

## AROUND THE PARISH

March 6, 2026

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 – March 8

#### Epiphany 2

8:00 & 10:30am, Eucharist Services in Sanctuary

2:00-5:00pm, Rental, Sanctuary/Parish Hall

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



Fr. Greg Peters

First a few housekeeping matters, then a reflection.

**Office Day Change.** I'm changing my office days a little – switching from Tuesdays to Mondays; same hours 10:00 – 3:00, just Mondays rather than Tuesdays. The reasons for this are that it fits our family routine better, and it facilitates weekly meetings with JL Krilevich, our Senior Warden. So, Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays in Edmonds; Thursdays working at home.

**Baptism Class.** We're starting a Baptism preparation class between services. Marian Hagglund recently asked about the process for being baptized. If you would like to join in this class, join in exploring the meaning and implications of baptism, and share your experiences of faithful living, please join us **Sunday mornings between services 9:30 – 10:15 in the Parish Hall.** Whether you've been baptized for one year or many decades, your insights, perspectives, and observations will enrich our discussion.

**Outreach Offering at Lenten Evening Prayer Services.** As previously announced, the Offering collected at Evening Prayer services during Lent supports our Diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office. In response to Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's request for support of the Episcopal Church's Migration Ministries, the Vestry authorized this allocation of funds. Please support this most vital ministry. Please, too, join us for Evening Prayer in the sanctuary every Wednesday during Lent at 6:00pm. Then join us for our Lenten Soup Supper and Spiritual Disciples program, which follow immediately after Evening Prayer.

**A Reflection on the War with Iran.** With our bombardment of Iran, we are at war. Plain and simple. It may not meet the legal definition, Congress not having debated, voted on, or declared it, but it is war none the less.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 3/7 9:00am-noon, LMF, Annex  
10:30am-noon, ECW Coffee, Parish Hall  
12:30-4:30pm, AA District 24, Setup/Mtg
- 3/11 3:00pm, Food Bank Distribution, Parking Lot  
6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Sanctuary/YouTube  
6:30pm, Soup Supper/Lenten/Program
- 3/14 9:00am-noon, ECLA/LMF, Annex  
9:00am-4:00pm, Vestry Retreat, Parish Hall
- 3/18 6:00/6:30pm, Evening Prayer/Supper/Program
- 3/19 1:00-3:00pm, Discussion Group, Parish Hall
- 3/21 9:00am-noon, ECLA/LMF, Annex  
10:00-2:00pm, FOOD BANK COLLECTION  
10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
- 3/22 Easter Egg Stuffing, between/after services
- 3/25 6:00/6:30pm, Evening Prayer/Supper/Program

### RECURRING EVENTS

- Mon: 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- Tues: 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall, (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Wed: 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube
- Thur: 7:00-9:00pm, Rental, Sanctuary/Parish Hall
- Fri: 7:00-8:30pm, Rental, Sanctuary/Parish Hall
- Sun: 6:30pm, AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Next ATP Issue: Friday, March 20  
Article Deadline: Wednesday Noon, March 18



Daylight Savings begins today – MARCH 8!!

How to respond?

First, pray. Pray for those caught in the crossfire. Pray for those whose lives are on the line. Pray for our troops that they may not succumb to the temptations to brutality or unethical execution of their duties. Pray that the war be limited and not spread further into the region or beyond. Pray for our president, that he may maintain the highest moral and ethical standards in prosecuting this war. Pray for our enemies, that we may not lose our own humanity. Pray for reconciliation between our countries, for accountability and responsibility, for justice. Pray for mercy.

Second, some things to take into consideration. There are Christians in Iran. There are Anglicans in Iran. The Diocese of Iran is part of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East. This war is directly impacting some of our Anglican siblings.

Finally, some personal ruminations. Last Sunday evening, we had a couple of friends over for predinner snacks and beers. Our backyard is lovely this time of year, the weather was warm, and we hadn't seen them for a while, so it was good to catch up.

At one point, I was struck by how trivial this little gathering was in light of what was going on in Iran. I felt a little guilty having such a pleasant time when people were dying; killing; losing loved ones; losing their souls (as always happens in war); having their home, communities, livelihoods, and their families destroyed; their leaders killed (for good or for ill). But then I was reminded of a story about Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Sometime during the Nazi era, with all of its atrocities and offenses, Bonhoeffer took some time away from his resistance work to travel to attend a friend's birthday party. When asked how he could take time away from his important work for such a frivolity, he replied that celebrating and spending time with loved ones was an essential part of rebuilding society; that attending to family and friends was itself an act of resistance; and that, if such things were abandoned, the oppressors had already won.

A similar rumination. The other day, Erika and I planted peas; another mundane pleasantry, and again, in the midst of that, I felt a pang of guilt. Such an insignificant thing to do. We're planting peas while others are suffering so much. And then another reminder: famously, St. Francis was asked once what he would do if he knew that the world would end the next day. He answered that he would plant trees today. He saw his calling and however that shaped the future – God's intended future – in much more expansive and practical terms.

We here in the Pacific Northwest may be far removed, even detached, from what is happening in South Asia; we may not be confronting the likes of Germany's National Socialists' attacks on civil liberties, human rights, or international law; the Apocalypse may or may not come tomorrow; our times, lives, and circumstances may not carry this much historical magnitude; but maintaining our relationships (the basis of all society) and going about the things that give us joy (those that feed our souls) are vital in maintaining and building the world we want to live in; the kind of world God wants for us. We, like the first humans, are called to keep and tend this beautiful garden God has entrusted to our care.

So, in God's name, let us work and play, sing and pray, rage and rejoice. There is much work to do. There is much to give and give away. There is a whole wide world to build and rebuild.



### **Letter from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on Military Strike on Iran – February 28, 2026**

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church,

Here in the United States, we awoke this morning with alarm to the news that the United States and Israel have launched a large military strike on Iran. This violent attack comes despite weeks of negotiations that many of us had hoped would prevent armed conflict in this fragile region, which is home to so many religious traditions and faithful people.

Bishop Jeffrey Mello of Connecticut and a group of pilgrims from that diocese are in the Holy Land now, and when we spoke this morning, he let me know that they are safe at St. George's College in Jerusalem. I ask you to pray fervently for them and their safe return.

Pray, too, for all the people of the Holy Land, and especially for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and its leader, Archbishop Hosam Naoum. I had planned to be with Hosam today and tomorrow when he made a long-planned visit to our church. Many Episcopalians who had hoped to see him and

assure him of our support will feel his absence keenly in the coming days. I commend to you the [letter that he has sent to the people of his diocese this morning](#).

As news reports tell us of fear and panic in Iran, I ask you to pray especially for the people of the Diocese of Iran and for all of the Iranian people. In recent weeks, we have mourned as the regime in Iran has killed peaceful protesters, and watched with alarm at both its increasing repression of the Iranian people and the escalating response of the U.S. government. As Christians who follow a Prince of Peace, we mourn that today's attacks will surely mean further hardship for the most vulnerable Iranians and, as retaliation inevitably follows, suffering that will spread across the entire region.

*Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe

#### PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Father God, I don't want this Lent to pass by as just another season—I want to be changed. Strip away anything in me that keeps me from fully surrendering to You. Fill me with Your Spirit and renew my mind so that I may grow in faith, love, and obedience.

Open my heart to Your Word and let my prayer life deepen in intimacy with You. Help me to quiet the noise of the world so I can hear Your voice more clearly. Make me more like Jesus, day by day. Amen.

([www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com))



#### ECW COFFEE – SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Get out your glad rags and grab those books you have already read off the bookshelf – ECW's next Coffee

Hour is tomorrow, **Saturday, March 7**. Coffee and tea will be accompanied by some treats.

The program is a presentation by Susan Hanson of a recent trip she took with Eric Hanson to southern France, the Basque and Northern Spain. Susan will share photos and descriptions of sites visited.

Also this gathering is a **Used Book Sale**. As we have done periodically, ladies donate books for the rest of us to peruse and purchase for only \$.50 each. Proceeds go to the ECW treasury to help with future activities. Old-fashioned donations to the fund would also be appreciated. Connie Forsberg manages to bring us together for fellowship and fun with no requests for financial assistance.



**The first Drive By Food Drive of this year is scheduled for next Saturday, March 14.** Please be generous in helping our neighbors who are in great need of food assistance and sadly have been for a long time. Phil McClelland and his crew will be at church from **10:00am to 2:00pm** to greet and assist in any way they can.

We all know the drill – non-perishable canned fruits, vegetables, tuna, chicken, chili, soup, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti/noodles, various types of beans, rice, etc.

If you are unable to shop, donations can be made in cash or by check (check made out to St. Alban's Episcopal Church and designated for Food Bank). Foods and money can be dropped off at the Food Table in the Parish Hall at any time..



#### LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS CONTINUE

Join us for the third session of Evening Prayer, Soup Supper and Lenten Program on **Wednesday, March 11, beginning at 6:00pm**. Following Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary (on YouTube), we have supper together with our program at 7:00pm.

This year's series focuses on the nature and role of spiritual disciplines in the Christian life. We will discuss Interior Disciplines like Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study and Exterior Disciplines like Simplicity, Solitude, Service, Confession, Worship and more. Fr. Greg and Jim Gilman are leading these programs and

discussions. You are invited to attend all sessions or what your schedule will allow. Jump in at any time!

Please bring soup, salad, bread or dessert if you wish to contribute to the meal. There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall for signing up for food, as well as setup and cleanup.



### **EASTER EGG HUNT – SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

Shannon Duggan

**Easter Candy** – With Easter speeding up on us, we are asking for candy contributions in preparation for another successful Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 4, 2:00-4:00pm.** Our congregation is always so generous in giving and helping with this event.

**Donations of candy will be needed by Sunday, March 22 at which time the plastic eggs will be stuffed between services.** NOTE: This is a day change from the usual Sunday before Palm Sunday in order to preserve the solemn events of Palm Sunday.

**Volunteers Needed at Egg Hunt** – In addition to needing volunteers to help stuff the Easter eggs, we are also asking for **helpers on Saturday, April 4**, to distribute the eggs, prepare and hide special eggs for the sight impaired and eggs prepared for those with health issues such as nut allergies and other tasks.

There will be signup sheets in the Parish Hall for volunteers. Please watch for further information in the ATP and the bulletin.



### **ANGELS?? – HEAD OF A PIN????**

Eric Hanson

I will attempt to answer that nagging theological question: "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" Per geometry, if an angel is like a dot on a line, the answer is infinite. According to particle physics, if an angel is dancing, that means that it is experiencing time which means it has mass, so the number is finite. Plato might say that the answer is unattainable;

pinheads are phenomenal and angels belong to the noumenal realm.

According to the second law of thermodynamics, the angels will stop dancing as they reach maximum entropy. Finally, the purpose of the question is that the answer is inconsequential. Oh, wait...no...the answer is 12, one to dance and eleven to say they could have done it better.



### **AND THE RECIPIENTS ARE:**

Thank you everyone who voted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week Outreach Basket recipients for the next 4 quarters.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter—**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.

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter—**Pathways for Women YWCA** Pathways for Women provides shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing for single mothers and children.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter—**Housing Hope** combines affordable housing with tailored services such as life-skills training, childcare, case management, and employment services.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2027—**Compass Health** is a private, non-profit, state licensed organization providing mental health and chemical dependency services.



### **4<sup>th</sup> WEEK BASKET INTERNATIONAL RELIEF**

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Week Basket recipients continue:

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter—**World Vision**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter—**World Central Kitchen**

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter—**Episcopal Relief and Development**

1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2027—**Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**

**Remember to vote for the color of our "soon-to-be-spruced-up" front door. At this time, we are voting for either a red door or retaining it the current brown. Ballots are on the table by the kitchen door.**



**UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY**

An updated church directory is now available in the Parish Hall. The cover page has contact information for Vestry members. An updated ministry list showing ministries, key leaders and Vestry liaisons is also included. Finally, there is the directory information with names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses.

When changes are made in your contact information, please notify the church office. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office 425-778-0371 or [stalbansedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:stalbansedmonds@gmail.com).

**BASKET DONATIONS FOR MARCH**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week—**Food Banks** for Edmonds, Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace Food Banks
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week—**Discretionary Fund** to help people who contact the church for assistance with gas cards, utility bills, rent and other emergency aid requests
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week— **Homage**, providing of services for older adults and people with disabilities in Snohomish County
- 4<sup>th</sup> Week—**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
- 5<sup>th</sup> week— **Indigenous Women:** WomenSpirit coalition. Our next 5<sup>th</sup> week is this March

Donations can be made at any time by placing your donation in an envelope and designating category for your donation.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

**MARCH 8 – 3<sup>RD</sup> LENT**

Water is essential for human physical survival, but Jesus says the water He gives provides an even longer-lasting gift...eternal life. This promise gives new meaning to the water of baptism and the phrase “marked as Christ’s own forever.” How does our “mark” influence the way we live from day to day? Do

our holy habits of study, worship, service, and giving strengthen our life in Christ?

**MARCH 15 – 4<sup>TH</sup> LENT**

Psalms 23 is surely one of the most widely known and recited parts of the Psalter (we actually said it almost daily in elementary school). God is the provider and overseer par excellence – if we but ask, He will provide everything we need (notice it says need, not want). How great our gratitude will have to be if we indeed trust Him to be our shepherd and guide at all times.

**MARCH 22 – 5<sup>TH</sup> LENT**

Sunday’s Collect provides one of my favorite reassurances – that if we love what God commands, and desire what He promises, then among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found, and we need not look only to the world around us for love, affirmation serenity and peace. What a relief!

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**MARCH 8 – 3<sup>RD</sup> LENT**

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalms 95
- Romans 5:1-11
- John 4:5-42

**Collect for 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent**

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

**MARCH 15 – 4<sup>TH</sup> LENT**

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- Psalms 23
- Ephesians 5:8-14
- John 9:1-41

**Collect for 4<sup>th</sup> Lent**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that He may

live in us, and we in Him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**MARCH 22 – 5<sup>TH</sup> LENT**

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

**Collect for 5<sup>th</sup> Lent**

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners; Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



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

Monday 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Wednesday 2:00 - 4:00pm  
Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

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 Church Office 10:00am – 3:00pm  
Wednesday Church Office 10:00am – 3:00pm  
Thursday Home 10:00am – 2:00pm  
(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.

**CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS**

Please continue donations and pledges by:

- \*Collection plates and baskets on Sunday.
- \*Mail check – 21405 82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026
- \*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- or use pictured QR code



**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

