

A lot happens in the month of November every year: the seasonal change revs into high gear (manifested most palpably by the falling backwards of our clocks by one hour); the month begins with All Saints'/All Souls', is most characterized by the national holiday of Thanksgiving, and ends with us landing at the beginning of an entirely new liturgical season of Advent. As transitional periods go, it's a fairly profound time. It's also an interval that is perhaps most marked by a sense of gratitude.

We begin on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (or the first Sunday after that date) with the Feast of All Saints' Day where we recall and thank our "spiritual ancestors," famous heroes in the Faith, all of whom lived extraordinary lives of service and sacrifice—often at great physical peril and pain—so that we might presently be able to practice our religion in peace and with a sense of progress. Next we remember "All the Faithful Departed" (All Souls') on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, a sort of extension of the first commemoration that includes our own, personal, less universally-known spiritual mentors—perhaps a beloved relative, teacher or clergyperson—who, although not (yet) recognized by the entire Church to be a "saints," have nonetheless been experienced as such individually in a way that deserves to be honored.

Then comes the holiday that is both national/civic and—for Episcopalians anyway—religious as well: Thanksgiving. Begun as a harvest celebration by the Pilgrim/Puritan settlers of New England and Virginia, and later codified into a uniform, national observance by Presidents Lincoln and Grant in the late-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is also a "Prayer Book Holy Day" when the Church sanctifies the secular practices of feasting and football by offering the Holy Eucharist with the particular intention of gratitude for the blessings and responsibilities that are inherent aspects of living in the United States. Finally, we (almost always) end the month by beginning the new Church Year with the First Sunday of Advent which sets off the all-too-rapid season of preparation for Christmas. Whew! It's a lot; but it's all good and worthy stuff.



This year, the month of November has me considering the fact that gratitude and memory are inextricably linked to each other. In fact, they are probably most helpfully understood as two sides of the same coin. How could we experience thankfulness without memory—sometimes even painful

memories? Conversely, how many of our best recollections lead us to gratitude and praise? When life is a profound mixture of challenge and celebration, as it inevitably will end up being, we're wise to acknowledge that we'd be truly lost and at sea without the perspectives offered by both memory and thanksgiving.

As the Holy Eucharist—our central act of worship in the Church—so effectively teaches us, we do well when we strive to recall the past into our present and then seek to live in a spirit of gratitude; even—and maybe especially—when things don't go exactly according to plan. As is always the case with every year, the one that is soon about to close has had its fair share of ups and downs for each one of us. Yet I pray that we can all still find time to pause and give thanks for the many blessings God has given to us as individuals, families and parishioners of one church family and then move faithfully into the season of Advent with a sense of great expectation for what lies ahead in our lives together in this place.

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

**Happy All Saints' Day** (observed) to everyone and **a special welcome to any and all guests today as we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism with Brenden Kite, especially his parents and sponsors, Mr. Joseph Kite and Mrs. Kristen Kite.** We are very glad you all are here!  
And....CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO BRENDEN!!

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Donations were over \$6,400 for September. For 2021 so far, we are also \$18,700 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.

**Wednesdays at 10 a.m.** in the Parish Hall – Fr. Michael continues to lead a Bible Study on the Book of Genesis, followed by an informal Eucharist. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

ALSO....an **evening Bible Study and Eucharist** will continue on **Thursdays** in the Parish Hall **at 6:30 p.m.** We are currently looking at the Book of Acts. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

**“The Lunch Bunch”** will have its next outing this coming Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at *Ziffle's Rib Bar*, located in Georgetown Center, 6340 E. State Blvd. in Fort Wayne. Please sign up on the sheet on the “Communication Station” bulletin board that is to your right as you leave the sanctuary, indicating if you will go to the restaurant directly or if you would like to arrange for a ride from St. Alban's.

George Shamp (Outreach chairperson)

It has been a long tradition for us to help others have a Blessed Thanksgiving. This year we will join other groups to help the Rescue Mission with a food donation which will insure that approximately 1500 people will have a hot Thanksgiving dinner.

Our part will be to team with others, and supply green beans for the traditional "green bean casserole" as part of the dinner being prepared for those 1500+ people.

I will have some gallon size cans available for sale (\$4.00), and will collect money to purchase more. Gallon size cans are the only size used for this event.

The end date is Sunday November 21 for the collection, and I will bring our generous contributions to the Mission on the following Monday.

Thank you in advance for your support,



## Thanksgiving Flowers and Decorations

Envelopes for Thanksgiving flowers and decorations are available in the church office by contacting Debbie with the deadline of November 15<sup>th</sup>. Please put a separate check in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the office. You may contribute any amount for these flowers. Please note whether you would like the flowers in thanksgiving for an important event in your life or in memory of a loved one.

We will be having a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.



## Altar Guild

Altar Guild members will prepare the sanctuary for Advent on Sunday, November 21 at 11:30 a.m. after the service.

The deadline for the December issue of *The Cross and the Sword*  
is **Tuesday, November 19**

**2021 Diocesan Convention is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2021.**

Dove Faith Café will be located at LangLab in South Bend at 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, November 12. Please see John Lorenzen for any questions.

## Turkey Day Quiz

Which president made Thanksgiving an annual holiday at the end of November?

Ans: Abraham Lincoln

Which of America's founding fathers believed a turkey would make a better national symbol than the bald eagle?

Ans: Benjamin Franklin

Which of the following foods was likely served at the first Thanksgiving in 1621?

Pumpkin Pie, Shellfish, Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce

Ans: Shellfish

When was the first Thanksgiving?

Ans: 1621

How fast can turkeys run?

Ans: 25 mph

True or False: Macy's was the first department store to sponsor an annual Thanksgiving Day Parade

Ans: False, Gimbels

The Detroit Lions played against which team in the first Thanksgiving Day NFL game in 1934?

Ans: The Chicago Bears

When does Canada celebrate Thanksgiving?

Ans: 2nd Monday of October

Have a blessed Thanksgiving to all. Enjoy from Judy Wall. (2020)

## Vestry Stewardship

### Operating Fund

Operating income Sept,	\$ 6,436.24	Operating inc. for 2021	\$ 90,550.25
Operating expense Sept	10,516.18	Operating exp. for 2021	100,545.20
Net loss for September	\$(4,079.94)	Net loss for 2021	\$ (9,994.95)

## Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on October 19

It was noted that:

- a) Brainstorming fund-raising ideas are in the process
- b) We are reaching out to Maplewood Mennonite church to see if we can partner with them for Thanksgiving meals for families in need
- c) discussion on upcoming maintenance projects: nursery bathroom, Parish Hall lights, Parish Hall windows, parking lot needs sealed

It was motioned to:

- a) Boiler System Issue: Exhaust pipe replacement – Kenny moved to spend up to \$700 to replace the exhaust pipes for the boilers, seconded by Laura. Passed.

## November Birthdays

2 Julie Zeider  
5 Sandy Ritchie  
6 Gary Michael  
10 Katelyn Naunas  
10 Bill Townsend  
13 Landon Diver  
14 Jon Fazzaro  
17 Ivy McLimans  
21 Laura Birchfield



22 Sue Dirrim  
22 Karen Stath-Tracy  
23 Alex McLimans  
26 Rose Tinder-O'Brien  
27 Larry Sanxter  
30 Anna Layden  
30 Janice Mullins

8 Ray & Peggy Brandes



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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER ESPECIALLY: Jerry Anderson, Cheryl Banks, Gene Bateman, Ed Brooks, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Ray Brandes, Denny & Anne Butler, Dick Camp, Vincent Carboni, Pete Cola, Elliot Culwell, Jane Davidson, Kari Doepke, Donna, Kathie Edington, Joey Fazzaro, Mason Feller, Eldon Francis, Earline Francis, Lawney and Lisa Francis, Chris Foreman, Denise Frede, Brook Gresback, Gary, George Imhausen, Claire Irvine, John Jeffries, Pat Kerlin, Julie Lieb, MJ & Missy, Maureen McMahon, Rick McMahan, Janet McQuain, Carl Michael, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Steve Potosky, Canon Henry Randolph, Sandra, Rick Spice, Mariane Sumners, Melissa Surles, Mars and Stephanie Wolford, Betty Wiseheart.

For those unable to worship with us: LuAnn Kleinschmidt

Military: Kaylee Collins, Sean Collins, Matthew Michael, Danny and Robert Scribner.