

The KING'S Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR OKTOBERFEST: SEPT. 20-21

Celebrate Fun and Fellowship with Our Parish Family!

A 30-year, fun-filled tradition returns again this year when Oktoberfest opens with lots of German food, food truck selections, games, our Oktoberdash 3K Run, music, and the chance to win a car or cash — and it's all for a good cause: Christ the King Parish.

The fun starts at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20 until 11 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 21, the Oktoberdash run — open to adults and children — will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m., and the race at 9 a.m. Day 2 of Oktoberfest will follow the race beginning at 1 p.m. and is open until 11 p.m.

Tom and Suzonne Bunch are chairing the children's area and they, along with a team of other volunteers, have been working for months to get everything ready. Leslie and Michael Vincent are chairing the food and beverages, and Amy and Al Carrillo are chairing the entertainment.

There is no admission for Oktoberfest, but there will be wrist bands for sale at \$20 each for the children's area.

German foods are on the menu, including brats, sauerkraut and German potato salad, while food trucks will be offering barbecue and pizza, among other choices. There will also be a large variety of beer



Youngsters waiting to compete in the Oktoberfest fun run get last-minute instructions.

SEPTEMBER 2019

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Oktoberfest: Sept. 20-21 *continued from front cover*

Sharing the JOY of SONG

and wine to enjoy. The Casino Tent will have the “take a chance” area with gift baskets going to the winning purchased ticket. A \$50 ticket will buy a chance to win a car or \$25,000 in cash.

Local bands will entertain both Friday and Saturday nights, and national names will be the headliners. In recent

years, Oktoberfest brought in the Georgia Satellites, John Waite, and The Romantics.

“The proceeds primarily benefit the church and some of the organizations the church supports, such as Catholic Action Center,” Tom says. “It helps to reduce tuition at the school, and goes to general expenses at the church and school.”

Oktoberfest also includes tables set up in the Social Outreach section to include Birthright, and St. Vincent de Paul Society. Some of the local Catholic organizations hand out literature during the event.

“It is something to experience,” Tom says. “It’s really nice! It’s a party, with hundreds of kids running around, and the area is all fenced in. There is a fence around a huge field so it’s a lot safer. There’s a children’s play area and gaming and Bingo — adult games and there’s lots to do.”

Anyone is welcome to attend. Oktoberfest is promoted outside the parish to include radio and television ads, social media, bulletins, and yard signs placed all over Lexington.

With running any event of this size, those volunteering and attending have the opportunity



Last year’s crowd for our Oktoberfest was a great turnout, and this year’s is expected to be even better.

to build fellowship.

“It truly takes a village to make it work,” Suzonne says. “There are hundreds of volunteers to those taking the tickets to those working the casino, to serving beer. It’s also a really good social gathering. You see people you haven’t seen for a while, sit down together, and have a meal and a beer.”

There are more than 300 volunteers working the event, drawing from a congregation with 2,000 families.

“But it’s open to the whole community,” Tom says. “Neighbors come and people from all over arrive. Maybe they come just for the entertainment, or the gambling, let the kids out to play. It draws a lot of the community in the area to Christ the King.”

As if anyone would need a reason to get excited for Oktoberfest, the Brat Fest held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 8, in Hehman Hall will do the trick.

“It gets everyone excited and they come to sign up,” Tom says. “Everybody can do something and you can take a two-hour shift. We usually pick up about 100 volunteers at that point.”

Volunteers can sign up at signup.com, under the direction of Leslie Vincent.

Youngsters from second grade on up are also encouraged to volunteer. Many middle school youngsters volunteer for the face painting.

“We’ve had neighborhood kids volunteer, too,” Tom says. “It’s a really good community building event.”

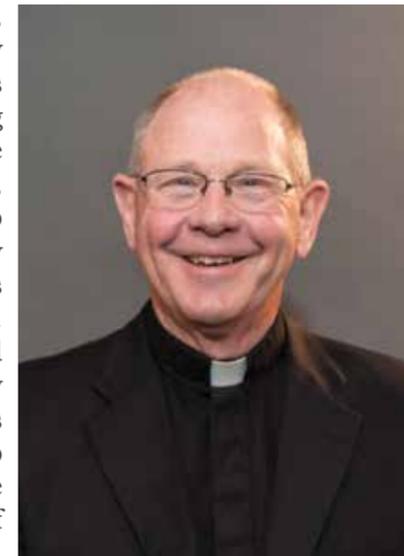
Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Little babies, even in utero, learn that life is good and they are loveable as their mothers and other family members sing lullabies to them. Many people who are bed-bound, unresponsive, and slipping out of life on earth to the Great Beyond are soothed by the beauty of peaceful melodies playing continuously in their room. In between, many highlights and passages in life are marked by music — concerts and movie scores touch us and free us to own deep feelings and to deal with extreme experiences. There are songs of challenge and songs of celebration, and songs of encouragement which punctuate our lives. We listen to music while working out, on a road trip, and we sometimes wait to turn off the engine to our car until a favorite song has finished playing, to which we are singing.

One way we know that a Sunday Mass has had a strong impression is when people leave Mass singing or humming the melody to our recessional song. Sometimes people say, “I am going to carry that song in my heart all through the day.”

St. Augustine has said, “When you sing, you pray twice.” Singing our prayers engages our total being more so than listening, silent reading or even proclamations of Scripture. Many of us protest that we are not very good singers, but personal singing is one of the most underestimated talents among contemporary Catholics.

One of the ministries within our parish that we often take for granted is our Music Ministry. Robert Whitaker and Gabrielle Manion serve us very well in their positions of Music Ministry. They recruit and train our choir for the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass, the Resurrection Choir (for funerals), and the boys’ and the girls’ choirs, in addition to working



with the song leaders for our school Masses and our Sunday Masses. We are in the process of beginning to develop a Bell Choir also.

Very often, our Cathedral choir provides musical leadership for a Mass presided over by our bishop. People who are visitors, pilgrims, searchers, tourists and consumers come to our cathedral for Mass and they are moved by our Music Ministry. Yet, even though we have a strong program, we are in need of more choir members and cantors. When you get involved in this kind of ministry, you receive the joy of singing and helping to guide prayer

which touches hearts and souls and you have the joy of the camaraderie of fellow singers and musicians.

Music is part of who we as a community of faith. Our Oktoberfest hosts many people who come to hear and sing along with our music groups. A highlight of our Vacation Bible School was the set of songs, dance moves and drumbeats of our children. In our religious education classes in our school and CCD program, we intersperse music and song to deepen the lessons.

Using our musical talent is a gift; honoring our love for music and contributing to a joyful noise is a gift; trusting ourselves to enter into and spread the joy of song is a gift. It takes a bit of abandonment to express the song in our hearts, but for us and fellow lovers of song, the benefits are out of this world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Prabell

Fr. Paul Prabell, Rector

If you’re interested in volunteering, you may sign up through the Oktoberfest website at www.ctkoktoberfest.com. “What started as a school carnival nearly 40 years ago has grown into Central Kentucky’s premier fall festival,” Suzonne Bunch says.

Welcoming Our "SAINTS IN TRAINING" as the 2019-20 School Year Begins!

Kicking Off the FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM for Our Youngest Parishioners

“Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it.” With these words, Proverbs 22:6 instructs us on the great importance of bringing children up in the faith. Here at Christ the King, we have a wonderful CCD program that ensures our children learn the traditions and doctrines of the Catholic faith. And this month, another exciting year of CCD is just beginning!

Karen Kirkland, coordinator of our CCD: Saints in Training program, has a great affection for working with children of all ages. A retired high school special education teacher, she has been a part of our CCD program for 12 years.

“My favorite thing about it is definitely the children,” Karen says. “They’re so sweet and so much fun. It’s good to have something to do in my retirement, it’s good to be involved with the parish, and it’s really just a lot of fun.”

Our parish CCD program is for children who are not attending a Catholic school where they receive regular catechism classes. Beginning this year, children may begin CCD as young as 3 years old and, as always, the classes will run through the fifth grade.

While the second-grade year may seem the most essential, given the students’ preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion, Karen emphasizes the importance of attending every year of CCD.

“There’s a lot more to it than Reconciliation and Communion,” she says. “We follow the set curriculum of the Archdiocese of Louisville — they put out a really nice curriculum framework and the books are aligned



A first-grade CCD class proudly displays their completion certificates for their year of catechism.

to that. So each grade has certain concepts they need to learn, and there is so much more to learn about the faith than just the sacraments. Luckily, most of our families are consistent and good about bringing their kids through [the whole program].”

Beyond the textbook learning, Karen and our CCD teachers seek to impart to our students an awareness of the deep love God has for all of His children, an appreciation of His many gifts, and the desire to share the blessings they have received.

“We borrowed a good stewardship program from a parish in Indiana,” Karen says. “Each grade has a certain group to serve — for example, one grade has

veterans, one has the homeless, and so on. So we just try to make that a focus and talk about things they can do.

“The kids all have a necklace and they earn little dog tags each time they learn a prayer,” she adds. “We also have a tag for Works of Mercy, and they have to go do something to earn that one. They get very excited and run up to tell me all about what they’ve done.”

In addition to the Sunday morning CCD classes, Karen helps with several other faith formation initiatives, including Totus Tuus, Vacation Bible School and Friday Night Catechesis.

Karen’s goal? Making the Church a vibrant place where children feel at home.

“When they’re little, my goal is that they see the Church as a good and safe place where people love them,” she says. “At Friday Night Catechesis, we have children from the Catholic school, the public schools and homeschool, so it’s a place where they all get to see their parish friends. I had a mom tell me that they have lived in three different places, and this is the first time her kids have wanted to come to church because they have so much fun here. For our little kids, that’s the goal.”

Always looking to grow our faith formation programs, Karen plans to implement a mini-Vacation Bible School during this academic year. Knowing that these early years of church exposure and religious education are precious, she continues to strive to make our parish a warm and welcoming environment for our youngest parishioners. It is her greatest hope that the phrase printed on the back of this summer’s Vacation Bible School shirts rings true for all our



The CCD: Saints in Training program at Christ the King leads children to form lasting friendships with their peers in the parish.

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This year’s CCD: Saints in Training program kicked off with a Meet and Greet on Aug. 25. Classes meet on Sundays from 10:10 a.m. until 11:05 a.m. Do you still need to register your child for this academic year? Fear not — registration is still open! You may register on our parish website at www.cathedralctk.org/children. Please feel free to call or email CCD coordinator Karen Kirkland with any questions at 859-266-0302 or ctkccd@cdlex.org.

GOT TALENT? *Bring It to the Spotlight!*

The word “talent” often conjures up images of stage performers in the spotlight, captivating awestruck audiences with their impeccable musical or acting skills.

While these talented performers are certainly deserving of applause, the majority of the population sits hidden in the shadows, staring on in amazement while feeling overlooked — and perhaps wishing to possess such talents themselves. But even when we feel overlooked and untalented, God knows better. As Christians, we are all called to dig deep and trust that we are specially blessed with valuable talents and abilities, even if our talents aren’t so obvious or don’t garner applause and accolades.

Along with “time” and “treasure,” “talent” is one of the “three Ts” of stewardship. Exploring our natural inclinations and preferences, especially when guided by the intricacies of our unique personalities, can unearth God-given talents.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit,” writes St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians. “There are different forms of service, but the same Lord.”

Some people have the gift of working peacefully with children. Equipped with patience and gentleness, they are able to guide young souls to the Lord. Yet, others shudder at

the thought of a classroom full of 5-year-olds, and instead seek the quiet solace of behind-the-scenes tasks — cleaning the church, sewing altar cloths or stuffing envelopes.

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*, once said, “Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There’s plenty of movement, but you never know if it is going to be forwards, backwards, or sideways.”

If our gifts of talent are not guided by the discipline of prayer, just like an octopus on roller skates, we will get nowhere fast! Yet, if we keep our eyes on the goal of heaven and serve the Lord with joyfulness, our efforts will produce a bountiful harvest. In the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

The next time you sit quietly in the shadows behind a glaring stage spotlight, rest assured that your talents are no less impressive in the eyes of God, and will always be “applauded” when directed to the service of His people.

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LITURGICAL MUSIC *Leading Others to God Through Song*

There is something mysteriously unifying about music — powerfully, it even transcends language. This is especially true, says parish organist Gabrielle Manion, when music is used for divine worship. It brings us all together as we lift up our hearts in songs of praise and adoration to our Lord and Creator, and it engages us more fully in the sacred mystery of the Mass.

“I really appreciate how music, in general, is so communal,” Gabrielle says. “And when we put it in the context of the Church and the Body of Christ, it’s an even more beautiful way to pray as a community. It elevates our prayer experience, somehow, utilizing our senses, taking us out of the everyday, and leading us to the transcendence of the Mass.”

A music graduate from Providence College in Rhode Island, Gabrielle says that music has always been intertwined with her spiritual life. For Gabrielle, it began when she was a young girl growing up in Lexington, where she sang and played with the church choir. So when she later graduated and began pursuing a career in music, Gabrielle knew that she wanted to continue using her musical talents for a higher purpose.

“I grew up playing church music and then continued to learn my craft in college where I also picked up the organ,” she says. “I just knew that that’s what I wanted to do — that I wanted to work within the context of the



Members of the Resurrection Choir singing for All Souls Mass, 2018

Catholic Church, using my skills for Him.”

Working in collaboration with Music Director Robert Whitaker, Gabrielle is excited to continue cultivating and developing our liturgical music program. She is eager to see new parishioners come forward, using their God-given talents as members of the choir, cantors or musicians for the benefit of the entire faith community.

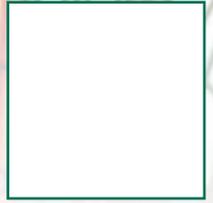
“As liturgical musicians, we contribute in such a special way to people’s prayer experience,” Gabrielle says. “We have the unique ability to help people pray better and experience God’s presence more closely.”

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Liturgical Music *continued from page 7*

Members of the choir rehearse weekly in the Music Ministry office on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. in preparation for the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass, while the Folk Group practices Wednesdays at 7 p.m., singing every other Sunday for the 11:15 a.m. Mass. Our parish also offers youth choirs for children ages 8 and up with the girls practicing Tuesdays at 3:45 p.m. and the boys Wednesday at 4:45 p.m. Cantors are needed for all other parish liturgies.

Not only do these various liturgical music opportunities enable musically gifted individuals to serve the community, but they also deepen the spiritual life of the musicians themselves. As

they prepare for the liturgies and learn the songs, these individuals can't help but become more in tune with the liturgical year or help but feel more connected with the God they sing about.

"For me personally, music is the biggest way that I communicate with God — especially because in prayer, sometimes it's difficult to know what to say or how to speak with God," Gabrielle says. "I just feel like music is part of our souls. Then, too, being in choirs and playing for Mass every weekend has just put me so much more in tune with the liturgical life of the Church, which is really all about living the life of Jesus."

For more information about any of the parish's liturgical music opportunities, please contact Robert Whitaker at 859-335-3693 and rwhitaker@cdlex.org, or Gabrielle Manion at 859-335-3695 or gmanion@cdlex.org.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil - 5:00 p.m. | Sunday - 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Daily (Monday to Saturday) - 8:00 a.m. | (Monday to Friday) - 5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation: *Wednesday 4:45 - 5:20 p.m., Saturday 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. | First Sunday of the month 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.*