undergoing an expansion as our aquaponics system will host tilapia in January. The goal of our agricultural program is to routinely grow enough vegetables to supply a salad bar during students' lunch periods.

Encouraging healthy eating was one step towards promoting a healthy lifestyle. Another was our unique Physical Education classes which occur three times per week for all grades.

Christ the King's middle school students spent a year working in small groups trying to address one aspect at the school where they could improve the use of natural resources. One group pulled weeds, raised funds to purchase gravel, and rerouted water runoff from air conditioner units to improve their efficiency. Another student idea, which was implemented, was bottle-refillable water fountains. After a fundraiser and school community buy-in, seven of these water fountains were installed at the school.

As stated in Christ the King's application, our goal remains steady for the future. We are building a culture of STEM and environmental stewardship at CTK that allows students to tackle local problems, be creative at designing a solution, and to communicate their ideas through actions and words.



RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

Several years ago, I submitted this poem that was written by our son, Kevin. He was proud to have served in the United States Air Force, and with great respect, displayed the American flag. It seems appropriate, at this time, to remind Americans to stand up and be proud of our country and the American flag. - Darlene O'Neal.



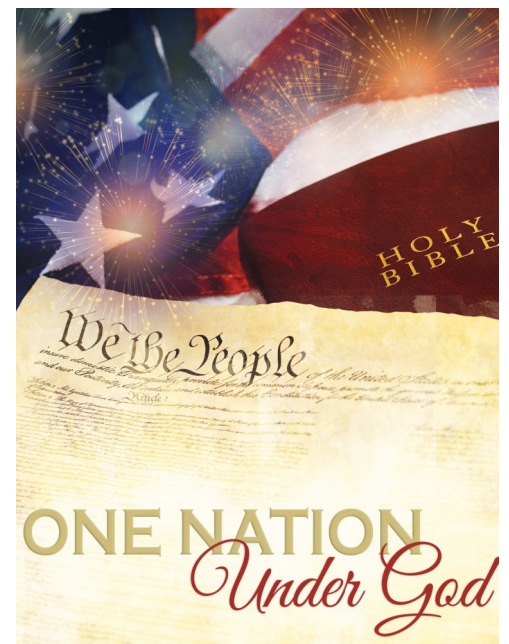
RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

Kevin O'Neal
May 4, 2000

I am the symbol of freedom.
I fly high proudly watching over my land from shore to shore.
I clothe the naked and feed the hungry.
I am home to the homeless.
I defend the defenseless around the world.
I restore hope where hope is lost.
I cry for the countless souls who have given their precious lives to defend me.
I fly forever in their honor.

I am despised by some whom I have fed and sheltered.
I see contempt in their eyes when they look upon me.
I am trampled by blind vengeance meant for their old rival.
I am mutilated and burned by ignorance and hatred.
I am desecrated by my enemies to incite rage among my children.
I see tears in their eyes as I am sacrificed on the altar of self-serving injustice.
I live in their hearts to comfort them in dark times.
I will not abandon them.

I am a survivor.
I unite a proud and diverse people under one banner of love and security.
I bridge the divide between right and reason.
I represent the greatest nation on the face of this earth.
I have resided here more than two centuries.
I will be here long after you are gone.



Youth Ministry Yard Sale

The second annual Youth Ministry Yard Sale was held on Saturday and Sunday, October 22-23, 2021. For two months the ministry had been collecting items and storing them in the St Mary's Room of the gym, as well as in various available rooms in the rectory. Thanks to generous donors, there were lots of kitchen items, household décor, baby and kids' items, clothing, books, music and media, and even furniture, including an upright piano! On Friday, October 21, students and adults carried items, big and small, to the cafeteria to get everything set up for the weekend sale.

The volunteers for the whole event were a collection of middle school and high school students, parents, and a few other parishioners. They all did an excellent job of helping everyone who attended.

Some of the leftover items were donated to a ministry assisting 200 refugees from Afghanistan. They could use more lamps, so if you have one, contact Catholic Charities, or the rectory.

Although the results of the yard sale are not finalized, the Youth Ministry expects to gain at least \$5000 in proceeds, which can then be used to fund various ministry activities. One of those activities will be the high school trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis.

The Youth Ministry wishes to thank everyone who helped, as well as everyone who came and supported the event.



Thanksgiving Prayer

Thankful For Today

We thank you God,
for creating the world
and for preserving it until now.

We thank you for the regular return of day and night,
and of the seasons,
and for the dependability of nature and of time.

We thank you for memory,
which enables us to build on the experiences of the past;
for imagination,
which admits us to a wider world than we could otherwise know;
and for foresight,
by which we plan for the future.

We thank you for your patience with us in our failings;
for friends and family with whom we can celebrate our successes;
and for those closest to us who support us in our times of need.

Bless this meal and us gathered here.

Bless those who have little food or friends to comfort them in body or spirit.

Bless those who are unable to be with us this day,
and those who have gone before us in faith.

We ask this in your name.

- Author Unknown

Found on many Catholic websites including:
<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/thanksgiving-prayers>

