

# *The Cross & the Sword*

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 5

May 2022



As I prepared my various homilies for Holy Week and Easter Day this year—and I as I continue to do so almost three weeks into the Great Fifty Days of Easter—probably the most arresting concept I’ve run into has been the whole idea of “practicing Resurrection.” I like this notion for a couple of reasons. First, it asks us to consider being an actual participant in a present reality as opposed to being a mere observer of an ancient memory. Second, it taps into a side of spirituality that is often connected to the East than to our more familiar Western mindset: namely, that our relationship to the divine is better understood as being in line with a process or a journey, as opposed to a product or a destination. In other words, Resurrection is best approached as if it were a verb rather than a noun. Both of these more dynamic takes on Resurrection ask us to consider the possibility that we do this work of becoming something new not only once but repeatedly; and, further, that on this side of the Kingdom of God we never fully “arrive” or complete the journey. The repetitive nature of *practicing* is baked in to the very definition itself and the wonder of doing something more than once, and/or on a regular basis, means that we can “fail” and still have a future. Our God is a God of second, third and fourth chances.

In terms of the parish of St. Alban’s, this idea of practicing Resurrection means deeply and intentionally thinking about the various aspects of this place and the community it holds; how our common life has upheld and supported us through the years amidst all the ups and downs of life—and then to consider inviting our immediate and wider contacts into this community.

A small group of us (myself, Beth Potosky, Gary Pink, Matthew Michael and Cindy Spice) have been participating in a program called “Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships” which has invited us to think on behalf of the whole congregation about how we can best use and expand the gift of our building and grounds in order to do the same thing in a wider way. How can we practice Resurrection with our physical space and reach out to the neighborhood and city in which we live? How can we make our facilities useful to our congregation and the larger community we live in for more days of the week than we currently do? With whom can we be hospitable in terms of our spaces?

The site visit we had this past Wednesday, April 27 with staff members from “Partners for Sacred Spaces” was enlightening and helpful and I will be sharing

more specifics from this event over the coming months. But I was also encouraged this past week to solicit the entire congregation's ideas and insights in this matter; so if you have any thoughts or insights or would like to have a more specific discussion, please contact me or any other member of the committee. We'd be happy and grateful to hear your ideas and/or share what we have learned in this process so far.

What is true for the people in the Biblical record applies to us today: practicing Resurrection is never done in isolation. Sooner or later—a group effort is required.

Happy Easter! In the Peace of Christ,  
Fr. Michael r.+

### **STEWARDSHIP**

If you are unable to regularly attend Sunday services you can donate at your convenience through Tithely. Also, please link St. Alban's to your Amazon Smile account and your Kroger plus card. Because of your shopping at Kroger, the church received a check for \$93.25 for April.

This is easy money to St. Alban's and it helps both of these companies put their donations in the direction you want. We are also eager for volunteers to help as acolytes, ushers, altar guild, A/V, nursery and coffee hour so please call the office to be put in touch with the right person. Thank you everyone for keeping this community strong.

David Birchfield

### **FINANCE**

At the end of first quarter (March 31) our income has exceeded budget by \$9,677. While I am so pleased to see this, I have to remember that this may be the result of prepaid pledges and it may even out as the months go on. It is apparent that we have a congregation that takes pledges very seriously and I feel confident that we will once again have the money to pay our bills as they come due. **Thank you.**

In the month of March income exceeded budget by \$7,354. Budget was \$8,923 with actual income of \$16,277. Total expenses for March was \$11,871; while, budget was \$11,065. First quarter expense budget was \$33,956 compared to first quarter actual expenses of \$33,519. As you can see, we are very close on expenses so our income remains a very important factor. Vestry works very hard to keep expenses down but so many have increased in areas where we have little control.

At this point we are doing well and hope we can decrease our deficit by the end of the year as we all continue to do our part.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **ENDOWMENT**

There are many ways you can help ensure St. Alban's future with donations to the Endowment Fund. Besides adding to the fund with the monthly donations using your envelopes, you can make St. Alban's Endowment Fund a beneficiary on an insurance policy, on a savings account at your bank, or on investments. The advantage to this kind of giving is that it does not come out of your monthly budget, it will benefit the church usually with a significant amount more than a weekly donation and it will feel good to know that you are leaving something to help St. Alban's survive the future.

Marilyn Rafter

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Happy Easter! No, I am not behind the times. Easter Season continues throughout the month of May reflected in our hymns and lessons. As we continue to celebrate the joy of the resurrection, who knows, we may even see the return of Spring.

A HUGE Thank You! Is due to all those who contributed of their time and talents to bring the Holy Week and Easter services to life, giving all of us opportunity to live into the great drama that is the basis of our faith.

Speaking of time and talent, the need continues for additional people who would like to participate in the worship experience as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Crucifers or Readers. Some of the people now functioning in these roles will be leaving St. Alban's in the foreseeable future, and others will be needed to take their places. If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Michael or Elaine Fazzaro.

Thank you,  
Elaine Fazzaro

## Meetings/Activities in May



**The 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study** meets each week at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall. Fr. Michael continues to lead a Bible Study on the Book of Genesis. **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!**



**Happy Mother's day...**Don't forget that Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> is Mother's day. Whether your Mom is still with us or with the Lord, come to church Sunday May 8th to say a special prayer for her. May God bless all Mother's and their most sacred vocation in life!

**St. Alban's Youth Sunday!** At the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist next Sunday (5/8/22), we will have a service that will intentionally lift up the youth in our midst as they come to the end of another academic year. The readers, ushers, Prayers of the People and speaker (usually known as the preacher!) will be youth-centered in honor of upcoming graduations and transitions. We hope you can join us for this special day!

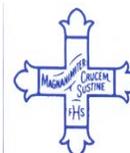




**Lunch Bunch** – will be dining at JK O’Donnell’s Irish Pub, 121 W. Wayne Street on Tuesday, May 10th at 12:30. If you need a ride please sign the poster located on the bulletin board in narthex. Any questions please contact Rose T-O’Brien at 574-850-3054. All are welcome!

Our next service day at the **Fort Wayne Rescue Mission** (located at 404 E. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne) will be on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:15 – 5:30 p.m. This month is Team I (Norm Grams, Loren Woody, Michael Roeske, and George Shamp). If you’d like to get involved with this ministry, please see Norm or Fr. Michael—we’d love to have you!

**Daughters of the King** meet at **10:00 a.m.** on Thursday, **May 12.** 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 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.



Vestry will meet on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m

### **DOVE FAITH CAFE (DFC)**

The purpose of the Dove Faith Café is the fulfillment of a vision, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Dove Faith Cafe (DFC) is an event that brings together storytellers and listeners who share their faith stories in an evening of hope. The DFC answers the call to evangelism that we, as members of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana are committed to embracing.

The goal for those who experience DFC is to realize the work of God in the lives of others and to recognize it in their own faith stories. This event which is the final series of four illustrates what unites us (God) is infinitely more powerful than what divides us.

The event on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> will be at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Munster, IN.

If you have questions about DFC, please contact John Lorenzen.



**UPCOMING/MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Diocesan Youth Summer Camp – June 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Camp is offered for students entering 3rd - 9th grades in the 2022/2023 school year. It is held at Camp Alexander Mack in Milford, IN on the shores of Lake Waubee. The cost is \$470 per camper with a \$30 discount for each sibling. Each year the planning team designs a special curriculum centered on a theme intertwining biblical teachings and modern day experiences; this year's theme is Harry Potter. Register campers at <https://ednin.org/episcopal-youth-camp> by May 15. There is financial assistance available to anyone that may be in need—don't let cost be the reason your child doesn't attend camp. If you have any questions about camp or you are in need of financial assistance, please reach out to Megan Spice or Cindy Spice.

The deadline for the June issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is May 19, 2022.

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.

# Vestry Stewardship

## Operating Fund

Operating income for March	\$16, 532.36	Operating income for 2022	\$ 36,931.91
Operating expense for March	12,220.99	Operating expense for 2022	33,868.50
Net gain for March	\$ 4,311.37	Net gain for 2022	\$ 3,063.41

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At the meeting of the Vestry on April 19, **It was noted that...**

- a) a worship committee meeting needs scheduled in May.
- b) the bags with coloring materials need replacing.
- c) we may need to check the direction for usher's attire – may need to revise
- d) Youth Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- e) the problem of the toilet running in nursery has been taken care of.
- f) a discussion about St. Alban's Sunday.

## May Birthdays

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



12 Joan Champ  
17 Stephanie Wolford  
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: The Almond Family, Jerry Anderson, Cheryl Banks, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Heather Branch and family, Ray Brandes, Dick Camp, Vincent Carboni, Courtney, Elliot Culwell, Jane Davidson, Denise, Ed DePrey & family, Kari Doepke, Larry Frank, Patricia Frank, Donna, Kathie Edington, Joey Fazzaro, Mason Feller, Chris Foreman, John Francois, Denise Frede, Karl Frick, Brook Gresback, Gary, George Imhausen, Cam Irvine, John Jeffries, Pat Kerlin, Julie Lieb, Maureen McMahon, Rick McMahan, Melissa, Michelle, Janet McQuain, Carl Michael, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Rebecca Nash Steve Potosky, Canon Henry Randolph, Mark Sowder, Ginger Spice, Sandra, Lamar Spencer, Cindy Spice, Rick Spice, Tammy and Shane Spice, Mariane Sumners, Melissa Surles, Bill Townsend, Judy Wall, The Wiseheart family.

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

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

John Lorenzen	Senior Warden
Julie Naunas	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
Megan Spice	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