

CHURCH *of* ST. ALBERT



COUNCIL *of* CATHOLIC WOMEN:



The collection committee — Mary Lettenmaier, Judy Stukey and Mary Daluge

Sharing in Prayer and Fellowship, Providing Essential Support

they discuss business, go over financial reports, and discuss current parish or deanery events.

Each March, the CCW collects baby items to donate to the Abba Pregnancy Resource Center in Elk River, as well as to Cornerstone Women’s Center in St. Michael.

Also in March, they host the Spring Salad Luncheon, which is one of the main fundraisers for all of the CCW’s activities.

“All of the CCW members are asked to donate a salad to the luncheon,” Linda says. “It is a community event, and many women look forward to coming. We try to get as many ladies and men to come as we can!”

At the luncheon, there are usually raffles — such as a quilt raffle — as well as games, awarded prizes, and a cash door prize donated by CCW.

“We solicit donations from local merchants, and we also ask our members to donate items,” Linda says. “We end up with a great variety and number of donations!”

Each spring, members participate in our parish’s May Crowning of the Blessed Mother.

“Our participation varies from year to year, but we usually buy a big bouquet of roses for the Blessed Mother and provide refreshments afterward,” Linda says. “This is one of the greatest spiritual events we celebrate together each year.”

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About 10 years ago, Linda Richter made a decision that has since enriched her life in amazing ways.

“When I retired, I joined the Council of Catholic Women [CCW],” she says. “I found that it filled a void in my life to have other ladies to get together with. We have a spiritual connection, as well as a social one. This organization has been in our parish for a long time. Back in the day, it was an outlet for ladies to get out and socialize. It gave them a common goal to work towards. This is what has kept it going for so many years.”

Now as the president of the CCW, Linda offers her time and talent back to God and our parish family.

The CCW normally holds its meetings at the Parish Center at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of September, November, January, March, and May. At their meetings,

COUNCIL of CATHOLIC WOMEN *continued from front cover*



Our Blessed Mother statue on May Crowning

In the summertime, members try to collect items to give to Haiti through Sacred Heart Mission in Rochester. Each October, the CCW collects Christmas gifts to give to the Appalachian missions. On the first Sunday of November at our parish, they host a pancake breakfast featuring a bake sale. Throughout the year, they also support various parish events and support our parishioners in significant ways, such as through the Lenten Retreat and the Parish Fall Fundraiser.

“We pray for the members of our parish and support them,” Linda says. “We also give out commemorative gifts in honor of sacramental events, such as Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. We like to honor our parish’s RCIA candidates and graduating high school seniors with presents, as well.”

Members like Linda find that belonging to the CCW inspires them to grow in their spiritual lives, and bring others right along with them.

“When you are in this group, you become more aware of your fellow parishioners, and get to know them better,” she says. “You realize that a lot of them need our prayers and support. One of the greatest things I have gained by being a CCW member is that I have made new friends, and feel more connected to our parish family. The goal of the CCW is to help people in our parish and beyond.”

More women are needed to enrich our parish community through this beautiful ministry.

“New members are needed to help continue the work that was started by previous generations,” Linda says. “If someone is interested, they can just come to a meeting and see who we are, and what we are about.”



Brenda O’Donnell, Linda Richter, Mary Bebeau and Rita Fay serving at the annual CCW breakfast



Erma Ripplinger and Gerri Friesz helping with the annual CCW bake sale

If you would like more information, please contact Linda Richter at 763-497-2065 or lrichter@live.com.

A LETTER FROM OUR PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

A Month and Year to Honor St. Joseph

Dear Parishioners,

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ chose to enter the world through the human family. He came as an infant born into the marriage and home of the two holiest human creatures who ever lived — Joseph and Mary. At a time when our world and our Church needs family and faithful disciples now more than ever, could there be a more fitting time to venerate the man who gave his life and his love to the Blessed Mother and the Son of God?

Pope Francis has declared 2021 the Year of St. Joseph in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church. Our pope said he established the year so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

As Christians, we are blessed to have Mary as our spiritual mother and Joseph as our spiritual father. Just as Mary guides us from heaven with loving devotion, St. Joseph also diligently provides for the needs of the family of God, the Holy Catholic Church.

Because of his special role as foster-father of the Child Jesus, St. Joseph has merited singular privileges in heaven unmatched by any saint aside from the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To give some modern-day perspective to the significance of this special year, Pope Francis has said the coronavirus pandemic heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," the pope wrote.

At the end of the First Vatican Council in 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the patron of the Universal Church. He is also the patron of carpenters, workers, fathers, and a happy death because he died in the presence of Mary and Jesus. The title of Joseph's March 19 feast day is "Husband of Mary." Pope Pius XII later declared May 1 to be the feast of St. Joseph the Worker to counteract the Communist May Day holiday.

As Catholics pray and reflect on the life of St. Joseph this year, they also have opportunities to gain a plenary indulgence



or remission of all temporal punishment due to sin. An indulgence can be applied to oneself or to a soul in purgatory. An indulgence requires a specific act, defined by the Church, as well as sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, prayer for the pope's intentions, and full detachment from sin.

Special indulgences during the Year of St. Joseph can be received through various prayers and actions, including praying for the unemployed, entrusting one's daily work to St. Joseph, performing a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, or meditating for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer.

As we devote 2021 to St. Joseph's honor, we will undoubtedly unlock many special graces — not only for our parish but for each of the faithful who increase their devotion to him during this special year. There is no greater model than St. Joseph from whom we can learn how to live virtuously in imitation of Jesus and Mary.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Joseph Zabinski".

Fr. Joseph Zabinski
Parochial Administrator

Read more about Pope Francis' declaration on the Church granting plenary indulgences for the Year of St. Joseph at www.bit.ly/StJoseph2021.

**Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph
Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

*To you God entrusted His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

*For Bill and Lois Roden, **St. Albert Has Always***

Parishioners Bill and Lois Roden have felt at home at St. Albert Parish for as long as they can remember. Both grew up close enough to walk to church and attended the parochial school that was operating at the time. Their immersion in the Catholic faith from early on helped make Bill and Lois into the people they are today.

“I grew up in parochial school and became an altar server, and that just shaped me,” Bill says. “I lived in town and could walk or bike to church, so I was often asked to serve at weddings and

funerals in the summer. Then, as a junior in high school, I began reading at Mass. So I’ve always been close to the altar. My faith life has been a culmination of being close to church and being willing to help and do things.”

Lois received a similar foundation in the faith from her own family.

“I grew up across the street from the old church building, so it’s always been a part of my life,” she says. “My mom and grandma even cooked in the parochial school. I remember going to the school and going to church — it was just always

there. It was an extension of the family, and I’ve always felt loved. My faith has always been a growing, living thing.”

With siblings that were the same age, Bill and Lois got to know each other’s families very well as they were growing up. However, it wasn’t until they were young adults that Bill “took a shine” to Lois — and Lois’s sister finally convinced her to give him a chance! Bill and Lois were married at St. Albert in 1980. Today — 40 years, four children and eight grandchildren later — the Catholic faith and our parish



“I just feel I need to give to God, and He will protect me and send the Holy Spirit to guide me. It’s a two-way street. That’s why my faith has been maintained throughout the years — because I put into it, and I receive back. If you just go to Mass to sit and see what you get out of it, you maybe don’t get as much. It’s praying along, singing along.”

— Bill Roden

Bill and Lois Roden with previous pastor Fr. Richards on their 40th wedding anniversary

ays Been Home — and an Extension of Family

remain at the very center of the Rodens' life together.

In their 40 years of marriage, Bill and Lois have helped with countless parish ministries and events, often working together as a team. In the past, they have served as religious education catechists, helped with adult faith formation and adoration, and taught Natural Family Planning classes. Currently, Bill is a trustee of St. Albert, a Knight of Columbus, and secretary of the Building and Grounds Committee. Lois is the Liturgy Committee lead, coordinates the schedule of liturgical ministers, and sings with our Music Ministry.

By staying involved in parish life, the Rodens have found their faith continue to grow and deepen.

"I just feel I need to give to God, and He will protect me and send the Holy Spirit to guide me," says Bill of his desire to serve. "It's a two-way street. That's why my faith has been maintained throughout the years — because I put into it, and I receive back. If you just go to Mass to sit and see what you get out of it, you maybe don't get as much. It's praying along, singing along."

As they raised their own children with a strong foundation in the faith, Bill and Lois were able to lead by example. In addition to their active participation in our faith community, they also prayed together in the home. When their youngest daughter became a Carmelite nun, the Rodens saw their nightly prayer for religious vocations answered.

Reflecting on their life together, the Rodens are thankful for the faith that anchors them through it all.

"We feel abundantly blessed because we feel loved and secure," Lois says. "And when we have bumps — whether it's illness or tragedy, everyone has to have suffering in their lives — we work through that and rely on God."

Knowing firsthand the many blessings that come from active discipleship, Bill and Lois would encourage all parishioners to enter fully into the St. Albert "family" by getting involved in parish life.

"It's wonderful to see that some of the newer parishioners are interested and really getting into that family mentality and family feeling," Bill says. "It's what you put into it, so if you come to church and participate and are interested in meeting other people, you'll feel welcomed."

"St. Albert is family," Lois says. "It's home. I hope the faith of the younger families grows in the love of God, love of the Church, and love of the parish — and that it becomes a family to them, too, so that they are participating and feel welcomed and loved."



Bill and Lois Roden with their eight grandsons

FR. JOE ASSUMES PASTORAL ROLE at St. Albert

Rev. Joseph Zabinski has been named the parochial administrator for the Church of St. Albert in Albertville by Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, effective Feb. 8.

In this new role, Zabinski has pastoral authority and responsibility for the parish. The primary difference between *pastor* and *parochial administrator* is that a pastor is assigned for a set period of time, generally of six years. Parochial administrators are assigned for an undefined term. Zabinski will take over sacramental duties at St. Albert, including daily and weekend Masses, confessions, weddings and funerals. He will continue to

provide sacramental support at St. Michael and will stay connected with St. Michael Catholic School.

He has been serving as the associate pastor for parishes of St. Albert and St. Michael, first under Rev. Peter Richards and now under Rev. Brian Park. St. Michael was also his teaching parish as a seminarian.

“We are blessed with two faithful and fruitful parishes in the STMA community,” said Park. “This new arrangement means that both parishes once again have the dedicated attention of their own priest, while still providing St. Michael Catholic Church and School with additional priestly support when needed. Please congratulate Fr. Joe on his new assignment.”

GIVING TO GOD FIRST

Have you ever wondered why no one really becomes uneasy when someone brings up the first two “Ts” of stewardship — giving of your time or talents — but when the third “T” comes up, many of us become uncomfortable?

That third “T” is treasure, and some people simply become so annoyed by the subject, they tune out the words from the pulpit.

Why is there seemingly such an adverse reaction?

Our finances are such a personal subject. Discussing money issues with others is not easy, and having someone tell us what to do with our finances is even worse. We earn the money, after all. So shouldn't we decide what to do with it?

Of course, the answer is “yes” — we decide every day how to spend our hard-earned dollars. Indeed, the monetary choices we make will either keep our finances in check, or put us into the red. The average American family has about \$7,000 in credit card debt — so finances certainly represent a challenge to our current society. Tight budgets, trying to “keep up with the Joneses” or poor financial management

may be to blame for our tight resources. Does this mean we do not have anything left over for God?

Stewardship, at its roots, teaches that we are not supposed to give God our “leftovers.” We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our “first fruits” — giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. God gave us our talents that help us earn a living, after all. He should come first.

This idea can be worrisome for many. If our finances are already strained, how will we ever find enough to give back to God? Or, if we do try to give God our “first fruits,” will there be enough left over to cover our required expenses?

Taking the correct financial steps toward good stewardship simply boils down to trust — believing that God, who takes care of all of His creation, will take care of us. Trust that in giving to God first, we are both acknowledging that our multitude of blessings come from Him, and that we are thankful He chose to give them to us. And finally, trust that if we give to Him first, that all else will fall into place — because He is in ultimate control.

Meet Our Sacristans:

PROVIDING AN ESSENTIAL LITURGICAL SERVICE BEHIND THE SCENES

If you've ever planned a big event or even had friends over for dinner, you know there is much to be done in preparation. From ensuring that you have the necessary items to cleaning and organizing the venue, much thought and work often go into perfecting the details.

When it comes to the celebration of the Mass, while certainly a unique celebration, there are also similarities with planning any special occasion. Everything must be in its proper place, and the altar and sanctuary must be prepared. Many details come together, playing an important role in creating an environment that is conducive to prayer and worship.

At each Mass, it is our sacristans who are hard at work, often unnoticed, making sure that everything is in place.

"The sacristan's duties may seem mysterious to some because most of what we do is behind the scenes," says parishioner Karen Barthel, who serves as our lead sacristan. "We are entrusted with the preparations carried out before, during, and after Mass. This primarily consists of preparing the sacred vessels — the chalice, ciboria, cruets — and linens used during Mass, as well as marking readings in the Lectionary and Book of the Gospels. And then after the Mass, we appropriately clean and put these items away."

Sacristans arrive before the start of Mass and diligently prepare all of the items necessary for the celebration of the liturgy. Karen often finds herself praying as she works.

"Having become an active servant in our faith community has deepened my understanding, leading toward a deeper faith and love for my Catholic Christian faith. Being able to share these things with my family has also helped in their understanding of our faith."

— Karen Barthel



Lead sacristan Karen Barthel

"I do usually offer a prayer as I begin preparing for the liturgy — a prayer of thanksgiving for the Eucharist and asking that I may be made worthy to prepare the vessels and articles for the celebration of the Mass," she says.

In serving as a sacristan, Karen has found that she's grown in appreciation of the beauty of the Mass, the details, and all the things that come together in our liturgy each week. She also enjoys learning more about her faith, as well as the additional time in quiet to prepare her own heart to enter into prayer.

"There were so many details involved in celebrating Mass that I had never given thought to," Karen says. "I'm sure I learned some of this over the years in faith formation but had

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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: 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

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The sacristans' care of many behind-the-scenes details ensures that Mass is a seamless prayer.

forgotten. Having become an active servant in our faith community has deepened my understanding, leading toward a deeper faith and love for my Catholic Christian faith. Being able to share these things with my family has also helped in their understanding of our faith.

“I also like being in the sanctuary when there is no one else there,” she adds. “It is quiet and peaceful — resting in God’s house.”

Karen encourages her fellow parishioners to consider serving the parish as a sacristan, especially if they prefer to serve in a humble, behind-the-scenes kind of way.

“The best thing about serving and being involved was that I was always learning more and more about our faith,” Karen says. “So, being involved and active, I learn more about my faith.

“If you have a desire to deepen your faith and have a better understanding of the beauty of the Mass, the sacristan ministry is for you,” she adds.

If you would like more information on the ministry of the sacristans, or to become involved serving in this way, please contact Karen Barthel at 763-497-2987 or the parish office at 763-497-2474.