



Godspeed



St. Alban's Newsletter

Volume V, Issue IV
April, 2009

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 2009

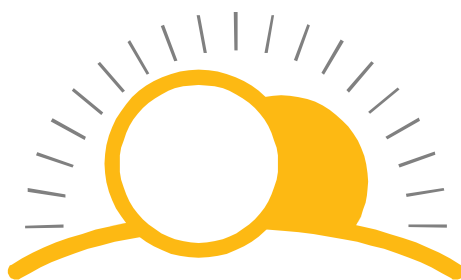
Palm Sunday	5th - 7:30 a.m.	Eucharist Rite I
	10:00 a.m.	Procession of the Palms And Eucharist Rite II
Wednesday	8th - 6:30 p.m.	Seder Meal
Thursday	9th - 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service, Foot Washing and Eucharist Rite II
Friday	10th - 12:00 noon	Good Friday Liturgy, Veneration of the Cross, and Mass of the Pre-sanctified

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Special points of interest:

- Sunday, April 5th—Procession of the Palms and Eucharist Rite II 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 8th—Seder Meal 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 9th—Maundy Thursday Service, Foot Washing 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 10th—Good Friday Service 12:00 noon.
- Sunday, April 12th—Easter Day Services 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 15th—Vestry Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 19th—WOSA meeting 11:45 a.m.
- Sunday, April 26th—Ingathering of food for Soup or Socks Pantry.
- Sunday, April 26th—Parish Potluck after 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.



EASTER

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Easter Sunday	12th - 7:30 a.m.	Eucharist Rite I
	10:00 a.m.	Eucharist Rite II



Fr. Walter's Reflections



Fr. Verne Walter

Eastertide includes the whole period of fifty days starting with Easter Day and concluding on through the day of Pentecost. So it commemorates the Resurrection, the Ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit. This year Easter Day is on April 12th, the Ascension is on May 21st, and Pentecost May 31st. The Apostles' Creed says, "On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father." Acts gives the impression that the Ascension may have occurred "forty days" after the Resurrection. From the tomb Jesus Christ, "the King of Glory," proceeded to his eternal throne where he reigns as King of the Kingdom of God. Traditional thought places the kingly crown on his head,

replacing the crown of thorns, at this time. It is also a crown of his victory over death. Hence the crown of the King makes an appropriate symbol for this whole period.

The depicting of the risen Christ may be made more explicit by one or more of these attributes: a white or golden garment, the banner of the Resurrection (appropriate from his rising until his Ascension), the five wounds, or a radiance around him. A crucifix on which Christ is shown clad in Eucharistic vestments represents the Reigning Christ or Christ the King.

The entire season from Easter to Pentecost was once observed as one continuous festival. Later, in the fourth century, the season was separated into the Resurrection, the Ascension, and Pentecost.

The early church called Easter *Pascha*, a word derived from the Hebrew for Passover. The name Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon

spring goddess, Eostre, whose festival coincided with the spring equinox.

Easter Day is the most important day of the church year. "Christ is risen! Alleluia!" The resurrection is the keystone in the arch of Christianity. Without it, everything else crumbles. Christians moved their day of worship from the last day of the week to the first so that each Sunday is a "little Easter." Sundays are never fast days, even during Lent.

Ascension Day falls near the close of this season. As determined from scripture, it is the fortieth day after Easter, always a Thursday.

By accident or by design, symbols for Easter tend to use as their forms things which are pleasant in themselves aside from symbolic content. Light, flowers, and birds all have their place along with tokens of victory and kingly estate. Many of the symbols for Easter carry the meaning, not only of the resurrection of Christ, but also of the Christian's ultimate resurrection and eternal

life. The color for the Easter season is white.

My prayer this Eastertide season is: That each of us will take time from our busy schedules to focus on Christ; so that our lives will be changed as we **d e e p e n o u r** understanding of who Christ is and what He did for us in this Eastertide season; that we might share in Christ's victory over death; that our hearts and ministries will be resurrected to a new level of service in Christ's name; so that we might show forth His love, reconciliation, and healing in a broken world.

In His Eternal Love,

Fr. Walter



Deacon's Notes



Deacon Georgeanne Cusic

As most of you know, my dad passed away two weeks ago. Thank you all for your sustaining prayers for me and my family. Dad had a severe stroke and we sat by his bedside for 10 days as he began his journey to God's arms. Although it was a sad time, it was also a time filled with healing and growth. A great gift from Dad to all of us!

As I reflect back on this time, I am struck by how faith or the lack of it was an agent through these

days. For those of us who knew God and his promises, who knew the promise of Jesus to the disciples in John 14, this time spent with Dad was a glimpse at our own hereafter. At times, we saw on Dad's face a glow of peace and serenity that we all long for. He appeared to be living between his former home and his future home. Moving a little closer to God and away from us each day. To see the peaceful transformation, the softening of face wrinkles, the gentle surrender, was powerful to us. But for those of us watching who still did not trust that there is a God and a future life, it was a troubling and apprehensive time. It was a time to cling to Dad and not let go, to try to save him from his plight.

But God is so gracious! As we dealt with Dad's reality in our own ways, God interceded to give support and comfort in powerful ways. He came to each of us in a unique way. He healed wounds, gave answers that matched our

questions and led us into a deeper understanding of death.

Where are you with your understanding of the end of life here and our future life with God? Until a few years ago, I was NO WHERE with these concepts. That was scary stuff, with uncertain answers, and no easy way to figure it all out. So avoidance came in real handy. But it is easier to deal with a crisis when you've done your homework.

A little over 10 years ago, Dad and I both felt the need to answer the big question - "what's it all about?". Matthew 7:7-8 tells us "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks receives..." For me, it was a strong nudge to pursue the diaconate. For Dad, I think God was telling him it was time to get ready. My Dad, always an idea man, challenged me with deep questions as I sought my own answers. But, the work paid off for us both.

As he lay there in bed, beginning his most important journey, we watched his demeanor change from anxiety to peace. He knew where he was going and he was ready.

Faith, it turns out is not just a noun, it's an action word. It demands a response from each of us in our own way. God sits in the background, patiently waiting for our knock. If you have questions and want some help with your search, Fr. Verne or I are here to help.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:1-3

Deacon Georgeanne

God is awake



A mother and her 4-year-old daughter were preparing for bed one night. The child was afraid of the dark, and on this occasion the mother, alone with the child, felt fearful herself.

When the light was turned off, the child caught a glimpse of the moon outside the

window. "Is the moon God's light?" she asked her mom.

"Yes," replied the mother.

"Will God put out his light and go to sleep?" asked the girl.

"No, dear. God never goes to sleep."

Then, out of the simplicity of a child's faith, the girl said something that reassured the fearful mother. "Well, as long as God is awake, there's no sense in all of us staying awake."

The pair slept well that night — and for the many nights that followed.

Soup or Socks

February was a busy month for Soup or Socks. The day I worked we gave food to seven families. That sets a personal record for me for one afternoon! Thanks to my February helpers. We will be working April 27, 29 and 30th. Please check the bulletin board to sign up if you are able. If you haven't tried working and want to see what it is all about, talk with me.

The two big community food drives have been scheduled as follows:

Boy Scouts – April 25th

Post Office – May 9th

Additional help is always needed at these drives. I have put a sign-up on the board for slots on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25. Please sign up if you can help.

Thanks to all of you for supporting SOS.

Deacon Georgeanne Cusic



Seder Meal

Passover



We will celebrate a traditional Seder Meal at St. Alban's. Please see Holy Week Service Schedule for date and time.

The Last Supper was a Jewish Passover, a "seder," a solemn sacrificial meal carried out according to ancient Jewish ritual by Our Lord and His apostles.

+ Christian Symbols +

Lily

The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.



MAUNDY THURSDAY



"UNLESS I WASH YOU, YOU HAVE NO PART WITH ME."
JOHN 13:8



What is Maundy Thursday, the Thursday of Holy Week all about? The word "Maundy" is a shortened version of the Latin word mandatum, which means commandment.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his friends a new commandment. He told the disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34, NRSV).

As Christians gather to eat and share Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, we should make a special effort to exhibit our love and respect for one another. Let us seek out people whom we don't naturally have affection for and express our wish that the living Christ may dwell in them and bless them.

WOSA

(Women of St. Alban's)

WOSA will meet on Sunday, April 19th after coffee hour at 11:45 a.m. All women of St. Alban's are invited to attend their meeting and enjoy their fellowship.



Good Friday service will include The Veneration Of The Cross, Please see Holy Week Service Schedule for date and time.

Hot Cross Buns

and coffee will be served in the Parish Hall. This is a particularly moving experience. Please plan to attend.

Why the cross?

In Jesus' day, the Roman army ruling Israel carried out capital punishment by using a wooden cross. Criminals, troublemakers and others who threatened society were crucified in public places for everyone to see.

False charges were levied against Jesus. Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest, accused him of blasphemy against God and of being a threat to Roman rule. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, had Jesus nailed to a cross on a Friday.

Perhaps ironically to non-Christians, that day came to be called Good Friday. God reached down into our Lord's grave and restored him to life. The cross that had been a symbol of horror became a symbol of joy.

That's why we sing with gusto:

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time,
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.*



Treasurer's Report

	<u>February 2009</u>		<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<u>Income</u>	\$ 4,822	\$ 8,175	\$ 10,002	\$ 13,975
<u>Expenses</u>	\$ 14,190	\$ 13,196	\$ 31,598	\$ 31,721
<u>NET</u>	(\$ 9,368)	(\$ 5,021)	(\$ 21,596)	(\$ 17,746)



To contact the Treasurer:

Thomas Witzel, 912 W. 6th St., Marshfield, WI 54449
 Phone: 715-384-1764

Ministry Opportunities

The following ministry opportunities are open at St. Alban's:

- Altar Guild.
- UTO coordinator.
- Sunday School Teacher.

If you are interested in one of these ministries, contact Fr. Walter. Parish Office 387-1330



April	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
7	Louise Greenlaw	
11	Hud Owen Bill Kolpanen	
21	Tim McCollum	Tom and Kathy Selves
24	Isabel Dyke	
25	David Dix	

If you have a birthday or anniversary in April and your name is not listed above or you find errors either in spelling of your name or date of birthdays and anniversaries, please call the Parish Office so that your records can be updated..



Deadline for April 2009 newsletter: Monday, April 20, 2009

Items Welcomed

Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to submit items and notes for the monthly St. Alban's newsletter. Items may be sent via e-mail to: stalbansnewsleter@yahoo.com, left in the newsletter box at church, or by calling the parish office at 387-1330.

Classes Being Offered At St. Alban's

- Baptism:** for all ages.
 - First Communion:** instructions for small children with parents on receiving Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ.
 - Confirmation:** for older children and adults who wish to express faith and commitment to Christ and to be received into the Episcopal Church by prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop.
- Contact Fr. Walter. Parish Office 387-1330

April 2009 Service Schedule

Sunday 5 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

12 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

19 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

26 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS THE 10:00 SERVICE

In emergency call:

Rector: Fr. Verne Walter, Home Ph. 389-8390
Deacon: Rev. Georgeanne Cusic, Phone 387-3087

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - Noon, Monday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Tuesday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Thursday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Friday
Closed - Saturday
Closed -- Sunday

Parish Office: 387-1330

Rector: Fr. Verne Walter, 389-8626

SR. WARDEN: Bill Knudson, 384-2500

JR. WARDEN: Jane Frodl-Lubeck, 652-2270

TREASURER: Thomas Witzel, 384-1764

COME WORSHIP WITH US!!

"A welcoming community spreading the joy of Christ's word and love"

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1413 S. Felker Avenue, PO Box 158
Marshfield, WI 54449

April 2009 Newsletter



TO:

*The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
The voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.*

Psal m 29: 4