

AUGUST 15, 2021

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

The Church of

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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 and masks are not currently required, we encourage everyone to participate in ways that are safe and appropriate for them. If you wish to maintain physical distancing, the noon mass has the lightest attendance. We are gradually returning elements that have been missing during the pandemic. We recently reinstated congregational singing and ushers and are working towards the return of lectors and servers.

Fr. Joe, Fr. Jude 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.

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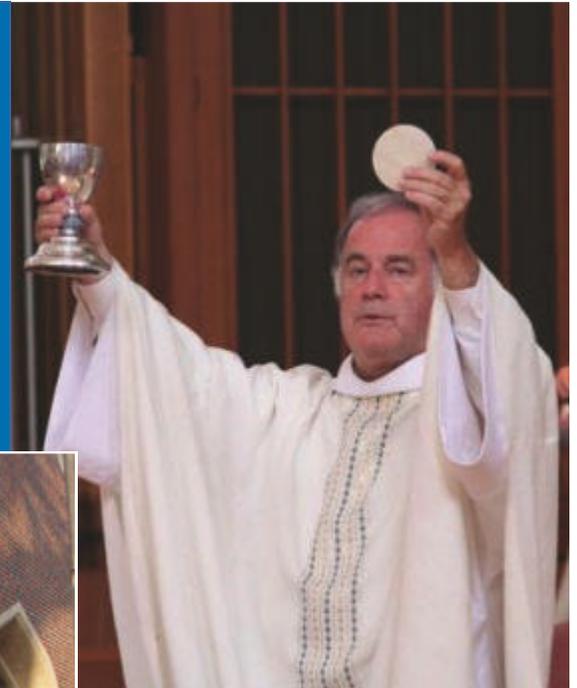
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“My spirit
Rejoices in
God my
Savior”



Say YES to
love and peace.
Amen! Alleluia!



This week at St. Albert's(masses and intentions are in **BOLD** type)**Saturday, August 14**5:00 pm mass **Theresa Anderson †**
Margaret Zigler †**Sunday, August 15**9:30 am mass **Joe Messenbrink †**
12:00 pm mass **For Our Parish Family**
*Second collection at all masses this weekend for
the World Mission Appeal***Monday, August 16**8:15 am **Barbara Schick †****Tuesday, August 17**8:15 am **Bernie Mushinski †****Wednesday, August 18****Thursday, August 19**8:15 am mass – **Muriel Book †**
12:00 to 3:00 pm Potluck lunch, crafting and
conversation in the Social Hall**Friday, August 20**8:15 am mass **John Linsmayer †****Saturday, August 21**5:00 pm mass **For Our Parish Family****Sunday, August 22**9:30 am mass **Ray and Michael Enz ††**
10:30 Treats by the gazebo
12:00 pm mass **John Linsmayer †****In our prayers**

We remember those who need healing, including Michael Callaghan, Marge McInerney, Roger Cole, John Hall, Ben Wilkie, Ron Mandery, Bill Bowen, Dick Martin, Mary Iffert, Jessica Arvold Bainbridge, Joan Ellison, Curt Huovie, Gail Balego, Marianne Green, Harry Duskin, Tim Moore, and Erin Sim.

Please add a prayer for those who have died, including Tom Allenburg and for Lee Bauers, whose funeral will be celebrated this week.

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.

Call Fr. Joe at 612-245-3345 or Jim Curran at 612-483-1546 if you would like the Eucharist brought safely to you at home.

THE NEW NORMAL

- * **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 has been lifted.** The dispensation remains available to people at high risk of developing serious illness 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 have resumed at 8:15 am, with the rosary at 8:00 am.** 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.
- * **Use of the front center church doors continues to be encouraged for weekend masses, along with the elevator entrance.**
- * **There are no seating restrictions.** Please respect the desires of those who wish to maintain some physical separation. Hand sanitizer will be available for the foreseeable future.
- * **Masks are no longer required** although of course they are still encouraged for the unvaccinated and anyone with precarious health. The CDC recommends that all people regardless of vaccination status wear masks indoors in counties with substantial viral transmission, which currently includes Hennepin County. We do have disposable masks available.
- * **We invite you to join us in song.** The hymnals are back in the pews. To sing is to pray TWICE!
- * **Give the Sign of Peace** to those near you in ways others appear comfortable with.

“I am your servant, Lord.”

Would you like deeper involvement in the mass? To understand why Catholics do what we do during the celebration? In September, we'll offer training for the important role of altar server. It's open for 4th graders through adults. (Adults who could be available to serve daytime funerals are especially welcome, and there are a couple of additional tasks for funeral servers.) Give some thought to whether you or your children feel called to help in the liturgy, and watch for the announcement of training dates. If you have questions, contact Janelle or Fr. Joe.

Are you on the “Friday Blast” list?

During the Covid-19 quarantine, the parish began a weekly email on Fridays with attachments of the weekly Bulletin and the weekend's scripture readings. We use it as well for updates on news that may have occurred since the Bulletin's Wednesday printing, as well as poems and other inspirational messages.

We began by using all the email addresses we have on file. If you don't receive “The Blast” and would like to, please email Erin at e.sim@saintalbertthegreat.org. (The Bulletin and Blast will remain Erin's tasks as she steps back to being part-time.)

“Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of wisdom.”

The great thing about getting older is that it requires so little effort. Yes, it is true that I will soon celebrate the 40th anniversary of my 39th birthday, but the most surprising thing about getting older is that I feel so young. When people talk about arriving at a milestone birthday, I believe that every day one is alive is a milestone birthday. As my grandfather was fond of saying, “When rise in the morning and you don’t feel the walls or the lid of your coffin, you know it will be a good day!” Among the many funeral directors that I have worked with over the years, the wisdom of life boils down to: “It is better to be seen than viewed.”

The difficult thing about getting wiser is that it requires so much effort. Wisdom, like age, can and often does come at a price, but the price is worth it. Wisdom does not necessarily come with longevity, but most wise people I have met seem to be up in years. My mother was ninety-eight when she died and had, for the most part, her wits about her right up to the end. Her sense of humor was a delight and her willingness not to hold grudges seemed to keep her young and wise. Both she and my father successfully escaped the Irish Alzheimer’s disease: “Forgetting everything but the grudges.” My father died when he was seventy-seven years old and remained a steadfast optimist and a loyal Twins fan until the day he died. I have lasting memories of him sitting in our family kitchen, drinking a Grain Belt Premium, and smoking an Old Gold cigarette while listening to the Minneapolis Millers on the radio. Even after the Millers morphed into the Twins and were televised, he preferred the kitchen radio broadcasts and the imaginative process of “seeing the action.” It did not seem to matter whether the team won or lost, he just loved the game of baseball. Not a bad metaphor for life.

I have always admired people who could accept victory as well as defeat. They seemed so realistic and wise. Perhaps occasional defeat is really the basis for gaining real wisdom and the secret of life. Not long ago I was leaving a Twins game after a significant defeat and was standing behind an older woman who was whistling the tune, “We’re gonna win Twins, we’re gonna win.” I asked her if she believed that the Twins could win a game and she simply said to me: “We must live in hope.” We win and lose in life and, as we grow older, who better than older people would know this reality of winning and losing as normal? Unfortunately, age and wisdom don’t always fit hand in glove so easily.

I recently stopped by one of the local parks to watch a little league baseball game and, of course, to finish eating my Dairy Queen ice cream cone (baby size, only). I felt badly for the players when their coach yelled at them for missing fly balls or when they struck out. At one point he called them, “A bunch of losers and not worth coaching.” Even though the coach was “older” and suffered from “Dunlap Disease” (this is when the belly done lap over the belt), his coaching skills seemed to lack not only wisdom but compassion as well. Wisdom can be elusive and just plain absent in some adults. Win or lose, all of us are invited to keep on living, picking ourselves up with the help of friends and family and, with the grace of God, learning from our mistakes.

In our first reading for this Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, God is presented as Lady Wisdom. This anthropomorphic literary device was a helpful way of humanizing the intervention of God into our world. The prudent Lady Wisdom would be pitted against the impudent Lady Folly (Could we say Lady Gaga?) and all we mere mortals need to do is to choose the right Lady as our guide. Lady Wisdom calls to us and says: “Come, come and eat of my bread and drink of the wine that I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” (Proverbs 9:1-6) The invitation to wisdom is found in listen-

ing to God and in recognizing that we have the freedom to choose whether we will live or die. Based upon a willingness to put aside our immaturity and self-indulgent behaviors, we have the power to dine with Lady Wisdom and “eat and drink of the wine” she offers. Without too much of a theological stretch, we can see this “dining experience” as a foretaste of the Eucharist and the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise when he said: “*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.*” (John 6:51-58)

Nestled between the Book of Psalms and the Book of Ecclesiastes, the Book of Proverbs finds its home in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Book is filled with “wisdom thinking” and offers practical invitations to right (prudent) living. In trying to avoid magical thinking, The Book of Proverbs invites the reader into genuine discernment in pursuit of Lady Wisdom. Predicated upon the assumption that God (Jesus) would take away our sins and not our brains, human beings are given the freedom of choice to move from temptation to transformation, from folly to wisdom, from sinfulness to conversion without compromising their rationality.

Searching for wisdom (Lady Wisdom/Jesus) does require a divestment of alluring entrapments promising quick fixes for complex problems. In many ways the contemporary Serenity Prayer of Alcoholics Anonymous has become a standard bearer for millions of individuals seeking the wisdom of making right choices. Learning to accept what one cannot change and discovering the power to change what one can does require the wisdom to know the difference. Removing the insidious factor of “denial” from the equation, human beings can relinquish Lady Folly from their dance cards and pursue Lady Wisdom. Having recently seen the 1937 movie, “Shall We Dance,” on Turner’s classics I would gladly include Ginger Rogers on my dance card. Ginger Rogers and her dance partner Fred Astaire remain the most famous dancing partners in movie history. When asked how it was to dance with Fred she replied: “It’s very simple. I do everything that Fred does, but I get to do it in high heels and backwards!” With Lady Wisdom, I would include Ginger Rogers and, of course, Tina Turner, on my dance card. I have room for one more on my card. Any takers?

In the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (5:15-20), Paul exhorts his congregation to rise above “stinking thinking.” Putting aside unwise behavior, Paul invites his brothers and sisters, “*To be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making most of the time, because the days are evil. Do not be foolish and get drunk from wine, for that is debauchery. Rather, be filled with the Spirit singing and making music to the Lord in your hearts.*” Searching out ways to live in community requires wise choices by individuals who are not willing to live in denial and/or be overwhelmed by foolishness. Putting aside immaturity and living in the way of insight is to achieve the wisdom of serenity.

It is interesting to note that all of us are getting older as we gather in community for Eucharist. It is my assumption that we are also getting wiser in our pursuit of understanding of Jesus as the bread of life that has come down from heaven. Opening our imaginations and hearts to receive the wisdom of God must become a lifetime pursuit, regardless of age. To come to the Eucharist is to accept Lady Wisdom’s advice: “Come and eat of my bread and drink of the wine that I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live and walk in the way of insight.”

I am hoping, of course, that the Eucharist would not exclude a piece of birthday cake now and then.

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