



The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 1

January, 2023





Dear People of St. Alban's,

I think it is neither coincidental nor random that the endeavor of having a spiritual life or quest is often put in terms of being on a journey. Whether we are continually aware of it or not, we're all somewhere along the route of a journey from point A to point B—often with many stops and starts along the way. Not to mention the fact that many of us often take some complicated detours as well.

As I think about the readings for the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) and the First Sunday after the Epiphany – the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ (January 8th), I'm reminded that a great many of the characters in these familiar stories are also all on traveling journeys of their own—many of them arduous, uncomfortable, unsettling and dangerous. The Holy Family, the Three Wise Men and Jesus himself as he embarks on his life's work by his fasting, temptation and Baptism are all on their way to a new reality and a changed perspective—things that are not always entirely comfortable, at least in the beginning. Plus, all these people have to deal with setbacks and obstacles, as do we all.

Maybe I'm thinking through the lens and metaphor of travel because I've just returned from what has become the custom of my post-Christmas trip to Texas to see (most of) my family. This started two years ago right after I moved to Fort Wayne, because one of my sisters had just received a breast cancer diagnosis (a situation that, thankfully, has resolved in the best possible way). This "tradition" has continued because this time of year provides the most convenient and efficient way for me to see my two nieces, who are rapidly growing up and getting harder and harder to see!

This year's trip definitely threw me more than my fair share of curve balls. Immediately upon my arrival in Houston, after two days of driving, I was promptly bit (twice!) by the dog I had almost adopted last Christmas! A good friend suggested that maybe my failure to adopt him was Declan's reason for biting me—who knows? Then, a little pain in my right shin that had begun a couple of days before Christmas turned into a fairly serious case of cellulitis requiring two trips to the doctor and some heavy-duty antibiotics. I seriously began to feel like either a bad traveler, a terrible guest or a bit of both! Hey, there was great stuff too: I got a (much needed) new car as well! Life is seldom all black or all white.

As I reflect on my bumpy holiday journey, the trials and tribulations of our Biblical figures during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons, and the various roads that we're all on as we each begin yet another calendar year, I've considered once again the fact that going a journey is always a risk. We never know exactly how things will turn out. Still, Mary and Joseph, the Three Wise Men, and Jesus and His Friends all have each other to turn to when things get rough or really scary. So did I. And so do all of you. God doesn't ask us to do the big stuff alone.

Then again, perhaps the riskiest choice of all is not to take the trip in the first place.

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

Worship Commission

Now we wind down our great annual celebration of the Incarnation. I hope that your Christmas has been warm and wonderful. Most of the world has celebrated with us, even though many have forgotten exactly what it is that we have been celebrating. As the Christmas lights come down and the tinsel gets cleared away, too many people find they have eaten and drunk too much, spent too much, and now it is just cold and gray and January. But for Christians Christmas gives way to the feast of Epiphany! The remembrance that Christ has come to be The Light of the World!

True, it is cold and gray and January for us also, but that Light is in our hearts and it is our mission to spread it by our words and/or actions wherever we go. May we be faithful to that call.

We are pleased to welcome Brenden Kite to our group of Ministry personnel as a crucifer. Additional positions are still available for anyone else who would be interested in filling one of them. Please see Fr. Michael or Elaine Fazzaro.

Elaine Fazzaro

Finance

We do not have final figures at this time to compare income and expenses for the year to our 2022 budget since it is still December with a couple of weeks to go. I will say that based on November month end figures it appears that we will offset our \$27,000 deficit by at least \$10,000. How fortunate that we have a congregation that is so supportive and dedicated! **Thank you** so much for all you give to St. Alban's in so many ways.

Please plan to attend the annual meeting on January 22, 2023 for our year end report.

We are still in Advent season and looking forward to Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas with much joy and love in your life.

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, 2023 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 the office on or before **Thursday, January 12th**. All articles not in at that time will not be in the report. Thank you.



MARK YOU CALENDARS: The **St. Alban's Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch** will take place after the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist on **Sunday, January 22nd, 2023**. Look for sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex soon.

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall – come join us on Wednesdays as we delve into the Book of Exodus! Our Bible Study is always followed by a celebration of the Eucharist. ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The **evening Bible Study and Eucharist** that takes place on **Thursdays** in the Parish Hall **at 6:30 p.m.** has resumed with an ongoing study of the Book of Revelation. All are welcome!

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

Lunch Bunch will be dining at Dos Margaritas, 4230 N Clinton St, on Tuesday, January 10th 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 17th at 7 p.m.

Youth Group will meet Sunday January 8, and 22nd at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Altar Guild will be taking down the greens on Sunday, January 8th after service. If there is anyone that can help, it will be appreciated.

Winter Youth Retreat will be Friday, Jan 27th – Sunday, Jan 29th.

Rescue Mission Team 1 – 4:15 -5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10th.

The deadline for the February issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is **Thursday, January 19th**

January Birthdays

7 Mars Wolford
10 Rob Frede
16 Debbie Grosjean
18 Christine Sanxter
18 George Shamp
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: Alexa, Gil Anderson and family, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Bonnie Camp and family, Vincent Carboni, Peter Crewe and family, Jane Davidson, Kari Doepke, Jay Fazzaro, Denise Frede, Karl Frick, Anita Grams, Brook Gresback, Bauer Hendricks, Cam Irvine, Brian Jankowski, Aerika Katip, Julie Lieb, Jo McMahan, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Jackie Newport, Olivia, Sally Porter, Canon Henry Randolph, Mary Ratliff, Larry Shaw, Ginger Spice, Mariane Rodriguez, Melissa Surles, Blu Turner.

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



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 need to be picked up. They are on the table to the right in the narthex. If you did not receive envelopes, but would like some, please contact the office.

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income for Nov	\$ 7,899.48	Operating income for 2022	\$109,226.18
Operating expense for Nov	10,188.44	Operating expense for 2022	<u>120,956.25</u>
Net loss for November	(\$ 2,288.96)	Net loss for 2022	(\$ 11,730.07)

Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on December 20, 2022

It was noted that:

- a) notes coming on meeting with Chesterton School.
- b) A memorial service for Ellen Anderson at Story Point Fort Wayne North Senior Living on Jan 10th.
- c) Ride sharing project – good response. Will schedule meeting soon.
- d) Brenden Kite starting Crucifer in Jan
- e) Christmas cards to shut-ins sent possibly organizing a food drive for the
- f) Pot luck for Annual Meeting
- g) Cake for farewell for Norm and Anita Grams. Date TBD
- h) Doug Snowball is retiring but his son wanted \$120 hour to snow plow the parking lot. Will take \$95/hour and do sidewalks >2.
- i) will need to get signed contract next year
- j) Still waiting for HVAC from October.
- k) Sealing parking lot needs to be looked at.
- l) New Vestry members Brian and Lori Davis and Gary Pink – membership status?
- m) Fill 1 year for Amanda Fazzaro. Bios need to be sent to Debbie

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