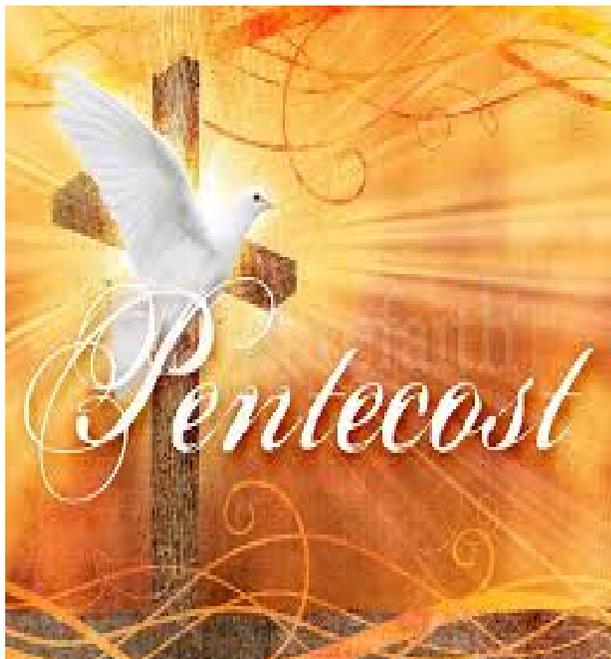


# *The Cross & the Sword*

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 5

May 2021



Having just been re-introduced in the last month to springtime in the upper Midwest of the USA, for the first time since my days in the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire (WI) back in the early 2000's, I need to start off by saying that you all were not kidding when you said this season could be a bit of a rollercoaster ride! A week ago we had just had a late snowstorm and now I'm riding around with the AC on in my car and running it in my apartment half the time already.

All this has had me thinking about the nature of life in general and the spiritual life in particular. We often times wait and wait for a promised and/or longed-for "new reality" and then find ourselves miffed, confused, let down or disappointed when it arrives in a form we did not expect or anticipate. When I read the various readings that are appointed every year during the Easter Season—both on Sundays at the Eucharist and when I pray the Daily Office—I realize that I'm in good company. The Disciples, those closest and dearest companions of Jesus, don't always recognize him when he shows up in his post-Resurrection form—in fact they hardly ever do, at least not at first. If those who now have a "St." in front of their names once struggled to get it right, that makes my own shortcomings a little bit easier to tolerate. As is so often the case, a great deal of the success in a given spiritual quest is found in "sticking it out" and not quitting before the miracle happens. The Bible calls this idea "steadfastness" or "abiding"; I sometimes refer to it as "keeping one's seat." Whatever we call it or how ever we choose to look at it, it usually comes down to employing the twin tools of faith and patience—two things I'm not always the best at bringing to fulfillment.

Even when the transition is something I've long yearned for, like the end of this unforeseen pandemic, I can often times feel a persistent sense of unease. I don't know about you, but sometimes I realize that I've grown oddly comfortable with the realities that I so strenuously resisted when they first showed up in my life. It all comes down to the universal and perennial notion that change—any kind of change—is a challenge for most people in most circumstances.

In the end, I need to remember that life unfolds one day at a time—not faster nor slower, no matter what I do—and that almost nothing has to be faced completely alone. In other words, thank God for the gift of the present moment and for all my friends and companions in this ever-changing and constantly developing life.

“This too shall pass”; even the sometimes unsettling periods of transition that live between one supposedly settled reality and the next.

In the meantime, I hope we can all enjoy the growing warmth and re-awakening of the world after a long and sometimes dark winter as we continue to say to ourselves and to each other: “Happy Easter!” as we try to recall that the Resurrection is not a single day or event but rather a season and an unfolding revelation and process.

Peace,  
Fr. Michael+

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Donations were over \$8,550 for March which is about \$150 above expected and we are \$6,400 over the expected donations year to date. This is fantastic, let's keep up the momentum with our 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 then get it as soon as you can so that we can gather together safely and closely.

David Birchfield

### **FINANCE COMMISSION**

Many thanks to all of you for keeping your pledges up. This is especially important since we are running a deficit budget this year. Our income for the month of March was \$8,757.46, not quite meeting our budgeted amount of a little over \$9,000.00, but very close. Actually, if we were to balance our budget we

need income of \$11,500 each month. We do have a goal of having a balanced budget within the next few years and appreciate all of your loyalty.

Please let your friends and acquaintances know about Saint Alban's, invite them to join us on Sunday and do what you can to make us known to the community. Hopefully we will grow our congregation, and be able to accomplish more in spreading the good news of Jesus!

Marilyn Rafter

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Over the past year, as we have slowly progressed from closed, to zoom church, to a heavily modified in-person worship experience, we have blended some ministry roles and used whoever we had available to fill positions at the altar. I want to express deep thanks to all of the ministry personnel who have faithfully served Sunday after Sunday, and especially those who were pressed into service as needed, without the benefit of being formally instructed in the tasks they were asked to perform. As vaccinations have progressed and more of our members are beginning to feel comfortable with returning to services in person, we are looking into reinstating the Servers, whose tasks are currently being covered by the LEM's. We also feel that it is time to conduct training (or retraining) of our entire ministry personnel group. A training session for all Crucifers, LEM's, Servers and Lectors will be held on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> following the 9:30 a.m service. We encourage not only our currently serving ministry members, but any other persons interested in participating in the worship experience at the altar to attend this session. New people are always needed and welcome.

Thank you,  
Elaine Fazzaro

## Monthly Meetings in May



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, **May 13**. 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 on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Meeting at 2:30 p.m. on May 13<sup>th</sup>.



**Worship Committee**



Vestry will meet on Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7 p.m. as Bishop Sparks presides at the Installation of Fr. Michael, officially welcoming him as the Priest-in-Charge here at St. Alban's!

**The Return of Coffee Hour (Sort Of!)!** – Beginning May 2nd, we will begin a *modified* return to post-Communion Coffee Hour/Fellowship with the following qualifications: there will still be no food; it will be bring-your-own-coffee (with lids!) and social distancing is to still be practiced. Whenever possible, we ask that people gather outside, on the walkway outside the front doors.



**Happy Mother's day...**Don't forget that Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> is Mother's day. Whether your Mom is still with us or with the Lord, come to church Sunday May 12th to say a special prayer for her. May God bless all Mother's and their most sacred vocation in life!

FYI: Fr. Michael's regular office hours will be Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and any other time by appointment. Mondays will be his regular day off.

The deadline for the June issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is *May 21, 2021*.

# Vestry Stewardship

## Operating Fund

Operating income for March	\$ 8,757.46	Operating income for 2021	\$ 30,655.50
Operating expense for March	10,758.95	Operating expense for 2021	32,787.09
Net loss for March	(\$2,001.49)	Net loss for 2021	(\$2,131.59)

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At the meeting of the Vestry on April 20, **it was moved to**

- a) Only 1/3 of the sign is currently working, the sockets, bulbs (\$1,275) and timer need replaced. The lens also will need replaced \$2,375 (for sockets, bulbs and lens). Kenny made a motion to pay \$1,275 to replace the sockets and bulbs on the sign out front, seconded by Elaine. After discussion, Kenny removed his original motion. Kenny is going to present to the congregation to help raise money for repairs on the sign out front. Kenny made a motion to pay \$2,375 to repair the sign out front (sockets, bulbs, & lens) from major improvement, seconded by Christina. Passed.
- b) move forward in Jordan's progression to becoming a priest.

### It was noted that...

- a. May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. is installation of Father Michael.
- b) we are continuing the search for curriculum.
- c) Christina shared the Tithl.y link St. Alban's website and social media accounts.
- d) Christina is editing a video about Father Michael to be able to post.
- e) birthday board will start in May
- f) sign by the parking lot needs to be repainted. Marilyn Rafter offered to help paint.
- g) The flower urn will be painted.
- h) coffee hour starting the first Sunday in May. Member(s) must bring own coffee in their own mug with a lid, no food, and masks will remain on while not drinking. Can meet outside.

- i) Rides to Church: a list will be created of who needs help, when (before, after, both) and where they live.
- j) LEM: Server, Crucifer Training: Have everyone retrained or newly trained so that everyone has the same information on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- k) Sign says: create a list of what it needs to say and when that will go up.

## May Birthdays

1 Julie Naunas  
4 Laura Diver  
5 Marion Frid  
11 Fr. Michael



12 Dale Edington  
12 Joan Shamp  
18 Michael Irvine  
24 Chuck Igwe

## and Anniversary

12 Robbie Frede II and Megan Spice-Frede

*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.*

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### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER ESPECIALLY:**

Jerry Anderson, Cheryl Banks, Mindy Blech, Kayla Bianchini, Neal Birchfield, Ray Brandes, Anne Butler, Dick Camp, Cassie, Cassie Grosjean, Pete Cola, Christina Connelly, Elliot Culwell, Kari Doepke, Donna, Kathie Edington, Joey Fazzaro, Deanna Flores, Chris Foreman and family, Kim Frank and family, Denise Frede, Brook Gresback, Gary, Paula Hanlin, Sarah Haverstock, Sharon Haynes, George Imhausen, Claire Irvine, Vicki Irvine, John Jeffries, Suzanna Johnson, Pat Kerlin, Matt Kiel, Julie Lieb, Kris Lorenzen, Sue Maley, Meek family, Norma Michael, Sean Michael, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Lynn Principe, Canon Henry Randolph, Melissa Renner, Sandra, Larry Shaw, Rick Spice, Elias Snyder, Mariane Sumners, Carlen Trujillo, Carol White, Betty Wiseheart, Brooke Wyse.

**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 Formation
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