

OCTOBER 24, 2021

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Church of

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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

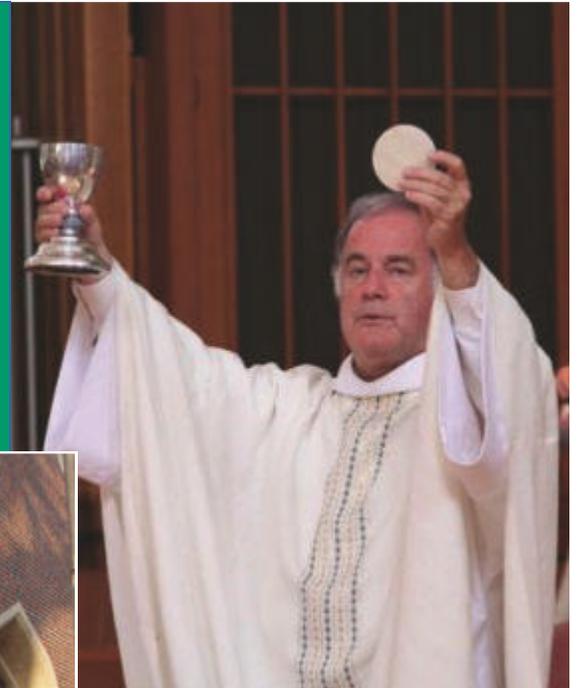
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Are you prepared
to be surprised
by the healing grace
of God?



Say YES to
love and peace.
Amen! Alleluia!



This week at St. Albert's

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

Saturday, October 23

5:00 pm mass **Chuck Baker † Clayton Miller †**

Sunday, October 24

9:30 am mass **Ray Enz † Michael Enz †**

11:00 am to 1 pm Synod groups #5

12:00 pm mass **Our Parish Family**

Monday, October 25

8:15 am **Healing for Barbara James**

Tuesday, October 26

8:15 am **Theresa Anderson †**

9:30 am Staff meeting

Wednesday, October 27

Thursday, October 28

8:15 am **Fr. Jude McPeak**

12:00 to 2:30 pm Potluck lunch, crafting and conversation in the Social Hall

Friday, October 29

8:15 am mass **Healing for Tim Moore**

Saturday, October 30

5:00 pm mass **Anne Rompa**

Clem and Margaret Ziegler ††

Sunday, October 31

9:30 am mass **Victims of Covid-19**

10:30 am Treats in the Social Hall

11:00 to 1 Synod groups #6

12:00 pm mass **Our Parish Family**

In our prayers

We remember those who need healing, including Michael Callaghan, Judy Trenka, Joan Ellison, Jo and Dennis Neal, Nancy and Greg Mullen, John Hogan, Jason Higgins, Ronnie Block, Alyssa Raiola, Bev Vasseur and Mary Gustafson.

Please add a prayer for those who have died, including victims of gun and domestic violence, and for the hundreds of thousands around the world affected by 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.

Would you like someone included in our prayers, or have the Sacrament of the Sick, or communion brought to them? 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.

- * **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 is available. The Sunday 12 noon mass offers the most spaced seating.
- ★ **Masks are strongly encouraged** for all people over the age of two. The CDC recommends that all people wear masks indoors in areas with high transmission rates of covid-19. Currently Hennepin County significantly exceeds the threshold for high transmission. Masks should cover both nose and mouth. We have disposable and cloth masks available near the entrance to the church.
- * **We invite you to join us in song.** The hymnals are in the pews.
- * **Give the Sign of Peace** to those near you in ways others appear comfortable with.

Financial Support

Week of October 17, 2021

Weekly & Feast Day Stewardship envelopes	\$4,024
Loose cash	470
Legacy envelopes	233
Risen Christ School envelopes	10
"We Care" Outreach Ministry envelopes	108
Donation to Hospitality/ Prayer Shawl Ministry	30
Beef Dinner donations	150
Donation to St. Albert's Feast fund	200
Donation to Faith formation	120

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

“Be careful what you ask for.”

Believing in miracles is risky business, especially if there is no physical evidence of them occurring. Comedian Woody Allen once reported: “I have been in psychoanalysis for seventeen years. I am giving it one more year and then I am going to Lourdes.” Having been to Lourdes (and Fatima, too), I was most impressed with the number of abandoned crutches, canes and wheelchairs left behind by miracle seekers who seemed to have gotten what they asked for. While I never witnessed anyone being healed in the holy waters of Lourdes, I have every reason to believe that thousands of individuals found peace and hope in the acceptance of their conditions (physical, spiritual, or mental). Whether “the cure” was exactly what they expected remains a matter of faith and gratitude.

Believing that miracles are possible can be the impetus for wanting to believe in God, but they do not constitute the basis for real faith in God. Faith in God must beget a sense of well-being and fidelity, with or without the razzle dazzle of miracles. Jesus would struggle with this demand for miracles as proof that he was sent from God. In the classic case of one of his own disciples, Thomas, Jesus asked him: “Do you believe that I have resurrected from the dead because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” (John 20:1929).

Struggling through the amazingly complicated experience of life, all of us must surrender the magical wish that everything will work out perfectly for us and we will live happily ever after. Historical evidence of the opposite experience can easily give rise to doubting the presence of God. There is no way of denying the Holocaust, unexplained illness, refugees in search of safety, the randomness of violence or the odd conclusion that it always seems to rain on our parades. Faith in God is a transformative gift that offers our imaginations the power to hope, even during the unimaginable tragedies. In a very powerful scene in Elie Wiesel’s novel NIGHT, a concentration camp prisoner witnessing the arbitrary hanging of Jews cries out: “Where is God?” Another prisoner responds: “There He is hanging from the gallows.” Faith allows us to find an empathetic God amid life and in the face of death. Discovering the gift of faith demands that we ask for it during “paying our dues” and, like Job, patiently wait for the revelation of God’s hidden presence. Not unlike cranky people who keep demanding that God allow them to win the lottery, all of us must be open to God’s advice: “You must first be willing to risk buying a ticket!” But be careful what you ask for. It could radically change your life!

The gospel reading for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mark 10:46-52, offers a question that is still remembered after 2,000 years: “What do you want me to do for you?” We enter the dramatic story as Jesus was leaving Jericho and heading back to Jerusalem. As Jesus and his disciples were leaving the city, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, Bartimaeus started to shout: “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” Because of his persistence, Jesus asked that Bartimaeus be brought to him. When Jesus asked him “What do you want me to do for

you?” Bartimaeus said: “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said: “Go, for your faith has made you well.” Mark’s gospel recounts that Bartimaeus immediately regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way. Could it be this simple, just asking for what you need, and it will be given to you? Perhaps the real question might be, “Do you really know what you need, and would you be willing to risk asking Jesus for it?”

Finding parallel accounts of the miracle located in the gospel of Mark (10:46-52), both Matthew (20:29-34) and Luke (10:35-43) offer similar stories about blind individuals who responded to Jesus’ question: “What do you want me to do for you?” by responding: “Lord, let me receive my sight.” Amazed at having their “wishes granted”, the individuals followed Jesus, “glorifying God.” In Mark’s account, the healing of Bartimaeus is complemented by another story of the healing of a blind man at the pool of Bethesda (Mark 8:22-36). While Jesus was “hands on” in the healing of the blind man by the pool (“When Jesus spit on the man’s eyes and laid his hands upon him, the blind man’s sight was restored and he saw everything clearly”), both miracles became teaching stories for Jesus’ disciples and for us. To understand the messianic reality of Jesus’ mission, the disciples had to be cured of their own blindness, that is, a lack of faith.

“Blind faith” demands a willingness to see the light of God’s grace, even amid the darkest hours of our lives. The contrast between light and darkness would become one of Jesus’ more compelling metaphors. As we search for and remain receptive to the light of faith, we are invited to see God’s presence amid darkness. Indeed, such a faith will get us through “the dark night of the soul” and will open our hearts to enlightenment. Are you prepared to be surprised by the healing grace of God? Jesus, who was surrounded by inept disciples, would patiently “do the miracles” to illustrate his messianic identity. The real crux of faith, however, is to believe without having to see the miracles. The surprise of God’s healing grace does provide a kind of “shock and awe” invitation to discipleship; however, the real cost of discipleship occurs in a willingness to blindly follow in the footsteps of the cross of Jesus. Becoming a disciple of Jesus requires a free choice, even when one is afraid and uncertain. Discipleship is not an invitation to blindly “drink the Kool-Aid” of some fanatical cult leader, but an act of faith in the promises of Jesus.

Jesus came to take away our sins, not our brains. Thinking through the most fundamental questions posed by Jesus will, eventually, require a thoughtful answer. Throwing caution to the wind, my advice is to ask for what you wish for! My experience tells me, you will be surprised by the answer for the rest of your life.

Peace, Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.

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