



The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

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April 2024



Dear People of St. Alban's,

As we get ready to move from the Season of Lent into the unique and striking services of Holy Week and Easter, I find myself thinking about the power of storytelling and the healing vitality that comes with the intentional remembering of big things. That sense of the recollection of the monumental in our lives, in our faith and in our culture applies to both the positive, joyous moments as well as to the tough and painful ones. We have never been promised only one side of the equation that constitutes the full reality of existence.

In order to *tell* a story—or retain the ability to learn from them—we must be able to *remember* them. As luck (or, better stated theologically, Grace) would have it, remembering is something we church-folk are especially good at by nature! Recalling and putting things back together under God's guidance and direction—and almost always in new and unexpected ways—is one of the defining activities of the Church. This is a good time to remind ourselves that remembering our stories—as well as our true selves—always has two meanings. To remember is to recall a past event into the present moment AND YET it also means to remember (as in to re-assemble) something—or someone—that has become broken or fragmented. In this latter sense, remembering is an act of making a broken thing whole. One of the ways that helps me to understand this second meaning is to recall the fact that the opposite of remembering something is not to forget it, but rather to dis-member it.

We do this symbolically, physically and literally in the Eucharist when the priest (on behalf of the whole congregation) breaks the bread, saying “Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.” And then we re-group and re-assemble the worshipping community by sharing (and consuming) together the consecrated bread which has become the Body of Christ.

Remembering and recalling and putting back together is the work of the Church; as such, we are called to tell the entire story, not just the good/happy parts. When remember only the positive and pleasant aspects of anything, we distort and even deform the whole of it. We need not be afraid of the dark, challenging

or problematic elements in our stories, our faith or our lives; for it is often in these shadow-places that God is most powerfully to be found and experienced.

The Easter Season, and especially the days of Holy Week that lead up to it, has some undeniably shadowy and sad elements. But that doesn't mean we should edit those parts out. They may be some of the most valuable parts of the story and of our lives. What we can celebrate without doubt, is that God is present and active even—maybe especially—when the light in the world is least available and obvious.

It is when we trust in the faithfulness of God that we can become the light that is reborn at Easter and goes on to light the rest of the year and the remainder of our lives. **Happy Easter—He is risen! Alleluia!**

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

OUTREACH

Spring Cleaning

When I think about Easter, and realize the sacrifice that Our Lord made for us, it makes me wonder if my Christian commitment is all that it could be, should be? By this I mean the way I live my life.

Most often the answer, for me, is "not nearly". Sorry Lord! I can do better! I'm prone to be short on patience, to think more often about myself and not as often about others. I rush to do unimportant stuff, and linger when it comes to the

important. I don't tell Joani often enough that I love her, and would be lost without her. And the list goes on and on!

Let's take this time after Easter to consider the areas in our lives that need some shoring up, and start living lives worthy of the sacrifice Our Lord made for us. A "Spring Cleaning" of sorts.

God's Blessings!
George Shamp Outreach Chairman

UPCOMING SERVICES

Monthly Meetings in April

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall – come join us on Wednesdays as we tackle the Book of Isaiah. 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.** are engaged in an ongoing study of the Book of Revelation. All are welcome!

SPECIAL NOTE: these two (Wed. & Thurs.) Bible Studies will be cancelled during the week of 4/4 due to the fact that Fr. Michael will be travelling to Sewanee to visit our Seminarian, Jordan Trendelman, and his wife, Christina Connelly during Easter Week.

Daughters of the King meet at **10:00 a.m.** on Tuesday, **April 11th.** 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.



Daughters of the King Assembly

On Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. the Rose of Sharon chapter of Daughters of the King at St. Alban's will be hosting the Northern Indiana Diocesan Spring Assembly of the Daughters of the King. The theme of this Assembly will be contemplative prayer, and our own Fr. Michael will be speaking on that topic. Small group sessions for Lectio Divina will be featured in the afternoon. Participation in this event is not limited to current members of Daughters of the King. Any woman who is interested in the Order or in the topic is welcome to attend. There is a \$30 registration fee which includes a continental breakfast and a box lunch. For more information you may speak to any of the members of the Daughters of the King.

Elaine Fazzaro, chapter president.



Youth Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday this month at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.



Lunch Bunch will be dining at Dos Margaritas, 4230 N. Clinton Tuesday, April 9th at 12:30 p.m. Please sign the poster located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Carpooling will meet at noon. Any questions please contact Rose T-O'Brien at 574-850-3054. All are welcome!

On Tuesday, 4/9 it will be Team 2's (Kenny White, Gary Michael, Matt Michael, Gary Pink) turn to serve dinner at the **Fort Wayne Rescue Mission** (404 E. Washington Blvd.) from 4:15 to 5:30 pm. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity!

Come and enjoy good food and fellowship on Thursday, April 18th "Spring Lady Night" at the Lucky Moose at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome if you are a lady.

The next **Men's Night Out** will be at 6:30 pm. If you're hungry on the 24th—and you're a guy—come join us!! Location will follow.

Shared by Rose

My Dearest Papa in heaven,
Was your heart breaking
When You lost Jesus on
Good Friday?
David's heart broke when
his son didn't come home
We stay there surveying that
Cross
We stay there feeling Pain
Grief will not hurry
Moving on it stays
Don't forget to leave
the door cracked
Then leave a crack
in your heart
So Dearest Papa has a
Place to enter.

Vestry Stewardship Operating Fund

Operating income for Feb	\$15,967.92	Operating income for 2024	\$31,952.05
Operating expense for Feb	11,228.62	Operating expense for 2024	23,433.74
Net gain for February	\$ 4,739.30	Net gain for 2024	\$ 8,518.31

Vestry Highlights

At the meeting of the Vestry on March 20, 2024, **it was noted that:**

- a) Father Michael will be Visiting Sewanee School of Theology from April 1-4
- b) Discussion around Cyber Security Church Insurance
- c) Preparing for Easter Egg Hunt (buying candy and other supplies).
- d) discussion about Spring Fling Ladies night
- e) Potential volunteer opportunities at Ronald McDonald house
- f) Kenny discussed Prices for the sign out front, to convert sign to LED it would cost \$1,600.
- g) Lawn contract, new mulch, front sign (one ballast is bad, waiting on a quote)
- h) discussion on the Johnny Appleseed grill update
- i) Trees have been removed by Mitchell Tree Company.

it was moved that:

- a) -Kenny presented landscaping proposal - including: two love-a-lot pink hydrangea trees, four pyramid boxwoods, six tater tot arborvitae, creeping phlox, perennials, 9 cubic yards of mulch, and 4 cubic yards of topsoil.
- b) - Kenny moved and seconded by Elaine to use the landscaping proposal to spend up to \$2,000 out of the memorial fund. Passed unanimously.

The deadline for the May Cross & Sword is Thursday, April 25th.

April Birthdays

4 Maggie Cranks
10 Erin Layden



17 Gil Anderson
20 Megan Spice

and Anniversaries

6 Larry and Edie Dearing
19 George & Joan Shamp
23 Norm & Anita Grams
28 Gary & 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 records.*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER ESPECIALLY: Dane Anderson, Buck Brockman, Donna Daniel, Jane Davidson, Jay Fazzaro, Christopher Foreman, Coraline Frede , Karl Frick, Brook Gresback, Paula Hanlin, Tom Henry, George Imhausen, Patty Kerlin, Eileen Lee, Paulette Levandowski, Jo McMahan, Temple Morris, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Mariane Rodriguez, Kay Roy, Christi Spice, Ginger Spice, Chuck Stephany, Melissa Surles, Melissa Townsend, Blu Turner, Jennifer Voiles and Desere Zimmerman.

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

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Eucharist Service: 10:00 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
Kenny White	Property
Megan Spice	Christian Formation
Denise Frede	Care Connection
Robbie Frede	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