

THE CHRONICLE

CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

APRIL 26, 2020

MAY 03, 2020

MAY 10, 2020

MAY 17, 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
our parish office will be
closed until further notice.
Since we will not be in the
office, (unless the order
is lifted) 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!

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to
receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into
my heart. I embrace you as if you were already
there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit
me to be separated from you. Amen

Prayer for an end to the coronavirus crisis

Loving God, we come before you in our time of need.
We lay before you our concerns and fears over
the spread of the coronavirus. We know that you
are mightier than all our fears and that the name of
Jesus is the name above all other names. We ask,
in the name of Jesus, that you stop the spread of
the coronavirus. In your mercy, heal those who
are sick and lead those who have died into
your heavenly kingdom. We ask this in the
mighty name of Jesus. Amen

A prayer for the sick especially those suffering from the coronavirus

Loving God, you sent your son Jesus Christ to heal the
sick. We ask you to come to our aid in the midst of the
coronavirus crisis that we too may experience your
healing love. We ask you to heal those who are sick.
Calm those who are living in fear. Be with those who
have died and comfort their families. Inspire health
professionals to aid them in their healing work. Guide
national leaders to lead and make decisions with wisdom.
Help us to always be aware of your presence as we
place our trust in you. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 26

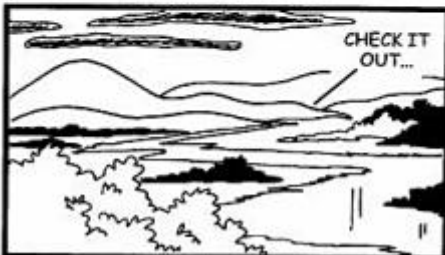
GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
April 26, 2020 Third Sunday of Easter



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 3



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 10



What does it take for our eyes to be opened? Every day, a man laboriously walks down Main Street of town. With great difficulty but graceful determination, he places one foot in front of the other, uses a crudely made staff for support, and walks. His pace is slow, but he walks. What does he hope to see? Where does he want to go? What does he find? We all walk through life. The type of "walking" life requires is not always physical but is most assuredly emotional and spiritual. We walk, we look, we encounter, and we seek. How we do these things and what we actually find is determined by what we carry and what we allow ourselves to discover along the way.

If walking is too challenging for us, we may choose to isolate and stay alone. If we are afraid to walk, we may become overly dependent on others providing for us and abandon the journey. We can walk and pay attention only to what is in front of our feet and never notice the immensity of what is happening around us. The road is never the same twice. The journey is always different. What kinds of things do you notice as you walk through life? It seems that the disciples of the Road to Emmaus missed a lot at first. We do as well.

We are called to walk with purpose, to listen, and to notice things that may not at first be apparent. We have to allow the One who has a special claim on our soul to enlighten, instruct, and inspire us. The incarnate mystery of God is pulsating in and through all of creation, where the presence of the Word who became flesh can be discovered. He has been with us all along. How could we have missed Him? Our journey brings us back to the breaking of the bread, and something begins to stir within us. We begin to understand, and things look differently. Bread, body, wine, and blood bring us to see that everyone and everything is a "Eucharistic" encounter. We become what we eat and we see what we eat. We continue to walk. Our eyes are now opened, and we recognize Him. Our hearts burn. Stay with us. Please stay with us.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd
(continued on page 3)

(Gospel Meditation continued from page 2)
 who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our of lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.

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**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER
 UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
 May 10, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

When earthly lives end, especially when the person is younger, we tend to focus upon and consider what was lost. We think of lost opportunities — things they won't be able to see, babies they won't be able to cradle, and adventures that now must go undiscovered. Our minds create this chasm between earth and heaven that sees the losses of this life as permanent ones, never possible to achieve again. This perception causes many folks to remain stuck in their grief as they ponder all of the missed opportunities and regrets.

This is not resurrection thinking. All of the love that we can give and receive, the joy and elation that can be experienced, the adventures that can be undertaken, and the possibilities to be discovered are all part of a continuous journey. They are not ends in and of themselves but are all part of the unfolding of a relationship we have with God, who not only makes all of these wonderful things possible now but sustains them and fulfills them into eternity. The perception and experience of loss is really an illusion, because in God's eternal kingdom and in God's time, nothing is ever lost. Even the most intimate and tender of moments we can conceive of sharing with another human being are only part of a journey toward perfect intimate and tender moments to be shared with God in our resurrected life. We become like God and see God as He is in eternity. What greater joy, love, and hope can ever be discovered as we walk down our often dimly lit paths in this world.


This is an awesome wonder and magnificent news to behold. Call to mind someone you have lost in death. How do you see them now? How do you see yourself in heaven? Remind yourself, again, that God is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our happiness is not going to be fully realized in this world, and there is nothing we can find here that cannot be found one hundred fold in eternity. It's all about relationship, and not solely about the relationships we have with each other, ourselves, and the world in which we live. It's about our relationship with God. If we realize how special that one relationship really is, then there is only one particular of heaven and life eternal that really matters: namely, that we fall into love eternal and discover truth. For when we finally close our eyes in death, then all will be well as long as we are with God. There are no losses, only gains.

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**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER
 UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
 May 17th, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

(continued on page 4)



**Please remember
 in your prayers
 those who recently
 passed away:
 Barbara Wismar**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 17



**Archbishop's Statements
 Regarding COVID-19
 Liturgical Guidelines**

The following directives are to remain in place at least until April 30, 2020. In cooperation with the governor's executive order, parish offices are to be closed.

Funerals and weddings are to be suspended during this time.

Priests are to continue to celebrate private Mass daily, remembering the efficacious nature of the Mass even without the presence of the faithful and to fulfill Mass intentions which have been allocated.

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. ☆
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

(Gospel Meditation continued from page 3)
 When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that he truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ’s promises and don’t rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God’s promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends — faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God’s greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don’t carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in our world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do.

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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 29**
John Singelyn
- Saturday, May 2**
Rosary Altar Society
Deborah Winslow
- Wednesday, May 6**
Deacon Thomas Yezak
- Saturday, May 9**
May Ann Jordan
Bob Locher
- Wednesday, May 13**
Nancy Pierce
- Saturday, May 16**
Len Suchyta
John Singelyn
- Wednesday, May 20**
Nancy Pierce
- Saturday, May 23**
Christopher Jordan
Mary Pat Nichols

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS



Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have chosen to entrust the human person to mothers in a special way. We thank and praise you for the gift of mothers; for their tenderness, care, and compassion, for their intuition and encouragement, for commitment and sacrifice. Bless all mothers this day. Keep, strengthen, and refresh them in your loving care. May they be blessed by our open-hearted love and gratitude. Amen.

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Blessing of Mothers

During the season of Easter, what a great time to remember our mothers and ask for God’s blessing on them. It is God who ultimately gave us life. It is through God’s unselfish love--mirrored in our mothers' willingness to associate their love with God's and take the risk to love us into life--that we have the opportunity for life. We remember our mothers this Mother's Day with much love. **Let us pray for each of them:**

God our heavenly Father, you give to each the ability to share your generative love. Bless those women in our lives who mirror your love and bring forth life through their willingness to risk bringing new life into this world. Help us to show them our gratitude for the gift of life and the gift of a mother's love. May our life-giving God continue to bless them and show them his unending love. We ask this through Jesus, God's Son and our brother. 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).

In Our Parish
 (*article from March 29, 2020)
 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 unchartered 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 prayers. 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!

PARISH DIRECTORY
CHURCH OF

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT
4855 Parker Street

Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48125
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313-292-0430

Administrator:

Very Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak

Email:

pastor@stsebastiancatholicchurch.org

Deacon: Regis Buckley

Email: deaconregis@gmail.com

PARISH CENTER: (313) 292-0430

FAX #: (313) 299-0401

E-Mail: info@stalberts.org

BUSINESS HOURS: PLEASE NOTE:

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE
 CALL TO MAKE SURE THE OFFICE IS OPEN.**

**OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE
 IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL**

313-562-5356

OFFICE MANAGER - Marti Morrison

BUSINESS MANAGER - Evelyn Mannino

CHRONICLE DEADLINE -

..... **MONDAY AT NOON**

PARISH COUNCIL:

Dick Fron (Chairperson) 408-4686

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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