February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions
Monday: February 22
The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
8:15am George Stybel

Tuesday: February 23
8:15am Georgene F. Skerda

Wednesday: February 24
8:15am Elaine Navratil

Thursday: February 25
8:15am Jim Rademaker

Friday: February 26
9:00am Zachary Franczek
(LIVE STREAM ONLY)

Saturday: February 27
4:00pm Donald Spence

Sunday: February 28
Second Sunday of Lent
7:30am Richard Sacha
9:30am People of St. Albert the Great
11:30am Raymond Medves

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

Readings for February 28
1st Reading Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
2nd Reading Romans 8:31b-34
Gospel Mark 9:2-10
Living in Communion

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
Jesus Christ, Son of God, You are the Bread come down from heaven who feeds and heals your pilgrim people. I love You with all my heart. Turning to you in the Eucharist today, I pray that You refresh me with your grace and Presence, renew me as a Temple of your Holy Spirit, reconcile me within the Communion of Your Church, that we, as one family, might radiate your light to the world.
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."

Our Parish Mission Statement
We the people of St. Albert the Great Roman Catholic parish are called to be a community of believers,
rooted in the love of God,
inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
led by the Holy Spirit, and centered in the Eucharist.
Through our stewardship of God’s gifts,
we welcome all people, support family life,
engage in life-long faith formation, and
reach out to others in love and compassion.
Dear St. Albert Family,

This is the First Sunday of Lent 2021. Our parish focus for this Lent is “Building Faith through Prayer”. I hope you will join in the reading of our parish Lenten book, “A Quiet Place” and possibly sign up for one of the book study groups (Tuesdays with Fr. Estok and Thursdays with Fr. Joshua) and consider Church@Home small group beginning the week of March 7. Friday evening Stations of the Cross have this same prayerful theme and I encourage you to attend either in person or on line.

We welcome our catechumens (those preparing for Easter sacraments) and candidates (already baptized Christians) in this Sunday’s Rite of Election (at the 9:30am mass). We have about 8 individuals on the journey to a full Catholic life. Pray for them.

This is the Catholic Charities Appeal weekend. Thanks for responding to this important work of all of our parishes in serving the poor in our midst. Fr. Joshua is introducing the “Called for More” diocesan spiritual renewal process this weekend with the Disciple Maker Index which you are asked to complete before March 20th. See in this bulletin the link to completing this 15-minute survey that will be a big help to our parish planning in the future.

We have prepared a “Sneak Preview” video tour of the new Parish Life Center, and it is available on our parish website (saint-albert.org). We had fun making it and I think you will enjoy seeing it. The Building Faith Project is progressing on schedule and budget. They began preparing the parking lots A, B and C for their summer facelift by removing some of the trees that will be replaced. August 1st is the date set for Bishop Malesic to come and dedicate the new Parish Life Center. Please pray for the success of our project, the continued success of our capital campaign reaching out to 100% of our parishioners, and for the re-open of our renewed parish campus coming this summer.

Blessed Lent to all!

Fr. Estok

**Baptism Classes**
Baptism classes will now be done using Zoom (video conferencing) at this time. If you would like to participate please email Deacon Ted at deaconted@saint-albert.org to sign up for a virtual class. The next class will be on Sunday April 25th. Any questions, please call the parish office at 440-237-6760.

**Prayer List**
The following names are additions to the prayer list this week. Please pray for those sick in our parish.
Richard Phillips
A prayer list is published on the first and third Sunday of the month.

**Lent**

**Pray for Those Who Died**
Fr. Thomas Haggedorn
Fr. Joseph Mecir
Evelyn Yagersz
Deacon Carl Varga
Msgr. Robert Wolff
Charles Ballish

**Sunday Collection**
Christmas $113,856.65
Sunday, February 14th $34,409.81
St. Albert parishioners are remarkably generous. Sharing a portion of our income with the Church is a sign that everything belongs to God and we dedicate our “first fruits” to the work of the Kingdom of Christ. Thank you so much for your faith and generosity.

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.

Are you angry with someone? Pray for that person. That is what Christian love is.
—Pope Francis

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.

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 23/25. 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, virtually on our Facebook page or on our website.

Prayer Intentions or Petitions can be found on our parish website: www.saint-albert.org. Just tap the picture and you can then fill out your prayer intention and submit it.
THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY IS OPENS THIS WEEK! PLEASE READ AND HELP!

It’s official! The Disciple Maker Index Survey opens this week, and we need your help!

Please help us participate by completing a 10-15 minute survey as soon as possible.

- Go to https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/d87f91879t
- There are also opportunities to complete the survey after daily and Sunday Mass, and you can obtain a paper copy in the parish office or by contacting Fr. Joshua Trefney in the parish office.

The survey will only be available from February 17, 2021 - March 22, 2021 and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish’s efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to Fr. Estok and Fr. Trefney and our various ministries as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

RCIA CANDIDATE, JOSEPH BRUNO SESTITO

My name is Joseph Bruno Sestito. My first rather intensive exposure to the Catholic Church involved going to Padua High School. I graduated in 1983. Next, Fr. Edward Estok had a big impact on my spiritual development. Initially, I met him after he gave a homily at a church in Lakewood, in which he talked about a “pay it forward” theme. I thereafter attended many of the daily 5:10 pm masses which he presided at the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist. He invited me to join the weekly centering prayer group there, which had an enormous impact on me, spiritually and emotionally. Ultimately, I began to attend St Albert the Great and Dennis Bunday graciously volunteered to be my sponsor, thus helping to make happen my decades long desire to officially become part of the Catholic Church.
ST ALBERT THE GREAT PARISH
Church@Home
LENT 2021 SERIES

Meet once per week for 3 weeks!
Gather for Week 1: (3rd SUN Lent) Feb 28-Mar 6
Gather for Week 2: (4th SUN Lent) Mar 7-13
Gather for Week 3: (5th SUN Lent) Mar 14-20

Please note preferences you may have when selecting a small conversation group
◊ People my age/similar stage of life
◊ Be in a group with (name) ______________
◊ To experience a new C@H group this Lent.

If possible, what type of small conversation group are you looking for? Please circle
Married Couples  Co-ed (single or married)
Men only  Women only
Other ________________________________

Name__________________________________
Address  _______________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________________
Phone _________________________________
Email Address ___________________________

If needed, would you be willing to serve as a Host? ____  Facilitator? ____

Gender  M  F  Age  ______

Circle all possible days of week for you to meet:
Su - M - Tu - W - T - F - Sa

Circle all possible times of day for you to meet:
Morning  Afternoon  Evening

How can you participate in this Lent’s C@H sessions? (check all that apply)
◊ Via Zoom or Google Meeting
◊ Phone call (audio only)

CHURCH @ HOME LENT

This Lent, join us with our Church @ Home series and encounter the love of God through our neighbors, friends and family members. We will share in our Lenten reflections within our small groups, but due to the continuing impact of the Coronavirus on our communities, our gatherings will, again, take place via social media only. You can choose your form of social media – online, through Zoom or Google Meet, and/or through a simple phone conversation. Groups can be based on the form of participation. Training sessions will be available to facilitators who wish to learn how to conference using Zoom.

You can complete the Church @ Home invitation and either mail it to the parish office, or drop it in the Sunday collection basket or at the parish office. The invitation is also on our website. Click on the Church@Home logo to connect to the invitation.

Let’s continue to encounter Christ through our family and friends by sharing in this season with Church@Home! We pray that the Holy Spirit touches our hearts and that many people will experience Jesus in a special way during these days of our Lenten journey.

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/April. 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.

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
2021 Catholic Charities Appeal
Weekend of February 20-21

The 2021 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal is underway with an in-pew commitment process taking place this weekend. This is not a special collection; rather, the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal represents the chance for all Catholics to make a significant pledge, payable in installments, to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland in order to support its mission of a society that stands united in its support of the “least among us.” Many parishioners have received a letter from Bishop Malesic requesting their support. If you have not received this letter, please respond to the in-pew commitment process today! If you have received the mailing, please respond to it. There is a box on the in-pew envelope to indicate that you have responded by mail.

Love Your Neighbor. Your support of the 2021 Catholic Annual Appeal, helps us to carry out the mission that Jesus entrusted to us: I say to you, whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Please consider a generous gift that will change the lives of the 400,000 who are served each year in Northeast Ohio. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, which provides for essential programs and services in need throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Double your impact! A generous donor, who believes in the mission of Catholic Charities, will match your gift, up to $1 million dollars. Do twice as much good when you give online at CatholicCommunity.org/Match. On behalf of the poor and needy of Northeast Ohio, Thank You!

Soup Pots

The Feeding the Hungry Ministry provides meals for the inner city meal program. We purchase supplies, cook and serve meals to those less fortunate than us. During the Lenten season the “soup pots” will be at the entrance doors of the church accepting your contributions. It is through your generous contributions that allow us to minister to the thousands of people we serve. Thank you for your continuous support.
FISH FRY 2021 HAS 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.

HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS THROUGH VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Are you looking for a way to help individuals in your community? Are you willing to engage with homebound patients and families by phone or by mail? Consider becoming a Hospice of the Western Reserve Volunteer. Virtual training is held every month for new volunteers. For more information, contact us at 216-255-9090 or fill out an online application at hospicewr.org/volunteer.

AN ECOLOGICAL EXAMEN: RECONCILING WITH GOD, CREATION AND HUMANITY

In Laudato Si, Pope Francis calls us all to reconcile our relationship with God, creation and each other. In this Ecological Examen, offered by The Ignatian Solidarity Network, we are asked to contemplate our personal ways and to promote ecological justice. The full exam can be found at ecologicalexamen.org.

1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God’s presence in creation today?
2. I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?
3. I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable. What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?
4. I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation. Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of heart?
5. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?
Preparing for Next Sunday’s Mass

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:

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no filler on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he changed them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Step 2  Make Use of One of These Communion Connections:

Something extraordinary happened on that mountain. Upon Mount Tabor, Peter, James, and John encountered a magnificent vision of Christ’s glory. It is here that the apostles heard the voice of the Father from a cloud, claiming Jesus as His own and imploring them to “Listen to Him”. The divinity of Jesus was unveiled. These frightened but awe-struck disciples were the first to get a glimpse of the future glory of Jesus’ resurrection, and they were transformed at their deepest level. This intimacy with Jesus, with the “God-Man”, would change them for the rest of their lives. We, too, can encounter such a moment, if only a glimpse, in our spiritual lives when God captivates our attention. For here in our hearts, Christ takes up his dwelling, together with the Father, and all things shine with divine radiance. Perhaps there are moments in your day, or in prayer, or especially at Mass, where you feel the fire of your faith, and know that God is closer to you in a more intimate way.

During this Lenten season, listen to the voice of God calling, so that you too may enter into the deeper meaning of God’s holy mystery. Allow God to transform you into his likeness and dwell in his light. Let the Lord take you to deeper intimacy, the intimacy where you can breathe deeply and say, “Lord, it is good that we are here.”

Step 3  Consider and Discuss these 3 Questions:

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