



The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

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January 2022



*A Season
for
Sharing*



Just for fun, I looked back to the “Cross & Sword” article I wrote one year ago, for January of 2021, before starting this present writing for the beginning of 2022.

It was....interesting—to say the least.

It was....humbling—to be totally honest.

Looking on the bright side, about half of my “predictions” actually came true. The rest of my forecast for 2021 made me look naïve, gullible and way too optimistic for my own good.

Last January, I actually referred to the then forthcoming Wednesday Bible Study/Eucharist as a mid-week “BOOSTER” for our corporate spiritual life in this parish, not knowing of course the centrality that word would claim in our lives in the year to come.

Then, too, there is my latest favorite Facebook post. It shows the Grinch, dressed as Santa Claus (of course), hands on hips, looking out of the frame with an irritated look on his face and his brows furrowed. The caption to the image reads: “Before I agree to 2022 I’m going to have to see the terms and conditions.”

It’s a funny and lighthearted meme, which is probably why it stuck with me. The reality, as we all know, is that life doesn’t actually work like that. We get no terms and conditions before we sign on; we get no approvals or first refusals on the way things ultimately turn out. All we can do—really—is suit up, show up and take things one day at a time.

As people of faith, we in the Church are additionally gifted by the presence of a God and a blessed community for which—and through which—we can face the uncertainties that life will undoubtedly present to us. God never promises to make the path of existence obstacle-free; He does, however, guarantee that we need not face these challenges alone.

So, as we leave one complicated year and begin yet another—one that will almost surely be “interesting” in its own way—I am pledging myself to stay out of the business of predicting and making conditions. I will instead try to spend my energy on simply being fully present in the moment for myself and others, always attempting to discern when to minister and when to let myself be ministered to. I pray that as 2022 dawns, each of us may find both the peace and the lessons that God is trying to teach us, so that we may draw closer to Him and to each other.

In the Peace of Christ,

Fr. Michael r.+

STEWARDSHIP



Donations were less than \$6,000 in November which is well below what we hoped and budgeted. If you are behind in your pledge please catch up if you are able. For 2021 so far, we are also \$15,450 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.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

It has been a wonderful Christmas at St. Alban's – in fact it continues to be a great Christmas for a few more days. The wise men are still on the road until January 6, when we will celebrate their arrival with a Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. and taking down of the greens. It is also a good time to remember that everything that makes these days special does not just happen. Many hands have been busy arranging flowers and greenery, tending extra candles, planning and rehearsing special music, and contributing in so many other ways. I can't thank everyone enough who has pitched in to make our worship of the newborn King memorable, but I wish to make special mention of Marion Frid and Jane Spice on the altar guild, Jon Fazzaro and John Lorenzen for their musical contributions, Amanda Fazzaro for directing the Christmas Eve pageant, and everyone who faithfully ministers at the altar – not just at Christmas but every Sunday.

May you all carry the warmth and cheer we have generated on into January, February and beyond. Have a blessed 2022.

Elaine Fazzaro

FINANCE

Our income for the month of November was about \$4,400 under budget; however we are still over our annual budget by almost \$5,400. We have done well in keeping our deficit lower than anticipated in 2021 and the good news is that our budgeted deficit for 2022 is lower than it was for 2021.

This has been an awesome year for St. Alban's with Fr. Michael having been here all year, all of you, our parishioners, keeping your pledges and several individuals even giving money to pay for special needs, the ability to stream services for those who are unable to attend services in person and our constant faith that God will get us through this pandemic to return to normal, albeit perhaps a new normal. Truly God is good!

Let's all pray for an even better year in 2022!

Marilyn Rafter

Wednesday, January 6
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. Thursday, January 6th, 2022 at 7 p.m. we will commemorate the Feast of the Epiphany with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



That time again! All Annual Reports are due to office by Saturday, January 1st. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The **St. Alban's Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch** will take place after the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist on **Sunday, January 23rd, 2022**. Look for sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.



The Wednesday Bible Study Group will meet at 10 a.m. on June 5th. We are studying Genesis at this time. Everyone is welcome!

The Thursday Evening Bible Study will meet on January 13th at 6:30 p.m., where we are studying the Book of Acts. Everyone is welcome!

DOK meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13th at 10 a.m.

Lunch Bunch will be dining at Halls Prime Rib located at 2005 E. State Blvd on Tuesday, January 11th at 12:30 p.m. Please sign the poster on the bulletin board if you would like to attend and/or need a ride. Everyone is welcome.

Vestry will meet on Tuesday January 18th at 7 p.m.

Youth Group will meet Sunday January 9, and 23rd at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Altar Guild will be taking down the greens on Sunday, January 9th after service. If there is anyone that can help, it will be appreciated.

Winter Youth Retreat will be Friday, Jan 28th – Sunday, Jan 30th.

Pilgrimage with a Brush
By Rose Tinder-O'Brien

St. John's Gospel begins, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2)
St. John writes the Word. With a brush in my hand, a prayer from my spirit controlling my breathing, and Canon centuries old, I attempt to paint the Word. I prayed the Trisagion three times: "Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on me a sinner." Every word is a breath and a stroke of the brush. The world rejected my art; God made a way for me to use his gift of painting and now the Trisagion is my prayer when I paint all for his glory. Amen.

Several icons later, I am back on my pilgrimage with a brush. Brian Matthew Whirledge, a master iconographer, is teaching a class in the oldest tradition of painting—egg

tempera. St. Luke would have painted Mary, the Mother of God (Theotokos) in the very same method. My class and I painting Jesus' face taken from a cloth called "The Veil of Veronica."

Veronica is mentioned in the Sixth Station of the Cross: "A woman wipes the face of Jesus." Not much is known of her beyond the fact that she lived in Jerusalem in the First Century. Veronica is venerated by Roman Catholics, the Orthodox Churches of the East and the Anglican Communion. She is the patron saint of laundry workers. There is a tradition that Veronica once cured the Roman Emperor Tiberius with her veil. Among its' many relics, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome possesses "the Veronica" (trans.: the true image), as it is called.

My pilgrimage with a paint brush took me all the way back to St. Luke and continued to the Sixth Station of the Cross in egg tempera, the oldest painting method.

Yours in Christ,
Rose Tinder O'Brien

The deadline for the February issue of *The Cross and the Sword*
is **Thursday, January 20**

January Birthdays

7 Mars Wolford
8 Nevada Jones
10 Rob Frede
14 Vickie Faux
16 Debbie Grosjean
18 Christine Sanxter
18 George Champ



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.*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER ESPECIALLY: Jerry Anderson, Cheryl Banks, Gene Bateman, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Anthony Branch, Ray Brandes, Denny & Anne Butler, Dick Camp, Vincent Carboni, Pete Cola, Courtney, Elliot Culwell, Jane Davidson, Kari Doepke, Donna, Kathie Edington, Don Elbrecht, Joey Fazzaro, Mason Feller, Earline Francis, Lawney and Lisa Francis, Chris Foreman, Denise Frede, Glen Grate, Brook Gresback, Fr. Michael Haas, 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, Nancy Ritchie, Sandra, Mary Shuman family, Cindy Spice, Rick Spice, Susan, Mariane Sumners, Melissa Surles, Caley Townsend, Bill Townsend, Betty Wiseheart.

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



FLOWER FUND IN 2022... 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**

All Giving Envelopes Should Be Picked Up By Now. If you have questions, please call the office.

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income for Nov	\$ 5,297.00	Operating income for 2021	\$104,783.56
Operating expense for Nov	10,743.55	Operating expense for 2021	<u>122,796.86</u>
Net loss for November	(\$ 5,446.55)	Net loss for 2021	(\$ 18,013.30)

Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on December 14, 2021

It was noted that:

- a) discussion of the Starting Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnership with Father Michael, Gary Pink, Beth Potosky, Matt Michael, and Cindy Spice.
- b) discussion to allow Lab 24 to use our parking lot Monday thru Friday during the day to host a mobile site to test for Covid-19. The vestry was on board for Father Michael to give them permission if they clean up the area before they leave and also take trash with them.
- c) discussion that the Nominating committee will be meeting soon.
- d) Preparing for Christmas Eve Pageant
- e) there is a need for crucifiers for the services.
- f) possibly organizing a food drive for the Episcopal Relief Development Fund for those effected by the recent tornados.
- g) Sign-up sheet for the Annual Meeting Carry in will be posted on bulletin board.
- h) Cake for baptism on the 26th will be supplied.
- i) lights fixed project is completed. Thanks to George, Kenny and Mary.
- j) More work to be done on the bathroom project. Tile on December 22nd and plumber will be back on December 27th. Ribbon cutting ceremony was talked about.
- k) donations have been offered to possibly pay for the upholstery cushions in the Sanctuary to be professionally cleaned. Kenny will be getting a few quotes

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