

## AROUND THE PARISH

January 5, 2024

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 – January 7

#### First Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services. Masking is no longer required, but is strongly recommended.

9:15am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545992628?pwd=d08vTmZNbmk1SW1PUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 4599 2628 Passcode: SeekFirst

2:00-5:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Parish Hall

NOTE: No Facebook account? Watch the Sunday service on YouTube or later as a video on Facebook



Fr. Greg Peters

#### Three Last Christmas Carols

I'm writing this on the Twelfth, and Last Day of Christmas, the day before Epiphany. For a change, I'm going to give you three links to some of my favorite carols – my favorite not-necessarily-your-ordinary Christmas carols.

*The Cherry Tree Carol* sung by Jean Richie and recorded by Alan Lomax, is an old Appalachian carol, based on an even older British tune. This carol tells a story about Joseph and Mary traveling together, before Joseph knows that Mary is pregnant. When he finds out, he becomes angry. During the course of the song, a cherry tree witnesses to the divinity of the child and Joseph, repentant, believes. In the end, we discover that Christmas falls on January 6 (our Epiphany and Christmas for Orthodox Christians), not what you'd expect from Appalachia. And on that day, the "stars and elements will tremble with glee."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB0ItQFsZIQ>

*Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*, this one's in our hymnal, and we'll sing it on Sunday in place of the *Gloria*. This is a true Epiphany carol and written by an Anglican Bishop Reginald Heber in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It's sung from the perspective of the Magi, and in this version sung in American Shape-Note harmony.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iuqOOL49Mo>

And last, *Christmas Must Be Tonight* by The Band. I have loved The Band since first hearing *The Weight* in the 60's when I was pretty young. This is the most contemporary of the carols I want to share with you. What I like so much about this retelling of the Christmas Gospel is that it is presented in the first person. "Saw it with my eyes."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBILN5HQJhY>

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 1/6 9:00am-4:00pm, Boy Scouts, Tree Disposal
- 1/7 9:00am-4:00pm, Boy Scouts, Tree Disposal
- 1/8 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 1/9 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 1/10 3:00-4:30pm, Food Distribution, Park Lot  
6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook
- 1/11 1:30-3:30pm, Small Group, Parish Hall  
7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 1/12 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 1/13 8:30am-4:00pm, Girl Scout Meeting, PH  
9:00am-4:00pm, Boy Scouts, Tree Disposal
- 1/20 10:00am-12:00pm, Indigenous Circle, PH



Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen

What I like about these three in particular is their earthiness. And really that's one of the main things about Christmas; the Incarnation is about God taking on flesh, and flesh is little more than animated earth and water and air. And earthy flesh is about you and me.

If you get this electronically, you can just click on the links. If you get hardcopies, you'll have to type in the links, or just go to YouTube directly and see what you come up with. I hope you enjoy these as much as I do, and I hope you discover more of the vast wealth of music that praises our precious "infant Redeemer," see him with your "own eyes," and like all the elements "tremble with glee" with his divine radiance in your life.

**BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL**



Our Boy Scout Troop 300, its leaders and parents will be holding its annual collection of Christmas trees in our parking lot on:

- Saturday, January 6, 9:00am – 4:00pm
- Sunday, January 7, 9:00am – 4:00pm
- Saturday, January 13, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Safely dispose of your tree and support Troop 300 dropping your Christmas tree off on one of the above dates/times.



**CONTRATULATIONS TO EPISCOPLAYERS!!**

The Episcoplayers reading of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on Saturday, December 23, was exceptional.

Several performers were narrators, as well as story characters. The stage set was complete with a living room drop, a portable fire place and individual chairs and side tables from players' homes making the scene relaxed and "homey." As the acts or parts of the story changed, the audience sang Christmas carols as some story characters moved to their next role in the story.

Donations of peanut butter for the local Food Bank totaled 107 pounds. Thanks to those who brought many jars of various sizes. Your generosity will be a

great addition to the Food Bank and is an item that families keep asking for!

Thank you to the Episcoplayers for such a wonderful and timely addition to our Christmas festivities!

And, a big Thank You to Hospitality and volunteers for the sumptuous tea and treats provided following the reading; a tea complete with a delicious variety of sandwiches, scones, cupcakes, and cookies galore.



**KAY McLELLAN CELEBRATION**

Our dedicated and beloved custodian, Kay McLellan is retiring. Please join us at the **10:30am service on January 14** for a special recognition of her faithful service to us for 25 years, and come celebrate Kay with us at a festive coffee hour afterward.



**3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK OUTREACH BASKET**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Recipient**

**Washington Kids in Transition** is our first quarter 2024 recipient of our outreach donations from our 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Basket.

**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. Their 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. Please designate your gift "Outreach."

#### **4th Quarter Results**

Thanks to your generosity, we are donating **\$746** to **Homage** from our outreach donations for the fourth quarter. Homage is the largest provider of services for older adults and people with disabilities in Snohomish County. The majority of people receiving their services live on limited incomes, are frail, and are in need of services that help them maintain their health, independence, and quality of life.

We will vote on our next four quarters' recipients for our 3<sup>rd</sup> week basket starting at the Annual Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>.



#### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you would like offering envelopes for 2024, please contact the church office at 425-778-0371 or [StAlbansEdmonds@gmail.com](mailto:StAlbansEdmonds@gmail.com) or Maryellen Young at [maryelleny@comcast.net](mailto:maryelleny@comcast.net) or 425-776-2461. Offering envelopes requested on your pledge card have been distributed. We have lots of envelopes available and they can be used, not only for your pledge or contribution, but also for any of our basket offerings.



#### **ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN-UP**

The 2024 sign-up sheet for contributing flowers for our services is posted on the bulletin board to the left of the entry doors. Please note the instructions on how the process works which are also posted.

Should you need assistance with your flower donation, please contact Sharon Joy, Cell Phone 425-478-67844, at least two weeks prior to your selected date. Your dedications are to be sent to Jeannie Wells at the church office ([stalbansedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:stalbansedmonds@gmail.com)) at least two weeks

before your request week for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.

#### **CONCERN FOR NEIGHBORS FOOD BANK GRATITUDE (Mountlake Terrace)**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your support this year. With your help, we served groceries and essential items to **22,346** neighbors in **5,913** local households through November 2023.

2023 was yet another record-breaking year in Concern for Neighbors Food Bank's recent history, and we welcomed over **3,000** new individuals at distributions over the year. Each week you helped us serve around **145** local households and over **600** individuals, an increase of over 25% households and over 35% individuals compared to average weekly distributions in 2022.

Your support makes it possible to continue offering our neighbors a choice in grocery and household products, and we are so proud of the work we have done. Thank you again for your support and confidence in our efforts.

With gratitude,

Carla Picasso-Brown, Executive Director



#### **THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Christ Made Known to the World January 6**

In the course of time, the Lordship of Christ was revealed in various people. The "Wise Men from the East" observed his star and were guided to his cradle where they worshiped him as a newborn king. When John baptized him in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended "as a dove" and a voice from heaven proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." At a wedding feast at Cana, his embarrassed host was amazed when Jesus turned water into wine. He revealed himself to his disciples and through their witness, the knowledge of him spread.

As the church grew, its witness to him was formalized in the sacraments and the canonical

scriptures. In the Epiphany season, we remember these events and the expanding revelation and manifestation of Christ to the world. We pray for the continuing growth of his kingdom until “The earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.”

In the ancient Eastern Church, January 6 was observed as the feast of the Nativity, “Christmas.” The Eve of Epiphany is still observed in some places as the “Twelfth Night” of Christmas and the conclusion of the nativity season.

*O God, lead all peoples of the earth to know your only Son now by faith, and in the world to come to see him in the splendor of his glory.*

*(Forward Movement Publication, Calendar of Saints)*



### **FORWARD DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS**

In a reflection from January 2021, Bishop Greg Rickel wrote the following.

*Mark 1:22 – They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

I recently heard the story of a Palestinian physician who lives and works in Gaza. He was trying to complete a trip that should be around six hours. With the checkpoints and border patrols, the trip ended up taking twelve hours.

As the doctor talked about the situation, my friend asked him, “What would make up a good life to you? The physician answered, “A good life for me is making sure my neighbor has a good life.” This idea is the complete expression of the world Jesus places at the center of the gospel message.

To have a good life for yourself is to ensure a good one for your neighbor. This idea is so far from the way the world seems to work right now, and, yet, it is a recipe for peace. We must be expansive about who we consider our neighbors. When we make that circle more extensive, this formula can transform the world.

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

#### **JANUARY 6 – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

Herod commanded the Magi “*to go and seek diligently for the child...*” As grateful disciples and stewards, we

need also to search for Jesus, to listen to his teachings, to worship together as a supporting community, and to carry out his mandate to love and serve others in his name. May we always be led by the star of his generous and eternal love.

#### **JANUARY 7 – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

Our Baptismal Covenant will be renewed in most churches today. Look at the verbs in the statement: Continue in the prayers and teaching; persevere in resisting evil and repent; proclaim the Good News; seek and serve others; strive for justice and peace. Are our time, talents and resources being used to further these “marching orders”?

#### **JANUARY 14 – EPIPHANY 2**

Psalm 139:1 says “...*you have searched me out and known me...*” To grow as grateful stewards, we need to really, in our hearts (not just in our words), trust that God indeed has a plan for us – and to spend serious time attempting to discern just what that plan is. When the heart is converted, being a good steward becomes a joy and not a duty.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **JANUARY 7 – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

#### **Collect for The Baptism of Christ**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed Him your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into His Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

#### **JANUARY 14 – EPIPHANY 2**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

### **CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS**

Please continue donations and pledges by:

- \*Mail check – 21405 82<sup>nd</sup> Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98926
- \*Drop off through slot in Fr. Greg's door.
- \*Bank Bill Pay – have bank send check to St. Alban's
- \*Online, go to [www.StAlbansEdmonds.org](http://www.StAlbansEdmonds.org) and click on "Donate Now."

### **WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS**

- 1st week—Food Bank
- 2nd week—Discretionary Fund
- 3rd week—Outreach
- 4th week—Ukraine Refugee Offering
- 5<sup>th</sup> Week—Indigenous Women Support

### **ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS**

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

Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or [stalbansedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:stalbansedmonds@gmail.com) to make an appointment.  
In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

### **GREG'S OFFICE HOURS**

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30am – 2:30 pm, Home
- Wednesday Church Office – 10:00am – 2:00 pm  
(Available by appointment)

Via email: [gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com)  
Cell: 206-778-1506

**SUNDAYS**--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm  
(Available by appointment)

### **PRAYER MINISTRIES**

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at [sheilahreidburn@comcast.net](mailto:sheilahreidburn@comcast.net) or 206-427-1920.

#### **Prayers of the People:**

Prayers of the People are used during Sunday worship.

#### **Prayer Chain:**

About a dozen people pray regularly for members of the congregation or other friends and relatives as requested.

#### **Prayer Shawls:**

Prayer shawls are available for those in need of comfort during challenging times.

