February 14, 2021
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule
Monday—Thursday
8:15am (in person & live stream)
Friday
9:00am - (live stream only)
Saturday Vigil
4:00pm (in person & live stream)
Sunday
7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am
(in person & live stream)
Prayer and Devotion at 6:00pm
(live stream daily)
Available on the website
Stations of the Cross
Prayer Intentions
Our Lady of Lourdes Novena
Reaching Out
Pastor Viewpoint

Mass Intentions
Monday: February 15
8:15am John Bartu
Tuesday: February 16
8:15am Pureza & Demetrio Peralta
Wednesday: February 17
Ash Wednesday
8:15am Anthony & Silvio D’Ambrosio
7:00pm Elaine Sobecks
Thursday: February 18
8:15am Stanley Write
Friday: February 19
9:00am Gina Haren
(LIVE STREAM ONLY)
Saturday: February 20
4:00pm Ron & Arlene Borkey
Sunday: February 21
First Sunday in Lent
7:30am People of St. Albert the Great
9:30am Daniel Molchan
11:30am Dorothy Shevchuk

Readings for February 21
1st Reading Genesis 9:8-15
2nd Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel Mark 1:12-15
Parish Staff

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Masses Live-Streamed
Masses will be live-streamed on facebook.com/StAlberttheGreatparish
Or go to www.saint-albert.org
Monday-Thursday at 8:15am (in-person & live-stream)
Friday at 9:00am (live-stream only)
Saturday at 4:00pm (in-person & live-stream)
Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am
(in-person & live-stream)
Masses can be viewed anytime.
We will keep you updated via Facebook, email, and website.
Thank you and God Bless

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 into 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

A Perfect Act of Contrition
Father of mercy, like the prodigal son I return to you and say: "I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child." Christ Jesus, Savior of the world, I pray with the repentant thief to whom you promised Paradise: "Lord, remember me in your kingdom." Holy Spirit, fountain of love, I call on you with trust: "Purify my heart, and help me to walk as a child of light."
Dear St. Albert Family,

This Sunday, Valentine’s Day, we celebrate World Marriage Day in our Catholic Church. Here at St. Albert we reach out to all of our parishioners having a “milestone” anniversary (1, 5, 10,...50,60) and invite them to attend Mass and renew their marriage promises before the Church. This celebration is an invitation for all of us to consider God’s great love of His people in Christ Jesus, the Bridegroom of the Church. May God bless all married couples with patience, kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, peace, and joy. Special prayers for all of those whose marriages are suffering at this time. May the healing power of God in the Church bring them resolution and renewed communion in love.

We are also celebrating the Pre-Cana Day retreat for all of our engaged couples. Their retreat day had to be virtual this year because of COVID, but they will be joining the 4:00pm Mass (in person or on-line) for a special blessing upon the engaged. In the beginning, God created humanity as “male and female” and invite all of us to see in this loving communion a reflection of God’s very Self. Divine Image, “image dei” as it is said in Latin. Let the loving and committed couples in your life remind you of the dignity you have as children of God.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be distributed “on the top of our heads” (at the instruction of the Holy Father) and in silence. We will be distributing ashes AT THE END of the 8:15am and 7:00pm Masses. There will be a “walk through” distribution of ashes at 5:00pm (simply enter the chandelier entrance, proceed forward and receive ashes, and exit through the Wallings Road entrance.

Please join in our Lenten programming and prayer throughout this holy season. Let’s make a return to the Lord.

Peace,

It is by the path of love, which is charity, that God draws near to us, and we to God. But where love is not found, God cannot dwell. If then, we possess love, we possess God, for “God is Love.”

St. Albert the Great
Events Happening this Lent Season 2021

1. Our theme this year for Lent is “Building Faith Through Prayer.” We are going to use the parish book “A Quiet Time” where we will be reading and reflecting upon this book as a parish community. You can go to our website or call the parish office to request a book.

2. One hour live book clubs for 5 weeks with Fr. Estok and Fr. Joshua. There will be one on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00pm and one on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, beginning on February 24/26. You are invited to join them on ZOOM. You can register on our website for the book club, that way we can send you the link to join the live book club.

3. “Church@Home” in small groups for 3 sessions during Lent, starting on March 7th (the 3rd, 4th & 5th weeks of Lent). To register go to our website, click on Church@Home 2021 link and go to the registration form to sign up.

4. Throughout our Lenten Journey, starting on February 19th, will be Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm on Friday evenings. We will be presenting so they can be celebrated in person in church, as well as with virtually on our Facebook page or on our website.

Ash Wednesday Schedule—February 17, 2021

8:15am and 7:00pm Mass with Ashes Distributed at the Conclusion. In-Person and live-stream.

5:00pm– Procession for ashes only (enter the church through the Chandelier entrance, process forward for ashes, exit Wallings Road door).

Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday, February 17th, and Good Friday, April 2nd, are days of abstinence and fasting. Abstinence binds all Catholics, 14 years and older, from eating meat. Fasting is limited to a single full meal for Catholics, from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord’s call to penance and conversion.

World Marriage Day

Prayer of Blessing

O Lord, who has joined these your servants in the unbreakable bond of marriage, and has been pleased to sustain them in communion of the spirit amid toil and joy, increase, we pray, and purify their love, so that, together with their family, they may rejoice in the sanctification they bring to each other. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday’s during Lent 3:00pm-3:30pm**

During Lent we are resuming Confessions on Saturday afternoons from 3:00pm-3:30pm in the church. Please be aware that we are asking people to wear face masks inside the Church. We ask that you sanitize your hands before you enter the confessional and when you exit the confessional. When you come to church to go to confession we ask that you do not sit down or touch anything until you go to confession. Then leave immediately after confession unless you plan on attending Mass, then sit in the assigned areas.

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**RCIA Candidate—Julian Barcon**

My name is Julian Barcon and I will be nine years old in March. I am in the third grade. I started learning about Jesus Christ at home with my dad when he started teaching me about the Catholic religion a couple years ago. Last year, I decided that I wanted to become Catholic and be baptized just like him. I love learning about God because He teaches me about being kind, loving others and learning past events about Jesus Christ. I think God can help me be a better person. When I go to church, I communicate with God.

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**Adult Confirmation Sessions**

Adult Confirmation classes will be offered for Adults who have been baptized and made their First Communion, but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Classes will be offered at St. Albert the Great during the month of March. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, April 30th at 6:30pm. Please contact Sr. Kate if you are interested in attending these sessions or if you have any questions call 440-237-6760.

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**The Little Black Book for Lent**

Grow closer to the Lord during Lent and Easter with six-minute daily meditations on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. Cost is $1.00. They are available at the Wallings Road entrance and the Parish Office.
Marriage Tip

When you and your spouse have an argument, remember that the goal is not to “win.” The two of you are on the same team, fighting for your marriage, not one another. ForYourMarriage.org.

“If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is ‘thank you’ that would suffice.”

Meister Eckhart

Check Out St Albert the Great Ministries on-line
Web: www.saint-albert.org
Facebook Group: “Saint Albert the Great Parish and School”
School Facebook Page:
“Saint Albert the Great School North Royalton”
Twitter: Fr. Ed Estok: Matador@TheMatadorWord
Homily Blog: www.thematadorword.blogspot.com

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com
**2021 Catholic Charities Appeal**  
**Weekend of February 20-21**

The 2021 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal will take place next weekend in our parish. This year’s appeal theme is “Love Your Neighbor”. Your generous support will transform the lives of others, to offer dignity, possibilities and companionship to those who are most vulnerable. As in the past, an in-pew commitment process will take place next weekend, February 20-21. All who have not received the mailing from Bishop Malesic, or you have not had a chance to respond to it, will be asked to consider making a generous pledge to support the ministries and services provided by Catholic Charities. If you have received the mailing, please respond generously to it, and we ask you to also complete the in-pew envelope and indicate by checking the box that you have responded by mail. We invite you to view stories of inspiration and more information at CatholicCommunity.org/2021.

**Called for More Survey**

Our parish is always looking to improve, to serve better, and most importantly to grow closer to God and one another. This past year has been challenging for all of us, but there have been many silver linings too. Together with the entire diocese of Cleveland, we are asking you to participate in the Called for More Survey, which will go live from February 17th to March 21st. This survey should take no longer than 15 minutes, and it will ask you a variety of questions about how the parish is doing, how your own spiritual life is going, and what you’d like to see happen in the future. For more information please contact Fr. Joshua at the parish office, or email frjt@saint-albert.org.

**Nursing Home Blessings Bag Ministry**

**‘Thank You’!**

Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the Valentine Cheer Blessings Bag collection. The care and compassion that went into each was certainly heartwarming. We collected just under 300 cheerful bags! Save the date March 27th and 28th for the Easter collection.
FISH FRY 2021 HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

Since the Lenten season is quickly approaching and the COVID situation is still very fluid, we have sadly decided to cancel the 2021 Fish Fry season. The Fish Fry provided our parish with a couple of outstanding benefits.

Our Justice and Compassion ministries, and more specifically, Feeding the Hungry, benefit from the proceeds of the Fish Fry. Our Feeding the Hungry ministry is on track to providing and serving around 18,000 meals this year. Fortunately, due to our relationship with the Greater Cleveland Foodbank, we can provide a nutritious meal for less than $1. A consideration of alms giving this Lenten season to Feeding the Hungry would gladly be appreciated.

If you have any questions, contact Denise Bobulsky at 440-237-6760 or dbobulsky@saint-albert.org.

Laudato Si Lenten Practices

Many of us give up a favorite food, treat or beverage for our Lenten practice. This year, consider adding a Lenten practice that will help heal our Earth. Give up single use plastic. Limit your intake of animal products to more than just the obligatory days of abstinence. Turn down your thermostat. Make a change in your life that demands sacrifice. Reflect on the fact that consuming more of the Earth’s resources than you need is a form of gluttony that denies others the right to life. For more ideas, refer to our Creation Care Lenten Calendar found on our parish website under the Justice & Compassion Ministries.

“Care of creation is not just something God spoke of at the dawn of history; he entrusts it to each of us as part of his plan.”

--Pope Francis
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Preparing for Next Sunday’s Mass
Parish LinC Letter February 21, 2021 First Sunday of Lent

Four steps to LinC together at home, church meeting, or anywhere!

Step 1 Read the following Scripture passage paying attention to a word, phrase, or idea that stands out to you:

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Step 2 Make Use of One of These Communion Connections:

The Gospel says that “the Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert...for forty days, tempted by Satan”. As we enter into the season of Lent, we, too, begin our own 40-days in the desert. When we take the Lenten observances of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer seriously, we can realize temptations of our own. In fasting, our self-denial becomes a way of appreciating our eternal need and dependence on God alone. When we give alms, we surrender our ego, stripping us from ourselves and focusing more on the other. When we pray, we come to Jesus with contrite hearts and ask him, in his mercy, to transform our hearts to be like his. These “3 Pillars of Lent” allow us to move away from ourselves and to see the darkness of sin that has crept into our lives.

But this can be difficult for us to do. We want our ego for control; we find selfishness in our acts, and laziness in our prayer. But unless we call on Jesus to help us overcome the grip of our sin, we will never allow ourselves the path to holiness. When we feel the pull of darkness, we need to cling to Jesus, and with him, we can overcome our temptations, our sins, and live in freedom.

So come, and enter the desert with Jesus, saying, “teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.” (Psalm 25).

Step 3 Consider and Discuss these 3 Questions:

Considering your life today....
1. What in this reading comforted you?
2. What in this reading encouraged you?
3. What in this reading challenged you?

For further contemplation....
What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

Step 4 Conclude by praying our “Parish Communion Prayer”

O Communion of Love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, embrace us as your children in this family of faith. Welcome us to a place at your table in the wedding feast of heaven. O Father of Mercy, forgive us as we forgive. Reconcile us as one Body in Christ and make us instruments of your Peace. O Spirit of Fire and Light, send us as your witnesses in daily life. Through our prayer, faith, and good works may we become welcoming doorways, inviting others to enter and encounter your Holy Communion of Love.

We make this prayer, Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and through Christ our Lord. Amen