

## AROUND THE PARISH

February 2, 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 – February 4

#### Epiphany 5 – Annual Meeting

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=d08vTmZNbmk1SWlPUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

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

#### Candlemas and Us

Candlemas, February 2, is one of those fixed dates in the Christian Calendar. It's the day we celebrate Jesus' presentation in the Temple. As described by Luke, this day Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated and for Mary to be purified 40 days after giving birth. This was to fulfill the Torah precept in Leviticus 12:1-8. So, the date of Candlemas is fixed at 40 days after Christmas.

February 2 is also the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox. We are transitioning out of the darkest part of the year.

In previous years and following ancient tradition, we have gathered all the candles -- and their modern equivalent light bulbs -- in the church and asked God's blessings on them. We did this in recognition that they aid us in our worship, our work, and our mission. And to remind ourselves that, as the Body of Christ, we "are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

This year, as part of our Annual Meeting this Sunday, we will be sent out with tapers. Again, as reminders that we are the light of the world, and that we are all commissioned to "let our lights shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

We'll take those lights out into the world and let them shine as we see fit. Then, if there is any candle left after Lent, we'll be asked to bring them back for use at the Easter Vigil. (Don't worry, if you've burned yours up or misplaced it, we'll have more at the Vigil to replace them.)

I'm really looking forward to our time together this Sunday, to celebrate our congregation, to welcome our new members, to worship together as one whole congregation, and to rededicate ourselves as lights of God's love in our community. See you there.

#### Lenten Program

This year's Lenten Program will involve an **exploration of the Baptismal Vows**. We'll be using a

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 2/4 9:30am, One Service, Eucharist followed by Lunch and Annual Meeting
- 2/5 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 2/6 4:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 2/7 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook  
6:30pm, Worship Committee Mtg, Zoom
- 2/8 1:00-3:00, Small Group, Parish Hall  
7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 2/9 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 2/13 4:00-6:30pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday, See Schedule below



#### Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and Everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 817)

book from Forward Movement that Maryellen Young found and suggested; *Will You? A Lenten Study of the Baptismal Promises*, by Amanda Perkins McGriff. 25 copies of the book have been ordered and should arrive in time for our first session on Wednesday, February 21.

This deep dive into the Baptismal Vows is timely. In the past few months, a couple of people have contacted me about being baptized. So, I'm intending this Lenten series as the preparation for these baptisms at the Easter Vigil. But it is also intended for those of us who are long baptized as we ourselves prepare for renewing our vows at that service.

Our Lenten series runs every Wednesday in Lent. We begin with Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 6:00pm, then retire to a simple supper at 6:30pm, discussions begin after that, and we conclude with Compline by 8:00pm.



#### ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 4

##### One Eucharist Service – 9:30am

Our annual parish meeting is this coming Sunday, **February 4, beginning at 9:30am**, with Eucharist. At this time, we will formally welcome new members to our congregation.

Following the service, a luncheon will be served, and we will move into the business part of our annual meeting. We will celebrate our successes together, look ahead to what our future holds, review our finances from 2023 and forecast for 2024, plus a few other business details. Another purpose of this meeting is to celebrate those Vestry members “retiring,” and elect new members to Vestry and to the Diocesan Convention. The meeting is scheduled to end at 1:00pm.

It is hoped you will be able to attend as we celebrate our accomplishments and each of our roles in the life of St. Alban's. It's not often we are able to have both 8:00am and 10:30am parishioners together for worship, a meal, and the opportunity to be part of the workings of our church life. And, it's a wonderful chance for fellowship with each other.



#### MARDI GRAS COFFEE HOUR – FEBRUARY 11

Join the fun and fellowship after worship on **Sunday, February 11**, for a festive Mardi Gras coffee hour. Enjoy delicious Creole dishes and Cajun delights prepared by several of our cooks extraordinaire!

Laissez the bon temps rouler (let the good times roll!).



#### SHROVE TUESDAY

#### PANCAKE SUPPER – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Celebrate the start of Lent with us at our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **February 13, from 4:00-6:30pm**. Cost is \$5 per person and no charge for those over 90 and Boys and Girls Scouts dressed in uniform.

We are also asking that you bring an item or two for the Food Bank. All proceeds from the pancake supper will go to the Edmonds Food Bank.

Many hands are needed to help make this a successful event. Volunteers are wanted for both set-up and clean-up. **If you are able to assist, please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.**



Would you believe we are doing something different this year – this time, for Ash Wednesday? Since February 14 is Valentines Day as well as Ash Wednesday, an alternate timeline became necessary. As a result, we are including “**Drive by Ashes**” this year, our take on some church's “Ashes to Go.”

There will be a **Holy Eucharist service with Imposition of Ashes at 12:00pm on Wednesday, February 14**. Outside the hours of this service, Greg will be in the Sanctuary for the Imposition of Ashes from 10:00am-3:00pm for those desiring them. This before-and-after time will only be for the Imposition of Ashes; no communion or other formal liturgies.



**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS**

We will continue with our tradition of soup suppers each **Wednesday evening during Lent beginning on February 28**. They will begin with **Evening Prayer at 6:00pm** in the Sanctuary and live streamed. **Supper begins about 6:30pm**, with our Lenten study program from 7:00-8:00pm.

This year’s program will be an exploration of the Baptismal Covenant. We will be using a Forward Movement book and study guide: Will You? A Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises. This five-week Lenten soup supper program is an invitation to think in new ways about the promises we make to God, each other and ourselves at baptism. Funding for the books is provided by the Rita Bennett Inner Healing bequest. A few extra copies will be available for those not able to participate with the Wednesday evening program.

Mark your calendar with the following dates: **February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20.**



**OUTREACH BALLOT**

It is time to vote for our outreach recipients for the next four quarters. The ballot will be available during February in the Parish Hall.

You can vote for up to four organizations. The top four vote-getters will be selected. Ballots are due by February 25<sup>th</sup>. You can leave your ballot in the designated basket in the parish hall, mail your ballot to church, drop it through the mail slot in Greg’s office door or email to [maryelleny@comcast.net](mailto:maryelleny@comcast.net). If you need a ballot, contact the church office. Copies are also available in the brown box by the Sacristy door.

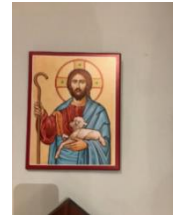
For your convenience below are the organizations on the ballot: Canine Companions, ChildStrive, Clothes for Kids, Cocoon House, Compass Health, Early Life Speech & Language, Everett Gospel Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Works, Housing Hope, Literacy Source, Pathways for Women (YWCA), PAWS.

Note: The organizations who were recipients for the previous four quarters will be eligible again next year.

**IMAGES OF JESUS IN THE SANCTUARY**

Jan Skidmore, People’s Warden

Sometimes it’s hard to see what is always there. Our “ears to the ground” recently learned of a concern that our Sanctuary did not contain pictures of Jesus. As you can see with these examples, it does contain images of Jesus. However, sometimes what we see each time we enter the Sanctuary is the whole picture, perhaps not taking in each



individual detail. Or we’ve gotten accustomed to what is always there.

These photos/icons of Jesus on the walls and credence table are physical symbols of His presence in our Sanctuary. Your line of vision of what you see and notice may depend

on where you sit.

Learning of parishioner’s thoughts and concerns is important. Very often you aren’t the only one with those opinions. We are all encouraged to contribute to the red “We’re Listening” box in the Parish Hall.



**A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND BE BLESSED – CRA RESTORE Seminar & Retreat, March 1-3, 2024**

Shirley Wilson

This is a great opportunity to spend a weekend with caring people who are trained to help others learn how to be more effective in their prayer life and have a closer walk with Jesus.

I went last year, and I can tell you that it was a wonderful experience. The accommodations and food were great too! It’s a little pricey, but with the help of Rita Bennett’s scholarship fund and her generosity, there is no charge for the entire weekend for St. Alban’s people. If you are interested in attending but are concerned about transportation, please talk to me and we can work something out. I would encourage

you to not miss this opportunity if you would like help with your prayer life or would like to be more effective in helping others.

You can always call or email me if you have any questions. Thanks and blessings, Shirley Wilson, 206-542-2944, [wilsaw@comcast.net](mailto:wilsaw@comcast.net). Flyers are available on the shelf near the entrance.

### **THANK YOU FROM KAY McLELLAN**

Dear Caring People of St. Alban's,

Thank you so much for my beautiful flowers, wine and check. The luncheon was great, especially the yummy carrot cake. You all made me feel so special. And thanks to all of you for helping me with my work.

I appreciate the many years that I was part of the St. Alban's Church.

Blessings to everyone,

Kay



### **1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER BASKET DONATIONS**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Week Outreach**

**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. Mark your donation "outreach".

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Week International Relief**

**Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** cares for people affected by conflict, disease outbreaks, natural and human-made disasters, and exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries. "Mark your donation "International Relief."



### **SUBSCRIBE FOR LENTEN MEDITATIONS**

You are invited to subscribe to Episcopal Relief & Development's Lenten Meditations! Visit the website: [2024 Lenten Meditations – Episcopal Relief & Development](https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/) or <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>

to sign up for daily meditation emails written by Miguel Escobar, on living an authentic life as followers of Christ.

**2024 Lenten Meditations:** Psalm 51:10 reads, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

Reflect on your newness in Christ as you journey through Episcopal Relief & Development's Lenten Meditations and discover new ways your faith is guiding you through the world.

## **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

### **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?

### **FEBRUARY 11 – LAST EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

"*Farewell to Alleluia*" Sunday is an iconic reminder to us that the journey of stewards includes not only the "up" celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany, but also calls us to intentional sharing in Christ's journey to Jerusalem and the Cross. How will you strengthen your spiritual and stewardship life during this approaching Lent?

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **FEBRUARY 4 – EPIPHANY 5**

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### **Collect for Epiphany 5**

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**FEBRUARY 11 – LAST EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

**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—International Relief

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.

