



THE GREAT GAZETTE

Faith Formation 2021



ST ALBERT THE GREAT CATHOLIC PARISH



RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION



YOUTH
SACRAMENTS



SAYM YOUTH
MINISTRY



ADULT FAITH
FORMATION



LENT /
EASTER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

VISION

Encounter Jesus, Be His Love

MISSION

Partnering with parents and families, we strive to surround our young people with the all-encompassing love of Jesus as they grow as missionary disciples and be His love in the world



This year, our Sunday Religious Education program offered families three options to choose from based on their comfort level during the global pandemic.

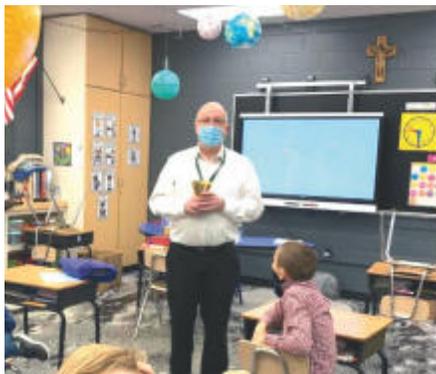
Traditional Religious Education—In Person

Many students attended classes on Sunday mornings, with extra precautions taken by limiting class sizes, requiring masks, and social distancing. Many sessions were held outside whenever possible. We also implemented a new curriculum for grades 1-5 this year through St. Mary's Press which includes many interactive activities and gives the children experience navigating through Scripture.

Pictured Top Left: Third grade Sunday RE classes practiced Franciscan spirituality by spending time in nature and meditating on the Canticle of the Sun. They also engaged in a Resurrection Easter egg hunt to retell the story of Easter

Pictured Left: Deacon Dick visited our in-person second grade last class to talk about forgiveness

Pictured Bottom of page: First grade in-person class created a "Grateful Chain" all year of all the blessings God has given us, even during a pandemic



Traditional Religious Education—On Line

Families not comfortable with in-person learning choose our online format. The same materials were used and complemented with Catechist led Zoom sessions.

Pictured Left Below: Our final 4th grade online Zoom session of the year



Family Catechesis

Our third option offered this year was Family Catechesis. Seven families chose to spend the year working through the Bible Timeline series by Ascension Press at home, as a family unit. The families then gathered once a month, both in person and via Zoom, to discuss various ways to celebrate the liturgical year and to spend some time in fellowship with each other.

Pictured Left Below: Families from the Family Catechesis group gathered for ice cream and fellowship





St. Albert School students are immersed in faith formation experiences throughout the year, including daily religion classes and prayer, weekly school Masses, regular service projects, and various liturgical celebrations.

School Masses

All of our students participate in our All School Masses, Wednesday mornings, at 8:30am during the school year. Students participate as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, and musicians. All are invited to celebrate with the students and school staff!

Pictured Left: A fourth grade student lecturing at Mass



Liturgical Prayer Services

Throughout the liturgical year, the students participate in and plan various prayer services. This past year, the 8th graders planned a shortened version of the Easter Vigil for all the students to experience this beautiful celebration. One of the favorite prayer services is the May Crowning where students create their own crown for Mary and two of the 8th graders honor Mary with the crown.

Pictured Left: A student processes in with the Paschal Candle during the mini-Easter Vigil celebration and two of our 8th graders crown Mary



Making Bread

The King Arthur Bread Project has been a favorite service project for a long time. Students prepare and bake two loaves of bread: one to keep and one to donate to St. Vincent de Paul Society. Over 100 loaves of bread were donated this year.

Pictured Below Left: Students displaying their freshly baked bread



Re-enacting Holy Week

Since the pinnacle of our Catholic faith lies in the events we celebrate during Holy Week, our school children prepare their hearts intensely every Lent. In addition to regular Stations of the Cross, many of our students re-enacted the events of the Holy Triduum this year to more fully experience the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Pictured Below Left: Our Kindergarteners ponder the death of Jesus on the cross

Pictured Below: 8th graders act out the Last Supper



SACRAMENTS



Congratulations to all the families who celebrated Sacraments during this unique year and demonstrated patience with our adaptations.

Pictured Above: Confirmation 2021 and First Communion 2021

Confirmation and Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation was held at two different Mass times on January 30 to provide adequate social distancing for family and visitors. This year, 53 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Our Confirmation Candidates participated in a day-long retreat, led by the Net Ministries team, to prepare their hearts for Confirmation. Candidates participated in morning Mass, games, small groups, talks, and spent quiet time in Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction.

Pictured ALL Left: Confirmation Candidates during the Confirmation Retreat



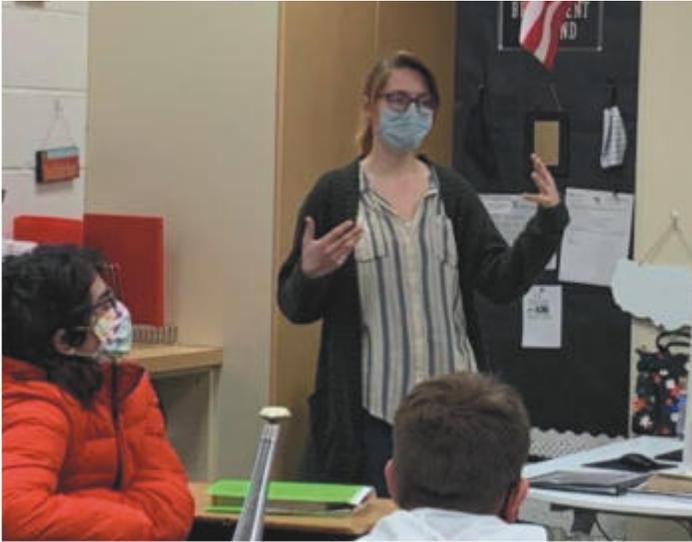
First Communion and the Bread of Life Retreat

All 34 of our First Communicants received their First Holy Eucharist together on May 2. In preparation, families chose one of two Bread of Life Retreats where they attended Mass together, learned about the vestments and vessels used at Mass, went on a scavenger hunt, learned how to be rooted to the vine of Jesus and to grow as disciples of Jesus, and received a special rosary honoring former St. Albert teacher Carol Ostendorf and a special blessing from Fr. Chris.

Pictured ALL Bottom: First Communion Bread of Life Retreats



YOUTH MINISTRY



Pictured Above

Jess de Groot, the SAYM Coordinator, stopped by an 8th RE class to invite them to youth group now that they have been confirmed.

Building Community

The girls of SAYM celebrated sisterhood through our "Galentine's Day" party, where they took part in yoga, crafts, baking, and zumba. The guys of SAYM had a "Gaming for a Cause" lock in where they spent an evening playing board games and video games. Each participant also brought a donation item for the Gateway Men's homeless shelter.

Pictured Top Above: Galenstine's Day group photo, and doing yoga

Deepening Faith

Our youth have gathered in a number of different ways to learn about their faith, including Deep Dive and gendered Small groups. These opportunities gave youth a chance to learn in a group setting. We covered topics such as types of prayer, Lent, and the triduum masses. We also met for a weekly bible study on Wednesdays to study the readings for the upcoming Sunday mass.

Pictured Above Left: Students and families watching The Chosen via Zoom

Pictured Left: Deep Dive Youth Night where they learned about the triduum masses



Serving Dayton

This spring SAYM dedicated a weekend to serving our wider Dayton community. We collected funds after mass for the Elizabeth New Life Center, raising over \$900!

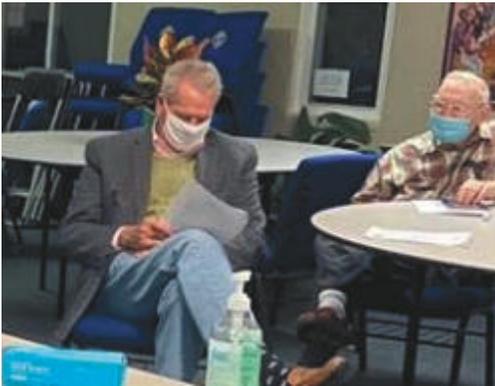
Pictured Left: Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser, raising over \$900 in one weekend to benefit the Elizabeth New Life Center



A note from Jess

My time at St. Albert has come to a bittersweet end. As of July 30th, I will resign my post as Youth Minister to pursue full time graduate school at UD. It has been a great joy to serve each of you & your families.

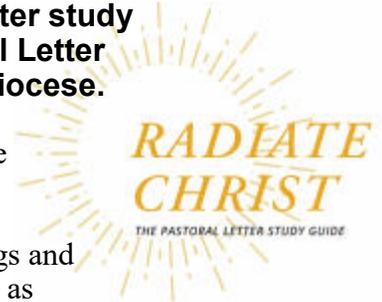
ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Radiate Christ, a Lenten/Post Easter study on Archbishop Schnurr's Pastoral Letter for the 200th anniversary of our diocese.

In preparation for the bicentennial of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, we held a six week study on the Lenten Letter. Reflections were made on our beginnings and how we will move forward in the future as missionary disciples. In-person and Zoom options were available.

Pictured Above and the Left: Radiate Christ study met in the Spirit Center



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross was held every other Friday verses every Friday, along with many other changes due to the pandemic. Thank You to Deacon Dave Zink and all who participated in the preparations of the Stations of the Cross.

We also had an on-line option of *Mary's Way of the Cross*.

Pictured Left: Deacon Dave Zink kneeling at one of the Stations and Therese Frick reading the narrations during the Stations

Exposition and Benediction

One of the Friday's after Stations of the Cross, Deacon Dick Strominger did a Exposition with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Deacon Dave Zink was there to serve.

Thank you to both Deacons for making this possible.

Pictured Above: Deacon Dick Strominger and Deacon Dave Zink



CRS Rice Bowls

This year we had a parish wide opportunity to participate through our cardboard rice bowls and alms. There were two regional virtual Potlucks and other ways to connect with others in our region, nationally, and around the world. Our new CRS chapter works with CRS staff and members of Congress to advocate for those in need locally and globally.

LENT AND EASTER WORSHIP



Holy Week

Holy Week started off with Palm Sunday, listening to the readings, holding onto our palms. On Holy Thursday, we held The Mass of the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday, at the Noon Celebration, Fr. Chris did the "Crucifix Walk" walking around the neighborhood behind St. Albert the Great.

Pictured Above: Palm Sunday with Fr. Chris and Deacon Dick Strominger

Pictured Above: Easter Vigil with Fr. Chris, Deacon Dave Zink and Deacon Dick Strominger

Pictured Below: Good Friday and the Crucifix Walk

Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday

The Easter Vigil started inside this year. However, the Easter fire was still out front, and used to light the Easter candles. We were prepared for social distancing by having the Parish Center set up for overflow seating with the Mass being Live Streamed on a large screen.

Thank you to Knights of Columbus for offering containers of Holy Water to us, with the water that was blessed during the vigil.

Pictured Below: The Gym set up for overflow seating; the beautiful altar



SERVICE & RECOGNITION

Service Project: CRS Rice Bowl



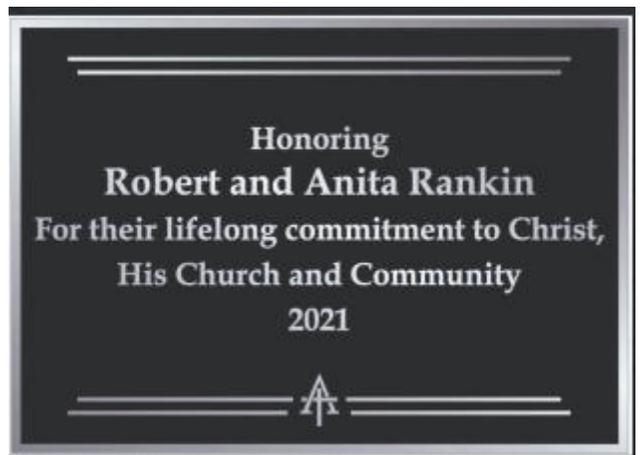
Some contributions of the CRS Rice Bowl project. These monies will go towards assisting our neighbors here and throughout the world.

Service Project: Lions Recycle



Over 100 pairs of eye glasses and containers were donated to the Lions Club International. They recycle eye glasses to give to the needy.

Recognition: Robert and Anita Rankin



A beautiful crimson maple has been planted on our St. Albert campus honoring Robert & Anita Rankin (gifted by their family). Fr. Pat gave a beautiful blessing followed by a toast in thanksgiving. Thank you Robert & Anita for your support and commitment to St. Albert the Great Parish!

Totus Tuus, Vacation Bible School

August 1
thru
August 6



Register & more info at
www.stalbertthegreat.net/RE



Religious Education Office: 937-298-2402
Heidi Acuna, *RE Coordinator*

RCIA and Adult Faith Formation
Julie Burt, *Coordinator*, 937-281-0040

SAYM Youth Ministry
Jess de Groot, *Coordinator*, 937-281-0041

Mission in my Back Yard

June 27
thru
July 2



Register & more info
www.stalbertthegreat.net/Youth-Ministry