

JUNE 20, 2021

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Church of

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*Since 1935, a welcoming, caring Catholic Community of Faith
on E. 29th Street at 32nd Avenue. S. in Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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Office staffed T, W and Th, as we are able.

We continue to offer three masses each week to enable people to attend while maintaining appropriate social distancing. The Sunday 9:30 am mass continues to be live streamed on our Facebook page. We are also offering a Saturday 5:00 pm mass and a Sunday 12:00 pm (noon) mass.

Although state capacity restrictions have been lifted, we must still maintain six feet of physical distancing between groups, which means that our attendance is still limited. The 9:30 mass is the most popular. When your schedule allows, please consider attending one of the other two services.

Attendance at mass is still NOT required. Please make choices that keep you and the community safe.

Fr. Joe and the staff hold you all in our prayers, and ask that you pray for us and for all the essential workers who are striving to keep things running.

We support the quality, faith-based K-8 education at

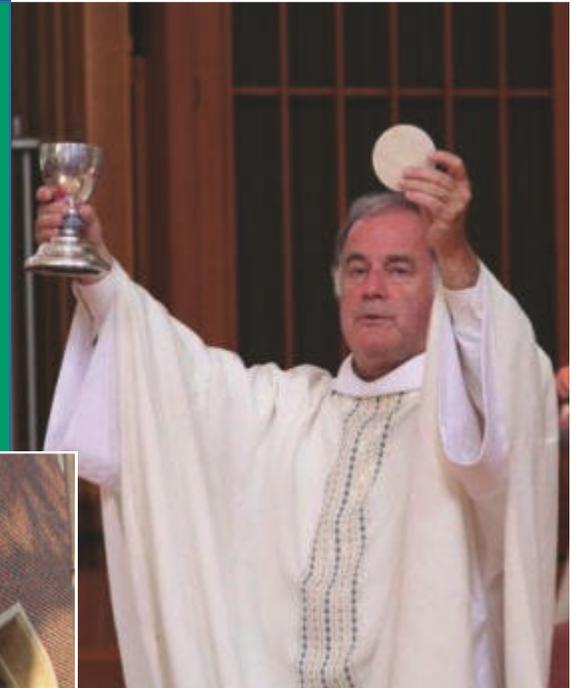
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“Whoever is in
Christ
is a
new creation.”



Say YES to
love and peace.
Amen! Alleluia!



This week at St. Albert's

(masses and intentions are in **BOLD** type)

*During the pandemic, we are offering **three** masses per weekend to help attendees maintain social distancing. Fr. Joe is still celebrating private daily masses for the intentions below.*

Saturday, June 19 –

5:00 pm mass Virginia Rengel †

Sunday, June 20 – **Father's Day**

9:30 am mass – John Roban †

12:00 pm mass – Bill Brown †

Monday, June 21 – **Ted & Donna Willenbring ††**

Tuesday, June 22 – **Felix & Mary Fettig ††**

Thursday, June 24 – **Mark Larson †**

12:00 to 3:00 pm Crafters in the Social Hall

Friday, June 25 – **Sr. Mary Virginia Schmidt VHM**

Saturday, June 26 –

11:00 am memorial mass for John Roban

5:00 pm mass – John Roban †

Sunday, June 27 –

9:30 am mass – Karl Charipar †

10:30 am to noon or later – all are welcome to a Gazebo Garden picnic in back parking lot

12:00 pm mass – Mary Brown †

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

- * **We will continue to offer three Masses** each weekend for as long as the Sunday noon mass remains popular/practical. We also continue to livestream the 9:30 AM liturgy.
- * **The general dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation is being lifted** at the beginning of July. The dispensation remains available to people at high risk of developing serious and for people who care for such individuals. Anyone with symptoms or recent exposure to COVID-19 must still remain at home for the safety of all.
- * **Morning masses in the chapel will resume at 8:15 am beginning Thursday, July 1.** As in the pre-pandemic past, weekday masses will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The East door off the back parking lot will be open for weekday masses, along with the elevator entrance. Generally, a volunteer
- * **Use of the front center church doors will continue to be encouraged for weekend masses, along with the elevator entrance.**
- * **As of July 3, we lift seating restrictions.** Feel free to use the hand sanitizer, which will be available for the foreseeable future.
- * **Masks are no longer required** although of course they are still permitted. If you want a mask, we have disposable ones available.
- * **Go ahead and sing** all the mass acclamations and the Psalm. We're not putting the hymnals out just yet.
- * **Give the Sign of Peace** to those near you in ways others are comfortable.
- * **We will likely continue to have windows open** when practical, just to ensure fresh air. Please do not close or adjust the windows.

Reviving the Funeral Lunch Ministry

Looking ahead to "the new normal," the parish would like to continue offering a funeral lunch when requested. This ministry is a fine way to make new friends and reunite with familiar friends – and enjoy a lunch – while also serving grieving families.

Arlene Mandery will call volunteers when requests for funeral lunches come in. Consider being on her fresh list of people who are interested in making salads or desserts, and/or being on the premises to help set up, serve the lunch, or clean up... or to work the whole event. Who'd be available weekdays? Are there people who could only do Saturdays?

If you're willing to be on the list to be called to help bring back this comforting, welcoming ministry, please call or text the ministry's staff coordinator Janelle at 952-388-8558, or email her at j.heikkila@saintalbertthegreat.org.

Even if you're a log-time Funeral Ministry volunteer, please let us know you want to continue to participate.

In our prayers

We remember those who need healing, including Michael Callaghan, Gert Fettig, Ron Rengel, Frank Bielinski, Joan Ellison, Curt Huovie, Ben Wilkie, Steve Bach, Anne Marie Christiansen, Copper Schadow, and Kira & Baby Girl Walstrom.

Please add a prayer for those who have died, including Sister Mary Virginia Schmidt, VHM, Visitation sister from the North Minneapolis Monastery.

Due to HIPAA privacy standards, hospitals and care centers cannot notify us of your need for our prayers or visits unless you direct them to call.

If you or someone you know would like to be included in our prayers, or have the Sacrament of the Sick, or communion brought to you, please let the office know at 612-724-3643. Messages are checked regularly.

To request that the Eucharist be brought to you at your home, please contact Fr. Joe at 612-245-3345, or Jim Curran at 612-483-1546. Volunteers will mask and safely deliver communion to you.

“Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

We cannot move forward in faith until we have learned to name our fears and deal with them. Naming the most common fears of health issues, money concerns, relationship worries, job pressures, self-esteem perceptions, sleep deprivation or safety issues can easily enhance our ability to focus on a solution, even when surrounded by anxiety. To name, claim and tame one's fears is to initiate a process of self-recovery in a very dysfunctional world.

To exaggerate our fears can easily undermine our ability to envision practical solutions. Toxic worry becomes a disease of the imagination that brings on paralytic behavior and undermines our ability to live, love and hope. Seeking serenity amid the storms of life can only be found in the calming belief that we are not alone in dealing with our fears. Faith over fear will offer us a transforming perspective in the company of one another, even in the face of crisis, disappointment, suffering and death.

The readings for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time introduce us to the calming wisdom of God. In the traditional wisdom literature of ancient Israel, the role of the “sage” offered wise solutions to complicated situations. Traditionally, the author of the Book of Job (38:1-11) wrestles with the mysterious testing of God in the life of Job. Human suffering complicated with the question: “Why do the innocent suffer?” sets the stage for a universal metaphor of trusting in God, even in the absurdity of great suffering.

Maintaining faith in God and remaining faithful despite the unfolding tragedies of life becomes the test of faith and perseverance for Job and all of us. In Paul's second Letter to the Corinthians (5:14-17), he continues to seek solutions to problematic issues in the community through reconciliation and forgiveness. Paul's desire to heal the problems dividing the community prompt him to name, claim and tame the fears of the Corinthians and seek a solution through reconciliation: “*The love of Christ urges us on, so that if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.*” Dismantling the fears of a divided community, family or personal relationship offers hope and peaceful solutions.

Our gospel reading (Mark 4:35-41) offers a dramatic story of Jesus' intervention in calming the fears of his disciples. Having left the crowd behind, Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and were sailing to the other side of the Sea of Galilee when a great windstorm arose and the violent waves began to swamp the boat. Exhausted from his preaching and healing interventions, “Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.” Fearing for their lives, the disciples panicked and woke Jesus saying: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

Amid their fears, the disciples blocked out their faith in the saving power of Jesus. They had been witnesses to many of Jesus' powerful miracles and teachings and had the privilege of his intimate presence in many difficult situations. The unflattering portrait of personal fear and panic only highlighted their human insecurity and uncertainty of faith in recognizing Jesus as the Messiah. The disciples were increasingly alarmed and amazed that Jesus could snooze in the back of the boat during the violence of the storm. “*Jesus woke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea: Peace! Be still.*”

The Synoptic gospels of Mark (4:35-41), Matthew (8:23-27) and Luke (8:22-25) carry this remarkable story of Jesus calming the sea and using the miracle as an opportunity to test the faith of his disciples. Jesus' reaction to his disciples' request to “save them” prompted the response: “*Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?*” Jesus confronted the disciples with their human fears and doubts. Recognizing that every crisis brings with it dangers and opportunities, Jesus offered them one more insight

into his identity as the Messiah.

An underlying theme to this miracle and all miracles performed by Jesus raised the faith question: “*Have you still no faith?*” Without faith the disciples (and us) remain blind to the Messianic identity of Jesus. Even though the disciples were in great awe when Jesus calmed the dangerous waters, they still had their doubts: “*Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?*” The challenge of faith is not to deny the problematic realities that surround us, but to see with the imaginative eyes of faith that allow us to believe in the saving power of Jesus.

In her poem entitled “Just like Job”, Maya Angelou searches for a faith that allows one to “step out on the Word of the Lord.” Paralleling the faith dilemmas of Job and Jesus' disciples, Angelou brackets fear with faith and trust: “Have you forgotten my name? O Lord, come to your Child. O Lord, forget me not. You said to lean on your arm, and I am leaning. You said to trust in your love, and I am trusting. You said to call on your name, and I am calling. I am stepping out on your word, just like Job.”

Whether on land, sea or in the air, the promise of Jesus' presence allows us to persevere in the wind tossed moments of our lives. Hope is generated in our willingness to be people of faith, allowing us the courage not to panic. In the storms of life it is comforting, even when it appears that Jesus is asleep in the boat, to know that we are not alone. Faith diminishes our fears and allows us the wisdom, just like Job, to step out on the Word of the Lord and get a good night's rest.

As I step into the world of dreams each night, I have often recited John O'Donohue's lovely poem, “Before Sleep,” found in his book entitled, *To Bless the Space Between Us*.

“As I lay down to sleep,
may the guardian angel watch over me,
coaxing my cares to unravel into peace.
As darkness is wed to darkness without,
freed from the weight of light, let my eyes sleep,
relieved of all intensities.
Let my imagination trawl the compressed seas
to bless the dawn with generous catch of luminous dream.
May this new light of rest repair the wear of time
and restore youth of heart
for the adventure that awaits tomorrow.”

Peace and rest,

Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.

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