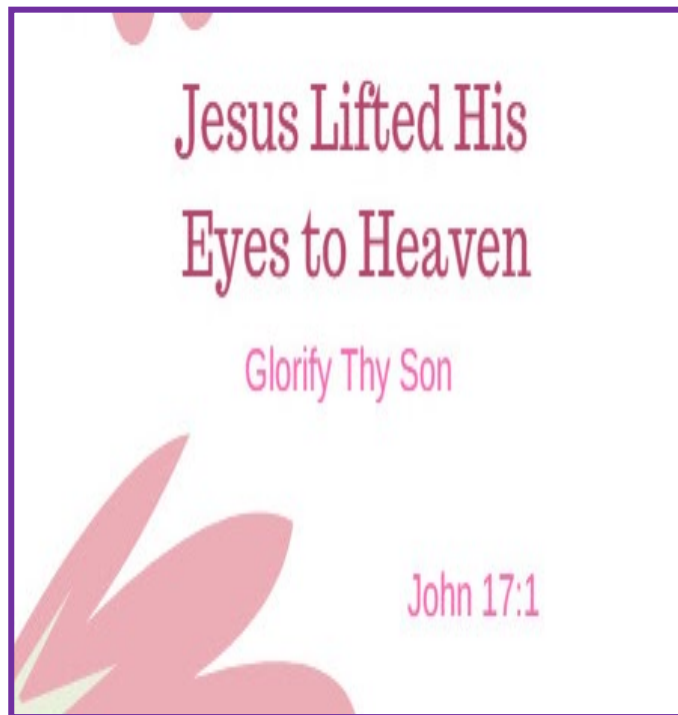


# *The Cross & the Sword*

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 5

May 2023



As I was driving to the church this morning (Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>) in the grey, thirty-nine degree weather, I felt as if I could almost hear the fresh, new green buds on the trees saying, “maybe we came out too early; should we go back from where we came and try again when it’s warmer?!” Transitions are rarely, if ever, achieved in a straightforward, uninterrupted line. The “two steps forward, one step backward” reality of real life is never much fun, but it is the way things most often unfold. The zig-zag (or “dotted line”) nature of progress can also motivate us to lean into our dependence on God and each other as we negotiate the challenges of life and its many changes.

As we continue to move through the Easter Season this year, I have been intentionally considering the meaning of Resurrection in all of its forms and ramifications, including the fact that when we come into a new state of being or understanding, we also die to and let go of one we’ve probably held onto for a long time. I know I’ve said this before, but we human beings don’t do particularly well with change—even positive or good change. We’re just “change-resistant beings.”

St. Paul addresses this life challenge better than almost anyone I can think of when he says: “So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

This year in particular, I find myself considering the young people within and connected to our parish who are ending one phase of life (high school, college or perhaps even a “simple” grade change); or adults who may be retiring or experiencing some of the many other forms of transition that life may show us as we move along its path. It is not usually easy or especially comfortable when we know for sure that one way of being is ending, but we don’t yet know for sure what the new way will look or feel like. What we can remind ourselves and others about is how we’ve come through these challenges before and survived—often even thrived.

I also like to recall the other times in my life when things were uncertain and changing fast and how—sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly—I came to realize that the seemingly random and frightening variables of existence added up and led me to somewhere better. The old affirmation that “God didn’t bring me this far only to drop me on my behind,” can indeed be turned into a prayer of hope and vision and, finally, gratitude.

It is my prayer that if you know someone who is facing a life-transition in this Season of Easter (or any other time, for that matter), you can help them see the Resurrection that is likely being currently obstructed by the anxiety of change.

Finally, it’s worth remembering that this is one of our callings as a congregation as well—one that we’re really good at by nature. This charism of hope is one of our best gifts to ourselves and to the wider world around us.

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

## **Worship Commission**

Happy Easter! Yes, it is still Easter through most of May. Pentecost will be on Memorial Day weekend. We have nearly completed that part of the liturgical year that reenacts the key events of salvation starting with the incarnation at Christmas, through the solemnity of Lent, the high drama of Holy Week, and the glory of the Resurrection. What comes next- the day after Easter is always another Monday morning. The day after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and celebrated as the last of the Egyptian army floated away, they were not immediately in the promised land. Forty years of wandering in the wilderness was the next thing that lay ahead of them. But throughout those forty years God cared for and sustained them. The manna was always there. Each Sunday throughout the year comes to us as a little "Easter", and the Bread that sustains our lives is always there. Thanks be to God!

Elaine Fazzaro, Worship Chair

## **Outreach Partners**

The third, and last, Outreach organization that we share our resources with is the Ft. Wayne Rescue Mission. Through the power of Jesus Christ they provide a home for the homeless, food for the hungry, and hope for the future. They were founded in 1903, and have been accomplishing their mission in our community for all these years.

The two facets of this group that we most often work with are the main campus men's shelter, and Charis House, the woman's support wing of the Rescue Mission.

A group of people, from St. Albans, serve dinner once a month at the Mission. When we started serving, years ago, we thought that we would be blessing those we served, as it turns out, we are the ones being blessed!

The canned vegetable drive, that we had last year, gathered in enough vegetables for slightly over 2,000 servings. (A little over one week's worth.) Thanks again for your generous giving!

We love the relationship that we have with the Mission, and look forward to partnering with them, in their efforts to feed and house those in need, for years to come.

Blessings to all,  
George Shamp Outreach Chairman

The Good Friday donated offering, designated for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem, was \$180.00. Thank you to everyone.



**Happy Mother's day**...Don't forget that Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> is Mother's day. Whether your Mom is still with us or with the Lord, come to church Sunday May 14th to say a special prayer for her. May God bless all Mother's and their most sacred vocation in life!

## Meetings/Activities in May



**The 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study** meets each week at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall **excluding Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**. Fr. Michael will be out of office. Fr. Michael continues to lead a Bible Study on the Book of Isaiah. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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

### **Trivia Night – hosted by the Youth Group**

The youth group are hosting a Trivia Night on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will have light snacks and drinks available. We are requesting individuals to donate desserts in throw away containers



for us to auction off during the evening. The youth would like all money that is raised from those desserts to be sent to the **Madina Village School in Sierra Leone**. The teens talked over several worthy places for this money to go and decided on this one. They really liked the idea that the money would give children in a small village in Africa the opportunity to attend school. Something that they sometimes take for granted. The youth came up with all the categories as well as all the questions. We have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin in the Narthex, please mark that you will be attending and if you are bringing a dessert. You can either come up with your own teams or we can put you into teams once you arrive. The winners will have bragging rights and will get your team picture in our next edition of the Cross & Sword. The teens have really put a lot of time into this event so mark your calendars.

Cindy Spice – Youth Group Leader

Our next service day at the **Fort Wayne Rescue Mission** (located at 404 E. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne) will be on Tuesday, May 9<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!

**Lunch Bunch** – will be dining at Ziffle's Rib Bar, 6340 E. State Blvd, Tuesday, May 9th 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!

### **Spring Clergy Retreat – Father out of office**

Monday, May 8, 2023 12:00 PM - Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:00 PM  
located at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, 9601 Union Road. Plymouth, IN, 46563.



**Daughters of the King** meet at **10:00 a.m.** on Thursday, **May 11**. 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.

Vestry will meet on Tuesday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Next men's night out will on 5/17/23 at Casa Grande, located at 1026 Woodland Plaza Run (off of Dupont)



### Youth Sunday

Our Annual Youth Sunday will be on May 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Every year the youth take over the service on this day by volunteering to read both readings, the prayers of the people, lead the psalm, usher, and they choose all the music that we sing that day and this year Ani Fazzaro will be giving the homily. We have 4 graduating seniors this year, Ani Fazzaro (high school), Sam Naunas (high school), Abbie Gillig (college) and Michael Irvine (college). We will honor all 4 of our seniors during announcements that Sunday along with having a cake during hospitality hour.

Youth Sunday is also the day we ask for donations for our youth camp. We are one of the only churches in our Diocese that help financially support our kids so that they can go to camp. This has made a real difference over the years for so many kids. Camp is a fantastic experience for all involved and a lot of our kids look forward to this week all year long. This year's camp cost is \$500 per camper, with a \$50 discount for any siblings. There will be envelopes available that day to put into the offering plate. Prayerfully consider donating to our camp fund.

Cindy Spice – Youth Leader



Office will be closed on Monday, May 29 to observe Memorial Day. Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, Memorial Day is **a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country.**

The deadline for the June issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is *May 25, 2023.*

Fr. Michael's regular office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and any other time by appointment. Mondays is his regular day off.

# Vestry Stewardship

## Operating Fund

Operating income for March	\$ 9,721.68	Operating income for 2023	\$ 29,002.10
Operating expense for March	11,624.96	Operating expense for 2023	35,460.22
Net loss for March	(\$ 1,903.28)	Net loss for 2023	(\$ 6,458.12)

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At the meeting of the Vestry on April 18, **It was noted that...**

- a) there was a review of Holy Week and Easter
- b) Father Michael applied for a grant that might be able to help fund part of repaving the parking lot
- c) Father Michael will be starting a once a month bible study/mini service being hosted at Story Pointe.
- d) there were discussions potentially time off during the summer
- e) John is looking into contacts to discuss safety around the building
- f) the Diocesan DOK President is giving talks to groups about Advanced Directive
- g) a Youth Trivia Night on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. – going to do a dessert auction and the money will go toward Sierra Leone. See poster.
- h) Youth Sunday is May 21<sup>st</sup> and we have 4 graduates: Michael Irvine, Abbie Gillig, Ana Fazzaro, and Sam Naunas
- i) there will be a cake for our graduates on Youth Sunday.
- j) there were discussions about Youth Camp
- k) Need a sign-up sheet for St. Alban's Sunday on June 18<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.
- l) Lori has quotes for sealing and striping the parking lot from Asphalt Authority. Waiting on quotes for the areas that need repaired.
- m) the Endowment fund has \$29,083.16.

**It was moved that...**

- a) Cindy moved to move \$1,162.17 from the script fund to the Diocesan Camp fund. Was seconded by Elaine and Passed.
- b) Cindy moved to pay \$300 towards each camper that our church is sponsoring from the Diocesan Camp fund. Was seconded by Julie. Passed.



## May Birthdays

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



12 Joan Champ  
17 Stephanie Wolford  
18 Michael Irvine

## 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: Neal Birchfield, Courtney, Jane Davidson, Jared Davis, Jay Fazzaro, Ruth Ford, Karl Frick, Anita and Norm Grams, Brook Gresback, Bill Hughes family, Cam Irvine, Aerika Katip, Dale Kenworthy, Mary Lansford, Eileen Lee, Leslie, Juli Lieb, Jo McMahan, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Mary Ratliff, Steve Robinson, Mariane Rodriguez, Judy Rhoades, Larry Shaw, Thom Snyder, Ginger Spice, Melissa Surles, Blu Turner, Jennifer Voiles, Carroll Yocum and Bill Townsend.

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