

The Cross & the Sword

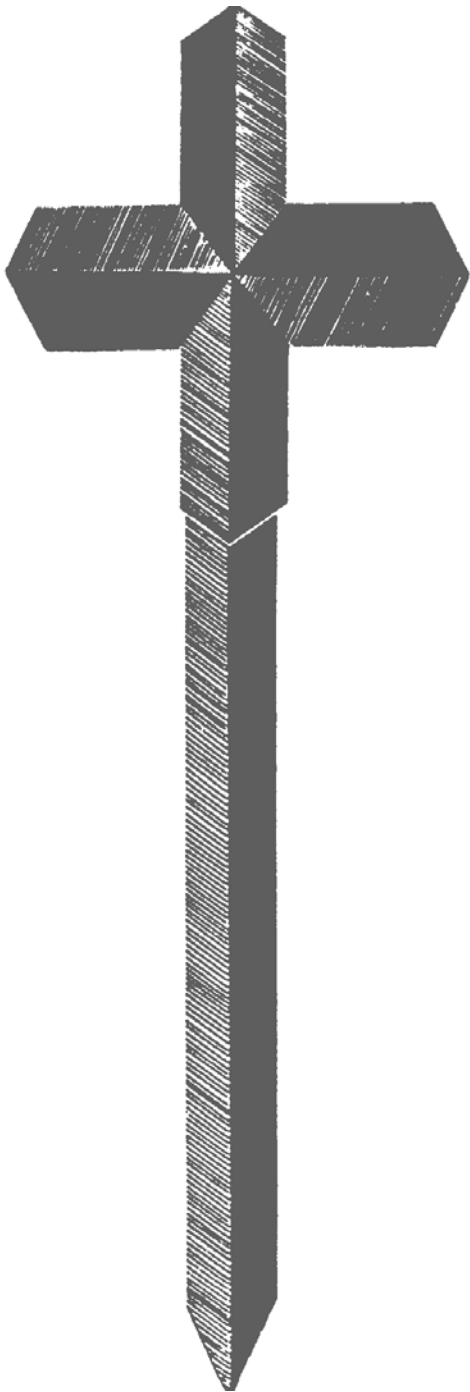
The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 11

November 2022

Enter
his gates
with
thanksgiving...

Psalm 100:4



Dear People of St. Alban's,

As I write this, the “one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church” throughout the world is celebrating one of the seven Principal Feasts of her sanctoral year: All Saint's Day. From the earliest days of the very formation of the Christian faith, the Church in her wisdom saw fit to acknowledge and affirm that the community of the faithful is greater than what our earthly senses are able to perceive. It is essential to the nature of the Church, as it is to God, that the objective reality of its being has a hold not only in the present but also in the past and future as well. Eternity “looks both ways” from the perspective of the current moment. For God, past, present and future are one single moment.

If we look at the collect for All Saint's Day in the BCP, we can notice some important words and phrases that tell us a great deal about the mystery of the Church to which we all belong:

Almighty God, you have **knit together** your **elect** in one communion and fellowship in the **mystical body** of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us **grace so to follow** your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those **ineffable joys** that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

“Knit together” relates, of course, to the community and fellowship that allows us to live in the secular world without being beholden to it; we are called to act in a way that is holy (or “set apart”) so as to be a living reminder that God is near no matter how challenging the external circumstances of life may be. “Elect” points to our being chosen by God but also—equally—of our choosing God's path and vision for our lives of our own free will. The “mystical body” of Jesus Christ is our future destiny as well as our present aspiration, lived out week by week in the words of the Invitation to receive Holy Communion: “These are the gifts of God, for you who are the holy people of God.” Another way to understand this idea is: “Receive what you are becoming: the Body of Christ.” When we then ask God to “Give us grace so to follow,” we are reminded that the ability to live like our spiritual heroes—or to even strive to do so—comes first as a free gift from God, not primarily as a natural instinct on our part; God makes the first move to which we respond with gratitude and joy. All of this is ultimately leading “to those

ineffable joys” which are incapable of being expressed or described because of the sacredness of their nature.

If all of this sounds quite out of the ordinary and far from the experience of your daily lives, that’s sort of the point! Why would we want to aspire to a reality that is just more of the same, present existence with which we are all too familiar? As one of my best spiritual mentors in Houston, TX—Fr. Murray Powell—used to say: “God loves us all just the way we are *and* he loves us too much to let us stay that way.”

The world is not always the easiest or most comfortable place to be. Our Church—past, present and future—is here to show us another, better way to be. When our vision is bound and limited by our nature and our imperfections, we have this other perspective—lent to us by God for now with the promise that it can become our future, permanent gift. Or, as the Preface for All Saint’s Day says:

“For in the multitude of your saints you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.”

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.

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

Income for the month of September was \$421 over our budgeted amount and we are still about \$11,400 over budget year to date. St. Alban's Vestry makes every attempt to keep expenses under budget and so far we are \$2,350 under budget year to date. It is time to heat the building again which may change that situation, so we need to see how that affects our budget as a very cold winter has been predicted.

You can help increase our income by doing a couple of things which will cost you nothing:

1) If you ever order from Amazon, even if only occasionally, use Smile.Amazon.com and please put St. Alban's name on the charity list for your purchases. I believe there is another St. Alban's on this list so be sure you choose the Fort Wayne St. Alban's. In addition, there are many of your friends and neighbors ordering from Amazon who do not use Smile and do not have a charity receiving money for their purchases, so why not ask them if they would do that for you. As of June, we received

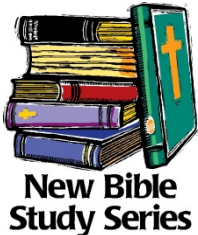
\$158.00 from Amazon so think if we could greatly increase those who list us as their charity our earnings could be so much better!

2) Shop at Kroger, go to Community Rewards at Kroger.com under your account and again name St. Alban's as the recipient for your purchases. Again ask your friends to do this for you. Neither of these will cost you anything but will earn money for St. Alban's!

Thanks for all you do for St. Alban's!

ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

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



The Thursday evening Bible Study and Eucharist is every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. are studying the Book of Revelation, the final document of the New Testament and therefore of the entire Bible. For the purpose of this study, we use the book "Coming Soon: Unlocking the Book of Revelation and Applying Its Lessons Today," by Michael Barber. All are welcome!

"The Lunch Bunch" will have its next outing on Tuesday, November 8th at 12:30 pm at *Cracker Barrel*, located at 1609 W. Washington Center Road, 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.

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.

There will be a Finance meeting on Wednesday, November 8th.



Thanksgiving Flowers and Decorations

Envelopes for Thanksgiving flowers and decorations are available in the church office by contacting Debbie with the deadline of November 16th. 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 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Office will be closed on Thursday, Nov 24th and Friday, November 25th.

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY of each month the loose plate offering, minus any quarters, goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Loose quarters continue to go to Matthew 25. If you would like your contribution to the rector's fund to appear on your financial statement, simply use a designated envelope from the pew cardholder and note the number of your offering envelope.

The deadline for the December issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is **Tuesday, November 18.**

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income Sept,	\$ 9,365.03	Operating inc. for 2022	\$ 92,163.58
Operating expense Sept	10,773.97	Operating exp. for 2022	99,313.99
Net loss for September	(\$ 1,408.94)	Net loss for 2022	(\$ 7150.41)

Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on October 19

It was noted that:

- a) Chesterton School (grades 9 -12) space sharing possibility. On Friday, Nov. 18th St. Alban's may host meeting/reception for interested school families and St. Alban's parishioners/vestry members. Entire matter to be discussed with Bishop and appropriate Diocesan Canons.
- b) Finance Committee Meeting for 2023 budget planning to be scheduled for Nov. 9 or 11th
- c) Parishioners who need or may need rides to church (Norm and Anita moving)
- d) Worship Committee met on Friday, 10/14 and will meet again before Advent season.
- e) There is an ongoing need for more people for Altar Guild and Crucifers.
- f) Planning for St. Nicholas Day party (Advent 2, 12/4/22)
- g) Megan would like pictures of church events for online content to be posted.
- h) Outreach checks have been sent per last Vestry Meeting's decisions.
- i) Food drive collecting to buy vegetables for Rescue Mission is underway.
- j) Cake for Confirmations, etc. on Feb. 12, 2023 for Bishop's Visitation.
- k) Urgent need to seal parking lot (Spring, 2023); questioned whether we can tap Memorial Fund (&/or Major Improvements Fund) for this purpose.
- l) Doug Snowball will plow snow again this year for St. Alban's.
- m) Put Stewardship letters on website.
- n) Pledge cards available online; physical card available as well.
- o) Formal In-gathering to take place on Sunday, Oct. 30th.
- p) Investigate the level of restriction on the funds in Memorial and Major Improvement Fund

November Birthdays

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



22 Sue Dirrim
24 Milly Haas
26 Rose Tinder-O'Brien
27 Larry Sanxter
30 Anna Layden
30 Janice Mullins

*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: Alexa, Ellen Anderson, Zach Armstrong, Simon Becker, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Bonne & Dick Camp, Vincent Carboni, Jimmy Clark, Marilyn Crewe, Jane Davidson, Kari Doepke, Jay Fazzaro, Denise Frede, Karl Frick, Marion Frid, Anita Grams, Brook Gresback, Cam Irvine, Aerika Katip, Julie Lieb, Jo McMahan, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Steve Potosky, Canon Henry Randolph, Cindy Spice, Ginger Spice, Jane Spice and family, Mariane Rodriguez, Melissa Surles, Blu Turner.

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

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