

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Church of

ST. ALBERT *the* GREAT

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on E. 29th Street at 32nd Avenue. S. in Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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Minneapolis MN 55406

612-724-3643

FAX 612-722-9726

Email: info@saintalbertthegreat.org

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.

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

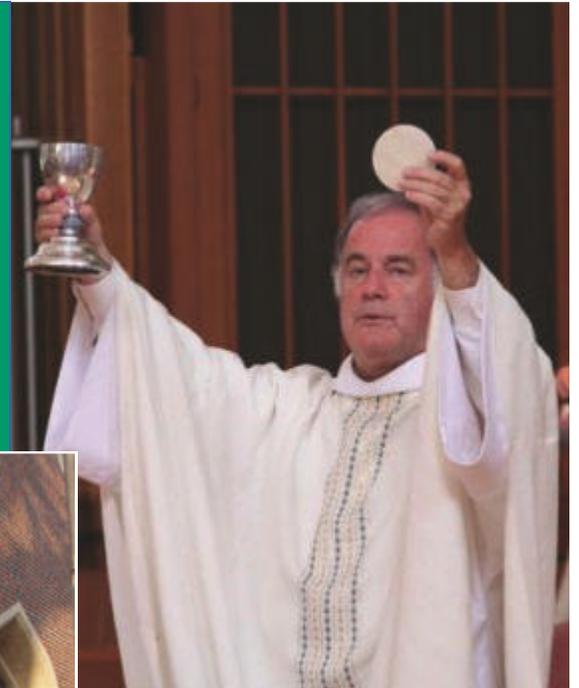
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The kingdom of God
is all-embracing.
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an infinite variety of
people.

Elizabeth Nagel



Say YES to
love and peace.
Amen! Alleluia!



www.saintalbertthegreat.org

This week at St. Albert's

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

Saturday, September 25

5:00 pm mass **Jospeh Schmitt**

Sunday, September 26

9:30 am mass **Dick Martin †**

10:30 am Treats in front of church

11:00 am Synod discussion groups meet in the Social Hall

12:00 pm mass **Ed O'Hara †**

Monday, September 27

8:15 am **James Otto †**

Tuesday, September 28

8:15 am **Safety of school children, teachers & school staff**

9:30 am Staff meeting

Wednesday, September 29

Thursday, September 30

8:15 am mass – **For refugees**

12:00 to 3:00 pm Potluck lunch, crafting and conversation in the Social Hall

Friday, October 1

8:15 am mass **For all who have no one to pray for them**

7:30 pm Three Catholic Poets reading (church)

Saturday, October 2

5:00 pm mass **For the parish women on retreat this weekend**

Sunday, October 3

9:30 am mass **Nancy Bielinski †**

12:00 pm mass **For our Parish Family**

3:00 pm Animal Blessing in front of church

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, and the hymn numbers are posted on the boards up near the organ. To sing is to pray TWICE!
- * **Give the Sign of Peace** to those near you in ways others appear comfortable with.

In our prayers

We remember those who need healing, including Michael Callaghan, Ben Wilkie, Joan Ellison, Jo and Dennis Neal, Ann-Marie Christiansen, and Mary Gustafson.

Please add a prayer for those who have died, including Ed O'Hara, and for the hundreds of thousands around the world who are victims of natural and man-made disasters.

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.

Financial Support

Week of September 19, 2021

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| Weekly & Feast Day Stewardship envelopes | \$4,124 |
| Loose cash | 335 |
| Legacy envelopes | 105 |
| Risen Christ envelopes | 20 |
| "We Care" Outreach Ministry envelopes | 100 |
| Donation to Hospitality/ Prayer Shawl Ministry | 30 |
| Memorials | 50 |
| Donation to Roast Beef Dinner | 1,000 |
| Donation to church projects | 500 |

Thanks for your many forms of support!

Visit the home page of our website for a giving form where you can make one-time or recurring donations.

www.saintalbertthegreat.org

“One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go.”

The newly ordained priest was interviewing a woman in her late eighties who had come to talk about getting married. A bit surprised by her request, he asked her if this was her first marriage. She said, “No, Father, this would be my fourth marriage. My three previous husbands have died.” Still puzzled by her request, but thankful that there would be no need of an annulment, he asked about the circumstance of the previous marriages. She described in detail that her first husband was a banker, the second was an entertainer, the third was a physician and that her current fiancé was a funeral director.” Sensing the young priest’s confusion, she said, “I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and now four to go!”

Jesus’ teachings regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage are found in all the synoptic gospels. Today’s reading is taken from the gospel of Mark, which predates both Matthew and Luke’s versions of Jesus’ teaching on this matter and sets a high moral bar for the community. In all three gospel accounts, the Pharisees tested Jesus’ knowledge of the Law: “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” Jesus answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” Jesus understood their invitation to entrapment but did not hesitate to uphold the sanctity of the covenant between two individuals and, quoting from the book of Genesis, responded, “Because of your hardness of heart, Moses wrote this commandment for you. But from the very beginning, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Pastorally speaking, a big problem was developing within the early Christian communities as many relationships among committed couples fractured under the stress of ordinary life. Remarriage became anathema, excluding individuals from participating within the Christian communities. At the center of the controversy was the sacredness of the bond of marriage. Pastoral expediency created a parallel code of canon law that acknowledged the reality of divorce in civil law but searched for compassionate forms of assessment of the “sacredness of the bond” between two individuals. The process of annulment in canon law provides for several circumstances in which the sanctity of the bond can be challenged and the relationship of the couple can be declared null. This declaration of nullity provides the avenue by which individuals might enter a second marriage and remain “in good standing” within the Christian community. The painfulness of a divorce is devastating enough, but the economic, psychological and spiritual heartbreak can be crippling. The application for an annulment can be equally as painful when a review of the broken covenant is evaluated, and testimony is taken to “prove” the inadequacy of a relationship that started “in love.” However, many annulments have provided invaluable insights into personal levels of immaturity as well as the freedom to make informed and mature choices in second marriages.

Last weekend I witnessed two marriages in church, a venue which unfortunately only takes place for twenty eight percent of all Catholic marriages. I had the privilege of working with both couples, helping them to examine the pro-

cess surrounding their choices and looking for “red flags” that might be a sign of trouble to come. Given the current fact that forty-one percent of marriages in the United States end up in divorce or separation, the current divorce rate for American Catholics is almost thirty percent for first marriages. The pageantry of the wedding, the enormous economic investment involved and the gigantic expectations of the couples have a way of masking the fact their relationship might not work out. The degree of respect, the need for negotiation, honest communication, shared values and, most especially, a common belief that there is a God who loves them, continue to be critical factors in sustaining relationships.

In a touching conclusion to a very difficult passage about divorce, Jesus welcomed parents who brought their little children so that He might bless them. Scolding his own disciples who were interfering in the process, Jesus said, “*Let the little children come to me; do not stop them: for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.*” Children of unions blessed by God who find their way into the kingdom provide a level of innocence that reflects our dependence on God’s grace. Perhaps all of us, whether standing at an altar or simply enjoying the gift of friendship and love in committed relationships, will need to lean on Jesus’ invitation to be embraced in our most loving or sorrowful moments. There is great consolation, even when relationships don’t work out, to know that Jesus will still take us in His arms, lay His hands upon us, and bless us. Indeed, what God has blessed, let no one separate. What a wonderful image to possess.

Discovering “second chances” comes about in our willingness to love again even amid brokenness, to forgive our enemies and to forge relationships with a need for God at the center. In so many ways, we need to take the plunge into life once again, despite broken relationships resulting from misunderstandings, death or divorce. Are you ready? It’s one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go! No moaning and groaning, just do it!

*Peace,
Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.*

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