



The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 10

October 2021



Blessing of the Animals

October 3rd at

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

“Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.” – The 1979 Book of Common Prayer, p. 298

As most of you probably know, there are in our traditional expression of Christianity seven Sacraments that ground, sustain and enrich our corporate life as the holy People of God. But there are two that are given particular emphasis and honor as “dominical Sacraments,” i.e. those rites that were instituted, re-interpreted and directly participated in by Jesus Christ himself, namely Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist is a communal act that we are encouraged to take part in repeatedly and continually during our lives; Holy Baptism is something we appropriately do—in its’ fullness—only once. Of all the Sacraments, only Baptism is said to form a bond between God and an individual that is “indissoluble” (that is, incapable of being broken or lessened).

Since a great many of us were baptized when we were infants, we have no way of accessing a direct and personal memory of this profound and eternal experience. Perhaps one of the greatest advantages of a Baptism that takes place later in life (what our Baptist brothers and sisters would call a “Believer’s Baptism”) is that the person being baptized does carry a permanent recollection of the moment.

Then, too, regardless of when in the arc of life we are privileged to receive this particular Sacrament, there is that joy which comes from the intentional witnessing and supporting of others when they are baptized. This is important because even though Baptism is on its most basic level a personal and individual rite, it receives its deepest meaning when it is accomplished in the context of the local church community/family.

This was not always the case. When I was a little boy, perhaps my very first religious memory was that of my baby brother’s Baptism, done at 4 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon with just the immediate family and the parish Priest in attendance. These essentially private, family affairs used to be called “Christenings.”

The Prayer Book revision of 1979 reinstated the ancient (and, I would say, theologically “correct”) practice of Holy Baptism being “appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other feast” where the larger church community can be present.



I am most pleased to announce that on Sunday, November 7th (All Saints’ Sunday) and Sunday, December 26th (the First Sunday after Christmas); St. Alban’s will be blessed with the gift of administering the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to Mr. Brenden Kite and Mr. James Newport-Haas, respectively. I’ve just begun my work with each of them in their preparations for this milestone in their spiritual lives, but I can tell you with confidence that they are both blessed with “inquiring and discerning” hearts, as well as “the courage to will and to persevere” in their work of preparing for this rite of full initiation into the Church.

Please pray for Brenden and James in the days ahead and plan—if possible—to put flesh on those prayers by coming to encourage and support them on the days of their Holy Baptisms. We really are all in this together.

In the Peace of Christ,
Fr. Michael r.+

Amazon Smile Program – Reminder

I'm very excited to announce another ongoing fundraiser for Saint Alban's. We have signed up for the Amazon Smile Program, this program works like the Kroger Plus program that we are currently a part of. Basically, when you purchase items through Amazon you can have part of the sales donated to a nonprofit at no extra cost to you. The Amazon Smile program has donated millions to nonprofits all over the world. They give .1% of every dollar spent to a designated nonprofit, its easy money. You can sign up two different ways, by going to smile.amazon.com or you can use the Amazon app. In the app you would go to the drop-down menu, under Programs & Features there is an Amazon Smile feature. Click in there and follow the steps to designate St Alban Episcopal Church Fort Wayne, IN as your nonprofit. When you make purchases, it will tell you if the item you are buying is part of the Amazon Smile program. The app will also keep track of how much money you generate for St Alban's. This is free money for things we already purchase. If you have any questions about this program or need help signing up for the program, please contact Cindy Spice.



Donations were over \$11,800 for August which is well above budget. For 2021 so far, we are also \$20,500 over budget which is helping secure our future and significantly reducing our planned deficit. If it is more convenient you can always donate through Tithe.ly. Also, please link St. Alban's to your Amazon Smile account and your Kroger plus card. This is easy money to St. Alban's and it helps both of these companies direct their donations in the direction you want. Our expenses as always continue to be managed frugally, so together with good management and faithful donations we continue to thrive. We want to thank and welcome the many new people that have visited us and we hope that you stay and become a part of our community. Thank you for your 2022 pledge and thank you for making this a successful campaign.

David Birchfield
Stewardship

FINANCE

Each month as I look at the Finance reports I am so proud to be a member of St. Alban's. Your dedication to the pledges you made for 2021 and your faith has served us well. While we are still running a deficit budget, it is looking like we will end the year in a stronger financial position than anticipated (but still a deficit), thanks to all of you.

Our income for the month of August was \$11,847.40, well over our anticipated income for the month. I believe most of us realize that expenses will increase in 2022 so we must be in a position to move forward not backwards.

We have been blessed with Fr, Michael and our goal is to be able to make his position as Priest in Charge a full time position in the next few years. This will enable him to better serve the needs of our congregation and our community at large. This can be accomplished with growth and a strong financial commitment. I totally agree with David Birchfield's plan for each of us to prayerfully add a 10% increase to our current pledge. I am following his lead and pray that this small increase from all of us helps us reach our goal.

Thanks be to God.

Marilyn Rafter, Finance Commission

On **Sunday, October 3rd** – from 2 to 4 pm, on our property and/or in the Parish Hall, we will be hosting a “St. Francis Day Celebration” neighborhood event with a brief service of “The Blessing of the Animals” at its heart, to give thanks for all our pets and to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Come join us (with your pets, of course!) and enjoy games, food, drinks, fun and fellowship!



Don't forget an Evening Bible Study and Eucharist is offered every **Thursday**, in the Parish Hall **at 6:30 p.m.** We are studying 1 Thessalonians (the earliest document of the New Testament) and then move on to the Book of Acts. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall – Fr. Michael continues to lead a Bible Study of the Book of Genesis, followed by an informal Eucharist. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!** No Bible Study or

Eucharist on October 6th and 13th. We will resume on October 20th

Please note Fr. Michael will be out of the office from October 4th – 6th and October 8th -15th. He will be back in office 10-17.

Debbie will be out of the office from October 25th and returning on Nov 3rd. The office will be open so if you have any questions during these times, please call the office or Fr. Michael.



The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, October 12th at 12:30 p.m. at Dicky's Wild Hare, 2910 Maplecrest Road. Please sign up below and indicate if you will go directly or will need a ride. Everyone is welcome.



Please join your St. Alban's friends for our annual family wiener roast and chili cook-off at 6 p.m. on October 16 at the home of Marilyn Rafter, 3106 Marias Drive. Please bring your favorite chili recipe if you wish to enter into the contest for the best chili. There will be a prize for the winner! This is a fun time for the whole family, so please join us! Sign up on the bulletin board so we can plan food.



Vestry will meet on October 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Youth Group will meet on Sunday Oct 10th and 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Dove Faith Cafe (DFC)

The first ever, live, Dove Faith Cafe took place recently. What a beautiful event. It was exciting to see this take place, and to be a part of it! I am grateful to my fellow storytellers for sharing their courageous and inspiring stories with us. I am also thankful to Marie Gambetta, the co-founder and co-creator of DFC for listening to The Holy Spirit's call to make this happen.

Here are a couple of the comments we have heard from participants:

- * I can't stop thinking about it
- * I shared this event with close friends of mine, they were impressed
- * So glad that I came this evening, tonight was truly inspiring

I want to personally thank those of you who came to the event, and also those who supported the event with their prayers. Your support is truly appreciated!

Stay tuned for information on the next event which will take place November 12th in South Bend.

Blessings!
John Lorenzen



Alexa Foland, a long time parishioner at St. Alban's, has requested to be transferred out of St. Alban's. We will miss you! Please update your directory with this information.

Update on address for Pat MacWhorter. Replace c/o Cedar Ridge instead of Woodview.

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income August	\$ 11,847.40	Operating income for 2021	\$ 84,114.01
Operating expense August	11,191.22	Operating expense for 2021	90,029.02
Net gain for August	656.18	Net loss for 2021	\$ (5,915.01)

Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on September 21

it was noted that:

- a) DOK Diocesan Fall Assembly will be on October 16 from 9:30 – 3:00 p.m. with Eucharist
- b) a new Sunday school calendar will be posted soon.
- c) a new nursery schedule is being worked on. Need more volunteers.
- d) Outreach letters and checks were sent out to each charity that was voted on.
- e) Kenny will be contacting Bob Snowball about snow removal for this coming winter.
- f) snow blower needs looked at and possibly repaired.
- g) the Fall Stewardship Campaign has started. End gathering will be on October 3rd. Options to turn in pledges with email to Debbie or bring to service on October 3rd.
- h) Assessment reduction meeting discussed.

Deadline for the November newsletter is October 19.

October Birthdays

11 David Birchfield
13 Stephen Warga
15 Peggy Brandes
20 Alison Birchfield
21 Christina Connelly



24 Trudy Spath
25 Roman Pontius
28 Mason Diver
28 Joe Steinbrunner
30 Peter Crewe

and Anniversaries



14 Dick & Bonnie Camp
14 John Lorenzen & Kenny White
19 Joe & Janine Steinbrunner
19 Bill & Carolyn Townsend
20 Lamar & Melody Spencer
25 Dick & Sue Dirrim

*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, Gene Bateman, Ed Brooks, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Ray Brandes, Denny & Anne Butler, Dick Camp, Pete Cola, Elliot Culwell, Jane Davidson, Kari Doepke, Donna, Kathie Edington, Joey Fazzaro, Eldon Francis, Earline. Francis, Lawney and Lisa Francis, Chris Foreman, Denise Frede, Kacie Grace, Brook Gresback, Gary, George Imhausen, Claire Irvine, John Jeffries, Rick McMahan, Janet McQuain, Pat Kerlin, Julie Lieb, Kris Lorenzen, MJ & Missy, Maureen McMahan, Carl Michael, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Steve Potosky, Canon Henry Randolph, Sandra, The family of Eddie Shelby, Lamar Spencer, Mike & Marie Spice, Rick Spice, Mariane Sumners, Melissa Surles, Gianna Tinker, Carlen Trujillo, Mars Wolford, Lucas Williamson, Betty Wiseheart.

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

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Michael Roeske
Office Administrator	Debbie Grosjean

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00
Monday through Friday

Office phone 485-8022