



2026 Spirit of Christ the King Award Recipients

Lina Parr

Lina Parr and her husband, Drew, joined Christ the King Parish in 2004 and have been active members of the parish community ever since. Their three children, Lindy, Sam, and Ben, all attended Christ the King School.

Throughout the years, Lina has generously shared her time and talents in countless ways across both the parish and school communities. She has served as a longtime lector at Mass and has been involved in numerous ministries, volunteer efforts, and leadership roles.

At Christ the King School, Lina volunteered at Open Houses, Field Day, Tiger Trot, hot lunch, and playground duty, and frequently organized meals and treats for teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. She also served as a room parent for all three of her children throughout their school years, spoke to religion classes, and supported countless school events. Lina also served a term on the School Commission.

From 2016 to 2020, Lina founded and led the Christ the King Moms Sports League, creating opportunities for fellowship and wellness for more than 100 Christ the King mothers through activities including basketball, volleyball, kickball, bowling, cornhole, self-defense classes, hip-hop classes, and Indianapolis Women's Half Marathon and 5K training.

In addition, Lina dedicated more than 12 years to Cub Scouts as a den leader, committee member, and unofficial pack leader. She also served as president of the Christ the King St. Vincent de Paul Conference for five years, helping lead the ministry's efforts to serve neighbors in need.

Lina's commitment to Christ the King has touched nearly every corner of parish life. Her dedication, leadership, and spirit of service have made a lasting impact on the parish, school, and broader community.

Justin & Jennifer Sage

Justin and Jennifer Sage joined Christ the King Parish in 2000 and have been dedicated members of the parish community ever since. Over the course of 18 years, they sent all four of their children, Katie, Lloyd, Justin, and Ben, through Christ the King School.

Together, Justin and Jennifer have contributed countless hours of service to both the parish and school communities. They are perhaps best known as the co-founders and organizers of Christ the King's Trivia Night, which they led for 15 years. Through their leadership, the event became one of the parish's most successful fundraisers, helping send generations of eighth-grade students to Washington, D.C., and raising an estimated \$200,000 in support of those trips.

Both have been active participants in the liturgical life of the parish, serving as Eucharistic Ministers and lectors for more than a decade. Jennifer was deeply involved in the Ministry of Moms Sharing (MOMS), serving as a participant, facilitator, and facilitator coordinator, helping foster faith and community among parish mothers.

Their service to Christ the King School has included serving hot lunches, coordinating the hot lunch program, coaching girls' basketball, and volunteering as room parents. Justin also shared his talents as a writer for the *King's Crier* and served on the School Commission, including a term as president.

Through their leadership, generosity, and commitment to the Christ the King community, Justin and Jennifer have helped shape the parish and school experience for countless families over the years.

Kevin Happel

Kevin Happel joined Christ the King Parish in 1991 and has faithfully served the parish community for more than three decades.

For 28 years, Kevin has served as a Eucharistic Minister and has also stepped in as a lector whenever needed. Known as the person who can always be counted on, Kevin is often the first call when a liturgical ministry role needs to be filled. Whether serving at one Mass or several in a single weekend, he consistently answers the call to help. He also served as a Communion Minister for the parish's former 5:00 p.m. Communion services and regularly provides transportation for parishioners who need assistance getting to Mass.

Kevin's commitment to serving the Church extends well beyond weekend liturgies. Deeply devoted to supporting priests throughout the Archdiocese, he willingly provides transportation whenever needed and assists with Communion services, altar preparation, and post-Mass cleanup. For more than a decade, he has brought Holy Communion to homebound parishioners, ensuring they remain connected to the sacramental life of the Church.

In addition to his many ministry roles, Kevin has dedicated himself to mentoring the next generation by helping train young altar servers. His spirit of service is reflected not only in his parish involvement but also in his personal life, where he served as the primary caregiver for his mother during her final years.

Through his quiet dedication, reliability, and willingness to serve wherever needed, Kevin has become a cherished presence in the Christ the King community and an example of faithful discipleship in action.

Karen Kress

Karen Kress has been a devoted member of the Christ the King community for many years and has had five children attend Christ the King School over a span of 21 years: Caroline, Sara, Emma, Tom, and Annie.

Karen is perhaps best known as one of the co-founders of Christ the King's beloved Trivia Night. Alongside fellow volunteers, she helped create and lead the event for 15 years, building it into one of the parish's most successful and anticipated traditions. Inspired after winning the very first Trivia Night at St. Pius X, the founders brought their own vision of the event to Christ the King. Their dedication helped establish a fundraiser that supported eighth-grade trips to Washington, D.C. and raised an estimated \$200,000 over the years. The event became such a valued part of parish life that Joe and Nichole Copple were inspired to carry the tradition forward, preserving the spirit and experience that Karen and her fellow founders had worked so hard to create for future generations of Christ the King families.

Karen also brought the stories of Scripture to life through her involvement with Vacation Bible School. She played a key role in creating and presenting the Bible Story Dramas, helping build sets, memorize scripts, create costumes, and reenact Bible stories each day for participating children. Through these efforts, she helped make the stories of the Old Testament engaging, memorable, and meaningful for countless young parishioners.

In addition, Karen served for many years as a Christ the King School Spell Bowl coach, encouraging and mentoring students who shared a love of language and learning. Her dedication was rewarded in 2020 when the Christ the King team captured the North Deanery Spell Bowl Championship during Catholic Schools Week.

Through more than two decades of involvement in parish and school life, Karen has shared her creativity, leadership, and enthusiasm in ways that have enriched the experiences of students, families, and fellow parishioners alike.