CHRIST THE KING PARISH

Saint Athanasius Church 300 Haverhill Street Reading, MA Saint Agnes Church 186 Woburn Street Reading, MA



ChristTheKingReading.org

June 25, 2023



12TH

SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

COURAGE UNDER PERSECUTION

"Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29-31

CHRIST THE KING PARISH JUNE 25, 2023

A CALL TO TRUST IN GOD - ANCHORED IN FAITH: NAVIGATING TRIALS WITH TRUST

As we delve into today's readings we are compelled to reflect on the indispensable role of faith and trust in God when traversing the challenges and trials of life. Drawing inspiration from Jeremiah's example, we recognize that, like him, we may encounter betrayal and attacks from those around us. However, our unwavering faith in God's unfailing care can serve as an anchor, sustaining us amidst tumultuous times. Paul's message echoes the significance of faith in our salvation, guarding us against the perilous grip of despair. It emphasizes that our belief in the redemptive work of Christ is instrumental in attaining eternal salvation. Finally, Jesus' words resonate deeply within us, urging us to prioritize the well-being of our souls and to place unshakeable trust in God's intimate knowledge and unwavering care for us. We are reminded that amidst the trials of life, we are not alone, for God is intimately present and cares deeply for us.

Steadfast Trust in God

Lessons from Jeremiah - Jeremiah is a prophet who faces betrayal and attacks from trusted friends. Despite this, Jeremiah remains steadfast in his mission, demonstrating unwavering faith and trust in God's care. His example reminds us that our faith should not depend on external circumstances or the support of others, but rather on our unyielding trust in God's presence and guidance.

Jeremiah's story challenges us to reflect on the nature of our own commitment to God and His mission. It prompts us to examine whether our faith remains resilient in the face of challenges, opposition, and betrayal. By drawing inspiration from Jeremiah's unwavering trust, we can cultivate a deep and authentic faith that sustains us through adversity, knowing that God's care endures and empowers us to fulfill our purpose with unwavering confidence.

The Power of Faith

Salvation and Hope in Christ - Paul's emphasis on faith serves as a reminder that our salvation is not achieved through our own efforts or works alone, but through the grace of God received by faith. In times of trials and tribulations, it is our unwavering trust in Christ's redemptive sacrifice that sustains us and instills hope within us. We are encouraged to place our faith in God's saving power and find comfort and strength in the hope that comes from knowing His love and mercy. By embracing faith in Christ, we can overcome despair and find reassurance in the promise of salvation, even in the face of life's greatest challenges.

Trusting God Amidst Trials: The Soul's Salvation

In the Gospel passage Jesus forewarns his disciples about the trials and persecutions they will encounter as they carry out their mission of spreading his message. While acknowledging the physical risks they may face, Jesus emphasizes that the well-being and eternal salvation of their souls hold greater significance. This teaching highlights the paramount importance of placing our trust in God's care, even in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Amidst the trials and tribulations we encounter, we are called to emulate the disciples' trust in God's care. By having faith in God's love and provision, we can find solace, strength, and hope in the knowledge that God intimately knows us and is attentive to our needs. This message resonates with the overarching themes of Sunday's readings, emphasizing the importance of unwavering faith in God's guidance and love, especially in the face of adversity.

SOURCE: https://young-catholics.com/2653/

From the Parochial Vicar

Dear Parishioners and Extended Family Members,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

After our celebration of Father's Day, we have the beginning of Summer greeting us, marked on the Church's calendar by John the Baptist's birthday, June 24 (this weekend).

John the Baptist is the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, both of whom had trouble believing that God could help them conceive a child in their advanced years. Since "nothing is impossible with God", they did exactly this.

Jesus and John the Baptist were cousins. We knew John was familiar with Jesus since he reacted with such joy in Elizabeth's womb when Our Blessed Mother, carrying Jesus in her womb, visited Elizabeth six months into her pregnancy and stayed with her until John's birth, acting as a midwife. We don't hear of John and Jesus being together again in Sacred Scripture until Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River.

John is considered to be the last of the prophets to announce the coming of Jesus since Jesus began his public ministry when he heard of John's arrest by King Herod. Jesus also calls him the greatest of the prophets. He preached the coming of the Messiah while standing in the middle of the Jordan River and announced that the best way to prepare for his coming was to repent and reform your life. Those that society had rejected took to heart his message. John would eventually be placed in jail for telling Herod it is unlawful to marry his brother's wife. He would then be executed because of a promise Herod made to his step-daughter.

Thursday, June 29th, we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles. I find it very curious that the Church considers them to be so equally important, that it considers them to be inseparable. Whether it is their Feast Day or asking for their prayers for a particular intention, Holy Mother Church always mentions them together.

Each of these two saints is important for different reasons. Peter is important because he was the first Pope and kept the Church united which was growing very rapidly in the years following Pentecost. In the first years after Pentecost it was Jewish people who accepted Jesus as the Savior, and so the early church was a very Jewish church. But as time went on, Paul began to preach also to the non-Jewish, the Gentiles as they were called. All of us are Gentiles. His preaching was very successful and he brought huge numbers of non-Jewish into the church, so much so that the number of Jewish people in the church was greatly outnumbered by non-Jewish. It is because of Paul that we are now in the Church. So both Peter and Paul had very important tasks in the early church, Peter maintaining the unity in the church which during his lifetime had already spread throughout the Middle East and Asia Minor, and Paul, who taught the Jewish people that Jesus is the fulfillment of their Old Testament hopes and taught the non-Jewish that Jesus is the Savior. Whenever you see statues of Peter and Paul, usually Peter is holding a key, symbolizing his duty as head of the church, and Paul is holding the Bible, symbolizing his preaching.

Our Baptismal Calling asks us that, after claiming Jesus as our Lord and Savior and receiving him in the Eucharist, we are to make him present to the world in all we think, say, and do. Let us pray for the grace through the intercession of Saints John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul to do exactly this.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Fr. Z

Not from This Week in Church Signs, but rather a nursery:

"You can't plant flowers if you haven't Botany."

CHRIST THE KING PARISH JUNE 25, 2023

SATURDAY NIGHT CLUB NEWS

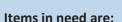
A special thank you to David Colpitts and the musicians who played Beatle's hits during our last event. It was an unexpected treat for all, at the last event for the season.

The Saturday Night Club chooses a charity each year for donations from our attendees. This year's recipient is Your Options Medical Center, which has pregnancy care centers in Revere, Fall River and Brookline. The total collected and sent off to the center was \$431.50. Thank you to all that participated.

READING FOOD PANTRY

Old South Church, 6 Salem Street, Reading The Reading Food Pantry is a project of the entire Reading community. Drop off:

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm at the back door.



Laundry Detergent, Kleenex, Cake/bread, Granola/ protein bars, Mayo (not light)





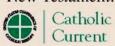
The best medicine for an aching heart or anxious mind is being surrounded by the love and support of family. In the face of crisis, important decisions, difficult problems or serious illness, those who care the most for us can offer words of comfort, hope and direction as we set aside our fears and try to move forward. There is no substitute for the solid ground of love in the stormy seas of life.

Everyone comes to a crossroads in life. Some choices and decisions are life-changing and fear can hold us back. Faith is challenged by doubt, or love is challenged by rejection and we look for some sign that we are on the right road. The risks are real, but we need to choose. It is then that we can most help each other find what we need to step forward, to choose wisely and know that we are not alone. A sounding board, a voice of reason, and a promise of prayer give us more than enough to make the journey that lies ahead. We go with God and we go with one another.

~James Gaffney © Pilot Bulletins

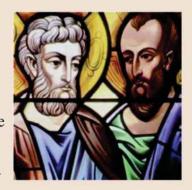
Apostles Peter and Paul

hese apostles share a feast as founders of the church in Rome. Peter, a Galilean fisherman chosen by Christ as on of the Twelve Apostles, became the undisputed leader of the fledgling church after Pentecost. Paul, a Pharisee and Roman citizen who had persecuted Christians, became after his dramatic conversion the church's greatest missionary, its "apostle of the gentiles." By tradition both were martyred in Rome. Their adventures are recounted in the Acts of the Apostles, and letters from them are included in the New Testament.



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FIRST CENTURY FEAST DAY: JUNE 29



ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL IN ANDOVER is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant to begin working this summer. St. Augustine School is a Pre-K through Grade 8 school of approximately 380 students committed to forming the next generation of saints and scholars in the Catholic tradition. This position oversees the front office of the school and supports the school administration in facilitating the day-to-day operations of the school.

To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to Mrs. Erin Doherty at edoherty@staugustineandover.org.

ACTION STEPS TO HELP CHILDREN (AND PARENTS!) LEARN & LIVE THEIR FAITH!

- Create an environment of exploration and enjoyment! Faith formation is most effective in an environment that is welcoming, open to honest conversation, and focused on exploration and discovery. Learning should be engaging!
- Guide children through the church year and the liturgy! The Church year provides an outline and a guide to finding faith in life, so leading children through the seasons of the Church is important in faith formation. It is also important that we root children in an understanding of the liturgy. Though it may take some time for them to understand all the rituals and language, the Mass and all Sacraments are celebrations that are at the heart of who we are as Catholics. For this reason, guiding children through the Church year and the liturgy is a crucial step in enlivening their faith.
- Model Prayer! In its essence, prayer is communication
 with God. Effective faith formation models many
 different forms and expressions of prayer, such as
 spontaneous prayer, meditative prayer, intercessory
 prayer, singing prayer, and even dancing prayer. By
 introducing children to prayer in meaningful and
 intentional ways, we help them build their relationship
 with God and develop spiritually.
- Give children opportunities to recognize and use their gifts and talents!
- Support & encourage the faith formation that happens at home! As the saying goes, "Children learn what they live." Quality faith formation supports and encourages the faith formation that happens at home.

(Saint Mary's Press; https://www.smp.org)

SUMMER VACATIONS ARE COMING! LET MASS BE A PART OF IT

No matter where you are, a Mass is always nearby. Enjoying your vacation? Thanking God at Mass is a beautiful response! Find a Mass anywhere:

MassTimes.org



News on the Faith Formation Front!

We would like to offer a program/parish initiative for families with children who not only require but deserve engaging activities that take into consideration a broad range of learning styles and abilities. We offered such a program pre-Covid, and we would like to bring this back, perhaps in the Fall beginning with a monthly effort that could include additional activities as we move along.

Adaptive Religious Education for children with special learning styles. Our planned schedule is:

2023-2024 CALENDAR with Class time to be determined

Sunday, November 5th - God Our Creator
Sunday, December 3rd - God Loves all He Created
Sunday, January 7th - The Church, Our Community
Sunday, February 4th - Sacraments, Our way of Life/
Sacramental Preparation

Sunday, March 3rd - Our Lived Faith & Liturgical Seasons

Sunday, May 5th - Mary Mother of God

PLEASE CONTACT PAULA COLPITTS FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

PColpitts@ChristTheKingReading.org



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- 3. Enter your name/email and ENJOY!

CHRIST THE KING PARISH JUNE 25, 2023

FIVE (SURPRISING) PLACES TO FIND GOD: GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Many of us fall into the subtle trap of thinking the only place to find God is at church. If we're not expecting to find God everywhere, we might just miss great opportunities for help, healing, and spiritual growth. Here are five places where God awaits you:

- **At Work** The relationships you have, the results you achieve, the quality and mindfulness with which you do your work can all be the stuff of holiness. Plus, the money you earn to support your family and the esteem you hold as a contributor to the world can either help serve the kingdom or be an impediment to it. Each day we "suit up and show up" at work we get opportunities to learn more about ourselves and to contribute our gifts to the good of the world.
- In Difficult Relationships It's easy to love other people when everything's going well. But when there are hurt feelings, mistrust, or clashing wills, relationships don't feel very much as though they are of God. Yet it is at just those times, that we can witness the movement of God in our lives, leading us to healing, trust, and cooperation. These can be opportunities to let go of character defects and to exercise virtues.
- In Our Failings We all like to be heroes. But it's a given that each of us will fail in our lives. Nevertheless, when we hit our limits or even when we sin, we can turn to God for acceptance, mercy, and the strength to make amends and sin no more. In that turning to God and in our opening ourselves up to God's grace and forgiveness, we become better people.
- In Loneliness Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O God. Rather than trying to fill the emptiness with mindless entertainment or indulging our cravings, sit still and find God in the emptiness. It takes patience and courage and humility, but you will hear the "still small voice" of God even in the midst of your emptiness responding to your loneliness and restlessness with the only love that fully satisfies.
- **In Pleasure** Many people seem to think that if something's fun, it must be at least partially wrong. Yet God gives us the world to live in and enjoy. In the words of St. Ireneaus, the "glory of God is a human being fully alive." Therefore, pleasure is a place to meet God, whether it be the pleasure of nature, of playing, of loving one another, of beauty, or of the occasional overwhelming conviction that we are loved by God.

https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/ignatian-spirituality

PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

In our continued efforts to pray for Vocations, we ask that you keep the following Priests and Seminarians in your daily prayers.

	Priest	Seminarian
June 25	All SMA Priests	Nicholas Colon
June 26	Fr. James Savage	Kyle Greg
June 27	Fr. George Evans	Ryan Henderson
June 28	Fr. Brian McHugh	Jake Livingstone
June 29	Happy Birthday, Cardinal Sean!	Laim Warner
June 30	Fr. J. Michael Lawlor	Stephen Baruffi
July 1	Fr. Peter Casey	Paulo Carvalho

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY!

This week we look at three of Christ the King Parish Ministries.

- Sanctity of Life Ministry promoting the sacredness of life from conception to natural death within our parishes and our community contact Jonathan Nauman, jonnauman@hotmail.com
- Knights of Columbus works closely with our Parish, providing charitable funds for various Parish projects/ initiatives - contact gk1@readingkofc.org

Walk for Life - THANK YOU!

The Knights of Columbus and Sanctity of Life Ministry wish to thank all who participated and donated to the third annual joint Walk for Life. At the time of publication we have raised \$395 to be split evenly with the Pregnancy Care Center and Your Options Medical. For those who may wish to help us reach our goal of \$5,000 kindly donate at our Go Fund Me page at https://gofund.me/9f9a64b8

We will be closing out the page on Friday, June 30th so please consider donating soon. Thank you.

Last weekend saw the 3rd
Annual joint Walk for Life, an
initiative of the Sanctity of Life
Ministry and the Knights of
Columbus in support of the
Pregnancy Care Center and Your
Options Medical.



 Liturgical Committee - attentive to the Liturgical environments of St. Agnes and St. Athanasius churches, to reflect the glory of God in His Church.

The Liturgy Committee held its final meeting for this season, looking in brief to Fall events and enjoying fellowship as well. Blessings to all over these summer months with some well deserved respite!



GRATEFUL DISCIPLESHIP - You might recall our Grateful Discipleship program - a new initiative rolled out last year. At present, a dedicated planning team is currently preparing for the new cycle this Fall. What is Grateful Discipleship? In brief, it is la way of living in which we share the blessings God has bestowed upon us - to help our Parish in our mission to teach, serve, worship and reach out in our world. Above is just a snapshot of three Christ the King Ministries, and there are many more! Be on the lookout for the Fall's **GRATEFUL DISCIPLESHIP** - where you will have the opportunity to share your God-given gifts within our Parish!

CHRIST THE KING PARISH JUNE 25, 2023

Mass St. Athanasius: Vigil 4:00PM, 10:00AM | St. Agnes: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

SCHEDULE 9:00 AM Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Fri at St. Agnes | Tues, Thurs at St. Athanasius

1st Saturday 9:00 AM Mass at St. Athanasius | Livestream Masses: 4:00PM Vigil, 11:00AM

CONFESSION St. Athanasius: Saturday, 2:45PM - 3:45PM; or by appointment

Adoration St. Agnes: Tuesday, 7:00 PM & Friday, 9:30AM | St. Athanasius: Thursday, 7:00 PM

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

God of compassion, we pray for our loved ones in the military, who offer themselves for the sake of others and who are separated from family and loved ones. Grant them courage, compassion, strength, and all they need for the living of these days. Sustain them through their every trial. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen

Please pray for all service members, especially for: Capt. Jared Peledge (US Army), Capt. Jeffrey Peledge (US Army), Spc. William T. Fisher (US Army), LCPL Dean Lepore, Timothy Thomas (US Army), Cpl. Daniel Gonzales (US Marine Corps), Capt. Nicholas Staffier (US Army), Capt. Luke Beaulieu (US Army), Cpl. Brenden Amico, Justin Whitmarsh, Chaplain Tom Whiteman, USMC Major Zachary Johnson, 1st Lts. Ryan & Nolan Johnson (US Army) PFC Christopher Lewis, USMC Capt. Katie Sliwoski, Frank J. Pendergast (USMC), LT Kevin Plumer (Navy),

> Jackson Nicolo (US Army Rangers), Capt. Stephen Campo (USMC), PV2 Mikey Woods (US Army) Spc4 Zachary Thomas, US Army, 2nd LT Keegan Coulter, US Army

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

4:00 PM - Jean and Al Perry

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 - TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM - No Mass Intention 9:00 AM - No Mass Intention

10:00 AM - Paul Ferguson and Janis Gerety

11:00 AM - Judith Covino - Wedding Anniv Memorial

MONDAY, JUNE 26

9:00 AM - No Mass Intention

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

9:00 AM - Brenda Norton - Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

9:00 AM - Gardiner & Nazzaro Families & Rene Aponte

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

9:00 AM - No Mass Intention

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

9:00 AM - Ted McIntire - Birthday Memorial

SATURDAY, JULY 1

9:00 AM - For an Increase in Vocations

4:00 PM - Catherine & Anthony Lombardo - Memorial

SUNDAY, JULY 2 - THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM - No Mass Intention

9:00 AM - No Mass Intention

10:00 AM - No Mass Intention

11:00 AM - No Mass Intention



St. Athanasius Sanctuary Candle In loving memory of

Anthony and Catherine Lombardo

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE - reminds us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection. If you wish to have the Sanctuary Lamp burning in memory of a loved one, to honor a special occasion, or a special intention please call the Parish Office. The Candle will burn for one week.

• FAX: 781-944-4403 • https://ChristTheKingReading.org • Contact@ChristTheKingReading.org

CLERGY

PASTOR

Very Rev. Stephen B. Rock, x220

email: FrSteve@ChristTheKingReading.org

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Stephen Zukas, x224

email: FrZ@ChristTheKingReading.org

SENIOR PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

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DEACONS

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email: DeaconBill@ChristTheKingReading.org

Rev. Mr. Neil Sumner

email: NSumner@verizon.net

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DColpitts@ChristTheKingReading.org, x218

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TJones@ChristTheKingReading.org

CHRIST THE KING PARISH COUNCIL

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Fr. Steve Rock, Bob Baynes, Stacey Bertocchi, Dana

Chesnulovitch, James Fitzgerald, Karen Fotino, Ron Fotino, Alicia Gallagher, Michelle Goldner, Marge Pearson, Ron Taupier,

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ALTAR SERVERS

Contact: Michelle Goldner, 508-942-9788

email: chelle1127@msn.com

ChristTheKingReading.org/liturgical-ministries

GLUTEN ISSUES - Please see a Priest or Deacon before Mass.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, 7PM-8PM at St. Agnes Church - with Rosary Thursday 7:00pm at St. Athanasius Church with Rosary Friday 9:30am-12Noon at St. Agnes Church

MASS AND SANCTUARY LIGHT INTENTIONS, MASS CARDS

Call the Parish Office to schedule

PRAYER REQUESTS - Call the Parish Office or submit online at: *ChristTheKingReading.org/prayer-request*

PARISH REGISTRATION:

ChristTheKingReading.org/register-with-parish

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: Monday 12Noon; for print in the upcoming weekend's

bulletin. Email to: Bulletin@ChristTheKingReading.org

SACRAMENTS

† Baptism: Maximum of 6 babies at each service We hold a Baptism Service twice a month on Sunday at 1:00 PM. Submit your request for baptism at: **ChristTheKingReading.org/baptism** The Parish Office will contact you to schedule the baptism date. Please call Office if you wish to have child baptized at Mass.

† BAPTISM PARENT MEETING: attend prior to the baptism. Meetings are held on the 1st Friday of every month at 7:00PM, at the St. Athanasius PAC

† MARRIAGE:

Arrangements are made with a priest at least six months in advance.

† RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays, 2:45PM - 3:45PM at St. Athanasius or by appointment with Clergy

- **4 ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Call the Parish Office to request. Extraordinary Ministers are also available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound.
- **4 FUNERALS**: ChristTheKingReading.org/funerals or call the Parish Office, 781-944-0490



"I had a project going in the garage. I told my wife it would be the last one and that I was ready to die. My peripheral neuropathy pain had gotten unbearable and my balance was very unsteady. Then I started treatment at Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic. Needless to say I'm looking for a new project. - Gary

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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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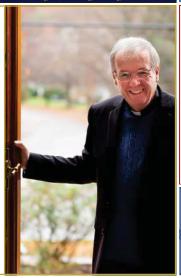
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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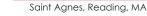


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