

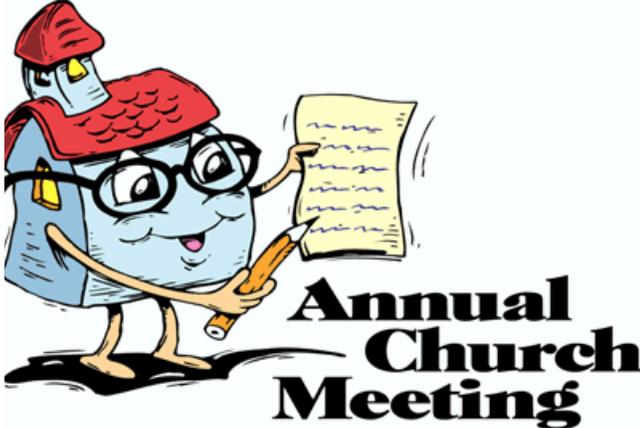
# *The Cross & the Sword*

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish  
Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 1

January 2021

Sunday, January 24  
Service at 9:30 a.m. and  
Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m.





In “the long and winding road” that has been my own unfolding experience with Christ and His Church, the central message of Christianity is nothing if not the story of new beginnings and astounding possibilities. So, first and foremost, let me say (yet again) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For me, as for many of you I would imagine, 2020 was not exactly what I had in mind when it began last January. The year just ended was certainly filled with more than its share of challenges and unwelcome elements, but it also brought me to this wonderful parish and to the incredibly generous and delightful people who make it what it is. The privilege of celebrating the Advent and Incarnation of our Lord with all of you after so long a hiatus in the exercise of my priestly vocation has been a wonderful experience for me, and I want to thank the community of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Fort Wayne for giving me one of the best Christmases ever. The dedication, commitment and devotion of the people of this congregation continues to amaze me and keep me not only hopeful but, in fact, supremely confident that our ministry together in this place will bear a great harvest and reward for God in the specific context of our location and presence in Fort Wayne.

I firmly believe that as this new calendar year unfolds we are going to be able to return to the pre-pandemic habits and patterns that used to punctuate our lives, both individually and corporately. Singing will return to our liturgy, handshaking and hugging will make a comeback at the Peace, and Holy Communion will once again include BOTH bread AND WINE!! We will be able once more to assemble as God’s People and Christ’s Church in this parish and as the Diocese of Northern Indiana without the fear of—or anxiety about—making ourselves or others ill.

And then our mission and work together will find yet another starting point—a still more excellent beginning. It will become our task and calling once again to discern who and what God is asking us to be in 2021 and beyond and, even more importantly, what it is we are to do to live out that calling.

To that end, very soon after the start of the New Year we will recommence the practice of having a mid-week Bible study and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This Wednesday “booster” to our principal Sunday gathering will give us the sustenance we need to enhance our journey with Christ and help us to hear our call to His service. Everyone, of course, is welcome to participate and more details on this are soon to follow. Rest assured, this will serve only as a beginning to our shared activities as the months and years go by.

In the meantime, let us all celebrate with thanks the dawn of a new calendar year and the welcomed turning of a metaphorical page on a challenging year and period in the history of this beloved parish family!

Peace,  
Fr. Michael+

## STEWARDSHIP



Donations increased again to hit \$8,289 for November taking us well over our expected year to date donations for 2020. Please continue to keep up with mailing in your donations or sign-up for [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly). We are doing great overall through your dedication as well as expenses being managed exceptionally well.

The church is open following our new safety guidelines and we are reaching out to our community by donating \$450 to the Christmas families, and \$200 to Rescue Mission. We continue to be very grateful for the team keeping our virtual services going throughout the last couple of months including Julie Zeider, Jordan Trendelman, Elaine Fazzaro, George Shamp, Cindy Spice, Robbie Frede and Christina Connelly. Thank you again Father Michael for your ministry, leadership, care and sermons. We are set to thrive going forward but it is up to each one of us to keep us thriving.

David Birchfield

## Worship Commission



There is something very optimistic about hanging up the calendar for a new year. All of those empty spaces beckon us to fill them with new plans and intentions. There is reason for some long-range optimism as new vaccines come on line. But in the meantime, we need to function in the present moment, which means continuing to diligently observe all of the anti-viral precautions under which we live, function and worship. We want to all still be here when it is finally safe to discontinue them.

Thank you to all the lay ministers and other participants who have helped us make the Christmas services special. There are always spaces to fill on the Ministry Schedule, and we welcome anyone who would like to join us at the altar. Happy New Year!

Elaine Fazzaro

Wednesday, January 8  
Epiphany Eucharist  
at 7 p.m.

Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Jesus was manifested to the world as its Savior. The Epiphany season, which continues until Ash Wednesday, is also a special time for us to manifest Him to our neighbors and to the world, to be his witnesses.



**All Annual Reports are due to office by Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Mark your calendars; on Sunday January 24th we will have our Annual meeting.** Going to look a little different this year but more information will follow.

2021 Envelopes are ready for pick-up. Please pick them up when you come to church. They are located on the table in the narthex.



*Happy New Year 2021! Hello faraway friends, We are happy to have celebrated Christmas in Madina this year. We hope you were able to greet family and friends safely, wherever you are. The expressions may be different*

*and from different distances this year, but the love expressed is even more real, being tested by the isolations of 2020.*

*We're hoping 2021 will be better for everyone than this last year. We have cancelled our return tickets to Indiana. So many people advised us not to come back now. Many friends and neighbors are suffering from Covid and it shows no signs of ending. We pray for you!*

*Sierra Leone is finished with Covid and the BBC listed SL as the #1 place in the world to NOT get Covid, so it only makes sense to stay here for longer than we were intending. So, from our little round house to yours ----*

*Peace on earth, good will to all!*

*Much love from Francis and Bobbie*



The teachers and students at Madina Village School pray for their sponsors and other people in America because they have heard how bad Covid is in Indiana. Thank you for helping our school be a success. The hospital construction is going well, too.

## January Birthdays

8 Nevada Jones  
10 Rob Frede  
14 Vickie Faux  
16 Debbie Grosjean  
18 Chris Sanxter  
18 George Shamp  
20 Gloria Guindon



20 Jordan Trendelman  
22 Donald Irvine  
22 Caitlyn Townsend  
23 Judith Palmer  
25 Todd Townsend  
27 Les Stath

*If your birthday or anniversary has not been listed,  
please notify Debbie at 485-8022, so that we may add your date to our records.*



**FLOWER FUND IN 2021...** Every year we point out that the new calendar to sign up to sponsor flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving is on the wall. This year that calendar is already up, and we encourage you to sign up for a specific Sunday you want to celebrate the life of a loved one or give thanks to God for some person or gift. The cost this year once again will be \$35. Further, the office is committed to remembering your memorials and celebrations in the prayers of the people. **In addition to this, we also want to encourage donations by anybody who wants to give to the flower fund, even if you don't have a specific occasion to celebrate. You don't even need to pick a specific Sunday, just donate**

The deadline for the February issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is **Thursday, January 21**

# Vestry Stewardship

## Operating Fund

Operating income for Nov	\$ 8,699.56	Operating income for 2020	\$ 98,637.93
Operating expense for Nov	<u>6,012.62</u>	Operating expense for 2020	<u>68,742.24</u>
Net gain for November	2,686.94	Net gain for 2020	\$ 9,895.69

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## Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on December 15, 2020

### it was moved to:

- a) Cindy moved to move the appropriate amount of money from the general fund to the discretionary fund to pay Father Michael on 12/16; seconded by Judy. Passed.
- b) Donated \$200 to the Rescue Mission for their Christmas needs
- c) DOK donating \$450 in Walmart gift cards to the Lutheran Foundation for their Christmas families.

### It was noted that:

- a) Looking for more people to assist with services
- b) Father Michael is going to record a video to introduce himself
- c) Possibly going on vacation between Christmas and New Years to visit his sister
- d) Preparing for Christmas Eve Pageant
- e) Going to record the youth for individual videos
- f) Going to look into posting about Holiday services in the local newspapers
- g) Going to put up the Jesse Tree
- h) Nomination Committee: John L, Judy W, Megan S, and Jordan T – will have a meeting soon
- i) Usher's Training Date – TBD
- j) It is noted that the vestry requested approval from the Bishop to overrule the bylaws and allow Cindy to run for Senior Warden for one more year
- k) MidCity Contract: the vestry has decided not to continue the contract at this time

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jerry Anderson, Cheryl Banks, Brittany Barker, Mindy Bleck, Toby Bleck, Kayla Bianchini, Neal Birchfield, Ray Brandes, Anne Butler, Dick Camp, Pete Cola , Christina Connelly, Ryan Cowan, Elliot Culwell, Cortney Dishong , Mark Elliott, Ruth Ford, Chris Foreman and family, Denise Frede, Greg Gillig, Kelsie Gillig, Paula Hanlin, Sharon Haynes, George Imhausen, Claire Irvine, Vicki Irvine, Ellen Kechanh, Julie Lieb, Kris Lorenzen, John Jeffries, June Jefferies, Suzanna Johnson, Sue Maley, Norma Michael, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Tom & Tina Porter, Lynn Principe, Canon Henry Randolph, Melissa Renner, Sandra, Rick Spice, Jennifer Foland Strantz, Mariane Sumners, Cole Taylor , Carlen Trujillo, Kayla Villarreal, Betty Wiseheart, Brooke Wyse and the Zavalla family.

For those unable to worship with us: Shirley Johnson, LuAnn Kleinschmidt.

Military: Kaylee Collins, Sean Collins, Matthew Michael.

A good resolution for all of us is found in the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*. It is to follow Christ, to worship God every Sunday in His Church, and to work for the spread of His Kingdom.

***Wishing you a blessed new year!***

**ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Sunday Services: Live streaming Morning Prayer Service from Saint Alban's YouTube channel!**

**Morning Prayer will begin at 9:30 a.m.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATo1XzD8KUk>

**It will also be posted on our Facebook page and it will be archived on our YouTube channel.**

**Virtual coffee hour on zoom after the service If you would like to join us for Zoom coffee hour contact us at: [info@saintalbanfw.org](mailto:info@saintalbanfw.org).**

Vestry

Cindy Spice	Senior Warden
Jordan Trendelman	Junior Warden
Kenny White	Property
Laura Michael	Fellowship
Elaine Fazzaro	Worship
Jordan Trendelman	Membership
David Birchfield	Stewardship
Marilyn Rafter	Financial
John Lorenzen	Outreach
Megan Spice-Frede	Christian Foundation
Judy Wall	Care Connection
Christina Connelly – Communications Director	

Church Staff

Office Administrator	Debbie Grosjean
Rector	The Rev. Michael Roeske

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00

Monday through Friday

Office phone

485-8022