



# THE ALTON ANGELUS

April 2022

The Reverend Cynthia A. Sever, Rector

*The Episcopal Parish of Alton has as its mission:  
To live and show Christ in our midst.*



## FROM THE RECTOR



### **Walk with Christ during his last week before the Crucifixion!**

If you participate in as many Holy Week services as possible, your Easter celebration will be much more meaningful. Every year the Church walks with Christ during his last week before he was executed. Going straight from the Hosannas of Palm Sunday to the Alleluia of Easter Day offers an incomplete picture of the depth of God's love for us and the miracle of the Resurrection.

On Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday we welcome our triumphant King as he rides into the city of Jerusalem. He doesn't arrive as a traditional king would, on a magnificent horse with pomp and circumstance. Jesus arrives humbly on the back of a colt and shows us that his kingship will be different than any other earthly king. We cheer for him by shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! But our lips that form these shouts of praise soon curl into sneers that demand his execution.

On Maundy Thursday we are present with Christ and the apostles as they enjoy one last meal together. At the end of the meal Jesus establishes the Holy Eucharist and promises that by participating in the Eucharist, he will always live in us and we in him, although we are physically separated. Jesus tells us that we must serve one another as he has served us. Then we accompany Jesus as he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane and begs us to stay awake with him until his arrest, but we fail and he is betrayed by Judas and seized from his prayers and taken into custody. There's even more meaning packed into Maundy Thursday! The altar is stripped bare, just as Christ was stripped of his clothing after his arrest, and the priest washes the altar just as his body was washed before his burial. The reserved sacrament is carried away to an altar in the St Elizabeth Chapel set up with flowers and plants to represent the Garden of Gethsemane. This is called the Altar of Repose where Christ waits and prays. Ideally, we stay through the night to watch and pray with him until his arrest in the morning.

On Good Friday we walk with Jesus during his arrest and trial, not as his supporters, but as his betrayers. Part of the crowd that welcomed him as our King on Palm Sunday, our attitude turns on a dime and we become a brutal mob screaming for his execution as a common criminal. We watch

in satisfaction as he is stripped and flayed with a whip. Our wishes are granted when our King of Love is executed in the most painful way possible, crucifixion. The crucified one suffers as his lungs fill with fluid and he begins to drown. The only relief to be found is to use the little ledge at his feet to push himself up to get a breath, but this causes agony beyond measure in the rest of his body. The crucified one goes back and forth this way between one agony and another until he drowns and the heart stops, but this takes many excruciating hours. In fact the word excruciating comes from the torment of being crucified.

Upon his death we realize that we have murdered the Son of God, our Savior, who willingly came into the world to offer us eternal life lived in perfect bliss with our God. How can we live with our guilt? Christ is dead and it is our own treacherous fault. The Light is gone from the world and there is no hope, which is why we begin the Easter Vigil in darkness. All candles in the church have been extinguished because of Christ's death. We light the new fire of the church year out in the garden and light the Paschal candle with that fire. Pew torches are lit from the Paschal candle as the altar party processes up the aisle of the church. The thurible and torches are also lit this way.

A beautiful and ancient chant called the Exsultet is sung as the Paschal candle is put into place. It will be chanted this year by Kyle Montgomery. We read stories of God's plan of salvation from the Fall and throughout time, and we pray for salvation.

Finally we hear the impossible news that God has defeated death for all time in the Resurrection of Christ our Lord, and "Alleluia!" becomes our song once again. We bring bells and ring Easter in with joy and turn all of the lights in the church on because we once again live in the Light of Christ! Easter Day worship continues the joyous celebration of the Reign of Christ and our salvation.

A description of Holy Week might lead one to believe that the point of it all is to make us feel sad or guilty, but that isn't true at all! Holy Week is a love story – about the God who loves each and every one of us as if we were the only one on the planet, and endured all of the trials of Holy Week because the depth of his love for us wouldn't rest until we all had the opportunity to accept his love and the gift of salvation.

The hymns of Holy Week are some of my very favorite and are hauntingly beautiful. Please attend as many Holy Week services as you are able and experience the majesty, mystery, love, and joy!

With love,

*Mother Cindy+*



# Holy Week



**Keep this schedule & share the information with others!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Time</b>
4/10/22	Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday	8:30 a.m. at Trinity 11 a.m./ at St. Paul's
4/14/22	Maundy Thursday	7 p.m. at St. Paul's
4/15/22	Good Friday	Noon at Trinity 7 p.m. St. Paul's
4/16//22	Easter Vigil	5:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
4/17/22	Easter Day	8:30 a.m. at Trinity 11 a.m. St. Paul's

**Flowers from All Age Groups Welcome!**

Everyone is invited to the Flowering of the Cross at 10:15 am Easter Day, April 17, at St. Paul's. The expansion is because we have very few children at this time. To make the colorful cross, people are invited to bring flowers of all kinds and colors!

**Palm Crosses to Be Made**

Everyone in the parish is invited to help make palm crosses April 8 at 10 a.m. in Heneghan Hall. For more information contact Irene McLaughlin at 465-5520.



Flowered cross at St Paul's on Easter Day

## **New Vestry Begins**

The parish's Annual Meeting was held recently in the AA Room downstairs. Newly elected for three-year terms were Donna Fisher, Irene McLaughlin and Mimi Almonroeder. Continuing members are Bruce Bayer, Anna Potter, Judy Jones, Dereck Cook, Jean Downey, Susan Lukasik, Connie Terry and Tom Wrausmann.

Judy Jones was re-elected parish Treasurer and Diane Martin was elected Clerk of the Vestry. Susan accepted the role of Rector's Warden from Mother Cindy, while Jean Downey was elected People's Warden.

Commissions were also formed.

Those with terms ending January 2023 are Bruce, Anna, Judy and Tom. Terms ending January of 2024 are Dereck, Jean, Susan and Connie. Terms ending January of 2025 are Mimi, Donna and Irene. The Commission assignments are:

**Education:** Jean Downey and Mimi Almonroeder

**Evangelism & Outreach:** Bruce Bayer, Irene McLaughlin and Connie Terry

**Liturgy & Music:** Susan Lukasik and Donna Fisher

**Parish Life:** Mimi, Donna, Jean and Tom Wrausmann

**Property & Maintenance:** Dereck Cook, Anna Potter and Judy Jones

**Public Relations & Publicity:** Tom and Irene

**Finance & Insurance:** Judy, Anna and Connie



*New Wardens  
Jean Downey &  
Susan Lukasik*

## Our Bishop-Elect

The Very Rev. Brian Kendall Burgess will be consecrated by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield on May 21. Attending the ceremony from our parish will be Synod delegates Mother Cindy, Diana Martin, Marti LoRusso and Tom Wrausmann. The ceremony will be held at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul the Apostle in Springfield.



Most recently Father Burgess has been rector of Christ Church Woodbury in New Jersey. He started serving there in 2005. Before that he was associate priest and chaplain at Saint Luke's Church & Parish Day School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from 2001 to 2005. His first position in the Episcopal Church was as Rector and Deacon-in-Charge at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Brooksville, Florida.

He was born Nov. 6, 1960 in Tampa Florida. In 1985 he married Denise L. (Swing) Burgess. The couple have two grown children Robert K. and Catherine M. Burgess.

In 1999, he received a master's degree in divinity, *cum laude*, from the University of the South School of Divinity in Sewanee, Tennessee. Before becoming a priest, he received a Basic Recruit Certificate of Compliance-Law Enforcement Officers from the Southwest Florida Criminal Justice Academy in Fort Myers, Florida.

In 1983 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in music education from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. He also has an Associate's degree from Edison Community College in Fort Myers.

Father Burgess served as a port authority police officer from 1990 to 1991 for the Lee County Board of Commissioners in Fort Myers. Then from 1991 to 1996, he was Emergency Management Operations Coordinator and Training Officer for the Lee County Division of Public Safety.

For more on the bishop-elect go to [episcopalspringfield.org](http://episcopalspringfield.org).



## Holy Week Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross and death between your judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and peace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy and Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## MONDAYS@7 Returns!



Our Monday evening time of worship and fellowship will begin again at St. Paul's on Monday, April 4, 2022. This lovely, simple time of worship was originally designed by the Rev. Steve Lane at an Episcopal Church in Buffalo, N.Y. It is offered as a quiet, peaceful worship experience rooted in the spiritual wisdom of the Twelve Steps, which themselves are rooted in the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, as well as other ancient traditions.

It is simple worship involving reading from Scripture and other sources plus prayer, interspersed with music and or quiet singing. Each week has a theme from the Twelve Steps or Scripture, or other sources.

The program is attended by those both in Twelve Step programs and those who are not. Following worship we have a short social time with snacks and discussion. It is a very peaceful time, all are welcome!

## UNAFRAID, News from the Wednesday Discussion Group

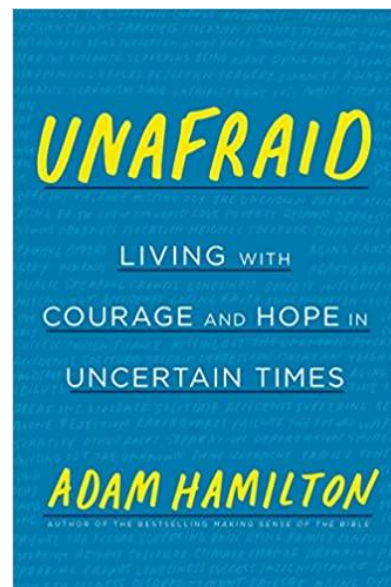
We are reading and discussing the book entitled:

*UNAFRAID: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*

The author, Adam Hamilton, is familiar to us from quite a few great study programs such as *Half Truths*, *Faithful Joseph*, *Moses*, and many more.

*UNAFRAID* is just the book we need in our unsettled times. It has been described as a “road map” for facing our fears with faith.” Hamilton draws on scripture and science to help us learn to tame our fears and to help us to live with Christian courage and hope.

In these times of uncertainty in our everyday lives, the church, our families and communities – Adam Hamilton gives us the reminder of Jesus’ recurring command “Do not be afraid.” [Some sources have said that this phrase in some form is the most prominent in the Bible!]



The book is now available through the Bookstore for the deeply discounted price of \$14.00 which includes tax. Please let me know if you would like to purchase the book even if you do not want to participate in the group! It is a great read, especially in these times when we have experienced so many unsettling things the past couple of years.

Here's just one of the prayers from *Unafraid*: God, thank you for the opportunity to gather together. Open our hearts and minds so that we are able to let go of our fears and prejudices and see people through your eyes. Remind us always of the hope we have through you. Amen<sup>1</sup>.

Questions, comments or to buy or see a sample book, please contact me... **don't be afraid!** Diane Martin 225-2676.



### April Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, April 27th at LuciAnna's Pastries at 9:30 a.m. Our selection for this month is *The Lost Girls of Ireland* by Susanne O'Leary. The following is a short introduction to the book. Please join us for great discussion, food and fellowship. We read a variety of genres and each member has an opportunity to choose their favorite.

We aren't just any old book club. Not only do we meet and eat, we have an outreach component with our Christmas Jar collection. We also take “field trips” that may relate to a book that we have read or to a local book store. We have also attended a culinary novel cuisine class.

**Everyone** is welcome to join!

Jean Downey

## Saturday Café

Volunteers are needed for the Saturday Café May 7 to provide a hot lunch for people in need. The Saturday Café has been a longstanding ministry of our neighbor First Presbyterian Church on Alby and 4<sup>th</sup> Sts. It is sustained via volunteers from quite a few other churches, and it is a very necessary and rewarding ministry to the community.

Hot lunches are served at noon every Saturday to all who arrive. Our guests, who are primarily food insecure, are served cafeteria style from the kitchen. When all are ready in the dining room we pray together briefly and lunch begins with all you can eat and carry out included. Usually about 45 lunches are served on Saturdays. A similar lunch is served weekly on Tuesdays.

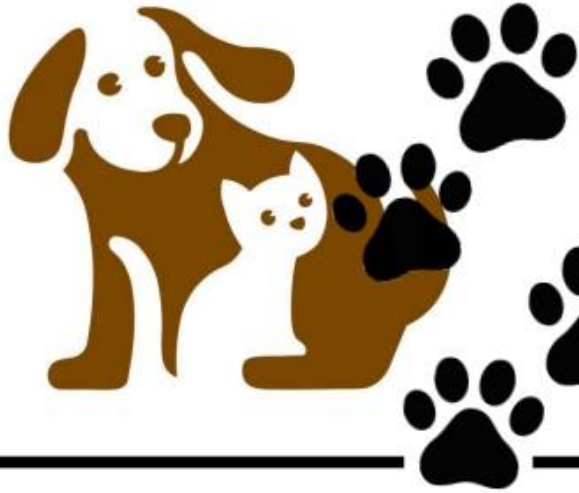
Churches take turns volunteering. The EPA has participated twice in the past year or so. We are scheduled for 6 Saturdays through to the end of 2022. Our Spring and Summer volunteer dates are May 7, July 16 and July 30. The entire time involved is 10:30 to no later than 1 pm. However, anyone is welcome to volunteer for any length of time.

It is a rewarding time for both those who arrive for lunch and those who prepare and serve! There is nothing to bring but yourself. Please contact Diane Martin 618-225-2676 or Bruce Bayer to let us know when you are planning to take part . Thank you!

Also, a big thank you to Bruce Bayer who fostered our involvement, and works as chief cook and bottle washer!







# 4 PAWS Pet Food Pantry

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
10 E. Third Street  
Alton, Illinois  
618-465-9149

The Metro East has a high per capita rate of hungry and food insecure people and families. Many people in this category have cherished pets, and they take good care of them. In fact, many will go without things themselves just to provide for their pets. For some people, especially the elderly and homeless, that pet might be the only friend and/or family member they have. Those animals are oftentimes the main reason some pet parents get out of bed every day. These wonderful animals are a link to life, comfort, and joy.

Studies have shown that Meals on Wheels or feeding program patrons begin to receive these services, they continue to lose weight. This was at first baffling, but it was soon discovered that the hungry and food insecure were feeding this precious food to their beloved companions first and eating what was left over themselves.

When food is unavailable these loving souls often feel they have no other recourse but to surrender their pets to shelters for the animal's own good. Animal shelters are already overloaded to say the least. We would like to provide an intervention *before* pet parents feel they must abandon their furry family members to animal shelters.

Our mission is to feed the pets of the hungry in order to keep pets from being surrendered to shelters; keep pet parents and their beloved pets together; and improve the nutrition of the hungry, those who suffer from food insecurity, and their precious pets.

I was part of a group that began a pet food pantry at the last church I served which was located in Western New York State. We were also situated in an area with many hungry people. After word about our program spread, we were amazed that over 900 pounds of pet food flew out the door in the one hour monthly that we were open! We anticipate the need might be similar here in Alton.

The pet food pantry in Western New York had the services of a veterinarian who donated his time monthly to provide free basic exams for the pets, and to advise pet parents and answer their questions. He said he was happy to provide this service because sometimes his attention might be the only veterinary care those pets might receive. We hope that the 4PAWS Pet Food Pantry might expand soon to provide this service in our area, should any vets like to volunteer.

The 4PAWS Pet Food Pantry will run strictly on donations of pet food or money from the public, so participation from our community will be key to the success of this project. We would like to thank Round Table Restaurant in Godfrey, and Mississippi Mud Pottery and Lucky Dog Groomers in Alton for allowing us to place a collection jar in their businesses! We would love to place collection jars in other locations in the Alton area. Please call the Rev. Cindy Sever at (618) 465-9149 if you are a business that would be willing to host a jar. Pet food can be dropped off during pet food pantry hours at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Alton. We would also gladly accept monetary donations, as this will allow us to purchase the food that is most needed at any given time. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul's Church with "pet pantry" written on the memo line. Donations may also be put in the collection jars at the three businesses listed above.

**The 4PAWS Pet Food Pantry** will launch on Sunday, May 1 from 12:30-1:30, right before PAWS {the Pets Are Welcome Service!} The pet food pantry will be open one hour monthly on the first Sunday of the month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. No food will be distributed at any other time. Enter St. Paul's through the Market Street entrance to participate. Pets are welcome!

Together we can improve the lives of our neighbors and their precious animal companions!

The Rev. Cynthia Sever+

### **Address or Phone Changes?**

If you or someone you know has a change of address or phone number, please let Mother Cindy know, thanks!

Of course, this will help communications in the parish.

Three new addresses are:

**Judy and Richard Napp**

4600 McKendree Apt. 311  
Godfrey, IL 62035

**Barb and Frank Swany**

c/o Cedarhurst Senior Living  
1000 Airport Rd.  
Godfrey, IL 62035

**Coral and Donald Lipe**

P.O. Box 1270  
Pine, AZ 85544

## “Cards!”



Our parish family’s “shut-ins” have unfortunately been extremely isolated during these Covid times. Mother Cindy and or Diane Martin have continued to visit all of them at least once or twice a month. Visits depend a lot on each facility’s rules and procedures based on Covid at any given time. For example, Robings Manor has frequently been on “total lockdown.”

Diane asked John Uffers what he would like (besides the chocolates, cookies and snacks that they take.) After a lot of thought, John replied, “Cards!” The response was similar with Barb Swany. She would love to keep receiving many cards from her parish family.

We are sure that all of these friends are remembered by us. It would make them quite happy to continually know that they are remembered by their church family, thanks in advance! With permission we have included names and addresses as follows. If you know of anyone else who should be on this list, please contact Mother Cindy or Diane.

**John Uffers** Liberty Village of Jerseyville 1251 N. State St. Jerseyville, IL 62052,

**Boyd Sever** (Byron’s father) Edwardsville Care Center, 401 St. Mary’s Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025,

**Sarah Wolcott**, Robings Manor, 502 N. Main St., Brighton, IL 62012,

**Mother Jane Flaherty**, Asbury Village 4601 Wesley Way Godfrey, IL 62035 and Barb Swany, 1314 Normandy Godfrey, IL 62035.

**Barb & Frank Swany**, c/o Cederhurst Senior Living, 1000 Airport Rd., Godfrey, IL 62035

**The Episcopal Parish of Alton**  
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**[Facebook.com/episcopalalton](https://www.facebook.com/episcopalalton)**

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<sup>i</sup> Paraphrase from Unafraid Leader's Guide, p. 41, Abingdon Press.