



The Open Door

“Open wide the doors for Christ.”—St. John Paul the Great

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2017

“We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Mission Statement of Christ the King

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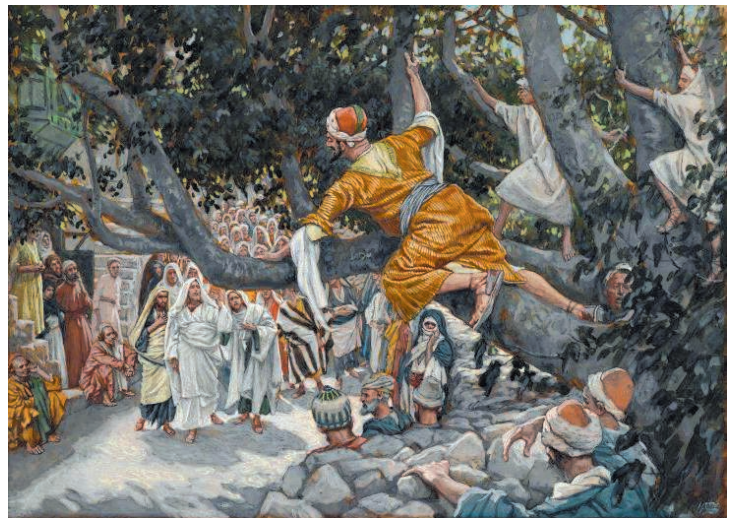
Calendar 11

“I must stay at your house today!”

The Lord Jesus invites Himself over for dinner, to the amazement and delight of Zacchaeus, who comes out of his tree and welcomes Him with joy.

What do folks experience when they join us for Mass at Christ the King? Is our greeting of them one that causes an experience of welcome and delight in the same way? Probably all of us have had the experience of going somewhere as a stranger and being more warmly welcomed than we expected. It is a wonderful experience! But when it is done to enable someone to experience being more welcomed into the Kingdom of God, it is particularly important!

Each of us has the opportunity to do that when we come to Mass. We have been given, by the Lord Jesus Himself, this wonderful opportunity to convey His peace, His presence, wherever we go. What a great gift to give to those



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around us, especially those who may be new and are therefore probably unsure of their welcome. Your warm greeting of them may just build the bridge of loving acceptance that the Lord Jesus can then walk over into their heart!

To be present in this way, to fully allow the Lord Jesus to use us in this ministry of welcoming and hospitality requires some preparation on our part. It may even require a bit of change in terms of how we approach our going to Mass.

For example, if we are open to the Lord Jesus using us in this way, it would be very, very useful for us to have spent a little time with Him before we go. This is, of course, always a great idea. Preparing our hearts before this

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Witness to Hope—Welcome Aboard!

The Diocesan Capital Campaign, Witness to Hope, is now in full swing. In fact, about two-thirds of the parishes in the Diocese of Lansing have already completed or are just wrapping up their campaigns. I and the rest of the Leadership Team at Christ the King decided to opt for the third wave of the Campaign, which is taking place now.

There are two parts to the Campaign. First, every parish is given a goal from the Diocese for their contribution to the Diocesan part of the campaign. Each parish's goal equals one year's worth of offertory income from the parish. So, at Christ the King, that amounts to about \$1.3 million dollars.

Each parish was also given the opportunity to have an additional goal, raising money to satisfy some needs that the parish itself might have. As we evaluated what needs we might have in the parish, we attempted to do so from the following perspective: What do we need to do to make Christ the King even

more the kind of welcoming parish that the Lord Jesus has in mind for us?

As we evaluated our needs, we asked, "What do we need to do to make Christ the King even more the kind of welcoming parish that the Lord Jesus has in mind for us?"

Several things immediately came to mind. First, what is the first thing you experience when you come to the parish? Of course—the dreaded parking! “Hi, welcome to Christ the King—now go park at Dominos!” Not exactly the most expeditious way to welcome new folks to the parish (not to mention our faithful folks who are already parishioners!).

Having more parking is a crucial need for us. In part this is because of the changing demographics of our families.

“Back in the day” when our parking lot looked like an ad for large passenger vans, we pretty much had it covered. Many of our families had the whole family come together in one vehicle. But now, with the multitude of different needs hitting our families, it is not uncommon for five family members to come in two or three different vehicles. So way more parking is needed.

Well then, you finally manage to find a place to park and then you come through the front doors of the Church. Often it is like Times Square during rush hour—welcome to our fellow sardines! This is especially true if you arrive for the second Mass while the folks from the first Mass are still chatting in our narthex. Welcome to Christ the King—the claustrophobic need not apply!

To be able to greet people warmly as they enter and to also have a place where people can congregate and chat and share their lives before and after the Masses, we need a much larger

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Previous page:
Zaccheus in the Sycamore Awaiting the Passage of Jesus, by James Tissot [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

“I must stay at your house today!”

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most important encounter with Him during our week is something that we should regularly strive to do.

It also may require a slight shift in our focus. We attend Mass primarily for the praise and worship of God. However, that praise and worship is not meant to be seen purely in a privatistic manner, i.e., it's not just “me and Jesus.” It involves the entire people

of God we are joining with to celebrate.

The way that we choose to encounter the Lord Jesus in those around us, especially the stranger among us, can greatly enhance not only their, but our encounter with Him. Let us be present to Him however He chooses to come to us!

— Fr. Ed Fride



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Witness to Hope—Welcome Aboard!

Continued from page 2

narthex (gathering space). It would also be nice to have displays and other ways of sharing what is going on in our life as a parish and welcoming people who are coming.

One of the ways the Second Vatican Council described as how the Lord Jesus is truly present is when His people are gathered together. Sharing our lives with each other is not just a nice social thing; it is a fundamental component of what it means for us to be followers of the Lord Jesus. All of that takes space, space which right now we do not have. For that, we need a much larger narthex.

But we don't just need space to greet each other. Having space to accommodate all that happens on Sunday and during the rest of the week is also crucial. When we first built the Church, finishing the basement was always a goal, but the finances were not available at the time. Now, with this new capital campaign, we have an opportunity to finish that lower level and make it a useful space for our folks. To have a nice reception area with a kitchen, to have more classroom space, more restrooms, more storage space—these are all additions that will greatly enhance our ability to serve our current parishioners as

well as all those other folks that the Lord Jesus may be sending us.

Sharing our lives with each other is not just a nice social thing; it is a fundamental component of what it means for us to be followers of the Lord Jesus.

These local needs add about \$3 million to our goal, for a \$4 million total. I pray that each of us would prayerfully consider how the Lord Jesus might be calling us to contribute to this need, that we would be better equipped to serve the Kingdom as the Lord leads us!—Fr. Ed Fride

The Alpha Holy Spirit Weekend: Building a Culture of Belonging

The Fall Holy Spirit Weekend took place a few weeks ago here at Christ the King. Everyone participating in each of the four sessions of Alpha being offered this Fall came together to listen to several talks on the Holy Spirit and to participate in a ministry time together. It was also an opportunity to spend a longer amount of time together, have fun, and learn more about the Holy Spirit.

When asked what his favorite time of the weekend was, one guest replied, “The people who were there.” Many experienced the weekend as “a great way to build up Christ-centered relationships.” Many noted that their favorite times during the weekend were being able to



spend more time with their small groups. Each normal Alpha session has one video and discussion time, but at the Holy Spirit Weekend each small group had multiple times for discussion.

Another favorite part of the weekend was the ministry time. It was led by David Mangan and involved an extended time of prayer, as well as personal prayer ministry for those who wanted to be prayed over. For many people, this was their first experience of praying for the presence of the Holy Spirit in

their lives. It can be scary to try something new for the first time, but, according to one guest, “Dave Mangan did an excellent job leading prayer and explaining what to expect—perfect for folks without much knowledge or experience of the Holy Spirit, and very gentle and peaceful.”

Another popular aspect of the weekend was the childcare that was offered. Many of those in the parish volunteered their time to come and help take care of the children of those who were attending the weekend. Because of your service, parents who otherwise would not have been able to attend, were able to go to the weekend.

—Aimée Godfrey



Aimée Godfrey is
Alpha Coordinator at
Christ the King.

Join the Alpha Celebration on Dec. 9!

Come and celebrate with us on Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30-9:00pm, in the CTK Gym. We'll be celebrating the end of the Fall Alpha session and

launching the Winter session, which will start in January. All are welcome to come and hear testimonies, eat good food and learn more

about Alpha! No RSVP required. Questions? Contact Aimée Godfrey at agodfrey@ctkcc.net.

Welcome the Word

Jesus is revealed to us as the “Word of God.” (Jn 1:1, Rev 19:13) He is the communication of God’s love for us, the “Word Made Flesh.” (Jn 1:14)

As Word, Jesus is constantly communicating. Just as He is Love and Truth, and never ceases to be Love and Truth, He also never ceases to be Word.

He reveals God to us through Scripture, through speaking to us in prayer, and through His actions. He even uses silence.

God knows that we can do nothing without Him. We need His wisdom, encouragement, comfort, and correction as we follow Him. And to follow Him, we need to hear His voice.

How can we do that? There are many ways. Here’s one:

Start by setting aside 10 minutes for prayer. Yes, you

may have to fight to get it in your schedule. But really... do you want to take on your day without at least trying to hear what God has for you?

Find a private location, mute your phone, and consciously give everything that’s on your mind to God. Then, just as you would speak to a friend, ask Jesus what He wants to say to you.

Pay attention to what goes through your mind. Often God’s voice sounds like our thoughts, but the message is something we never could have come up with on our own. And if your to-do list is the first thing that comes to mind, ask Jesus what He wants to say about it. Try listening again.

When we believe we have heard the Lord’s voice, there are several ways to confirm it. St. Paul wrote, “Test everything; hold fast to what is good.” (1 Thess 5:21)



1. **Is it consistent with Scripture and official Church teaching?**
2. **Does it come with a spirit of love?**
3. **Ask someone with a strong sense of discernment to confirm it.**
4. **Test it and look at the fruit. “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit” (Mt 7:18). If it is from the Lord, it will bear good fruit.**

This Advent and Christmas, let’s welcome the Word, the Christ-child, into our hearts anew.—Christy Whiting

For more tips on listening to the Lord, read “Recognizing the Lord’s Voice” on the Upper Room blog. Go to CTKUpperRoom.com/?p=2937



Christy Whiting is Upper Room Director at Christ the King.

Workshop: Following the Lord’s Lead, Dec. 15



Christmas is an ideal time to evangelize. But how do you know when is the right time to speak, what to say, or how to begin?

Praise & Worship at Upper Room on Friday, Dec. 15,

will include a short talk and small group discussion on the topic of following the Lord’s lead. We’ll be in the Parish Center Gym from 7:45 to 9:15pm. All are welcome!

Fall 2017 Life Teen Retreat: Not What I Expected

I love being surprised, especially when God brings something amazing out of a seemingly difficult situation. Having worked with teens for the past 20 years, perhaps I should really be used to this by now and start expecting the unexpected.

This November 10-12, we had 110 teens attend our fall retreat. Some came with very specific expectations, while others had few expectations at all. In both cases, God was full of surprises.

Our high schoolers tend to come on retreat with a lot on their minds. Often they want to hear God more clearly, but they have been struggling to overcome things like doubt, loneliness, fear, and anxiety. Throughout the retreat we have a lot of times

Some came with very specific expectations, while others had few expectations at all. In both cases, God was full of surprises..

built in to encounter God and build friendships. Yet even after our sessions of Adoration, teambuilding, reconciliation, praise and worship, and so on, it is difficult to see all the changes that are taking place under the surface.

This is why one of my favorite parts of our retreats is at the end when the teens get up and share their testimonies. It is truly incredible what God is doing deep in these teens' hearts and minds. Some of the prominent themes in this year's testimonies were physical healings, relationships restored, unexplainable joy, renewal of charismatic gifts, and profound peace of heart and mind. And some of the teens who seemed to get the most out of the retreat, were not the

one's I had expected. God is good!—*John Hoving*



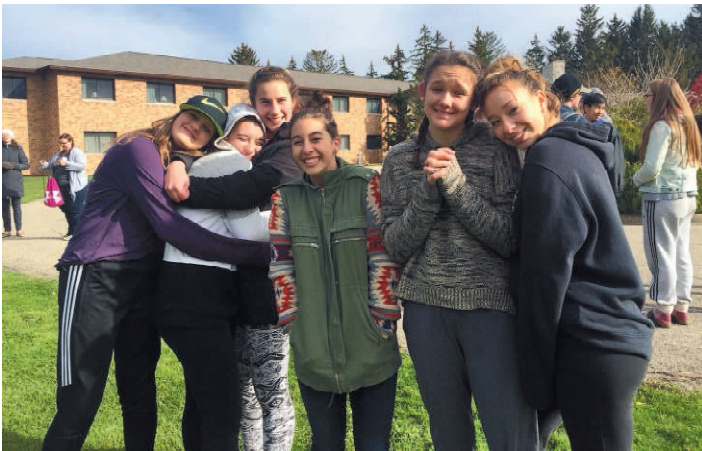
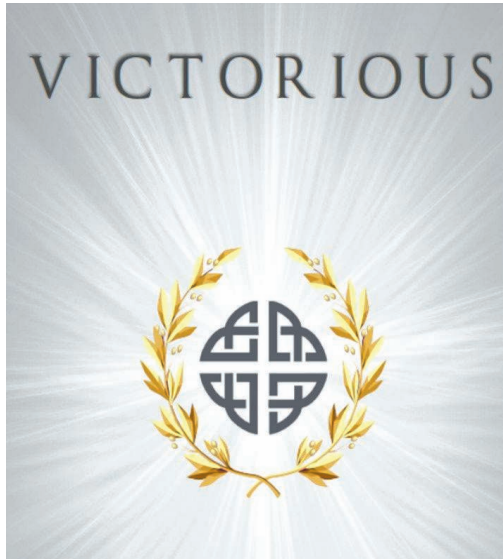
**John Hoving is
Director of Youth
Ministry at Christ the
King.**



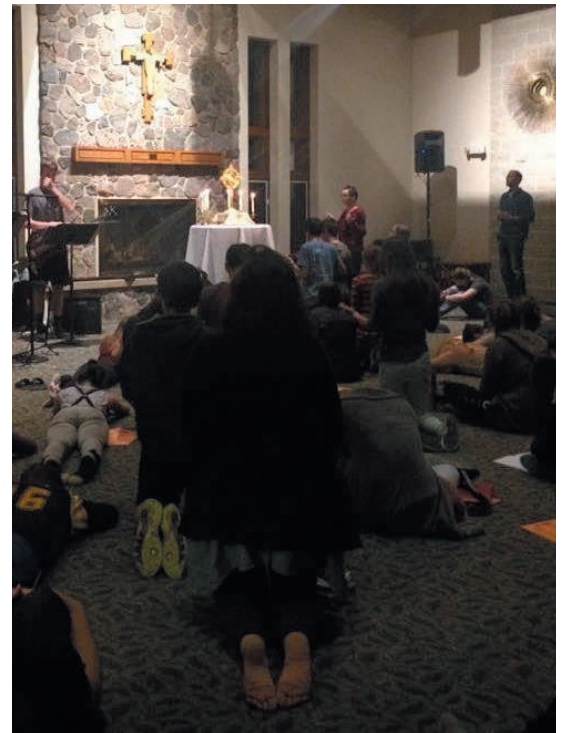
**Bethany House, the Diocesan Youth
Retreat Center in DeWitt, was the site of
the 2017 Life Teen Fall Retreat.**

Fall 2017 Life Teen Retreat: Called to be Victorious!

**“Thanks be to God, Who
gives us the victory
through our Lord
Jesus Christ.”
— 1 Corinthians 15:57**



**Deepening relationships with
sisters in Christ.**



**Saturday night Eucharistic Adoration is a key
time to encounter Jesus.**



**A good retreat has time
to both pray and play!**

Songs of Belonging

Welcome to Life!

There are so many of our fellow human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, who don't know it. Do we think that we might be able to make any difference at all in their actual lives?



Martin Doman is Director of Worship at Christ the King.

I love the song “Welcome to Life” by Matt Maher. If you haven’t heard it, the song rejoices in the normality of life and of how God visits us on our level each day, if we can hear and see it.

The song is a masterpiece of Beatles-esque playfulness. In the catchy modulating chorus, he sings:

*So welcome to life,
I hope you enjoy it
In between yesterday
and tomorrow
Welcome to life, I hope
that you get it right*

It’s a song of welcoming to those who have lost hope. This month, we are trying to rediscover the why and what and how of welcoming others into our parish family. And this is something we need to get better at.

There are so many of our fellow human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, who



don’t know it. We see them at the grocery store, we see them at school or at work, and we might even feel sorry for them. But do we think that we might be able to make any difference at all in their actual lives? Maher answers:

*Sometimes we forget we
are the image of the
love of God*

*So please, if you don't
mind let me remind
you.*

*We were made to love
each other as a sister
and a brother*

*To imitate perfection in
an imperfect world*

You really have to hear the song, and when you do, catch the spirit of it. It’s an anthem to the lost, written in a style very atypical for a praise and worship leader. But it really hits home how all of us are in this together. That none of us has really “made it,” that our circle is open enough to welcome those who surround us every day with the joyful life of freedom that God is inviting them (and really us) to have. — Martin Doman

Parishioner Profile: Del & Mary Jo Paquin

Del and Mary Jo Paquin have been part of Christ the King since July 2000. They and their family have served in a number of ministries at Christ the King, especially those involving hospitality.

Tell us a little of your family and faith background.

Both of our families are from Michigan. We were baptized Catholic but had different experiences growing up.

Mary Jo: I came from an active Catholic family. All six of us went to Catholic schools through high school. My sister and I graduated from Madonna [University in Livonia]. My parents were part of the Renewal. Unfortunately, I chose to step away from my faith to do my own thing.

Del: My family stopped attending Mass when my parents divorced when I was 9. I returned for Confirmation but did not stay.

We met just as Mary Jo finished college and together came back to the Church through the Detroit Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

How did you hear about Christ the King?

We knew about CTK and the Word of God for years but never attended due to



Del (back row, fourth from the right) **and Mary Jo** (back row, third from the right) **Paquin and family**

the distance from where we were living. Del was looking for a daily Mass he could attend before work. There weren't any near our home or his job, so he drove to Ann Arbor for early morning Mass at CTK and St. Thomas. That year we were traveling to Sterling Heights for Thanksgiving and decided to attend Mass at CTK on our way. We were blown away by the number of people and the diversity in ages, even more so by the enthusiasm of the congregation. We came back for Sunday Mass to see if what we experienced was real and felt like we had found our home.

Why did you join Christ the King?

Our children were preteens, and we were looking for solid faith formation in a vibrant community.

You've been involved with hospitality for many different events at Christ the King. What draws you to that ministry?

There is joy in seeing people come together and fellowship. Food has a way of pulling people in and helping them relax and connect with other people.

What else do you like to do with your time?

Del loves working with people with special needs. He is also into biking. Mary Jo enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and playing games.

If there was one point that you would want to get across to people reading this article, what would it be?

An easy way to be a part of something is to volunteer to help. Before you know it, you'll know many people and feel at home.

"An easy way to be a part of something is to volunteer to help. Before you know it, you'll know many people and feel at home."

Ministry Spotlight: Welcome Ministry

The Lamberjacks—Mike, David, and Joseph (in the background), along with Keri and Sarah (not pictured)—are part of the team that greets people arriving for Mass at Christ the King

“We are called to be a welcoming people. ... We are to love [others] as Jesus loves them.”

Marlene Chockley



Theresa Hofer is Editor of The Open Door.



The Welcome Ministry assists in welcoming people into the parish and helping new parishioners become acquainted with and get engaged with the parish. Service opportunities include greeting people before Sunday Masses, staffing the Welcome and Information Table after Masses, and providing social opportunities through which new parishioners can become better acquainted with the parish.

Mike Lamberjack and his late wife Tracy, along with their four children, joined the greeters team not long after joining the parish in 2011. When asked what motivated them to get involved with this ministry, Mike says, “We love the idea

of being able to do ministry as a family. In addition, we have always enjoyed meeting new people. Reaching out to our fellow parishioners this way has been a tremendous blessing to our whole family.”

Len and Marlene Chockley serve at the Welcome Table. “We have been blessed to get to talk with people after Mass who have been seeking a parish to call home,” says Marlene. “It is wonderful to hear how our parish community is satisfying the hunger that many new people have for love and acceptance and know that we are a small part of that.”

Welcome Ministry Coordinator Cindy Pressprich emphasizes that being

welcoming is not just for the Welcome Ministry. “We should all be looking outward,” she says.

Marlene agrees. “We are called to be a welcoming people. We just smile and show a genuine interest in people, whether we know them or not. We are to love them as Jesus loves them.”

Mike adds, “Being a welcoming parish is so important when evangelizing. Everyone brings their own baggage to church. When someone simply smiles or extends a hand in friendship, it can make such a difference.”

Cindy notes that we can always use more people to serve in this ministry. Marlene, who schedules the greeters and Welcome Table volunteers, says that it usually takes only 30-45 minutes once a month. We can also use people to fill in sporadically. For more information, contact Marlene (734-730-0795, marlenechockley@gmail.com) or Cindy (734-996-4087, cpressprich@comcast.net).

—Theresa Hofer

Schedule of Major Events

- 1, 8, 15, 22: Upper Room Praise & Worship
- 8: Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Parish office closed
- 9: Alpha Celebration
- 17: Life Teen Christmas Party
- 24 & 25: Christmas Vigil & Christmas Day
Holy Day of Obligation
- 25 & 26: Parish office closed
- 31 & 1/1: Mary, Mother of God
Not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2018; Parish office closed
- 1/4-6: Encounter Conference
2018; Parish office closed on 1/5

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ctkcc.net and click on the "Calendar" tab.

MAJOR EVENTS—DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	Dec. 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Jan. 1	2	3	4	5	6

Save the Dates!

Winter 2018 Alpha Course

Sessions start the week of January 7, 2018. Go to www.ctkcc.net/alpha for more information.



"Magnify the Lord! Mary and Our Call as Women" CTK Women's Retreat with Dr. Mary Healy, February 2-4, 2018, Faholo Christian Conference Center. Registration starts soon! For details, go to www.ctkcc.net.



Fighting the Porn Culture...and Winning!

with Dr. Peter Kleponis, Saturday evening, February 10, 2018.



Check future bulletins for more details about these great events!



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Coming in future issues...

- "The Bruised Reed"
- Lent and Prayer
- Alpha testimonies
- Parishioner and ministry profiles

Look for this and more in future issues of

The Open Door

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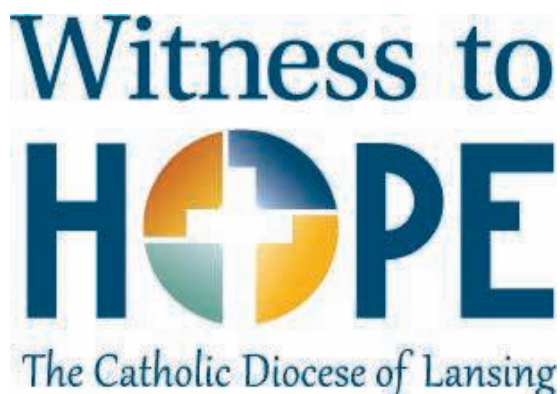
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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ckkcc.net.

The Open Door is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.



Witness Weekend, Dec. 2-3

Please pick up your individualized packet after Mass that weekend and return your pledge card at your earliest convenience.
For more information, go to
www.witnesstohope.net
or www.ckkcc.net/ctkwth.