



CHURCH *of* ST. ALBERT

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound

*Ensuring All Members of Our Faith Community
Are Brought Closer to Christ*

Being the recipient of the Holy Eucharist when one is homebound and unable to attend Mass, and the act of giving the Holy Eucharist to one who is homebound is, in reality, a gift for both. Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound make sure our parishioners who cannot attend Mass can share in the sacrament.

Joanne Wacker coordinates the ministry that currently has been serving four families. The ministry had to halt the home visits last March because of COVID-19 concerns but was able to resume their care by late summer. There are four ministers, including Joanne. The ministers take turns each weekend visiting the homebound.

“They are so thankful we bring them Holy Communion,” Joanne says.

For Joanne, her service to the homebound has been a gift to her — a gift that brings her closer to Christ.

“It’s such a gift for me to bring the Eucharist to their homes so they are able to receive the Body of Christ,” she says. “They are so thrilled and appreciative that there are volunteers who will do this. It warms my heart to be able to do this ministry.”

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When a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion to the Homebound takes the consecrated host to a parishioner, there are several items used during the ceremony. A lit candle, holy water, book of prayers, and the pyx, which holds the consecrated host, are all used.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound *continued from front cover*

Joanne joined the ministry after considering the opportunity to join during the stewardship event. For several years she told herself she didn't have time for it, until one day she realized she did.

"I don't know if God was calling me, but that's how I got involved," she says.

The ministry coordinator at the time was stepping down, and she asked Joanne to take over the duties. She received training from the coordinator of our ministry for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. She then was commissioned to distribute Holy Communion. Since then, she takes the initial requests for homebound care that either come to her directly or through the parish office. She will make the first visit to a home, and explain what the process will be. She covers the Eucharistic presentation and answers any questions. The next visit will be by the minister whose turn it is to serve that weekend.

"The ministers typically get the hosts at Mass, and Father gives them what they need," Joanne says.

The hosts are kept in a small container known as a pyx until they are distributed after Mass.

Serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the homebound means that the ministers are living in stewardship by their acts of serving others when they bring them the Body of Christ.

Any parishioner interested in joining the ministry is welcome to contact Joanne.

"If they want to learn more about it, just reach out and talk to me," Joanne says. "You must be at least 18 years of age, and have a desire to help members of our own parish."



During the distribution of Holy Communion to a homebound parishioner, a prayerful setting invokes the blessings experienced by all taking part.

For more info, or to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Homebound, please contact Joanne Wacker at 612-214-4795.

A LETTER FROM OUR PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Pentecost: *The “Birth” of Stewardship*

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on May 23, which is one of the most significant events in the life of the Church, I can't help but relate the outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples as “the birth of stewardship.”

As a stewardship parish, we have come to understand it in our personal lives and our parish life as the work of the Holy Spirit, active and inspiring us to be the disciples Jesus called us to be, just as He did those very first disciples. It just makes sense to once again realize and acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit in our decisions to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

As every parent knows, birth brings new life to every family, and the “birth of stewardship” here in our parish has brought new life to us, personally and communally, and continues to do so. We had a “Pentecost event” when the message of stewardship was first brought to our parish, and it hasn't been the same since. Many curious people of our parish and from around the country ask the question, “How did all of this begin?” The only answer is, “moved by conversion, we knew stewardship was going to be the ‘plan’ for our future as disciples and as a parish.” It makes sense.

For some, like me, it took a conversion of sorts to move us from unbelievers to believers, and from fear or suspicion to courage and confidence in the values and ideals of stewardship. Reading the accounts of the Acts of the Apostles, it wasn't much different for them. Their experience is our experience and continues to encourage us to be open to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. That “Spirit” renews the “Pentecost event” in each of us, as we practice discipleship as we know it through the stewardship way of life.

Also, as with each new birth, the life that begins needs to be nourished, nurtured and loved. Through our understanding of the four pillars of parish stewardship — hospitality, prayer, formation and service — we each are called to nourish, nurture and love our parish family with the gifts we bring to each other. And without ever really knowing how much of an impact we have on each other's spiritual lives, we trust the Holy Spirit to



continue the “good work of faithful stewardship” in each of us and to those around us. Isn't that what the first Pentecost event started, and isn't that what you see in our parish, especially since our own “birth of stewardship”?

God has blessed our parish family and continues to do so, as the Holy Spirit continues to pour out gifts upon us and send us forth to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we grow and mature in our stewardship efforts, how fortunate we are that the stewardship way of life

has become our way of life. May we always give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit's gift to each of us — for, when we do, it seems only natural to be inspired to live discipleship as it was intended to be lived in the first disciples and in each of us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Joseph Zabinski". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr. Joseph Zabinski
Parochial Administrator



Meet Parishioner Judy Stukey:

If you sit down to chat with parishioner Judy Stukey about her Catholic faith, she'll tell you one thing is certain — it has been her joy in the good times and her strength in the tough times. No matter what circumstance or situation Judy has faced over the years, she has done so with steadfast trust in God's plans for her life.

Judy grew up in Albertville and attended the Catholic school here until her family moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa, when she was 13. She is thankful that her early years of formation here gave her such a strong foundation in the faith.

"It was wonderful," says Judy of her childhood in Albertville. "We lived close enough to walk to the church and school. We had the Notre Dame sisters that taught us. I was having speech problems, and I credit my first-grade nun as the one who taught me to speak clearly so others could understand me. In the fifth grade, the influence of Sister Domenica inspired me to go into teaching."

Judy graduated high school in Spirit Lake, then headed to college to become a teacher. She married Jerry Stukey, and the couple and their four daughters lived in several places before settling back down in Spirit



Judy Stukey (top right) gathers with some friends from St. Albert: Mary Daluge (top left) and (bottom, left to right) Mary Greninger; Linda Richter; and Marlene Kasper.

Lake. With their children getting older, Judy had decided to return to the classroom. Looking back on that decision now, she can clearly see God's hand in the timing.

"In 1970, I decided to go back and get my degree and teach," Judy says. "I thought it was my idea, but it was God's. He sent me to St. Joseph's College, we moved back to Iowa, and I started teaching. In 1988, at the age of 48, my husband had a brain stem

stroke that left him a quadriplegic. I don't know what we would have done without the insurance from my teaching job. My daughters all helped out, and I was so thankful because the insurance paid for the nurses while I was teaching."

Judy retired from teaching in 2001, and in 2008, she and Jerry moved back to Albertville to be closer to one of their daughters. From the moment Judy stepped foot in the Church of



A Life Firmly Anchored in the Faith

St. Albert, she felt like she was home again. The Stukeys began participating in small faith-sharing groups during Advent and Lent. Following Jerry's passing in 2012, Judy became even more active in parish life. She joined the CCW and is currently a member of our Parish Council. And once a teacher, always a teacher — Judy never misses the opportunity for some “classroom learning” through our adult faith formation programs!

Judy is especially thankful for her regular Holy Hour here at St. Albert, as this special devotion was not available at her parish in Spirit Lake.

“Adoration is the fastest hour of my week,” she says. “I feel like I've just sat or knelt down and it's already over. You're there, one-on-one with Jesus and talking to Him. I feel like He has been such a part of my life,

and Mary, too — I ask her to intercede for me.”

Knowing firsthand the abundant blessings to be found in an active faith, Judy encourages everyone to stay engaged with parish life.

“I enjoy that there are so many opportunities to participate at St. Albert regardless of age,” she says. “The parish has so much to offer. There are so many people that are so involved with this church, and it's wonderful to get to know them. It's been fun to reminisce with old classmates here and to meet new people. The parish has grown so much. That friendly and welcoming church I remember is still here and still wonderful. It's such an inspiration! I think everybody should be a part of St. Albert.”

Reflecting on the way her Catholic faith has been a steady

anchor throughout the ups and downs of life, Judy is grateful for the foundation in the faith our Catholic community provided during her early years and for the faith family that so warmly welcomed her upon her return to Albertville. Staying close to the Lord through the sacraments and participation in the parish is a truly priceless gift.

“I just feel like God has been helping me through my whole life, and I never could have gotten through without that faith,” Judy says. “My faith has made me happy in many ways, and when I was down, it was the backbone that picked me up. As I age, I understand all the times God has stood by me on my journey, helping with my plans so that I was, and still am, able to handle the situations in my life.”

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Stewardship: *The Four Pillars*

You've heard about the three Ts of stewardship, but what about the four Ps?

The three Ts – Time, Talent, and Treasure – describe the personal gifts we offer to the Church. The four Ps are the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship described by the renowned pastor Msgr. Thomas McGread. They are the hallmark of a stewardship parish – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Let's take a look at each of them to understand how we can improve in each area.

Hospitality

Christian Kindness

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel teaches that whenever we welcome the least of our brothers or sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. That is why the first mark of a stewardship parish is hospitality. Being friendly is one of the first ways we can be Christ-like toward others.

Modern Catholic parishes are often so large and have so many Masses that many parishioners don't know one another. To create a sense of community, be sure to smile and greet others as you enter and exit the Church. Let's try harder than ever to be a welcoming community.

Prayer

Heart-to-Heart with God

“Do not become so involved in the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work,” a seminary professor once taught. In other words, don't get so caught up with parish projects and outreach efforts that you forget to draw aside to spend time with God in prayer. Every great saint has taught that prayer is the most essential component in the life of the Christian. Through prayer, we nurture our most important relationship – the one that will last for all eternity.

A healthy prayer life should include communal prayer such as Mass, as well as personal prayer and family prayer.

The two biggest obstacles to prayer are lack of time and lack of understanding of how to pray. We have to schedule time for prayer just as we would for an important appointment. And we have to learn how to pray from other people. Many saints have written spiritual books that describe different methods of prayer.

Formation

Continuous Conversion

Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply.

Very often our society values material things more than interior virtues. But as personal experience shows, when we finally acquire the car or house or “toy” that we wanted so badly, it doesn't really satisfy. On the other hand, we don't tend to desire spiritual virtues with the same kind of longing, but when we actually have them, we find them far more rewarding than material things.

Service

Love in Action

“Amen I say to you, whatever you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). This Scripture was one of St. Teresa of Calcutta's favorites. Each time she picked up a poor and hungry child, she knew she was ministering to Christ. While we may not view ourselves as saints, we too are called to such heroic service right within our own community. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “To be a saint is not the privilege of a few, but the duty of everyone.”

We have many service opportunities right here within our own parish. If you have the willingness to serve and take the initiative to find where you are needed, you'll find that there is no end to the families and individuals who truly need help. How can you reach out to them in love?



Join Us for Totus Tuus in July

Opportunity for Children and Teens to Learn the Good News This Summer

St. Pope John Paul II's motto, Totus Tuus, is Latin for "totally yours." It's also a program that youth throughout the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis get to experience each summer. The catechetical-based program is led by a team of two men and two women, who are seminarians and college students. Teams spend a week at a parish leading by example and walking youth through the Good News of Jesus Christ in a fun way. This year, we will welcome another Totus Tuus team to St. Albert in mid-July.

Director of Religious Education Jean Wold says this program has been a big hit for the elementary, junior high, and high school students.

"This is a catechesis program, layered with so many things," Jean says. "This year's theme is 'the Beatitudes and Virtues.' This is all about engaging young people and connecting."

The program for children in grades 1-6 will be held July 19-23 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. The program for teens in grades 7-12 is two hours in the evening from July 18-22. Both programs will have time in the Parish Center and outside. COVID-19 precautions will be in place.

This will be the third time we've hosted the Totus Tuus program at St. Albert. Last year's Totus Tuus was canceled due to the pandemic. Jean can't wait to host this again and be a part of the excitement. She's always hearing from parents how much their children enjoy this program.

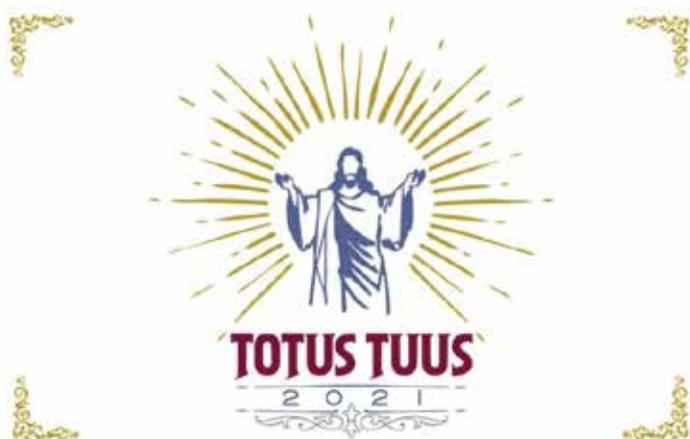
"I just love seeing the joy the kids have when they are here," she says. "Parents have told me their kids can't wait until the next day."

The missionaries show the kids that it's acceptable to have fun. In fact, one of the closing events of the week is the highlight — a water fight. In 2019, Fr. Joe Zabinski even got in on the fun with buckets, water balloons, water guns, and, really, anything that can move water.

"They want to show that living out your faith can be fun," Jean says. "You can live with joy and happiness as a Catholic."

On Wednesday of the Totus Tuus week, there's been a potluck for all of the participants and their families. That special event is still taking shape for 2021.

Jean says Totus Tuus has five areas of focus, and "fun" is one of them. Another area of focus is "the Eucharist,"



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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.

Totus Tuus *continued from page 7*

and Mass is available each day for the participants. Missionaries also focus on “Marian devotion” and “catechetical instruction.” The missionaries also discuss “vocation discernment,” and they are there discerning their vocations right along with the youth. A large part of the junior and senior high program is creating relationships

with the students. The missionaries share openly and talk about their faith journey.

“Young people need to hear how to discern their vocation and how to be open to the religious life in some way,” Jean says. “The missionaries are a beautiful witness to all the participants of being open to your vocation.”

Jean Wold is committed to keeping the registration fees low for Totus Tuus. There is also a maximum amount families have to pay, in order to keep the cost lower for large families.

Be sure to visit churchofstalbert.org for registration information.

Volunteers are needed to help at Totus Tuus, more in a supervisory role and also to make lunch for the missionaries. Host families are also needed to house the missionaries and to host the team for dinner during the week. Also, please be sure to watch for a Giving Tree with a list of items needed for Totus Tuus.