

AROUND THE PARISH

March 15, 2018

St. Alban's seeks to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community,
committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering people to grow spiritually,
deepening our relationship with Christ and living out our faith in the community and the world.

COMING EVENTS

3/16-18 Vestry Retreat

- 3/17 12:00-8:00pm, Private Event, PH
3/19 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
3/20 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH
6:30pm, Private Event, Annex
3/21 **6:00pm, Evening Prayer**
6:30pm, Soup Supper, PH
7:00pm, Reflection, PH
3/24 **9:30-11:30am, Altar Guild, PH**
3/25 **8:00/10:30am, Palm Sunday**
3/26 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, Annex
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
3/27 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH
3/28 **7:00pm, Tenebrae**
3/29 **6:00pm, Agape Pot Luck, PH**
7:00pm, Maundy Thursday Service
3/30 **7:00pm, Good Friday Service, Taize**
3/31 9:30am, Altar Guild, PH/Sanctuary

PLANNING AHEAD

- 4/1 **8:00/10:30am, Easter Services**
Brunch between services
Easter Egg Hunt
4/8 **Tartan Day Celebration**
12:15pm, Vestry Officers, Annex
4/10 **Vestry Meeting, PH**
4/15 **12:15pm, Worship Meeting, PH**
4/18 **6:30pm, Soup Supper, PH**
4/22 **7:00pm, Taize Service**



I've learned that you shouldn't go through life
with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need
to be able to throw something back.

Maya Angelou

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT AT ST. ALBAN'S

Fr. Greg Peters

When I began discerning a call to serve at Saint Alban's, one of the first things that caught my eye and sparked my interest in the Parish Profile was the clearly stated desire to explore and develop the spiritual gifts of individual parishioner and of the whole congregation. This is something I've tried to do in every congregation that I have served, but the first to come right out and say that this is what they want to do; the first to initiate the conversation. So frankly, it was one of the things that resonated with me in the discernment process.

The Profile stated that you all want to grow spiritually. So, since July, we've begun to emphasize and expand already existing components of worship and our common life that deepen and form faith.

We've been blessed with John Lehrack's Taize services. We've included Evening Prayer at the beginning of the Soup Suppers in Lent. We offered the Thanksgiving Eve dinner and service. We've looked for ways of including more people in the worship – more lectors of different ages, people bringing in **and taking out** the Gospel Book, new acolytes, adding a second chalice bearer when appropriate at the 10:30 service.

We've recognized and prayed for knitters, fishers, scouts, cooks, setters- and those who clean-up. We've prepared confirmands. We even briefly elevated Evie to the Episcopate for the Confirmation Rehearsal. All examples of finding ways to experience God's presence in our midst, of ministering to, in, and with the congregation, of finding the holy in the commonplace. We eat and drink, read and sing, laugh and dance together and sometimes we are blessed with the realization that we are in God's midst.

Now, we seem ready to go deeper; we're ready to begin studying the specific Gifts for ministry given to Christians by the Holy Spirit.

In the next few editions of *Around the Parish*, I'll present various aspects of the Gifts and their uses. After Easter, a series of classes and workshops will be offered – at several times during the week to accommodate time constraints, so that as many people as possible can participate. In those workshops, we'll explore the Gifts, their references in Scripture, and possible ways of employing and applying them in the church and in ministries beyond the church.

We'll also do individual "Spiritual Gifts Assessments," which simply means we'll provide a list of questions about aspects of ministry, about where you find great joy, about how people respond to you, and about your interests. The Vestry has already test driven a couple of different assessments as we look for just the right one, and the former senior wardens have agreed to take the one the Vestry approves.

All this will lead up to Pentecost, when we will celebrate all the Gifts that God has given us for ministry: for building up each other; for welcoming newcomers, guests, and travelers; for renewing the church and the world; for caring for and nurturing souls, feeding bodies, and educating minds; for recognizing the Holy Spirit moving and living through us; for being Christ to our neighbors; for following Christ into the world.

So here we go, we're beginning to explore the Gifts given by the Spirit; praying as we learn what they are (and what they are not), to recognize them in ourselves and others, to open ourselves up to just their "just and proper use" in service to God and to our neighbors, and for the enlightenment to know that we need one another to fully live into and function as the Body of Christ. Essentially, a continuation of the ongoing process of discerning the Spirit's call to us. Hey, wait, Discernment is one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; well, there ya' go, we are doing it already!

LETTER FROM BISHOP RICKEL

Bishop Rickel visited St. Alban's on Sunday, February 18, attending both 8:00 and 10:30am services and meeting with our Vestry members. The following letter was received:

"To the Good People of St. Alban's Edmonds, Thank you to each and every one of you at St. Alban's who made my wife and me so very welcome this past Sunday. I enjoyed so much the new energy there and the meeting with your Vestry was a wonderful experience and one of the best I have had. Bless you all, and may you continue on to have a blessed and rich Lent."



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Fr. Greg Peters

The Maundy Thursday Service will be a little different this year. We'll meet in the Parish Hall, where we'll have the first part of the service (hymns, readings, prayers, Eucharist, and foot washing), and we'll be doing all this in the context of an agape meal.

As you know, Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper, which was the Passover Meal that Jesus held with his disciples and friends, so it seems fitting that we, too, include a meal in our worship that day. That Supper strengthened Jesus and his followers for all that would happen in the next days ahead, so let this meal strengthen our community as we prepare for the final days before the Passion and Resurrection.

After the meal and the first part of the service, we'll move into the sanctuary to remember Gethsemane and to strip the altar.

The culinary theme of meal will be Eastern Mediterranean. The main course (baked chicken with garlic, rosemary, and lemon) will be

provided, and there will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for other parts of the meal (salads, side dishes, breads, desserts). Again, the theme is Eastern Mediterranean, but how that is interpreted is up to those who bring the food. The only stipulation could be that the foods be simple - lovingly made, but simple. Making it should be part of your Holy Week meditation.

The evening begins with the meal together at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.



AGAPE LOVE

Forward Day by Day contributor.

Agape is unconditional love – love that takes all our strength and energy to offer and to live into. When I’m challenged by forgiveness, wondering how I can become more forgiving and kind, the word *agape* comes to mind. I think forgiveness must spring from this unconditional, force-of-nature kind of love.

When I practice agape, I am compelled to love even those I think I cannot love. I must look into every face and see a sister or brother. Agape calls me to love the world as God loves us, unconditionally. When Christ looks down from the cross and says, “Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34), Jesus does not add “but only if they are contrite” or “but only if they love me” or other stipulations. Jesus’ love is open and complete, and it shows us the true heart of forgiveness. May we follow Jesus – seeing through his eyes and loving through his heart as we move through the world today.

PARISHIONER’S GRATITUDE PRAYER
With thanksgiving for love of God and family.



TAIZE SERVICE – APRIL 22nd

Come join us for our next Taize Service on **Sunday, April 22nd at 7 p.m.** The sanctuary is filled with beautiful candlelight for this service of music, lessons, prayers and silence, making it an evening to remember. This is a perfect opportunity to invite others to join us.

We appreciate the gifts and leadership of John Lehrack, St. Alban’s Music Director, for making this service possible. Those who have attended in the past have requested that Taize become a tradition. Refreshments will be served following this service.

EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS

The Sunday School is getting ready for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 1st. We welcome your contribution of candies or small favors that can fit in the eggs. We will be stuffing eggs on Palm Sunday after the 10:30am service, so please leave donations in the Parish Hall by March 25.



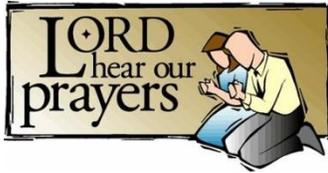
EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Envelopes are in the pews for parishioners to contribute to the altar flowers for Easter. Your generous donations are what make our church beautiful for Easter.

Your dedication can be as a memorial, celebration of an important event or as a gift to God. Dedications received by Palm Sunday will be published in Easter bulletins. Please indicate “Easter Flowers” on your checks.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Remember to pick up some non-perishable food items when you do your grocery shopping. The need in our community is great. Sunday, April 1, is our regular Food Bank Sunday, but donations are needed at all times.



LENTEN PRAYERS FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

The following are readings and prayers to help you and your family observe Lent in 2018 as prepared by Bread of the World:

5th Week, March 18-24: Jesus nears Jerusalem – and the cross.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12:23-24

Prayer: O Christ, we give thanks that, in your suffering and death, you reveal God’s glory and give us the gift of new life. As you create a new heart in us, may our eyes be opened to ways we can create hope and opportunity for those who hunger and live in poverty. Amen

6th Week, March 25-31 – Jesus is anointed for burial.

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

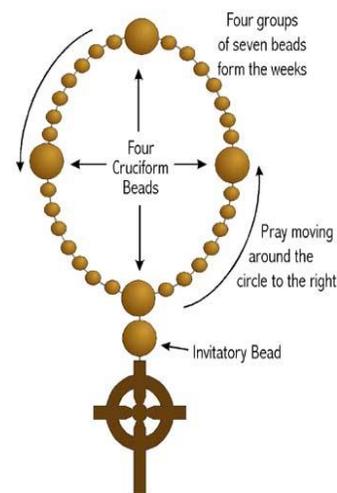
While {Jesus} was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head ... {Jesus said}, “She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial.”

Mark 14:3 and 8

Prayer O Christ, grant us grace and hope as we prepare for Good Friday. By your crucifixion and resurrection, you overcome death and all the powers of evil. As you raise us up to new life with you, use our hands, hearts, and voices to see that all people benefit from the abundance of God’s creation. Amen

CHASE LAKE TUTORS NEEDED

Chase Lake is planning on having after school tutor/clubs starting in the next few weeks. They do not have all the details yet, but they know it will be two days a week, 3:15-4:15pm on the Chase Lake campus. If you are interested, please respond by phone 425-431-7495 or email to Karen Orstad, Office Support at orstadk@edmonds.wednet.edu



TRACK RACK – PRAYER BEADS

Have you ever wondered what Prayer Beads are about? There is a pamphlet, “Praying the Anglican Rosary,” available in the Track Rack

located near the front door of the church. Read the pamphlet, and then if you are interested, you can try it out at our monthly Prayer Beads gathering on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Annex. Extra sets of prayer beads are available to use to see if you like it.

Why not start a new spiritual discipline, one of prayer and fellowship with others in this prayer group

ST. ALBAN 'S LABYRINTH

Lee Forsberg

Spring is nearly here. The labyrinth has had the first mowing of the season and is awaiting visitors. It is open from dawn to dusk, and it is most enjoyable to sit in God's glory of nature and spend some meditation time with him. Spend as long as you would like and return as often as you like to get enjoyment and solution-finding thoughts.

Some labyrinth visitors indicated they even enjoy taking a book and spending some time meditating on their reading. There is a journal log in the entry box so be sure and pen a quick note about your visit and feelings.

There are also several benches in front of the church that provide nice seating for some good meditation time. Be sure and visit the one that the scouts built a couple of years ago. It has some sunlight as well as shade at certain times of the day and even a flower or two to set a nice tone to your visit. They are there for your use and enjoyment, for you to spend some time with the Lord. Make the most of them all.

CAMP HUSTON --Where Kids Belong

Camp Huston is an Episcopal summer camp where children and young adults come to learn more about nature, more about God, and more about themselves. The 70 acre property is located in the foothills of the Cascade mountains. The camp's goal is for campers to develop leadership skills, build self-esteem and have fun. A brochure is located in the Parish Hall for additional information.

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that, in joy and in sorrow, we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Church of England



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

March 18, Lent 5

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also."

What a blueprint for a steward to follow! Love the Lord, follow and serve Him, and reflect his immeasurable love to all whose lives touch yours – and a rewarding life both now and eternally is God's promise.

March 25, Palm Sunday

Psalm 31:16 says, *"Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving kindness save me."* And our ever-loving God reaches out with all his mercy, time after time, to bring help and consolation to those who put their whole trust in Him as faithful stewards of his blessings and gifts.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 18 – Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-13

Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

8:00 Lector: Shannon Duggan

EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Barbara Lagozzino

EM: Mary Fowler

March 25 – Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Susan Hanson

EM: Eric Hanson

March 28 - Tenebrae

7:00 Maryellen Young

Mary Fowler

Pat Chandler

March 29 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

1 Corinthians 11:23-26,

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

7:00 Reilly Mannery

Susie Nichols

March 30 – Good Friday

7:00 Shannon Duggan

April 1 – Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Isaiah 25:6-9, Mark 15:1-8

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark

EM: Reilly Mannery

Dan Mullene

April 8 – 2 Easter

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31

8:00 Lector: Jim Gilman

EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Carol Gordon

EM: Claudia Walker

Apr 15 – 3 Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

8:00 Lector: Howard Hayden

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Cindy Goergen

EM: Reilly Mannery