

# *The Cross & the Sword*

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 2

February, 2023



*Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday Service  
February 22, 2023  
7:00 p.m. Service*

“Cross & Sword” Article, February 2023 [the following is an edited re-print of my written report for the 2023 Annual Meeting of the parish]

Dear People of St. Alban’s,

As I survey the St. Alban’s landscape here at the beginning of my third year as your Priest-in-Charge, I see a trajectory that is positive, a sense of hope that is well-founded and a growing faith in the congregation that remains undaunted. We certainly continue to have our work cut out for us as a parish and the past year has had its share of both ups and downs, but the essential and healthy DNA of the community that initially drew me to St. Alban’s remains very much in place and is growing steadily.

When I first started to think about writing this annual report, which serves as both a year-end summation of 2022 and a vision statement of hope for 2023, there immediately came to my mind the following list of five simple but significant words that seem to me to embody where St. Alban’s finds itself at the beginning of the new calendar year. The words are: hope, gratitude, faith, growth and loss. Hovering over all five of these big ideas are the feelings and actions of love. There are both challenges and encouragements to be found in each of these defining notions for our congregation, just as there is when these terms are applied to life in general. Then, too, there is the fact that each of these words is infused with a great amount of the theological weight that grounds our shared religious belief. Faith, Hope and Love are the three “Theological Virtues” most memorably expressed by St. Paul in 1 Cor. 13:

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”  
(1 Cor.13:12-13)

While it is perhaps easy and self-evident to see that these three virtues are the very life blood of our parish and of the wider Church as well, I would submit that gratitude, growth and loss are just as much a part of the organic reality of being a community as anything else. We all experienced—and felt deeply and personally—the succession of losses that in many ways defined the last year of our common life together. And well we should. These beloved people have been part of our lives—most of them for a long, long time. Now they’ve moved into being part of our precious history and the basis for our living heritage going forward. Grief and sadness are appropriate and even proper. Despair and fear, I would suggest, are neither theologically ideal nor able to best provide the living memorial we all wish for these beloved men and women. On a personal note, when I find myself edging toward hopelessness in this area I always come around to re-dedicating myself to a pledge of vitality and hope for St. Alban’s as the best possible monument to those who have died in the Lord under our care and love.

Thankfully, we have also welcomed nine new active members/households into our parish family and will soon be confirming and/or receiving six new people into the congregation and the wider Episcopal Church when Bishop Sparks visits St. Alban's on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I give thanks to God and to these individuals for their having been called into our midst as well as for their trust in all of us to make St. Alban's their spiritual home. We all have a rightful share in the victory of this forward movement for our parish and role to play in keeping the momentum going through our welcoming spirit. Each of us may never know exactly how we make a difference to those who enter our building.



I also want to thank at this time our four departing Vestry members: David Birchfield, Amanda Fazzaro, Marilyn Rafter and Kenny White. You have all done your work with incredible dedication and thoroughness and have been fun to work with to boot. Each of the four of you have been part of my St. Alban's journey from the time before I was even sure there would be one and I thank God every day that the Vestry is the only thing you're retiring from! You are all now entering the pantheon of Senior Advisers to the Congregation and—please God!—to me as well.

I want to end and sum up by sharing that the Diocese has the clergy preparing to engage in a series of webinars to be led by the Rev. Susan Beaumont based on her book “How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going – Leading in a Liminal Season.” Liminality is that (usually very uncomfortable) state that exists between the end of an old paradigm and the beginning of a new and—by definition—not fully known or even understood new reality. Beaumont writes at the beginning of her insightful book: “The Israelites weren't in the wilderness very long before they began grumbling about how nice it had been back in Egypt, where things were at least predictable and stomachs were full. They alternated between begging Moses to go back and demanding to know how quickly they might move forward.” Man, does that ever sound like me sometimes! Beaumont continues: “Why then are we resistant to living in a liminal state? Isn't it clear that God is working on us and with us in liminal seasons? Our resistance stems from the fact that liminality always begins with...an experience of loss. And humankind resists loss. We also resist the unknowing inherent in [the] 'not yet'.”

I'm pretty sure that St. Alban's has been in this “liminal state” since some time before my physical arrival on the scene and that it may continue to be for a while longer. God has called us—and His Church—to be the People of God during some VERY interesting and challenging times. Still, I've never doubted that this community is up to the task and challenge.

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

John Lorenzen

As I reflect back on 2022 I am amazed that it's been 10 years since I first walked through the doors of St. Alban's for the first time. The friendly welcome and the care and support that you showed for each other I have now experienced firsthand. I feel so fortunate that God's plan for me was to be part of this very special - St. Alban's family.

2022 was bittersweet for the St. Alban's family - we lost so many dear members of our church family, more than any year from my memory. My heart goes out to each of those families, as well to all of us in the St. Alban's family as we process these losses and move forward with our new normal, knowing that we will see each other again.

On the hopeful side, we have several new (9) family units that have come to St. Alban's this past year that are now part of our community.

### THANK YOU's

\* I want to thank each of you for your generosity in time, talent and treasure that you so freely give to our St. Alban's family. I am grateful for your spirit of 'helpfulness' and 'caring' ... the way you pitch in and support our family- no matter what the need is.

\* Thanks go to Julie Naunas (Junior Warden) and the Vestry for all of their work this past year. I specifically want to recognize the 4 individuals who are going off Vestry (Amanda Fazzaro, David Birchfield, Kenny White, and Marilyn Rafter) for all of their efforts during their time on Vestry.

\* Thank you Father Michael for the excitement, joy, compassion and support that you exude. Thanks for being our great teacher, for your relatability and humbleness ... and the fun you bring to every occasion.

\* Thank you in advance to each of you in the St. Alban's family for showing your sense of community and support to our new brothers and sisters who will be confirmed/received on 2/12/23.

\* There is a new program that we are starting up 'Need a Ride/Give a Ride' that I am passionate about. It's not really a new program ....

I want to SINCERELY thank Norm and Anita Grams as it takes a program to replace what they have been doing ....obviously we cannot replace you two ..... We love you and will miss you .....

And finally, thank you for your trust in me, and for the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden, it has been an honor and privilege to do so.

### **Remember Our Protectors**

About this time of each year I like to remember all that first responders do to keep us and our families safe. I have many fire department friends (including my son), a young neighbor is a policeman, three neighbors are male and female nurses, an old friend is an EMT member of an ambulance service, my daughter is an emergency room doctor. These, and many more, fall into the first responder category.

It has become a habit to say a quick prayer when I hear any siren. It normally means that the responder is going to care for someone or going into harm's way. Both good reasons to ask for God's help in caring for the responder and whomever the responder is on the way to help.

Aren't we lucky to have people willing to put their lives on the line to make sure that we can come home to our families every day and be able to love and make memories with them.

Thank you, you fearless few, for all you do! We love you, and appreciate your sacrifices, and we ask God's protection for you and those you are rushing to assist.

Blessings,  
George Shamp  
Outreach person

## FELLOWSHIP

Vestry Retreat – February 18, 2022

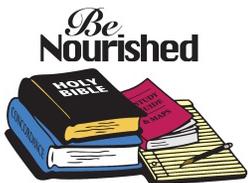


Our new vestry will have its annual retreat Saturday on February 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At this retreat they reflect, discern, organize, and set goals for the coming year. Please keep our vestry members in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Vestry Members as of January 22, 2023**

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| • John Lorenzen  | Senior Warden           |
| • Julie Naunas   | Junior Warden           |
| • Laura Michael  | Fellowship              |
| • Elaine Fazzaro | Worship                 |
| • Gary Pink      | Stewardship             |
| • Cindy Spice    | Financial               |
| • George Shamp   | Outreach                |
| • Lori Davis     | Property                |
| • Ann Vollmar    | Christian Formation     |
| • Jane Spice     | Care Connection         |
| • Megan Spice    | Communications Director |

## **FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES**



**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!



Daughters of the King meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Youth Group will meet Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.



Lunch Bunch will be dining at the Lucky Moose on Dupont Road on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on poster on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Men's Night Out is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on poster on the bulletin board in the narthex.



### WORSHIP

There will be a Eucharist with imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. As has been our custom, **we will have the service of Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. every Friday throughout Lent, beginning on February 24.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Sparks, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, will be making a visitation to St. Alban's on Sunday, February 12, 2023—the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany. One of the most important aspects of the Bishop's time with us is the offering of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

For the next two Wednesdays (2/1/23) and (2/8/23) from 7 - 8:30 pm, Fr. Michael will be leading a two-part class here at St. Alban's for those preparing to be Confirmed or Received when the Bishop visits on 2/12/23. The general theme of these gatherings will be, "What does it mean to be committed to this particular (Episcopalian) expression of the Christian faith?" **Please note: anyone is**

welcome to attend these classes--you do not have to be doing anything "official" when the Bishop visits!

Come One! Come All!

to St. Alban's Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, February 21

Place: St. Alban's Parish Hall



Pancakes, sausage, fruit, and beverages will be served.

Proceeds will go to the General Operating Fund.

**Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board soon.**

**Please sign up and bring your friends!**

## February Birthdays

6 Vicki Irvine  
19 Jacob Fazzaro  
22 Marilyn Rafter



26 Andrew Michael  
27 Andrea Pink

*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, Courtney, 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 and Norm Grams, Brook Gresback, Bauer Hendricks, Bill Hughes family, Cam Irvine, Aerika Katip, Steve Lewandowski, Julie Lieb, Jo McMahan, Daniel Muller, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Canon Henry Randolph,

Mary Ratliff, Ginger Spice, Mariane Rodriguez, Melissa Surles, Blu Turner and Jennifer Voiles.

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

## Vestry Stewardship

### Operating Fund

Operating income for Dec	\$7,295.73	Operating income for 2022	\$112,162.3
Operating expense for Dec	10,688.23	Operating expense for 2022	131,644.48
Operating income for 2022	(\$3,392.50)	Net loss for 2022	(\$15,122.57)

### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on January 17, 2023 It was noted that:

- a) Meeting notes coming for meeting with Chesterton School
- b) Meeting with incoming property manager re: maintenance DOK may assist
- c) Nomination for Vestry adjustment: **Property** – Lori Davis and Brian Davis, **Finance** – Cindy Spice, **Christian Formation** – Ann Vollmar, and **Stewardship** – Gary Pink.
- d) Rides – good response for rides for Rose, Mary Lansford, Pat MacWhorter, Pete Crew may also need a ride. Schedule is coming.
- e) Dove Faith Café' starting podcast – link to website or You tube on Facebook.
- f) Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- g) Doors adjusted to parish hall need attention

The deadline for the March issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is **Thursday, February 23.**

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
Gary Pink	Stewardship
Cindy Spice	Financial
George Shamp	Outreach
Lori Davis	Property
Ann Vollmar	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