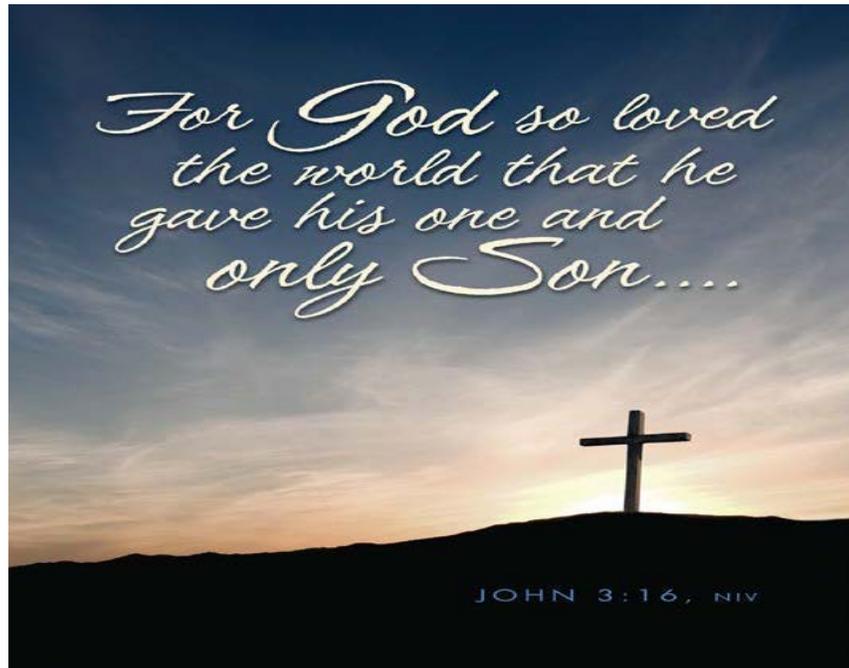


The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish
Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 4

April 2021





By the time most of you read what I'm writing today (Wednesday, March 31, 2021—Wednesday of Holy Week), our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services will have been completed and we will all be taking a bit of a “spiritual breather” as we reflect back on these recently experienced, singular and extraordinary days in the annual progression of the liturgical year. Whether you were able to join us in person, on line, or in a combination of both, I hope and pray that these early days of the Great Fifty Days of Easter find you all with a renewed sense of your faith and hope in being disciples of Jesus Christ, our RISEN Lord and Savior!

The whole of life—and of the Christian Story that provides structure and meaning to it—can certainly be seen as a journey, but this is particularly true of the central commemorations of our faith that occur from the season of Advent through Eastertide, a kind of microcosm or “great summation” of the larger story that we are all a part of. Like all journeys, they are usually lived one step at a time, facing forward; but they are most fully understood as a whole and looking backward, in retrospect, as it were. With our minds, we **know** the ending and we know that the ending is joyous and good and leads to a new better reality than the one we currently inhabit. It is, however, an act of **faith** to *trust* that this great story will be true for us in a personal and meaningful way. Oddly enough, part of the yearly living out of the journey is—during the latter part of Holy Week—to act “as if” we don't know how the story will end. That's why we empty our worship space—nave and sanctuary alike—of every possible symbol and spiritual accoutrement for Good Friday. Then when the lights come up for the first Mass of Easter at the Great Vigil, or when we come to church on Easter Day, we know **deeply** where we have been and how blessed we are to be with each other on the journey to the New and Resurrected Life that is freely offered to us in Jesus Christ.

In short, that is how I've felt as I've worked with many of you here at St. Alban's, not only during Lent, Holy Week and Easter but since I arrived in Fort Wayne and began working here almost six months ago. Every single time we come to a new liturgical season, Holy Day, activity or festival I am amazed at how people here

show up for me and for each other and how what always seems like such a “big deal” at the outset, unfailingly ends up getting joyfully and rather easily completed. I also have to say that my work has allowed me to have the privilege of getting a close up view of the quiet yet powerful and faithful work that many of you do when no one is looking. In all these forms of witness, service and love I see great predictors of what lies ahead for us as a faith community in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

We will always have much to do going forward, but as we resurrect our “Alleluias” during the Great Fifty Days of Eastertide, let us also take time to pause and celebrate with gratitude and joy where we have come and what we have accomplished.

“Alleluia! Christ is RISEN!!”
“The Lord is RISEN, INDEED!! Alleluia!”



Peace,
Fr. Michael+

Worship Commission

After a year of Covid 19 shut-downs and restrictions, we begin this April with a full set of services to commemorate Our Lord’s passion and resurrection. Alleluia! Beginning with Palm Sunday, we will once again be allowed to sing (if not yet **SING!**) in the congregation. Praise the Lord that as vaccinations are progressing many more of us will be returning to live services. And in the meantime the development of our streaming capabilities will continue to extend our outreach to members of St. Alban’s when they are ill, and to a wider community beyond our current membership.

Thank
YOU

A debt of gratitude is owed to Robbie Frede for his hours of work to make this possible. Special thanks also to Bonnie Camp, Christina Connelly, Marion Frid, Anita Grams, John Lorenzen, Rose T. O’Brien, Cindy Spice, Jane Spice, Jordan Trendelman, Kenny White, and Julie Zeider whose participation as lectors, LEM’s, crucifers, and altar guild members makes our Holy Week

and Easter services possible. Additional persons who would like to take a more active part in our worship are always needed and welcome.

The inventory of our vestments has been completed and the photo album has been placed in the sacristy where members of the altar guild or anyone else may readily refer to it.

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!
Elaine Fazzaro

STEWARDSHIP

Donations were over \$10,188 for February which is \$5,752 above the budget. This is fantastic, however this momentum may be difficult to maintain without the cooperation of everyone keeping up with their donations. Our expenses are being well managed but we still need to keep up our donations to keep our St. Alban's community going. We are grateful that our community is getting vaccinated and if you have not yet get it as soon as you can so that we can gather together safely and closely.

OUTREACH



Sharing our love and God's love with others.....

The Lenten season is a time to look inward and explore our lives, and make atonement for our shortcomings, and prepare ourselves for that greatest feast day which we call Easter.

To some, this strange new world that we are living in with so many new boundaries, so many restrictions, isolation, not being able to socialize the way we might prefer, may seem like an elongated Lenten season.

I am beginning to think that, maybe, we can use this time to reach out to those amongst us that are especially closed off, or perhaps going through a medical event, or maybe just an acquaintance or friend that we have not connected with for a while and share our love and the love of Christ with them. Give them hope, put a smile on their faces and in their hearts. Reach out!

What better time than Easter? The time we celebrate Christ's love for us by dying on the cross and rising again in glory.

I might suggest an Easter card, a phone call, a text, a note, an Easter card with a note (There are some nice ones at Dollar Tree, 2 for a dollar, with Bible verses that reflect the miracle of Easter). Get creative!

Please consider this positive action a good use of this unwanted isolation. I challenge you, and request each of you to accept my challenge to share with others that which we celebrate at Easter...GOD'S LOVE!

Blessings to each of you,
George



Monthly Meetings in April

Every **Wednesday** morning Fr. Michael will be leading a regular Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. followed by an informal Eucharist. He will be leading with a study of the Gospel of Mark. Everyone is welcome.



Daughters of the King meet at **10:00 a.m.** on Thursday, **April 8 via zoom**. Jesus is the center and source of all Daughters of the King activities.

Rooted in prayer and study, every Daughters chapter serves the parish under the direction of the rector. Following a three-month training period, members commit themselves to serve in His Name.



Youth Group will meet via zoom the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Worship Meeting at 2:30 p.m. on April 8th.



Vestry will meet on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income for Feb	\$10,236.06	Operating income for 2021	\$21,898.04
Operating expense for Feb	9,215.02	Operating expense for 2021	22,028.14
Net gain for February	\$ 1,021.04	Net loss for 2021	(\$130.10)

Vestry Highlights

At the meeting of the Vestry on March 16, **it was moved that:**

- a) we are preparing for Holy Week
- b) pictures of the vestments are done, still need to finish organizing them together in the book
- c) Youth Sunday, postponed to the fall
- d) we will be raising money for camp on Mother's Day and the Sunday after
- e) Birthday and Anniversary Cards are being sent out
- f) Christina is looking into putting Tithely link on the YouTube Channel
- g) Laura Michael plans to create a Birthday Board
- h) possibility of getting a new keypad for the alarm
- i) replace the keypad/lock box since the numbers stick for the sacristy
- j) Music in the building: have approval to bring back congregational singing starting Palm Sunday
- k) Go back to ushers walking the offering plate up and down the aisles

it was motioned to :

- a) Cindy made a motion to give \$250 per kid for camp this year (youth and senior high camps) from camp fund and youth fund, paying 100% towards those who are in need with Cindy and Father Michael's discretion. Seconding by Elaine, passed.
- b) Contract for Lawn Mowing – Field of Dreams Lawn Service, \$50 per cut. Kenny made a motion to approve the contact for Field of Dreams, seconded by Laura. Passed.
- c) Look into Amazon Smile Program – Cindy made a motion to sign up for the Amazon Prime Smile Program as long as there is not a financial obligation from the church, seconded by Amanda. Passed

Donation for Lawn Fertilizer expense was made by Kenny White. Thank you, Kenny for all the work you do.

Since we are coming to our spring season, we have been in contact to update our lawn contract. In doing this we have been informed, by Greg Bougher, that he has many more jobs to offer if anyone is interested. Lawn mowing, mulching, gutter cleaning, and carpentry to name a few. If you are in search for someone to do any of these jobs please give Greg Bougher, owner of Field of Dreams, a call at 260-310-0817.

The deadline for the May Cross & Sword is Thursday, April 22nd.



Church Records

Death: Shirley Johnson passed away yesterday afternoon, March 31, 2021. Please keep her family in your prayers over the next few weeks during this difficult time.

Plans for a memorial service sometime this summer at Saint Alban's.

April Birthdays

10 Erin Layden
20 Megan Spice



23 John J. Diver
28 Ray Brandes, Jr.

and Anniversaries

19 George & Joan Shamp
23 Norm & Anita Grams
28 Gary & Andrea Pink

*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.*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER ESPECIALLY:

Jerry Anderson, Cheryl Banks, Brittany Barker, Mindy Blech, Toby Blech, Kayla Bianchini, Neal Birchfield, Ray Brandes, Anne Butler, Dick Camp, Pete Cola , Christina Connelly, Elliot Culwell, Kari Doepke , Donna, Joey Fazzaro, Deanna Flores, Ruth Ford, Chris Foreman and family, Denise Frede, Gary, Paula Hanlin, Sarah Haverstock, Sharon Haynes, George Imhausen, Claire Irvine, Vicki Irvine, Matt Kiel, Julie Lieb, Kris Lorenzen, John Jeffries, Suzanna Johnson, Patty Kerlin, Sue Maley, Meek family, Norma Michael, Anne Muhl, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Lynn Principe, Canon Henry Randolph, Melissa Renner, Sandra Ritchie, Sue Rowland and family, Sandra, Rick Spice, The Stoica family, Mariane Sumners, Carlen Trujillo, Betty Wiseheart, Brooke Wyse, Robin and the Yonkers family, and the Zavalla family.

For those unable to worship with us: LuAnn Kleinschmidt.

Military: Kaylee Collins, Sean Collins, Matthew Michael.

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Eucharist Service: 9:30 a.m. In person or on-line.

Live streaming Service from Saint Alban's YouTube channel! <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.

Vestry

Cindy Spice	Senior Warden
John Lorenzen	Junior Warden
Laura Michael	Fellowship
Elaine Fazzaro	Worship
David Birchfield	Stewardship
Marilyn Rafter	Financial
George Shamp	Outreach
Kenny White	Property
Amanda Fazzaro	Christian Foundation
Jane Spice	Care Connection
Christina Connelly	– Communications Director

Church Staff

Rector	The Rev. Michael Roeske
Office Administrator	Debbie Grosjean

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00
Monday through Friday

Office phone

485-8022