

THE CHRONICLE

CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

MARCH 29, 2020

APRIL 5, 2020

APRIL 12, 2020

APRIL 19, 2020

*"A Family of Faith
Trusting in the Eucharist;
living and sharing
God's message with all."*

Our sister parish,
Cathedral of St. Dominic, Basco, Batanes

SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Due to our state's
STAY AT HOME ORDER
for at least 3 weeks,
our parish office will be
closed until further notice.
Since we will not be in the
office, this bulletin will
be our bulletin for the
next 4 weeks. You
can check out our website
www.stalberts.org to
see if we have any updates.
**PLEASE NOTE: IN CASE OF
AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE
CALL THE ST. SEBASTIAN
OFFICE WHICH HAS AN
ANSWERING SERVICE AT
313-562-5356.**

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

During the COVID-19

**pandemic and the temporary
suspension of public Masses in the
Archdiocese of Detroit, St. Albert
the Great still needs your support.
Although we are not celebrating
Mass as a parish community, we
still have a need to pay our staff,
maintain the church building,
and, importantly, continue our
outreach ministries. We ask that,
to the best of your ability, you
continue to make your weekly
offertory donations, by mailing
them to the parish at
4855 Parker Street, Dearborn
Heights, MI 48125
or you may drop off your
envelope in the door mail slot at
the parish center office.
Thank you!**

In Our Parish

By Very Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak

My Dear Parishioners,

The events of the past two weeks have taken us into uncharted waters as the pandemic continues to spread with the passing of each day. Needless to say, we are in uncharted waters on many fronts.

As Catholics, we are people of hope rooted in the Lord who is our way, truth and life! In Him, we place all our trust, even in this unsettling time. St. John Paul the Great began his pontificate in 1978 with these words, "Be not Afraid". As we go forward, may we use this as our motto, knowing and believing the Lord is in charge and present among us.

Since we are no longer able to celebrate Mass together, please know that as I offer my daily Mass, you and your intentions are included as I ask the Lord to bless you abundantly with His peace. I, like you, look forward to the day when we can gather once again at the Lord's Table and be nourished by both Word and Sacrament. I truly miss seeing all of you at Mass, absence indeed makes the heart grow fonder!

Until this happens, may I suggest some ways to help us keep focused on the Lord in these difficult days.

~Create a 'Prayer Space' in your home. Be creative, set up a 'Home Altar' with a statue or two or your favorite religious picture. Adorn it with a flameless candle and some artificial flowers. I may be showing my age but many of us were taught and encouraged by the Religious Sisters to make a 'May Altar' to Mary each year during her month, why not do the same now. Make your 'Prayer Space' a place to pray and quite yourself before the Lord during these difficult times.

~Pray daily, alone or with others that live with you. The rosary is a great way to come together in prayer as we center on the life of Christ and His Mother. Think of all the extra time we have been given at this time and use some of it to increase your relationship with the Lord.

~Participate in daily Mass via the television or internet. EWTN is broadcasting Daily Mass many times each day and the internet has many options as well. I know it's not the same as being there 'live', but it is what we have at the moment, make the most of it.

~Adopt a person or many people to pray for during this time of distancing. Our bulletin has a list of all our ill parishioners, they need our prayerful support, please think of adopting them or anyone that needs pray-
(continued on page 2)

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5

PALM SUNDAY



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12

EASTER



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 19

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER



(In our Parish... continued from front page)

ers. This helps us focus less on what we can't do and opens our eyes to see what we can do, for others!

~Call a family member or friend you haven't heard from and see how they are doing. We are not alone in this crisis, reaching out to others reminds us that we are all in this together.

Until this subsides, please know of my prayers daily for all of you. Please stay home as much as you can, it's the best way to do your share to stop the spread. May Our Lord and Our Lady, keep you safe and watch over you and your loved ones.

May our Holy Patrons, SS. John the Baptist, Sebastian & Albert the Great, pray for us!

God bless all of you!



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
March 29th, 2020 5th Sunday of Lent

Even though we say that we believe, there is a part of us that doesn't. There are many times in our lives when we experience death, whether it be the physical death of someone we love, a failed relationship, the loss of a job, or a broken dream. As we are going through these death experiences, we can easily find ourselves reaching out to God to make it better and fix it! We think that the proper order of life is to maintain the things of this world, especially those things that are essential to our sense of well-being and security. We do not like change. The grieving that comes from our death experiences can keep us stuck and in despair. If we have lost something or someone of great value, the very meaning and essence of life is lost with them. We need gentle companions to lift us from despair and that is precisely who God desires to be in our life as well.

God calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" He desperately wants to show us the path to hope and the new life that is possible after loss and death. But our faith can be weak, and we still prefer to cling to the memory of what we had rather than the joyful possibilities of tomorrow. We sometimes live as if God is not real and that the transformative power of His resurrected presence is a story found in the Bible rather than a narrative unfolding in our lives.

God is the God of surprises, not our demise. God opens new possibilities, begins new chapters, creates new verses, and brings us to new heights! We spend so much time and energy ruminating over what we left behind yesterday that we are far too tired to see what can unfold tomorrow. Loving someone new doesn't negate our past loves. Embracing the love of a person, God, or life itself tomorrow doesn't diminish the love of yesterday. Each of our loves is different, and one cannot be replaced by another. They don't cancel each other out. God truly has tended to every detail of our lives, and if we listen to each detail, we find that they all lead us back to Him. Jesus wants us to come out of our closed-up tombs. Are we going to listen this time?



Deacon Regis: A Minute of Your Time

As we all are experiencing the anxiety and even fear of this Coronavirus pandemic, I would share a reflection that was sent to me by a very dear friend of mine who lives in Nevada and received it from his son-in-law. The reflection was composed by a Capuchin friar, Father Richard Hendrick, OFM on March 13th this year. I hope it gives you as much comfort as it gave me. Here it is.

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
 Yes there is isolation.
 Yes there is panic buying.
 Yes there is sickness.
 Yes there is even death. **But:**

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again. They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no longer thick with fumes, but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighborhood so that the elders may have someone to call on. Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary. All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting. All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way. All over the world people are waking up: To a new reality; To how big we really are; To how little control we really have; To what really matters; To Love.

So, we pray and we remember that yes, there is fear; but there does not have to be hate. Yes, there is isolation; but there does not have to be loneliness. Yes, there is panic buying; but there does not have to be meanness. Yes, there is sickness; but there does not have to be disease of the soul. Yes, there is even death; but there can always be a rebirth of love [and there is eternal life for those who love the Lord].

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live **now**. Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic. The birds are singing again. The sky is clearing. Spring is coming. And we are always encompassed by Love. Open the windows of your soul. And, though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

*Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM
 March 13th 2020*

The Rosary Altar Society Meeting for April 6 has been cancelled.

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The Easter Food Blessing that was scheduled for April 11 at noon has been cancelled.



Baptism

On Saturday, March 21, 2020
 Deacon Regis Buckley
 baptized:
Levi Anthony Messersmith
 Son of Teresa DiStefano
 and Kyle Messersmith
 Congratulations!

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Month of March LINENS SCHEDULE	
<u>SMALL ALTAR</u>	<u>ALBS</u>

Day Date Time	Saturday 5 pm
Comm/ Lector	
Body of Christ	Ushers as requested

PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact the parish office to add a name.

THIS LIST WILL BE CLEARED OFF MARCH 29

SO you MUST CALL to have a name kept on this sick list. 313-292-0430.

- Erminia DeAngelis
- Alice Dickson
- Dustin Langlois
- Mary Lou Lehman
- Donald Mouchet
- Nancy Patrias
- Helen, Ron & Wanda Petricko
- Molly Reynolds
- Bob Taylor Logan Taylor

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
 ☆ Please remember in your prayers ☆
 ☆ these parishioners or their family ☆
 ☆ members who are ☆
 ☆ in the armed forces: ☆
 ☆ **Tim Barnhouse, Army** ☆
 ☆ Please contact the Parish Center ☆
 ☆ at 313-292-0430 to add a name. ☆
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MASS INTENTIONS

Please note that all Mass intentions (while the public Masses are suspended) will be remember during Fr. Ptak personal daily Mass offering.

Wednesday, April 8
The Holy Souls in purgatory

Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday
For all of our parishioners

Wednesday, April 15
The Holy Souls in purgatory

Saturday, April 18
Michael Balnius (15th Ann.)
Christopher Jordan

Wednesday, April 22
Len Suchyta
Stan Kowalski (18th Ann.)

Saturday, April 25
Patricia Lambert
Charles & Helen Florance

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
April 19, 2020 Second Sunday of Easter

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

if we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

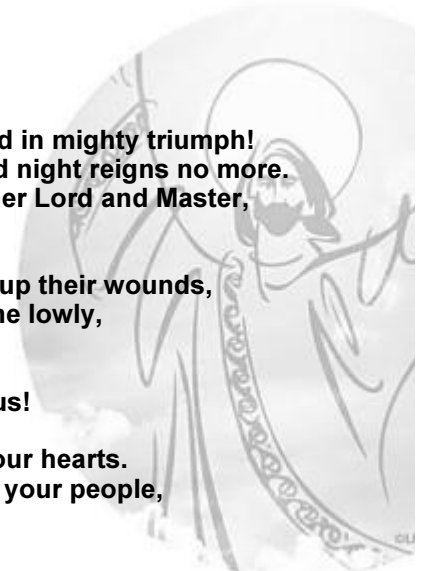
While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

Easter Sunday

AN EASTER PROCLAMATION

**The hosts of heaven exult and sing aloud in mighty triumph!
 Let the earth be glad as glory alights and night reigns no more.
 Let the Church rejoice at the victory of her Lord and Master,
 Who paid the debt of Adam,
 Who frees those doomed to die,
 Who heals the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds,
 Who forgives the sinner and raises up the lowly,
 Who destroys death forever,
 Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
 God our Father, eternal is your love for us!
 Christ the Son, in victory you reign!
 Holy Spirit, set the Easter fire ablaze in our hearts.
 Together you live and reign and ransom your people,
 one God forever and ever.
 Amen.**



St. John the Baptist St. Sebastian St. Albert the Great

Community † Collaboration † Communion

"Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.
 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt 18:19-20).

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Human beings are united in their suffering. When we find ourselves in a painful moment, our first reaction is "why me?" as if we are the only person on earth who ever encountered this challenge.

There are living witnesses among us showing how courage and determination can overcome any degree of hardship, pain, loss, or tragedy. Folks finding the normalcy of their lives suddenly torn asunder are faced with options: opportunity or despair, stay or leave.

True humility tempers the temptation we have to become complacent and prevents an excessive relishing of life's successes and affirmations. Learning obedience keeps us faithful to our relationship with God so that we can find the courage to endure any depth of hardship, disappointment, betrayal, or agony.

Only our soul can understand these things, but our minds cannot, so they continue to run to secular ideas and solutions to pain and hardship. It goes without saying that we need to do all we can to eliminate as much senseless, unjust suffering as possible.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
April 12, 2020 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying "so what" or "alleluia"?

Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear.

Life keeps us busy. We are always connected, distracted, occupied, and working. For many of us, an agenda awaits us before we even start our day, and unfinished stuff is brought with us when we retire at night.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn't impress us or matter all that much. It's all about the here and now and what I need to do today to get where I want to be tomorrow.

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever.

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FAX #: (313) 299-0401
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BUSINESS MANAGER - Evelyn Mannino
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Peter Hryniewiecki (Co-chair) 292-5080
Barbara Balnius (Secretary) 274-1674
Marge Taylor (Vicariate) 295-1245
Eli Arnaout (Finance) 734-347-3477
Dave Griswack (Worship) 295-7905
Mike Bretsik (At Large) 562-1768
Ken Wolfe (Seniors) 563-7473
Mary Anne Sulkey (Rosary Altar Society) 920-6218
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Director: Jan Russell 563-0960
RCIA: Deacon Regis 734-536-6733
MUSIC (Wednesday Mass & Funerals)
Irek Bak 586-344-4495
MASS SCHEDULE
Wednesday 8 am
Saturday 5 pm
Holy Days - As Announced
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(Confessions) Saturdays 4-4:30 p.m.
BAPTISMS
Contact the Rectory for Arrangements.
MARRIAGES
Please notify the rectory six months prior to the date of the marriage. Marriage Prep-Parish Office 313-292-0430
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