



CHURCH *of* ST. ALBERT

VOCATIONS CHALICE MINISTRY

Bringing Our Prayers for Vocations Into the Home

One of the greatest gifts we have in the Catholic Church is the number of faith-filled people who devote themselves to serving God's people through vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. With the number of vocations to religious life on the decline, it is essential for parishes around the world to spend time in prayer for vocations.

In addition to praying together as a parish for an increase in vocations, we are also called to pray as individuals and families. With the Vocations Chalice Ministry, our parish hopes to make prayer for vocations a natural part of everyday life for the faithful.

Through this ministry, families, couples and individuals commit themselves to praying for vocations to lay and religious life. After signing up for a specific week, participants pick up the special chalice and its accompanying prayer folder from the

church. They then pray throughout the week, asking for the Lord's guidance in discerning their own vocations, as well as for a worldwide increase in vocations within the Church.

Marlene Lindenfelser and Sharon Berning are the current coordinators of this ministry, which was started about 15 years ago by parishioners Mike and Janet Welter. As members of the Serra Club, both Marlene and Sharon are committed to promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Encouraging parishioners to pray with the Vocations Chalice brings these efforts beyond our parish walls and into our homes.

"We support our priests and seminarians, and we also need to encourage young people to go into religious life," Marlene says. "The chalice is very meaningful and points out that we should be praying for vocations.



The Vocations Chalice encourages parishioners to spend time in prayer for vocations at home.

When we're actually taking the chalice and praying during that week, we are praying for our church — for the universal Church, but also for our own parish. In this way, it becomes a part of stewardship in the parish."

The Vocations Chalice is truly a ministry for everyone. Residents at

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Join Us at Our 2020 Ordination Masses

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, invites you to attend this year's Masses of Ordination. Ordination is the sacramental ceremony during which Holy Orders will be conferred. Seminarian candidates will become ordained as Transitional Deacons, and Transitional Deacons will be ordained as priests, enabling them to minister in Christ's name through the Church. The Rite of Ordination ceremony includes various rituals, rich in meaning and history. Please continue to pray for vocations and the men expected to be ordained to the priesthood in 2020.

Transitional Deacon Ordination

Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m.
Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis

Ordination to the Priesthood

Saturday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul

Lent/Easter Schedule

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.
March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3

2020 Lenten Mission with Dan DeMatte

(held at St. Michael Catholic Church)
March 15-17 at 7:00 p.m.
Be Healed • Be Empowered
Be Transformed

Soup and Sandwich Suppers

Friday, March 20 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 3 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Penance Services

Tuesday, March 24
Mary Queen of Peace in Rogers at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31
St. Albert in Albertville at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 5
St. John the Baptist in Dayton at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, April 6
St. Michael in St. Michael at 7:00 p.m.

Triduum

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday: 3:00 p.m.
Saturday Easter Vigil 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

A Steward's Guide to Lenten Commitments

Dear Parishioners,

Making a Lenten commitment is simple. Keeping it is the difficult part! The Lenten commitments we make ourselves are frequently a lot like New Year's resolutions — they sound good, but we don't get far into the new year before they've been broken and then abandoned.

If you are like me, you approached Ash Wednesday with the intention of doing better than you did last year. But as Lent continues, our enthusiasm may wane, and it seems harder and harder to keep our commitment. And then we begin to wonder, "What's the point?"

Often, we realize we've already broken our commitment in some way — perhaps we decided we'd pray a decade of the Rosary every evening, but we were too tired one night or simply forgot. Maybe we slipped up and ate a cheeseburger on the first Friday in Lent, even though we know that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. So we conclude that we just can't keep a good Lenten commitment and give up trying to make it a special season in any way.

If you're tempted to give up, **don't do it!** Just pick up where you left off, ask God for forgiveness, and begin again. Our Lenten commitments should challenge us, and we can grow spiritually. We can even benefit from our failures if



they help us better realize how much we need God's grace.

After all, nothing worthwhile is accomplished without discipline and structure. Whether it's a football player in training, a musician practicing or a medical student mastering the intricacies of the human body, hard work, discipline and even frustration will be part of the process. Only those who keep at it will master the skills those activities demand.

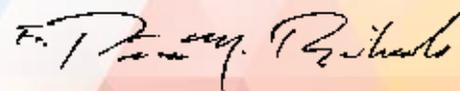
The spiritual life follows the same principles. Spiritual growth requires hard work, discipline and practice. Making our wills conform to God's will is the result of repeated efforts over a period of years.

It is true that sometimes we must reevaluate our Lenten commitments. If we are aware we're consistently failing in some way, we may need to modify how we approach our commitment. Above all, the key to success is our steady, day-to-day observance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving all through the season.

But when we do fail, we should remember the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). He had failed miserably. Suppose he had concluded, "I've blown it. I rejected my father and my home. There's no way I can go back." He'd have given up in despair. But "coming to his senses," he decides to return home in penitence, to be a servant. When he arrives home, he is welcomed with joy and restored to his position.

This parable sets forth the pattern we should follow when we fail in our Lenten commitments. Begin our observance again, and keep up our Lenten journey, eventually arriving at the joys of Easter. God our Father will welcome us. Then we will indeed be ready to celebrate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Peter Richards
Pastor

Learning the Faith and Arriving “H

For us as Catholics, the Easter Vigil is the peak celebration of the liturgical year. As a liturgy that is rich in tradition, it is a true celebration of Christ’s Resurrection.

The last few years, we’ve been blessed to welcome new St. Albert’s parishioners into full communion with the Catholic Church — the culmination of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process, or RCIA.

We are fortunate to work with St. Michael for RCIA classes led by Deacon Steve Dupay. He has been teaching RCIA for about 20 years, and at St. Michael for more than eight years.

RCIA classes are held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Mondays in the St. Michael Gathering Space. The sessions begin in October and continue up to the Easter Vigil, where RCIA candidates receive the sacraments. Classes are meant to help attendees discover where God is present in their lives and offer a safe space to learn about the Catholic faith. The class is for those who are unbaptized, baptized in another Christian tradition, or baptized Catholic but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Although classes and the Easter Vigil are coordinated at St. Michael, we welcome our new parishioners who have received those sacraments in a separate time, after Easter Vigil, in order to have a celebration and a welcome from our parish.

Raised in an “unchurched” family himself, Deacon Steve feels it is his mission to spread the Catholic faith through the RCIA process.

“I see a lot of families come together, because maybe one spouse is Catholic and one isn’t,” he says. “It is a blessing to be an instrument to help people come into communion with the Catholic Church.”

Attendees either choose or are assigned a sponsor. This person attends all classes and is there for the Easter Vigil, a very special time for those receiving the sacraments. Parishioners may add their name to a list to be called upon when sponsors are needed.

St. Albert Director of Religion Education Jean Wold was blessed to go through the RCIA process with her nephew’s fiancée from 2012-2013. She knows the RCIA program is a gift.

“It was beautiful to watch her,” Jean says. “Her eyes were opened to something that had never been shared with her before. This also helped me to think about my faith and be able to articulate it in a new way.”

Jean says that in our secular world, it is more important than ever to offer an opportunity for people to learn more about God and the Catholic faith. There are so many misunderstandings about the faith — thus, the RCIA process is an opportunity to learn about the why behind the parts of the Mass, for example.



Catechumen Lauren Lindquist was fully received into the Catholic church on the Easter Vigil, April 20, 2019. Mary Anderson was her sponsor.



The Easter Vigil began at sundown on Holy Saturday with the Easter Fire, where the Paschal candle is blessed and then lit. Catechumen Lauren Lindquist awaits with anticipation before the ceremony begins.



The ceremony for the catechumens and candidates begins with the opening rite.

“Come” in the Church Through RCIA

“RCIA is a place to come and really discover the Catholic faith and open it up,” Jean says. “It’s not one-sided. It’s meant to be a safe space to ask questions about the faith.”

For Deacon Steve, teaching RCIA has allowed him to open people’s eyes to some of the beautiful aspects of the Catholic Church. In particular, he loves teaching people how there are so many ways to pray when you are Catholic.

“I like to tell them how universal the Catholic church is,” he says. “Mass is similar from place to place. There is also a wide set of diversity in prayer, from charismatic to contemplative. The Catholic Church is open to all these types of spirituality.”

Jean says that, most importantly, people must come to RCIA with an open heart and ready to hear God’s Word and plan for their lives.

“It is beautiful if people come willing to walk the journey and find out where God is calling them,” Jean says.

Both Jean and Deacon Steve want everyone to know they are welcome to experience the RCIA process, and they are welcome at both St. Albert’s and St. Michael.

“I see a lot of families come together, because maybe one spouse is Catholic and one isn’t. It is a blessing to be an instrument to help people come into communion with the Catholic Church.” — Deacon Steve Dupay

If you would like more information about the RCIA process, or to express interest in serving as a sponsor, please contact Jean Wold at 763-497-3782 or stalbertmnfaithformation@gmail.com. Parishioners who have already received the Sacraments of Initiation but would like to learn more about the Catholic faith are also welcome to participate.



Following Baptism, the Catechumens receive the Candle of Light. The Ephphatha prayer is prayed by Father that they may be open to hear the word of God.



Lauren Lindquist participated as a gift bearer.



Lauren Lindquist receives her First Holy Communion.



MEET PETE AND BRENDA KLINKNER

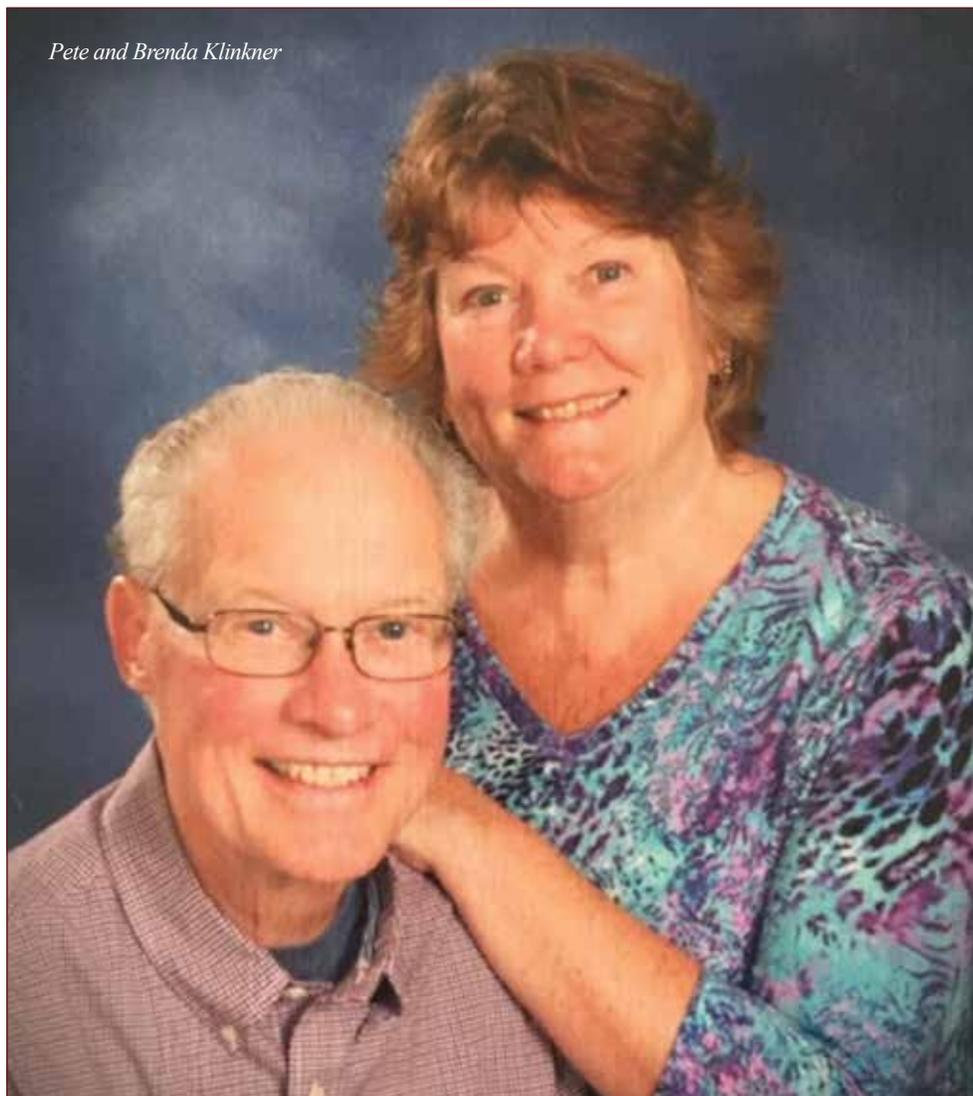
Talk to Pete and Brenda Klinkner about life here at St. Albert, and the same word will keep popping up — “connection.” In the 14 years they have been members of our parish, the Klinkners have felt blessed by the many ways in which our faith community has strengthened their connection to Christ and to their fellow parishioners. With each new connection and friendship forged, their spiritual lives are continually enriched.

While both Pete and Brenda were raised in the Catholic Church, they began to live their faith out even more actively as adults. Prior to moving to Albertville, the Klinkners were living in Burnsville and attending Mary, Mother of the Church. When one of Pete’s co-workers urged him to try daily Mass, Pete began going to Mass every Tuesday. It is a personal tradition Pete has continued to observe here at St. Albert.

In addition to his Tuesday Mass attendance, Pete has a Monday morning adoration hour as well. Both of these commitments have kept him close to the Lord.

“Tuesday Mass has really strengthened my faith,” he says. “Adoration is a peaceful and quiet time to be with the Lord there. I mostly pray while I’m there — I have a little prayer list of people that I pray for. I would definitely recommend daily Mass or adoration to anyone.”

Although her recurring ovarian cancer has lately kept Brenda from being



Pete and Brenda Klinkner

active in parish life, she is still thankful for the blessings that came with each of the ministries in which she and Pete have participated over the years. In serving as greeters, the couple enjoyed extending a warm welcome to parishioners and visitors to St. Albert. The years they

spent helping with the Sharing and Caring Hands Ministry gave them the opportunity to get to know the other volunteers better, and Pete continues to connect with the people to whom he brings Holy Communion at Engel Haus Senior Living.



Connected with Christ and Fellow Parishioners

Through all of these ministries — and especially through the small groups that were established in the parish some years ago — the Klinkners have formed strong bonds with people in all walks of life. They consider the support they have received from their fellow parishioners over the years to be one of their greatest blessings.

“It’s been a struggle battling this cancer and the recurrence,” Brenda says. “I don’t believe I’d be as happy a person as I am without all the faith, friends, people and family that have been there to support us. I haven’t been to church for a while because of my health, but these people have been praying for me and us, and it just means a lot. They talk to Pete after Mass, and we keep a connection.”

Thankful for these supportive relationships that have been nurtured at

St. Albert, Brenda would encourage any new parishioners — or those who are simply seeking a deeper connection to our faith community — to become more involved in parish life. It could even start with something as little as a smile!

“I would suggest saying ‘hi’ to at least one person every time you come in,” Brenda says. “That’s where it all started for us — saying ‘hello’ to someone you don’t know, and remembering their name. That is so important. We’ve gotten to be such friends with the people who sit in the pew behind us every week. And there are people at church that we just occasionally speak to, and we can see how they have supported us. There are just beautiful people at St. Albert, and there is such a special connection.”

Pete agrees that embracing the stewardship way of life by becoming more

engaged in parish activities and ministries is a wonderful way to strengthen one’s ties to the faith community.

“Stewardship is about getting people to take that first step to try doing this or that,” he says. “When you start doing something and getting involved with other people — even just going to the lunches and dinners — you get to talk to them and get to know the people you see at church. This is a friendly parish, and there are more people coming in.”

As the Klinkners reflect on their deep connection to Christ and to their fellow parishioners, they are filled with gratitude.

“You look through life, in thanksgiving for what has happened, and realize that it’s all with the help of God,” Pete says. “It has all been gifts from God, and we’ve been truly blessed.”

“I would suggest saying ‘hi’ to at least one person every time you come in. That’s where it all started for us — saying ‘hello’ to someone you don’t know, and remembering their name. That is so important. We’ve gotten to be such friends with the people who sit in the pew behind us every week. And there are people at church that we just occasionally speak to, and we can see how they have supported us. There are just beautiful people at St. Albert, and there is such a special connection.” — Brenda Klinkner



CHURCH of ST. ALBERT

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HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Weekdays:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 7:30 a.m.

Reconciliation times:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Saturday: 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
1st Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Vocations Chalice Ministry continued from front cover

the Legacy of St. Michael and Engel Haus Senior Living are invited to participate in this program and are brought the chalice for their assigned week. Each January, the chalice circulates among the families in the First Communion preparation classes of our Religious Education program.

Setting aside a little extra time to pray for vocations for a week brings many blessings to all who participate in this ministry. In many cases, the experience with the Vocations Chalice also helps lay parishioners delve even more deeply into discerning their own vocations as well.

“We need to remember that everybody has a vocation,” Marlene says. “I don’t think we thought of it that way, years ago. I remember always thinking that someone with a vocation was a priest or a nun. But we all have a vocation, and God has called us all to something. There is a prayer with the chalice about recognizing our vocations.”

We can all seek to help the Church throughout the world by praying fervently for vocations. Here at St. Albert, the Vocations Chalice provides us with the perfect opportunity to make those prayers a meaningful part of our daily lives.

*Would you like to bring your prayers for vocations into your own home?
Please call Marlene Lindenfelser at 763-497-2265 with any questions,
or to sign up for the Vocations Chalice Ministry today!*