

CHURCH of ST. ALBERT



A New Format for the St. Albert Fall Festival *Despite Restrictions, Sept. 20 Event Still Scheduled*

The day of the annual Fall Festival at St. Albert is one we always anticipate. It's a beautiful time of year to gather, socialize and raise money for operations at St. Albert. Although this year's festival is being scaled back due to COVID-19 restrictions, Fall Festival Chair Phil Anderson hopes people will still find a way to support St. Albert.

The festival usually attracts about 700 people per year. In early June, the committee decided the festival could not be held in the same format as past years.

So, they got creative.

The chicken dinner will be a takeout style from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Grand raffle envelopes will be in the back of church a few weeks prior to the event, and the raffle winner will be drawn on Sept. 20. The drawing for the grand raffle and cabinet raffle will be livestreamed. The theme baskets will be available to view in early September in the Parish Center. Tickets will be on sale and can be placed in the desired basket. The winner of each basket will also be drawn via livestream on Sept. 20.

Although many of the same fun activities won't be held, Phil says it just makes for an even more exciting event in 2021.

"All the proceeds go back to the parish to pay for general operating expenses and updates," says Phil, who



Volunteers serve a hearty meal at the Fall Festival.



The meal and time with friends and family are a highlight of the Fall Festival.

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The Traits of the **CHRISTIAN STEWARD**

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship list” that could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

INSIGHT — Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS — Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of

their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

GENEROSITY — Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

JOY — Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the responsibilities of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Humbled and Honored to be Your New Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you — my new parish family. July 1 is my first day as your pastor and I obviously have big shoes to fill as I replace Fr. Peter Richards.

First and foremost, I love Jesus. I love the Church. I love being Catholic. I love being a priest. I cannot imagine doing anything else with my life.

I was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. My parents, Paul and Mary Kay, still live in the house where I grew up in Fort Worth. My dad is a semi-retired aeronautical engineer. Currently, he teaches undergraduate engineering courses part-time at the University of Texas at Arlington.

I have two siblings. My older brother, Chris, and his family live in Pullman, Wash. Chris is a senior associate athletic director at Washington State University. My younger sister, Katherine, and her family live in Plano, Texas. Katherine is a corporate audit manager for Lennox Industries.

I grew up in a great Catholic family and I played a lot of sports as a kid/teenager — football, basketball and baseball.



I went to school at Texas A&M University, where I studied history and religious studies, and I am a *huge* college football fan. After I graduated from college in 2003, I moved to Minnesota where I volunteered with NET Ministries in West St. Paul for four years. Youth ministry is very near and dear to my heart.

In 2007, I entered the St. Paul Seminary to begin studying for the priesthood. On May 25, 2013, I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and was assigned as the associate at St. Charles Borromeo in St. Anthony. In the fall of 2014, I took over as the parochial

administrator (interim pastor) of St. Charles.

During the summer of 2015, I was sent to become the pastor of Annunciation in South Minneapolis, where I have been for the last five years.

Currently I am 39 years old, and my birthday is Feb. 5 (by the way, I love ice cream — hint, hint).

I am a member of the Companions of Christ, a fraternity of diocesan priests in our archdiocese. I also love Catholic schools, and I am very happy that I will be serving at a parish with a thriving school!

So, that's me in a nutshell. I am humbled and honored to be your next pastor, and I look forward to getting to know you, to praying with you, and to serving with you as we strive to make the name of Jesus Christ known and loved.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Brian Park

Fr. Brian Park
Pastor





THE LOCH FAMILY:

Living

When the Loch family gathers for their family Rosary, they make quite a crowd — a crowd of 14, to be exact. As they call upon the Immaculate Heart of Mary, they draw down a shower of graces on their family and on the world around them.

“We pray the Rosary every day when possible, and we also pray before meals and at bedtime,” Julie says. “It helps us keep an eternal perspective on life, and not get too caught up in all the little and big things going on in our world. It also helps us be grateful. It brings peace into our home and helps us avoid getting irritated by bothersome things.”

By praying the Rosary regularly, Michael and Julie believe they are giving their children a priceless gift — devotion to the Blessed Mother.

“It is so important to help our children know the Blessed Mother, and understand that she is always there for them,” Julie says. “We want them to know that God is there to love them and listen to them. We teach them that prayer is talking with God. He is always waiting for us.”

Through prayerful reliance on God’s help, Julie finds much solace in raising her 11 young children — and her 12th, due in September.

“People ask me how we do it, and I tell them that we don’t do anything, *God* does it all!” Julie says. “This is something I have really prayed about lately. Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed with all of the kids, and all of their needs. But then I remember that God never leaves us or abandons us. He always provides what we need, although we don’t



By praying the Rosary regularly, Michael and Julie Loch believe they are giving their children a priceless gift — devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Living Family Life with the Blessed Mother

always have insight into the future as to how He is going to do so. It is a day-by-day journey.”

Over time, Julie has come to understand that true stewardship begins in the heart, as well as in the home.

“I have come to understand that my motherhood is a form of stewardship,” she says. “My children are ‘Jesus’ to me, and serving them means serving Jesus. Thinking about this helps me grow in my faith and treat them with love. Sometimes, I like to take a break from my work and just watch my children play, because they are growing up so fast. I enjoy just giving them a chance to sit by me and tell me about their day.”

Furthermore, by being involved with our parish, the Lochs have found fellowship and strength. Michael serves as a Discipleship Group leader, mentoring a group of eighth-grade boys and preparing them for Confirmation. Peter, one of the Loch boys, serves at the altar.

“We love our parish community!” Julie says. “It is a little bit smaller, and we like that feel. Everyone knows you when you walk in the door. They are always so welcoming and willing to pray for you. Whenever we have a new baby, people just can’t wait to see him or her. They are there to support us no matter what is going on. The older I get, the more I am grateful for how much the parish community is there for us, and praying for us.”

They have also found parental support by sending their children to St. Michael Parish School.

“We love giving our children a Catholic education,” Julie says. “Helping them develop a relationship with God is our first priority. All of the other things in life are not as important as that. The parish school gives them a great atmosphere to grow in, one that supports what they are receiving at home.”

St. Albert Fall Festival continued from front cover

is in his second year as chair of the festival. “This is an important event for our parish budget.”

Parishioners can get involved by donating a theme basket, buying and selling raffle tickets and coming for the chicken dinner takeout. Also, prayers for a successful Fall Festival are always appreciated, Phil says.

The Fall Festival has been going on as long as Phil can remember—he says it has been held at least since he was baptized at St. Albert. Phil enjoys being a part of this wonderful event and being able to help organize it all.

“The Fall Festival allows us to all gather, one time per year, and celebrate all that God has blessed us with,” Phil says.



The Sept. 20 Fall Festival will be held, with some restrictions

For more information on the Fall Festival, please refer to the parish bulletin. You may also contact Phil Anderson at 763-898-8602 or p_anderson6@hotmail.com to get involved.



Chosen to Do His Will

The Feast of St. Anne — July 26

Did you know that St. Anne is the patron saint of miners? In medieval times, the Virgin Mary and Jesus were often compared to precious metals of silver and gold. Hence, the lives that came from the womb of St. Anne made her the source of precious riches.

Unlike Mary, St. Anne was not conceived without sin — but nevertheless, she would one day raise the Mother of God. That’s a pretty big deal! What was it about St. Anne that prompted God to give her such a significant role in the history of salvation? There’s no way to know for sure, but there is one thing we can definitely say about St. Anne — God uses those who put themselves at His service, and that is precisely what St. Anne did.

Not much is mentioned about St. Anne in the Bible, but her name derives from the longer name “Hannah,” or the Hebrew word for “grace.” We understand that, having believed herself to be barren for 20 years, an angel appeared to Anne and told her that she would soon have a daughter that she should name Mary.

When Mary was finally born, after many years of frustration and infertility on her parents’ part, Anne did just as she promised — she dedicated Mary to the Lord, and raised a holy woman who would mother Christ Himself!

Early Christians are said to have been very intrigued by the story of Jesus’ grandmother and, around the year 550, erected a church in Jerusalem where St. Anne, her husband, Joachim, and Mary are said to have lived.

Although we do not know much more about St. Anne, we can assume that she was a very holy woman based upon the woman her daughter, Mary, grew to be. Anne was the one from whom Mary learned to be a mother. She was the one from whom Mary learned to serve God. She was the one who instilled in Mary the confidence and faith to say “yes” to God — “May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

There is no doubt that St. Anne was a humble, holy woman. She was given a great gift — a child — who she readily gave back to God. And, thanks to her faith-filled gratitude to God for His gift, Mary opened her heart to the will of God, and became the mother of Christ.

Talk about stewardship in action!



*The Feast of
St. Anne is
celebrated on
July 26.*

Meet Our Stewardship Committee

Inviting Parishioners to Live Their Faith

Lately, we've certainly been hearing a lot about stewardship — but do we understand its true meaning? The introduction to *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the 1992 U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, serves as a wonderful description of why stewardship is such an important part of living as an intentional disciple of Jesus:

"Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be."

In order to reinforce our dedication to stewardship here at St. Albert, our parish has a Stewardship Committee.

This group seeks to help the church reach out to parishioners and help them make active stewardship a part of their everyday lives.

As Fr. Joe Zabinski explains, the idea of stewardship as a way of living our Catholic faith is nothing new.

"Stewardship is biblical," he says. "It encapsulates the Gospel and is a very precise, clear way of presenting being a disciple. I love that about stewardship. A lot of times, people think that stewardship is all about money, giving, or about participating in the parish. But if we go outside that and see stewardship from a true perspective, it's about our whole way of life — not just with the parish or with money, but also about how we spend time with our families or how we go about looking at life, generally speaking. We are all called to be stewards in our Baptism."

Recognizing the beauty of a full and active faith life, our Stewardship Committee seeks to promote discipleship among parishioners in various ways. Their biggest undertaking each year takes place in the fall, when committee members lead our parishioners in making and renewing their commitments to participate in various parish events and ministries through the annual Stewardship Renewal.

Committee member Gregg Backstrom knows firsthand just how life-changing increased parish involvement can be.

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Our St. Albert Stewardship Committee (from left): Charles Foster, Lisa Haines, Fr. Joe, and Gregg Backstrom (Members not photographed: Jeannine Backstrom and Mary Sue DeVries)



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.
First Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Stewardship Committee *continued from page 7*

“Right now, the committee’s goal is to try to help people make the first step to get out of their shell,” Gregg says. “To me, that’s the first step in just being a Catholic Christian. I remember about 20 years ago, I was going to church every Sunday and that was about it, and someone asked me if I had ever thought about going to Mass just one more day a week. Fast forward to today, and I go every day — that’s how I start my day.”

Of course, many people at St. Albert have long been living an active faith life. With a focus on stewardship, however,

we hope to bring our parishioners on an even closer walk with Christ.

“We just want to make people aware of what they can do to help out,” Gregg says. “Everybody has different gifts, and this is about really giving people an outlet for their gifts. One thing we are working on is the personal invitation. That’s how Christ did it — He went up and asked people to come with Him.”

As we begin to gear up for another Stewardship Renewal this fall, our Stewardship Committee looks forward to continuing to help

the parish spread the message about the beauty and rewards found in the commitment to share of our time, talent and treasure in thanks for God’s abundant blessings.

“People are always looking to be happy, but what is happiness?” Gregg asks. “It’s true joy that we’re really looking for, and the only true joy is in giving. I think we all spend so much time honing our skills for earthly things, and this is only temporary. If we can give back to God, then that is eternal.”

Are you interested in learning more about stewardship or the Stewardship Committee here at St. Albert? If so, please contact any Stewardship Committee member listed in the bulletin. Committee member Gregg Backstrom may be contacted at 612-396-1299 or gw.backstrom@gmail.com.