

AROUND THE PARISH

April 9, 2021

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

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Eucharist on Facebook or YouTube, 10:30am

Zoom Coffee Hour, Link through April

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85174822634?pwd=aW0vdTYrNGtZTGVBQmdzbEJQYm9BZz09>

Meeting ID: 851-7482-2634 Password: 657057

Adult Bible Study, 9:30am; Romans led by Eric Hanson. Link through April

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765370758?pwd=OEFMd20xL0NjNkkzQ0xJbHdaRGJlZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6537 0758 Password: SeekFirst

NOTE: If you don't have a Facebook account, you can watch the Sunday service on YouTube or later as a video on the Facebook link



Fr. Greg

April is the Cruellest Month, call in the Poets!

Kären Ford put out a post the other day with a quote from one of my favorite mystic poets, Rabindranath Tagore. The quote is "The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."

Another mystic, St. Francis said much the same thing. When asked what he would do if he knew the world was to end tomorrow, Francis replied that he would plant trees.

I first learned of Tagore when I was reading a lot of William Butler Yeats while working for the Forest Service 30 some years ago. Yeats had an essay about Tagore. Tagore died in 1941 and was a Noble prize winner for Literature, but I had not heard of him before then. What Yeats wrote intrigued me, so I looked him up.

I eventually found a little paperback collection of his poems, *Gitanjali*, with an introduction by Yeats!, in a used book store. It cost \$3.50. After a couple more decades that book is showing its age.

Like John of the Cross' *Dark Night of the Soul*, Tagore's *Gitanjali* is filled with holy longing, desolation clinging to hope, faithfulness and a deep spirituality. He may have been a Hindu, but his worship leads to the God who is beyond religion limitations. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "We worship God in spirit and in truth"; Tagore wrote truth.

April is National Poetry Month, so here's a Tagore poem for you.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

4/13 Vestry Meeting

4/18 Taizé, 7:00pm, Facebook

4/20 Becoming Beloved Community, 6:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84587330526?pwd=amo2Y0dldUxUmXUb2pGcUNuMGFpdz09>

Meeting ID: 845 8733 0526 Passcode: BBC

5/1 Drive By Food Drive, 10:00am – 2:00pm

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

- Mail check to church
21405-82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026
- Drop off through the slot in Greg's door.
- Bank Bill Pay – ask bank to send check to St. Alban's
Online go to www.StAlbansEdmonds.org
and click on "Donate Now."

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Zoom Coffee begins at 12:00pm. Click on Zoom link above. OR go to "zoom.us" on Internet, click on "Join A Meeting" in upper right hand side, at the prompt enter meeting code and then password (noted above). Next prompt is "Enter Meeting." Click on "Join" with audio.



ST. ALBAN'S YouTube CHANNEL

There is an alternative option for viewing our Worship services, and you now have two options for your viewing: Facebook or YouTube. In the center of our website front page, there is a link to YouTube, pictured above. If you have problems with Facebook, try YouTube.

“Leave this chanting and singing and telling of beads! Whom dost thou worship in this lonely dark corner of a temple with doors all shut? Open thine eyes and see thy God is not before thee!

“He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and where the pathmaker is breaking stones. He is with them in sun and in shower, and his garment is covered with dust. Put off thy holy mantle and even like him come down on the dusty soil.

“Deliverance? Where is this deliverance to be found? Our master himself has joyfully taken upon him the bonds of creation; he is bound with us all for ever.

“Come out of thy meditations and leave aside thy flowers and incense! What harm is there if thy clothes become tattered and stained? Meet him and stand by him in toil and in sweat of thy brow.”

Gitanjali, Poem 11

I was working on the trail crew at the time, so that line about the “pathmaker breaking stones” was poignant to me.

Tagore’s Master sounds like the one you and I follow. Surely Jesus loved the chanting and incense and Temple as well as any of us, but he, too, called his followers out of it. Out of it to the fields and lanes, dark alleys and busy thoroughfares, to the sweaty and the hungry, there to find God, and to worship God in truth with those we find there.

Last week, I told you that in earlier times the best theologians were also gifted poets. I guess, this week I’m suggesting that the best poets are often gifted theologians.

This year, National Poetry Month corresponds with the Easter Season. I wish you all the blessings of both!

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Jacqueline Leake
21700 – Second Place West
Bothell, WA 98021-8242

EASTER WEEK PRAYER

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen.



FOOD DRIVE COMING UP – MAY 1

Sharpen your pencils, grab a piece of paper, and start your next shopping list for St. Alban’s May Food Drive. We will be collecting non-perishable food mainly, but items for babies and pets are also welcome and needed. Our Food Drive Master, Lee Forsberg, will be looking for volunteers to assist and greet contributors and will appreciate your help. We have increasing donations from our neighborhood folks now and are getting a chance to know them in our ministry.

Please put May 1, 10:00am – 2:00pm on your calendars.



Washington
Kids in Transition

WASHINGTON KIDS IN TRANSITION 2ND QUARTER OUTREACH

Washington Kids in Transition will receive our Outreach donations for the 2nd quarter 2021. Washington Kids in Transition is committed to providing basic needs to homeless children residing in Washington State, including food, emergency closets, motel vouchers, transportation vouchers.

The number of households with children who are food insecure has doubled, rising to 28%. The goal is to remove stressors that can keep homeless students from attending school because kids should not have to worry about where they will sleep or what they will eat. What started as a grass roots organization, has grown into a full service distribution center. <https://washingtonkidsintransition.org/>



FOOD BANK THANK YOU

Dear Parishioners of St. Alban's,

Thank you very much for the generous donation to the Lynnwood Food Bank of \$600.

A year into the COVID crisis, we at the Lynnwood Food Bank continue to do our best to feed those in our community who struggle with food insecurity. The pandemic has both increased demand for our services significantly and increased the expense of serving those clients. We have had to buy new supplies to keep our workers safe and had to buy more food than ever before; in 2020 we bought two-and-a-half times more food than in 2019.

During the month of January, the Food Bank served 2,386 households with 8,084 individuals, about three times as many as the same period last year. With so many people out of work right now, the need has grown substantially, and it is with your support that we are able to help meet that need.

These households are served only because our community provides countless hours of volunteer work and financial support. We thank you for your kindness and generosity towards our community; you are helping make this a better place.

Matthew J. Appel, Treasurer

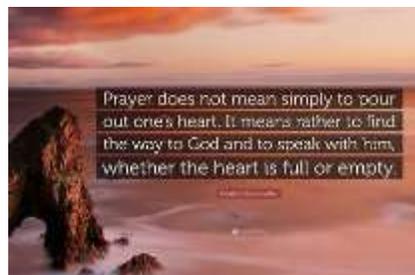


FROM THE LABYRINTH JOURNAL

Our labyrinth is already being appreciated this year. The following note was in our Labyrinth Journal dated 3-27-21: "I was literally just discussing doing the labyrinth walk with someone the other day and the significant impact it can have on your mental and even physical health. It soothes the soul and the psyche. Finding this place today

was a blessing and a gift from God and a sign from the Universe. Thank you!"

FROM THE READER BOARD



DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, Pastor/Theologian German Christian Martyr of World War II

This bright young Lutheran pastor was only twenty-four when he participated in his first public protest against Nazism and the complicity of the Christian churches in that regime's rise to power. He was one of the leaders of the "Confessing Church," a Protestant group that resisted Hitler and the Nazi party. In 1935 he was the founder and dean of a seminary at Finkenwald, Germany, which served that Church body. It was there that he wrote his two most famous published works: *Life Together* and *The Cost of Discipleship*.

As the Nazi ring closed in upon him and the "Confessing Church," he had an opportunity for asylum in the United States, which he declined. He was arrested and jailed in 1943 and from his cell he helped plan an assassination of Adolf Hitler. The assassination failed and Bonhoeffer's involvement was discovered, so he was whisked off to Buchenwald concentration camp.

But his life was spared, for reasons we do not know, and he was transferred to Schoenberg Prison. There he served as chaplain to fellow inmates and on a Sunday in 1945, immediately following divine services, he was summoned by the guards and tak-

en by automobile to Flossenburg Prison where he was summarily hanged. That was on April 9, 1945. Dietrich was thirty-nine years old. The crumbling German Reich formally surrendered twenty-eight days later.

(Forward Movement, Calendar of Saints)



DAY-BY-DAY REFLECTIONS

(The following reflection is written by Scott Gunn, Executive Director of Forward Movement. He lives in Cincinnati with Sherilyn and George, his spouse and his dog.)

John 20:28 – Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God.”

Parish priests know that people have their own little rituals for receiving communion. Some people look up and smile. Others stare intently at their hands. Most people say, “Amen,” but it’s not uncommon for someone to say, “Thank you.” In one of the churches I served, a man always said, “My Lord and my God” each time I placed the Body of Christ into his hands.

I never spoke with him about his response. But his practice moved me. Unfettered adoration is rare in our culture, even inside the church. To join with the apostle Thomas in professing our faith with awe is a beautiful thing.

It’s easy to get stuck on questions or problems in our faith. Doubt is the companion of faith, not its opposite. Spending times with the lives of the saints reminds us that nearly all the heroes of our faith wavered or wandered at times. The key is to keep moving, to look for Jesus. He is with us in the church, in the sacraments, and in his people. When we see him, let us say, “My Lord and my God!”



CHASE LAKE SHOPPING

Last week St. Alban’s provided canned chicken, spaghetti and pasta sauce, refried beans, pinto and black beans and flour & corn tortillas all for \$150. With Spring Break coming we wanted to be sure the pantry was full. Thanks for your support for Chase Lake families.



Contributed by Dave Wilson

At a nursing home, a group of seniors were sitting around talking about all their ailments. “My arms have gotten so weak, I can hardly lift this cup of coffee,” said one.

“Yes, I know,” said another. “My cataracts are so bad I can’t even see my coffee.”

“I couldn’t even mark an ‘X’ at election time, my hands are so crippled, volunteered a third.

“What? Speak up! What? I can’t hear you!” said a fourth.

“I can’t turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck,” said a fifth, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

“My blood pressure pills make me so dizzy I can hardly walk!” exclaimed another.

“I forget where I am, and where I’m going,” said an elderly gent.

“I guess that’s the price we pay for getting old,” winced an old man as he slowly shook his head. The others nodded in agreement.

“Well, count your blessings,” said one woman cheerfully. “Thankfully, we can all still drive.”



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

APRIL 11 – EASTER

What a directive for stewards we have today.
“Grant that all who have been reborn into the

fellowship of Christ's body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith" How is your "profess-ing" going?"

APRIL 11 – COLLECT

Almighty and Everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery hast established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all so have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

APRIL 18 – EASTER 3

Psalm 4:6 says, "Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times! Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord." There is an old saying, "If God seems far away, guess who's moved?" As faithful stewards, we need to learn to stay close to God, and to worship and thank Him at all times for all things. Who knows what 'better times' that might bring – or how we might become much more aware of 'the light of His Countenance' in our lives?

APRIL 18 – COLLECT

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold Him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

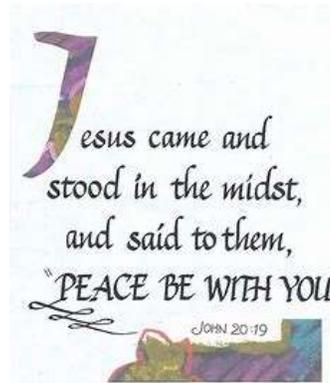
READINGS

APRIL 11 – EASTER 2

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-21

APRIL 18 – EASTER 3

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48



WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

- 1st week—Food Bank
- 2nd week—Discretionary Fund
- 3rd week—Outreach – Washington Kids in Transition
- 4th week—Capital Improvements
- 5th Week—One Thousand Days of Light (ERD)

ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:30 - 12:30pm; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Wednesday 2:00 - 4:00pm
Friday 1 0:30 -12:30pm; 2:00 – 4:00pm

The office isn't open on Sundays, but there are people around from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Before and after services, people are available for quick business activities.

To maintain social distancing and minimize any possible exposures to Covid-19, please observe the following:

- Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make appointment.
- Call the Office to inform them that you have arrived.
- Wait in car, outside in the garden or under the eaves.
- Wait for further instructions – to be let in, to meet your party, to pick up or make a delivery.
- Wear a mask.

In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

GREG'S HOME OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday 8:30am – 2:30 pm
Via email: gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com
Cell: 206-778-1506
WEDNESDAY in CHURCH OFFICE—discontinued for now due to increase in Covid cases.
SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm
Available by appointment