



The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

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“Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses”

How often is our life more difficult than it needs to be because we do not fully avail ourselves of the divine assistance that the King offers us

by Fr. Ed Fride

In the book of Hebrews we are reminded of a wonderful reality: “We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses”! (Heb. 12:1) These heavenly witnesses have been assisting the People of God from the most ancient times right up to the current day.

For example, during the time of the Maccabees, their leader was visited by the great prophet Jeremiah, who by then had been dead for four centuries. The Scriptures themselves declare

that these saints pray for us, as Jeremiah is introduced to Judas Maccabeus as one “who loves the brethren and prays much for the people and the holy city.” (2 Macc. 15:14)

The active engagement of the saints in the lives of the faithful is highlighted every time a saint is canonized. It demonstrates that their heavenly intercession has resulted in a concrete miracle here, as with the recent canonization of St. John Henry Cardinal Newman.

We see the saints even assisting the Lord Jesus Himself, as when Moses and Elijah appear to Him, Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration.

In addition to these human witnesses, we also see the great ministry of the angels, assisting us throughout our history. The Scriptures have wonderful stories of the intervention of St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, and other angels—from the angel of the Lord leading

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“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

One excellent way to take advantage of the gift of the saints to our lives is by having a little shrine in our homes in which the saints that are of particular importance to our family are remembered.



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

Previous page and details on this page: *Assumption of the Virgin* by Francesco Botticini (1446-1498). National Gallery, London, www.nationalgallery.org.uk. This work is in the public domain.

“Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses”

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them out of Egypt to the great Annunciation to the Lady by St. Gabriel. We are also told in the Scriptures that each of us has been given our own guardian angel (Heb. 1:14).

So what should be our response to this great cloud of saints and angels who are intent on acting on our behalf? One might ask, do we need them? The Fathers of the Council thought so, reminding us, as the *Catechism* points out (#956), that “by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped.” Who does not suffer from weakness? They offer us assistance that not only helps us, but “greatly” helps us! How often is our life more difficult than it needs to be because we do not fully avail ourselves of the divine assistance that the King offers us.

The Church calls this assistance from the saints to our attention especially in November as we celebrate the great Solemnity of All Saints. Now is the perfect time to reflect on just how we are taking advantage of the gift of the saints to our lives, especially to the lives of our families.

One excellent way to do this is by having a little shrine in our homes in which the saints that are of particular importance to our family are remembered. Chief in all of our devotions are the ones the Church especially commends to us, particularly Mary, the Mother of God; Joseph her spouse and protector of the Church and the family; and St. Michael, the Prince of the Heavenly Host. In addition to them are the particular saints that are special to our families, for example, our patronal namesake saints, our Confir-

mation patrons, the saints on whose feast days significant events happened, like Baptisms and weddings. Also worth noting are the saints of our national heritages, the saints of our vocations, etc. We would do well to also note the gift to each of us of our own guardian angels.

As parishioners of Christ the King, special note might also be taken of the four great saints we are privileged to have in our Altar: St. Maria Goretti, St. John of the Cross, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. John Vianney. We could also include St. Francis of Assisi, the great patron of charismatics; St. John Bosco, the patron of our catechetical programs; etc.

To honor all these different saints and angels with a picture, a holy card, or even a little statue can make the family shrine a wonderful gift to the family’s devotional life. Finding ways to include the saints and angels in the devotional life of the family can also greatly facilitate each member having that devotion which can “greatly” assist their walk with the King!



“Little Flower, in this hour, show your power!”

St. Thérèse interceded for Mom

by Tricia Blake

One year after my family moved in with Mom, she became ill. She knew it was a heart problem (Mom had a history of heart issues, including surgeries), but the doctors could not seem to discover the cause. Mom spent hours lying on the couch, wiped out, often with labored breathing. The symptoms which began in late summer continued into the following spring. Shortly after Easter, she scheduled an appointment to have more testing done.

At that point, I decided to pray a novena that would end on the day of her appointment. I had just taken an online class about St. Thérèse of Lisieux, so she was a natural choice for me to ask for intercession. Before then, I think I semi-consciously avoided praying to St. Thérèse for a silly reason: I was afraid I would be focused on looking for a flower, especially a rose, as it's so often said to be a sign of receiving St. Thérèse's help. But with Mom ill, I had no concern about flowers.

I prayed to St. Thérèse for nine days, and then Mom went to her appointment. She came home discouraged. She felt worse than she ever had in her life. They had taken tests but didn't have any results yet.

My daughter was to be confirmed that night at Christ the King. As I drove to the church, worried about Mom, a little voice started singing behind me, "Jesus loves me, this I know." It

was my three-year-old singing from his car seat. I had never heard him sing that on his own and felt blessed by that message at that moment.

Mom had asked my husband to drive her to the Confirmation Mass but planned to have him take her to the E.R. when it was over. While waiting for Mass to start, I received a text from my husband that Mom was worse and he was taking her to the E.R. immediately.

That E.R. visit led to Mom's healing. She was admitted to the hospital, where they finally diagnosed what for some reason had eluded the doctors for nine months: a previous heart valve replacement from 13 years before needed mending. When I visited Mom after the surgery, she was like a new person! She was lively and energetic, joking and asking to start walking right away. It was night and day.

Later in the Adoration Chapel, I prayed in overjoyed thanksgiving with such relief! While praying, the thought popped into my head about St. Thérèse and flowers. Had I received a flower? Then I remembered, I had! I had been given a rose, totally unexpectedly, during the novena. My husband said that a member of the Booster Club gave it to him to give to me. In all the years before, I had never received a rose from the Booster Club. It didn't seem like a big deal really, and I hadn't especially liked the color, but I took it

home and put it in a vase with some other roses my daughter had received.

As I prayed in the Chapel that night, I grew even more excited trying to remember the color of the rose, because Mom's favorite color rose is yellow. I went home and looked at the bouquet on the dining room table. There in the midst of a set of white roses stood out a single yellow rose—the rose for my mom. Thank you, St. Thérèse!

St. Thérèse sent me roses

by Ann Whiting

When I was ten years old, I read a biography of St. Therese of the Child Jesus called *St. Thérèse and the Roses*. I was taken by St. Thérèse's story and chose her for my Confirmation saint. Not long after, I read her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*. Her "little way" clinched it!

Since then, St. Thérèse has been my favorite go-to intercessor saint. I was blessed to attend a high school named for her. I named a daughter after her (and St. Teresa of Avila). I always loved reading stories of how her intercession showered blessings upon people.

Her intercession actually showered me with her "roses" about 15 years ago. I was struggling with a difficult situation in my life and asked St. Thérèse to pray for me. Then for about two months, she daily sent me roses! Sometimes it was actual roses, other times, a picture of roses on a card from someone, "rose" graphs in



Before she died in 1897, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (a.k.a, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, "the Little Flower") asked for the grace to spend her Heaven doing good on earth. Convinced that her request had been granted, she promised to send after her death "a shower of roses" of answered prayers. Three parishioners share their stories of St. Thérèse's powerful intercession.

Detail of "Thérèse with roses" (1925) by Sr. Geneviève of the Holy Face (Céline Martin). © Carmel of Lisieux, archives-carmel-lisieux.fr.

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"Little Flower, in this hour, show your power!"

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my math teacher work, even artificial roses.

Then there were signs of St. Thérèse's ingenuity and humor. Once while I was waiting at an intersection, a delivery truck crossed in front of me. Its side was emblazoned with the message: "Say it with roses!" Another time, I felt a powerful urge to visit a dollar store. Sure enough, she guided me to a beautiful little paper-weight that had a laser-etched rose. One evening when it was almost midnight I was thinking "Guess no roses today" as I flicked on the TV to check the weather ... just as a commercial was flashing by on the screen for "Rose Motors"!!

Although the daily roses stopped after a while, St. Thérèse had given me the reassurance of her intercession for my situation. A few years later on October 1st, her feast day, a significant event occurred towards the resolution of my difficulties. Though not entirely a surprise, I found a rose that day in a very unexpected place. Thank you, St. Thérèse!

"But Thérèse said...!"

by Theresa Hofer

I studied theater in college, planning to teach at the college level. During my junior year, though, I started considering going into professional acting. To test the idea, I decided to try to apprentice with a summer theater com-

pany during the summer after my junior year. So I applied to and auditioned with several companies but after several weeks hadn't heard anything.

Then I received from a friend in the prayer group I had just joined a "chain letter novena" to St. Thérèse: if you prayed the novena and sent it to two other people, on the fifth day you'd get an answer to prayer. At the time, I wasn't into either chain letters or novenas, but Thérèse *is* my patron saint and I did have a question I wanted answered. So I started the novena to know where God wanted me to be that summer.

On the fifth day as I walked to my mailbox, I was having an argument with myself. The "Mother" in me said, "Now, don't be disappointed if nothing's there." To which the "Child" replied, "Yes, but there's going to be something there." "I know, but don't be disappointed if there's not." "But there's going to be something there." I opened my mailbox to find an acceptance letter to a theater in North Dakota. It wasn't my top choice, but it was where St. Thérèse said I should go, so I sent back my acceptance.

My resolve was tested a few weeks later when I was accepted by a theater in upstate New York that was doing my dream season: a Shakespeare, a Chekhov, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and something else equally

delectable. My friends all said, "Tell the other theater you changed your mind!" I replied with some angst, "But Thérèse said I'm supposed to go to North Dakota!" In the end, I stuck with what Thérèse said.

I didn't have to report until late June, so over Memorial Weekend I attended my first Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference at Notre Dame University. On Saturday night, I got the strong sense from the Lord that I was not going to end up in theater. I couldn't deny the strength of the sense, but I thought, "But Thérèse said I'm supposed to go to North Dakota this summer," so I decided that it must be a word for some future time.

A week before I was to leave, I got a letter from the theater in North Dakota. They had gone bankrupt and cancelled the summer season. I looked up to the sky and said, "You're kidding, right?"

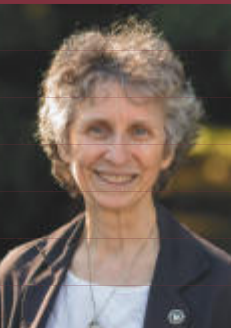
After the initial shock wore off, it became clear that this was neither a joke nor a mistake, but God's perfect timing. It was too late in the summer to get a job or take classes, so instead, I took three-hour long prayer times and started seriously considering for the first time that maybe God had a different plan for my life. It set me on a path that eventually led to where I am today—all because I listened to what Thérèse said.



Tricia Blake grew up in Ann Arbor in the Word of God. She and her husband David have six children and participate in the CTK homeschool co-op.



Ann Whiting is a founding member of CTK, a mother, grandmother, math teacher, and tutor. Her ministry is intercessory prayer.



Theresa Hofer has been on staff since 1998 and currently serves as Communications Coordinator. She is a member of the Secular Discalced Carmelites.

St. Jude, a great intercessor & patron of hope

by Rosemary Bogdan

Editor's note: A version of this article first appeared in the Oct. 15, 2018, edition of CatholicMom.com. Reprinted with permission.

On October 28, we celebrated the feast of Saints Simon and Jude. St. Jude is the patron of hope, of the impossible, and of difficult situations.

St. Jude Thaddeus was one of the Twelve Apostles, the brother of James the Less and a cousin of Jesus. He preached in Mesopotamia, Libya, and Persia with St. Simon, where they made many converts. Both were martyred.

St. Jude is often pictured holding an image of Jesus: the Holy Mandylion of Jesus, the Image of Edessa. King Abagar of Edessa had leprosy and asked Jesus to cure him. He sent an artist to bring him a drawing of the great healer. Jesus was so impressed with the king's faith that He pressed His face on the cloth and left His image on it. St. Jude then took the cloth to the king and he was cured.

There have been periods in the history of the Church when devotion to St. Jude has waned. This may be because of the similarity of his name to that of the Lord's betrayer. But it seems that God specifically wants His cousin Jude to be called upon as an intercessor. In visions, both St. Bernard and St. Bridget of Sweden were asked by God to accept St. Jude as the patron saint of the impossible. To St. Bridget He said, "In accordance with his surname, Thaddeus, the amiable or loving, he will show himself willing to help."

Has he ever shown himself willing to help! Those who ask for his intercession often see miracles.

From my own personal experience, I believe he is also a saint with a sense of humor. My husband and I once owned a sailboat that we kept at a marina about an hour from our home. We decided we really needed to sell it. After listing it for some time without success, we asked St. Jude for help.

If you appeal to St. Jude, know that he may do whatever it takes to answer your prayer!

About a week later, a stranger came to our door and asked if we were interested in selling our boat. I looked at him puzzled because the sailboat was not listed locally. I said, "Our boat?" He said, "Yes, the canoe on the side of your house." I said, "Oh! Well, I'll ask my husband. He might want to sell it." I closed the door, laughed, and looked heavenward. "St. Jude, I meant the sailboat!" Then I felt that St. Jude was telling me to hold on, that he was working on it. Shortly after selling the canoe, we also sold the sailboat. Thank you, St. Jude!

My aunt was extremely devoted to St. Jude and regularly asked for his intercession. Once her son had been unable to study properly for an important test in high school. My aunt prayed that something



would happen to postpone the test. When her son returned home she asked him how the test went. He said that the teacher had fallen ill and the test was postponed. My aunt started laughing and confessed to having appealed to St. Jude. My cousin was somewhat aghast. "Mom! You have to be careful when you ask St. Jude for something. I didn't want the teacher to get sick!"

We had a neighbor who also loved St. Jude. She told my mom that there was a very real possibility that her husband was going to be transferred to a Muslim country where there were no churches, no Eucharistic Presence. She was a very devout Catholic and horrified at the thought of living without the Presence of the Eucharistic Lord. She appealed to St. Jude. Not only did her husband not get the position, he actually lost his job completely.

If you appeal to St. Jude, know that he may do whatever it takes to answer your prayer! As the Lord said, "... he will show himself most willing to help."

Rosemary Bogdan has a strong devotion to St. Jude Thaddeus, the brother of James the Less and a cousin of Jesus. She has often called upon him in prayer and experienced his help. She was delighted to learn that two of her children wanted to name children after St. Jude. One of those children is her grandson, Jude Simkins.



CTK parishioner Rosemary Bogdan is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She writes for CatholicMom.com and catholic365.com and blogs at "A Catholic Mother's Thoughts" (www.joyfulmomathome.blogspot.com).

Photograph of Jude Simkins ©2018 by Rosemary Bogdan.

Frequently Asked Questions about...

Purgatory and indulgences

What is Purgatory?

Purgatory is the name the Church gives to the final purification of the elect: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, ¶1030)

What is the Biblical basis for Purgatory?

I Corinthians 3:15 and 1 Peter 1:7 both speak of a purifying fire. Also, Jesus in speaking about sins against the Holy Spirit, says that such sins "will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (Mt. 12:32 *NAB*), thus implying that there are sins that are forgiven in the age to come.

Also, in Second Maccabees, Judas Maccabeus takes up a collection among his soldiers, which he sends to Jerusalem so that a sacrifice can be offered for the sins of his soldiers who died in a battle. The author writes, "In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. ... Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin." (See 2 Macc. 12:38-46)

What is an indulgence?

An indulgence is "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church ...

"An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.' The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead." (*Catechism* ¶1471)

What are the general conditions required for gaining a plenary indulgence?

You must

- Be baptized and in the state of grace.
- Receive Holy Communion for each plenary indulgence.
- Go to Confession within 20 days before or after the indulgenced action. (One Sacramental Confession suffices to gain several plenary indulgences.)
- Perform the indulgenced action (prayers, reading Scripture, etc.).
- Pray one "Our Father" and one "Hail Mary" for the intentions of the Pope.
- Be free of all attachment to sin, even venial sin.
- Have at least a general intention to gain a plenary indulgence.

If your disposition is less than perfect or some of the actions are not fulfilled, the indulgence becomes partial. You may acquire only one plenary indulgence a day, but multiple partial indulgences.

What are examples of actions that can gain a plenary indulgence?

Provided that the previous conditions are fulfilled, here are a few of the actions that can gain a plenary indulgence:

- At least a half hour of pious reading of Sacred Scripture.
- At least a half hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Recitation of at least five decades of the Rosary, either in private before the Blessed Sacrament or in a family or other group, accompanied by pious meditation on the Mysteries.

What special indulgences can be gained for the souls in Purgatory?

A plenary indulgence for the souls in Purgatory is available on **All Souls Day, Nov. 2** (under the general conditions described above) for those who piously visit a Church to pray for the faithful departed and pray one "Our Father" and the Creed.

A plenary indulgence for the souls in Purgatory is available

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“What’s it like to die?”

Death is the universal reality we all face

by Dcn. Dan Foley

Editor’s note: This article is excerpted from the homily that Dcn. Dan gave for Barbara Morgan’s funeral on Sept. 7, 2019. The complete homily is available on our audio website, ctkcc.libsyn.com.

“What’s it like to die?”

A few weeks ago, Barbara woke up and, looking at those gathered around her bed, she asked, “What’s it like to die?”

The family had to reply, “Barbara, we don’t know.”

Experts tell us that 109 billion people have lived or are currently living on the earth. Until each one of those people personally has the experience of their personal death, each would have had to answer the question the same way: “Barbara, we don’t know.”

Death is the universal reality we all face. It doesn’t matter how rich you are or whether you live poverty perfectly. It doesn’t matter how many theology degrees you have. High office in the secular world or in the Church doesn’t change it. Saint or sinner—all are under the sentence of death.

As Isaiah tells us in the first reading (Is. 25:6a-9), there is a veil woven over all humanity that prevents us from seeing beyond that reality. Human exploration and inquiry can take us up into the far reaches of deep space and down into the subatomic realm, but it cannot penetrate the veil of death and it never will.

Our human intellect and powers of perception cannot penetrate that mystery, but that doesn’t mean that the inquiry ends there. In fact, unveiling mysteries inaccessible through human power

was at the very core of Barbara’s work.

Barbara might not have understood what the event of death would feel like, but Barbara knew a great deal about what lies beyond the event of death. She knew it through a completely different and superior way of knowing. The most important truths can only be known if and to the extent that God reveals them to humanity. As Barbara taught, divine mysteries are not about that which is unknown. They are about divine things that are *made known*.

Revelation is not the work of human inquiry. Rather it’s God’s self-revelation. As God reveals Himself to us, it does not contradict human reason but rather raises it to a new level it could not achieve on its own. Faith is not a blind leap as some people charge. Rather, it’s a bridge that God gifts us with so that we can receive the mysteries.

The word *catechist* literally means, “to echo the Mysteries.” It is a fitting and powerful epitaph for Barbara. Of all the people I have ever known, Barbara is she who echoed the mysteries.

Barbara planned much of her funeral, including the choice of readings. It’s unusual to hear Luke’s story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35) as the Gospel reading at a funeral, but it had great meaning to Barbara both



in terms of her personal journey and her dedication to training committed and faith-filled catechists.

Last year, the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, released a book co-authored by Barbara entitled, fittingly, *Echoing the Mystery*. Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen opined in the preface that the story of Emmaus is the story of Barbara and of every catechist who seeks to echo the Mystery faithfully. Sister wrote that Barbara spent her life walking with Jesus, listening to Him on the road as He explained His loving plan. Barbara, most intimately, came to know Him in the “Breaking of the Bread”—the Eucharist—and in her sufferings over a long period. Everyone of us who echo the Mysteries of God should, like Barbara and the two disciples on the road, be able to witness to the personal truth that “our hearts burned within us as He spoke to *us* on the road.”

As I was thinking about what needs to be said today, I remembered that Barbara told me long ago and again more recently that she wanted

As Barbara taught, divine mysteries are not about that which is unknown. They are about divine things that are made known.

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Image by Jerzy Górecki from Pixabay, www.pixabay.com

“What’s it like to die?”

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the homily to focus on the proclamation of the truth of the Gospel that can lead all those she loved and served home safely to God. What would Barbara herself tell us today?

I think she would first tell us that this celebration isn’t about her. It’s really about the Lord Jesus and His Mercy.

She would remind us all of the urgency we need to have about our own personal journey.

There is a day on which each of us will die and we don’t know the day or the hour. We all face the absolute certainty of the Four Last Things: *Death, the Particular Judgment, and Heaven or Hell.*

She would remind us that, while God is merciful, each of us must will to accept salvation. We either cooperate with God’s grace or we do not, and there are eternal consequences.

I think she would say, with that unique intensity she had:

These truths I have taught are not human inventions or opinions. They are not theories or speculation. They are eternal revealed truths, each one of which is a gift to you as a grace for getting you to the joys of God’s kingdom.

Far more important than my love for you, I know absolutely that Jesus loves each of you so perfectly that if you were the only person in all of human history who needed to be saved, He would have agreed to be born in Bethle-

hem. He would have suffered every stroke, thorn, and nail. And He voluntarily would have died upon the Cross for you alone.

I leave you, my family and friends, a legacy. ... Not one of earthly wealth, but a profound legacy of the truth. I leave you the legacy of my keys to unlocking the Mysteries of Faith, and more, I leave you my love for the Eucharist, for it is in the *Breaking of the Bread* that your eyes can be ever more opened.

Finally, Barbara would remind us that Jesus has overcome death.

Christ IS Risen.

I leave you the legacy of my love for and devotion to the Blessed Mother, she who first echoed the Mysteries. I beg you to emulate her in believing that God’s promises to you will be fulfilled.

Finally, Barbara would remind us that Jesus has overcome death. **Christ IS Risen.** He is the only way to the Father. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is not one of many possible ways to Eternal Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. He is not one truth among many truths. He is the Truth personified. He is not one of many sources of life. He alone is Life and He offers you that Life—Life

eternal. And He offers you that life eternal freely and without cost. But you must choose.

Barbara would remind us that God, in Christ, has put before us the Blessing and the Curse—Life or Death—and she would, one last time, exhort us to choose life—to choose Christ.

I have no doubt that Barbara will continue to pray for all of us. One of the sad things that happened among the Catholic faithful during Barbara’s lifetime is a tendency to “canonize” everyone at their funeral. I think it’s a mistake—even in Barbara’s case, tempting though it might be.

Many, maybe even most, Catholics have stopped praying for the souls in Purgatory because we make an assumption that everyone we loved in life who died shot straight to Heaven. As Catholics, we believe that there are souls in Purgatory, but it seems few Catholics believe that there is anyone there who we knew and loved.

If we pray for Barbara and the prayers, in fact, are not needed, the Lord will not allow them to be wasted. He will use them according to His will.

Eternal rest grant onto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.



Barbara would remind us that, while God is merciful, each of us must will to accept salvation. We either cooperate with God’s grace or we do not, and there are eternal consequences.



Dcn. Dan Foley has been a deacon for over 40 years and has served at Christ the King since 1988. He is a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Remembering our beloved dead

Recently, we asked parishioners to share with us their family customs for remembering loved ones who have died. Erin Campbell and Kathy Sokolowski offered these reflections.



Peter Campbell (1989-2012) was an active member of Christ the King who served in many capacities, including Life Teen Core Team. Friends and family honor his memory in a special way every October on the anniversary of his death.

Erin Campbell We remember our loved ones who have died by going to the cemetery where they are buried on their "feast day" (the day they died). We pray the Liturgy of the Hours Office for the Dead, have a picnic, and eat their favorite foods while we celebrate their lives and share memories. The prayers are good for their souls, and the memories are good for ours.

My brother-in-law, Fr. Joe, is a priest and often celebrates Mass for the deceased at the cemetery as well. Last October, we held a candle-lit Mass for his brother Peter in the cemetery at night and shared our memories around the "altar" after Mass. It was so powerful!

Kathy Sokolowski My sister-in-law has a tradition for the month of November that we have now started doing with our family, too. Each day of the month of November we pray for a specific person who has died while lighting a candle before we eat dinner.

Kathy and Samuel Sokolowski have adopted a family tradition of remembering a specific person who has died before dinner each day in November.



Frequently Asked Questions about... Purgatory and indulgences

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from Nov. 1 to Nov. 8 (under the general conditions described above) for those who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray for the dead, even if the prayer is only mental.

A partial indulgence for the souls in Purgatory is available at any time by praying, "Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

Where can I learn more about Purgatory and indulgences?

Here are a few resources:

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 1030-32, 1471-79 (see also the section on the Communion of Saints, paragraphs 946-62)
- *Enchiridion of Indulgences* (available online or in the Reference section of the CTK library)
- Pope St. Paul VI, apostolic constitution, *Indulgentiarum Doctrina* (available in English at w2.vatican.va)
- Pope Benedict XVI, encyclical, *Spes Salvi*, paragraphs 41-48 (available in English at w2.vatican.va)
- St. Catherine of Genoa, *Treatise on Purgatory* (based on the visions and insights gained in prayer of this 15th-century Italian mystic; available in English in several editions)

“Building a culture of praise” at Upper Room gives our children and grandchildren a place to learn how to worship the Lord and behold His Face.... This invitation is not just for the children but for us. We are all children of God.



Caroline Gambale-Dirkes is Coordinator for Christ the King's Upper Room ministry.

Photos by Melanie Reyes.

Upper Room Kids' Series

Equipping kids—and their parents—to advance the Kingdom of God

by Caroline Gambale-Dirkes

When I first started as Upper Room Coordinator, I received two words from the Lord.

The first word came at one of the first Upper Rooms I attended after starting the new position. I saw a vision of a young girl around 5 years old dancing slowly before the Lord in front of the Altar with a childlike freedom and joy, and I heard God say, “A child shall lead you.” I sensed that God wanted to use the children to lead Upper Room to a new freedom and childlike worship. What I didn't know was that the Upper Room Advisory Council received that same word before I started.

In response to that word, in January 2019 we invited people of all ages to attend, starting 30 minutes earlier to help families with kids attend. The fruit was that our average attendance tripled to 230 with 50+ kids flooding the sanctuary. Ever since, there has been a greater freedom to come before the Lord with reckless abandon.

The second word I received was that God wanted to “build a culture of praise.” A culture is defined as “the values, beliefs, ideas, customs, skills, arts, and traditions of a people that are passed along to succeeding generations.” So what does it mean to build a culture of praise?

One of the charisms at Christ the King is our charismatic dimension expressed in praise



and worship. Often when we are worshipping the Lord, our gifts of the Holy Spirit are activated and we are more disposed to hearing the Lord.

“Building a culture of praise” at Upper Room gives our children and grandchildren a place to learn how to worship the Lord and behold His Face. Worship is where we pour out our love for Him and He pours out His love on us. God desires that we empower our young people to operate in the supernatural through prophetic words, healing, miracles, and signs and wonders.

This invitation is not just for the children but for us. We are all children of God. In order for us to pass this great gift to the next generation, as adults we need to be open to the fullness of who we are in Christ and how God wants to use us for His kingdom.

With that in mind, we are starting an Upper Room Kids' Series for kids ages 6-11 and their parents. This series will empower, equip, and send forth the children to advance

the Kingdom of God. It's our heart that they know Him, encounter Him, and adore Him. Children learn to know Him through the Word, encounter Him through His presence, and adore Him through a life surrendered.

We want to create an environment where the Holy Spirit is welcome and the children are positioned to encounter God's manifest presence. Worship, healing, prophetic art, prayer, and prophecy are just some of the many ways that His presence is manifest, revealing the Father's love for them. Through knowing and experiencing God, the fruit of a child's life is adoration and a life surrendered.

Parents are encouraged to participate so they can ultimately guide and empower their children to know who they are, grow in the gifts of the Spirit, and be missionary disciples. Our vision is that children who attend this series will begin to use their gifts at Upper Room with parents playing a key role. The topic for the children's series will be carried over into the evening at Upper Room so that everyone is being blessed.

The next Kids' Series session will be on Friday, Nov. 22, 6:15-7:15pm in the St. John Paul the Great Room. For more details, including future dates and topics, go to ctkupperroom.com.

Schedule of Major Events

- 10/31: All Saints Eve Party
- 11/1: All Saints Day
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Parish offices closed
- 11/2: All Souls Day
- 11/8: Upper Room
- 11/8-10: A1:8 Fall Retreat
- 11/9: Servants of God's Love
Holiday Bazaar
- 11/10: Family fitbits;
Coffee & donuts
- 11/16: Mass for Children Lost
during Pregnancy & Birth
- 11/22: Upper Room & Upper Room
Kids' Series
- 11/24: Feast of Christ the King;
Coffee & donuts
- 11/28-29: Thanksgiving weekend;
Parish Offices closed
- 11/29: Fr. Ed's 33rd anniversary of
priesthood ordination

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ctkcc.net.

MAJOR EVENTS—NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	Nov. 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

Save the Dates!

Men's Prayer Night

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020,
7-9:30pm
Men, come together with your brothers in Christ for a night of prayer and praise! Guests are most welcome. "Come, offer a sacrifice of praise to our God!"



Women's Tea

Saturday, Feb 8, 2020
9am-1pm
Ladies, we'll start with Mass in the Church, then move to the Parish Center Gym for a morning of prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Be sure to join us—and bring a friend!



Parish Mission:

Healing the Whole Person
Thursday-Saturday,
April 2-4, 2020
This mission, led by Dr. Bob Schuchts and the team from the John Paul II Healing Center, is sure to be a powerful opportunity to go deeper with the Lord. *Pre-registration is required.* Registration opens Jan. 6, 2020.



Check future bulletins for more details about these great events!

Image on back page: *Christ Glorified in the Court of Heaven* by Fra Angelico (c.1395-1455). National Gallery, London, www.nationalgallery.org.uk. This work is in the public domain.



Christ the King Catholic Church

4000 Ave Maria Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-665-5040
www.ckcc.net
Facebook.com/ckcc

Senior Leadership Team

Fr. Ed Fride, Pastor: pastor@ckcc.net
Ken Bogan: kbogan@ckcc.net
Dcn. Dan Foley: dcndan@aol.com
John Hoving: jhoving@ckcc.net
Sharon Messiter: smessiter@ckcc.net
Bill Pressprich: wpressprich@comcast.net

Deacons

Dcn. Dan Foley: dcndan@aol.com
Dcn. Pete Hansen: dcnpete@ckcc.net
Dcn. Gerry Holowicki: dcngerry@ckcc.net
Dcn. John Ozog: dcnjohn@ckcc.net
Dcn. Larry Randolph: dcnlarry@ckcc.net
Dcn. Lou Russello: dcnlou@ckcc.net

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr. Ed Fride, President: pastor@ckcc.net
Bill Pressprich, Chair: wpressprich@comcast.net
Veronica Cherney Betty Meredith
Pete Cooney Don Mierendorf
Christian Fenton Greg Stout
Nuala Holowicki Colleen Vermeulen

Newsletter Contributors

Theresa Hofer, Editor: thofer@ckcc.net
Tricia Blake Fr. Ed Fride
Rosemary Bogdan Caroline Gambale-Dirkes
Erin Campbell Kathy Sokolowski
Dcn. Dan Foley Ann Whiting

Coming in future issues...

- Traditions
- Evangelization
- Inner Healing

Look for this and more in future issues of

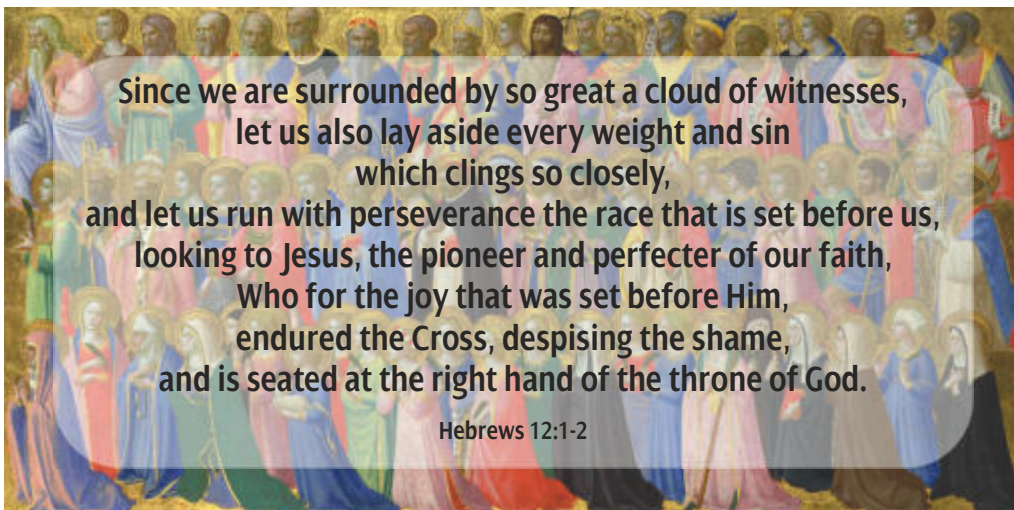
The Open Door

Parish Staff

Ken Bogan, Director of Operations: kbogan@ckcc.net
Jessica Dudek, Director of Evangelization: jdudek@ckcc.net
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, Upper Room Coordinator: cdirkcs@ckcc.net
Rosalia Guza, Clerical Assistant: youthdiscipleship@ckcc.net
Aimée Godfrey, Director of Adult Discipleship: agodfrey@ckcc.net
Doug Helderop, Interim Director of Worship: music@ckcc.net
Theresa Hofer, Communications Coordinator: thofer@ckcc.net
Bruce Hohnke, Maintenance
Cathi Horning, Janitor
John Hoving, Director of Youth Discipleship: jhoving@ckcc.net
Peter Kadeli, Choir Director: pkadeli@ckcc.net
Tirienne Leonard, Assistant to the Director of Worship:
tleonard@ckcc.net
Sharon Messiter, Parish Secretary: smessiter@ckcc.net
Susan Perrier, Assistant Director of Youth Discipleship, sperrier@ckcc.net
Lauren Sauter, Youth Discipleship Administrative Assistant:
lsauter@ckcc.net
Hannah Stroup, Clerical Assistant: hstroup@ckcc.net
Mark Zielman, Liturgical Coordinator: mzielman@ckcc.net

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

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



Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and sin
which clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him,
endured the Cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2