

AROUND THE PARISH

January 26, 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 28

Epiphany 4

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

Coming Soon to a church near you.

Lent is fast approaching (pun intended!) So much to do before we settle in!

First, **February 4, our Annual Meeting.** Remember that there is one combined service (at 9:30am) that day. We'll start at 9:00am with a pre-church Coffee Hour; a little fellowship at the normal time 8 o'clockers/an eye opener for the 10:30'ers. In the service, we'll formally welcome new members. Immediately (note the Markan influence) after lunch, we'll be served and we'll get on to the business of celebrating our congregational life together, conduct our business, talk about the direction our congregation is heading, and elect new Vestry members and delegates to Diocesan Convention. And all before 1:00pm!

Second, **February 11, the Last Sunday of Epiphany Season.** We're going to try something new this year. Coffee Hours this Sunday will include **Mardi Gras** fare. This is the brainchild of our favorite Louisianan transplant, Jeannie Wells, and yours truly, and will ensure that we avoid a clash of cultures and cuisines on Shrove Tuesday. Bring in your palms from previous years Palm Sundays as we'll burn them for the Ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

Third, **February 13, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.** You know the routine: Feasting before the Fast, Empty the cupboards and pantries of fats and sugars, Strengthen ourselves for the privations of Lent. Our Pancake Dinner is scheduled from **4:00–6:30pm.** We still need people to set-up, cook, and clean-up, so please see the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall.

Fourth, **February 14, Ash Wednesday,** we're going to try a different schedule this year. In prior years, we had services at Noon and 7:00pm. This year, because it is also Valentine's Day, and we do not want to cause any romantic/relational/marital strife – that is absolutely *not* one of the Lenten disciplines! – we are

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 1/29 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 1/31 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook
- 2/4 9:30am, One Service, Eucharist followed by Lunch and Annual Meeting
- 2/6 4:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 2/8 1:00-3:00, Small Group, Parish Hall
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday, Service Times to be determined



God of abundant gifts,
Show us where you want us to pour out our gifts
in celebration of your life all around us.
When we see the darkness and fear it is too great,
fix our eyes on your light.
Help us to walk in the way of the Magi,
following the star to the places
where you are breaking into our broken world.
Amen

not going to have the evening service. Exact times of the services have not yet been finalized, but will be by the next edition of the ATP; look for that next week.

Fifth, also **February 14, Valentine's Day**, following the Jewish and early Christian tradition of marking the beginning and ending of days *at Sunset*, we will declare Ash Wednesday officially over at sunset. We will then immediately revert to the modern practice of marking the beginning and ending of days *at Sunrise* and proceed to the celebratory traditions of Valentines with our loved ones. Call it wishy-washy, if you will; call it splitting hairs; call it trying to have it both ways; call it having your ~~Lenten~~ cake and eating it too; but, please, spend the evening expressing your love and affection to those important in your life. That's really the crux of this day and of the Christian life, in general. God was not incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth for the sake of privation. Ultimately, God was incarnate in Jesus to embody and manifest love. Not the love of suffering, but suffering for the sake of Love.

Wednesdays in Lent, we'll have our usual offering – 6:00pm Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary and live-streamed; 6:30pm Soup Supper; 7:00–8:00pm program; and ending with Compline. This year's program will be an exploration of the Baptismal Covenant. More details to come.



ANNUAL MEETING AROUND THE CORNER!

Be sure it's on your calendar! St. Alban's Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 4**. There will be one worship service that day, at 9:30am.

At 9:00am, there will be coffee and a few munchies available for those who come early. Following the 9:30am service, lunch will be provided, and the meeting will begin at approximately 11:15am.

The meeting will include information on the past year, looking forward to 2024, the coming year's budget, ministry successes, and voting for new Vestry members and Diocese delegates.

Your attendance and input are needed as we move our parish into 2024. This is also a wonderful fellowship opportunity as we all gather for one service together.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023

Our financial reports for December 2023 and year-end 2023 will be included in the Annual Meeting information packet.

UPDATE OF PARISH DIRECTORY

Please be sure to check on your church directory listing. Have you dropped/changed your land line, changed your cell phone number, or have any changes to home address or email? If so, please be sure to notify the church office at stalbansedmonds@gmail.com or 425-778-0371.

We will be publishing a new directory after the annual meeting and election of new Vestry members.

WE ALL HAVE A STORY

We all have a story,
a tale to be told
of the joys we've experienced
and the hardships we've known.

Sometimes we wear them
on our sleeves for all to see
but often they're hidden
as deep as they can be.

So, let us be kind,
for we never truly know
the struggles and the battles
that others undergo.

May empathy and compassion
be the guiding lights we share
and may we always remember
that each story deserves care.

For in our human journey
we all need love and grace
so, let us be kind to one another
and create a better place.

(Poem shared by Debby Wilson at the Wednesday evening soup supper.)

“HOMAGE = Well-being as we age”

Dear St. Alban’s Episcopal Church,

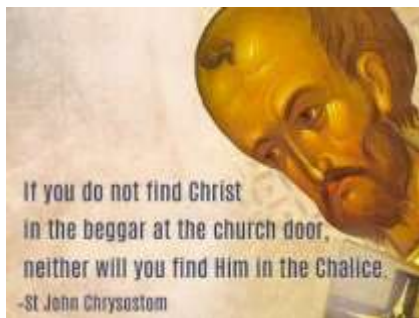
You truly are a blessing! Thank you for caring. Thank you for being committed to the safety of our older adult community. Because you care that seniors are not forgotten – emotional support, nutritious meals, minor home repairs and transportation are provided to older adults and people with disabilities every day. Because of your kindness, our most vulnerable neighbors in Snohomish County will rest a little easier knowing help is on the way.

A Meals on Wheels recipient recently shared this message of gratitude:

“I look forward to hearing that knock on my door. I know it means my meals for the week and even some fresh fruits are here. But most of all, I know that knock will be Bruce from Meals on Wheels. He’s always there with a smile and a story to share. It’s the highlight of my week.”

From the bottom of my heart – thank you! Thank you for protecting your community’s treasured seniors!

Mollie Meyer
Individual & Corporate Gift Officer



JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Bishop of Constantinople (d 407)

In an influential, prosperous, and sophisticated city at the apex of international power, it is rarely popular to advocate restraint, self-control, and responsible living. When the leaders of mighty Constantinople elected John Chrysostom to be Patriarch of the city, they thought they had elected a “holy man” who would bless and affirm them in their way of living. They were only half right.

Bishop John’s powerful sermons in the great cathedral, Santa (Hagia) Sophia, soon became a “cauldron of scalding water” thrown in the faces of the rich and proud citizens of Constantinople. His example of piety, charity, and simple living was an

embarrassment to many. Eventually, through the intrigue of a vain and powerful lady, Eudoxia, and a jealous and corrupt clergyman, Theophilus, John was exiled. He died as a prisoner on a forced march into the Caucasus Mountains in winter, a martyr for righteousness in a society bent on lust. However, his preaching and exemplary living had so touched the hearts of many that sweeping reforms were soon instituted, and life in the great city was profoundly changed for a generation or more.

The numerous volumes which we have of his sermons and commentaries have not lost their relevance today. The Liturgy of the Church in Constantinople, which he profoundly influenced, still bears his name. From this we get the “Prayer of St. Chrysostom” (BCP, pp. 59, 102).

(Calendar of Saints publication)

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

JANUARY 28 – EPIPHANY 4

Psalm 11:1 says, “I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart...” Our Catechism (see Prayer Book, p. 856) has at least one set of suggestions about how to do this. We are to follow Christ, to come together week by week for corporate worship, and to work, pray, and give for the spread of His kingdom. What a concise list for a “steward-in-training”!

FEBRUARY 4 – EPIPHANY 5

Psalm 147 is a veritable litany of God’s gifts to the world, and we – yes, you and I – are considered to be among those wonderful works. God yearns for a loving and grateful response from those He has created. Is such a response evident to others by the way your life is lived?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JANUARY 28 – EPIPHANY 4

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Collect for Epiphany 4

Almighty and Everlasting God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of our people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

FEBRUARY 4 – EPIPHANY 5

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-12, 21c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

*Mail check – 21405 82nd 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 and click on "Donate Now."

WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank

2nd week—Discretionary Fund

3rd week—Outreach

4th week—International Relief

5th 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 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

Cell: 206-778-1506

SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm

(Available by appointment)

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at 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.



O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Book of Common Prayer, pg. 218

www.KathrynShirey.com