

AROUND THE PARISH

February 3, 2023

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 5

9:30am One Eucharist Service

11:00am Spaghetti Feed

Annual Parish Meeting, in person

If you are unable to attend in person, please join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83933393831?pwd=dmRMS3ljZE96MCtCSVJpM3kwWExzQT09>

Meeting ID: 839 3339 3831 Passcode: 252023

Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782

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

This Sunday:

Worship: **ONE Service at 9:30am**

Our Annual Meeting! at **11:00am**

This Sunday, just two days from now, is our Annual Meeting. And it looks like it's going to be a doozy!

If you're planning on attending remotely, here's the Zoom Link information:

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After worship (remember there's only one service, the 8:00 and 10:30 combined), we'll be treated to a sumptuous Spaghetti Lunch. We're planning on ample time to eat and socialize.

At 11:00am we'll start preparing for our meeting. At 11:15am I'll call the meeting to order and we'll be off and running. Simultaneous eating and meeting may be necessary.

Before getting to the business, we'll be treated again to a skit from the newly formed Episcoplayers. I'm really looking forward to the "radio drama" that Jan Skidmore and this burgeoning troupe of thespians has cooked up for us.

After we have supped and been entertained, it's time to get down to work. We've got to choose our quarterly outreach ministries for the coming year. We'll hear several reports and commentaries: from our Treasurer about the budget and our financial situation (which is actually pretty good, all things considered), from our Wardens, and me.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

2/4 Parish Hall Preparation for Annual Meeting

2/5 Annual Meeting

2/6 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall

2/7 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall

**2/8 3:00-4:30pm, Food Distribution, Parking Lot
6:00pm, Evening Prayer**

2/9 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

2/10 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

2/11 9:00-11:30am, Preschool Breakfast

11:00-2:00pm, Drive By Food Bank

2/13 6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Zoom

2/14 2:00pm, Altar Guild Meeting, PH

2/15 6:00pm, Evening Prayer

6:30pm, Soup Supper and Program

2/21 Pancake Supper

2/22 Ash Wednesday

Loving God, you have blessed us with the eternal gift of your son Jesus Christ. Like the wise men of old, create within us the joy of giving as we humbly offer the treasure of our lives so Christ might be truly honored and we might know his delight deep within our soul. In Jesus' name. Amen

Come Prepared to Participate!

Please don't think that after filling you all with pasta we are expecting you all to simply nod off during the Rector's remarks! Just like at Vestry meetings, we'll review our Mutual Ministry Agreements and open the floor for **your observations** about how we are fulfilling these agreements. There will be people taking these down so we can use them at our Vestry Retreat later in the Spring.

And then, before you let your guard down, we're going to break into small groups (Breakout Rooms for those participating via Zoom) to think through these questions:

What do you want to see this congregation do in the next year or two? Where do you feel God calling us?

With a follow-up question: What are you willing to do to make these things happen?

There will be members of the Vestry in each group to take notes. Again, we will use this information at our Vestry Retreat.

Voting on our Future

With our minds and spirits tuned to what God is up to with our congregation, it will be time to elect Vestry Members and Alternates to Diocesan Convention.

Once the elections are complete, we'll commission the newly elected, bless our assembly for our ministries in the world and celebrate with dessert and more fellowship, and clear the way for Templo Emanuel's service.

See you there! Join in the Dooziness!



PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Parish Meeting is set for **this Sunday, January 5, following one service at 9:30am.** A Spaghetti Feed is being served prior to the meeting. You won't want to miss these events!

Our Annual Meeting agenda consists of an overall view of where we have been and where we are going. St. Alban's financial status and written reports from

ministry groups are also included. One vital part of this meeting is the election of Vestry members to replace the three who are rotating off their terms. We also need to elect Alternate Delegates for the Diocesan Convention held in the fall.

It is hoped you will be able to attend this gathering in person to enjoy the fellowship and the wonderful spaghetti meal. If you are unable to attend in person, you are encouraged to watch on Zoom:

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Group Hug as We Prepare to Entertain You

Come see our "What We Hope Our Neighbors Are Seeing" at the Annual Meeting.



DRIVE-BY FOOD DRIVE COMING!!

With the holidays behind us, many food banks begin to experience fewer donations. Thanksgiving and Christmas – we all think of people dealing with food shortages when these special celebrations are here.

However, we know that families and individuals are suffering from lack of and/or very little food to go

around week after week at this time in our history. This is where we have stepped in repeatedly and given generously to food drives – not just ones at St. Alban’s, but those food bins for food donations we see at various stores.

Join us at our **Food Drive on Saturday, February 11, from 11:00-2:00pm** (note time change.) Many of us have already brought generous donations to the Parish Hall. If it’s hard for you to get to the Food Drive, that is a great option – you can purchase food when you see good deals at Costco, Walmart, Winco, etc., and drop it off at the Parish Hall. Non-perishable foods, dog/cat food and baby items are needed by many families. Some items are not covered by food assistance programs.

Add to your shopping basket as you are able – soups, dried/canned beans, spaghetti and sauce, canned vegetables and fruits, canned tomatoes and sauce, Ramen, tuna fish, canned chicken, etc., -- and, of course, the all-time favorite, peanut butter. It’s not just for kids!

Join our volunteers, meet the neighbors and those dropping off food. It’s fun and heartwarming to witness God’s work being done and the smiling faces of those contributing.



SOUP SUPPER -- FEBRUARY 15

Our next **Soup Supper** is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15**, and begins with Evening Prayer at 6:00pm. Supper consisting of soup, salad, bread and dessert will follow at 6:30pm followed by our program.

This month we will be considering Episcopal spirituality in the midst of a frenetic world and the interconnections for the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are working from “The Episcopal Way: Church’s Teaching for a Changing World,” Chapters 4 and 5. If you need a copy, please contact Fr. Greg.

Please contribute soup, salad, bread or dessert as you are able. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.**

THE MARTYRS OF JAPAN **(February 5)** **A Community that Kept the Faith**



Japan was first introduced to Christianity by Francis Xavier, a great Roman Catholic missionary. For nearly half a century the churches he founded flourished and grew. Finally, the Japanese government became alarmed at the spread of Christianity which they regarded as a cloak for subversive activity by foreigners. Christianity was made illegal, and to show that the authorities meant business, 26 Japanese Christians were publicly crucified in Nagasaki.

But this was only the beginning. For the next two hundred and fifty years, if a Japanese was found to be practicing Christianity, he was subject to the death penalty. Through the years many thousands died rather than forsake Christ.

At last the ban was lifted in 1859. Christian missionaries again entered Japan. To their astonishment, they discovered several secret Christian communities still surviving, without priests and with very little education, but still keeping the Faith in a most admirable manner, as they had through centuries of persecution.

Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyrs in Japan triumphed over suffering, and were faithful even to death: Grant us, who now remember them in thanksgiving, to be so faithful in our witness to you in this world, that we may receive with them the crown of everlasting life.

Photo above of memorial statue to Martyrs, Internet

Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning:
 "Windows frozen, won't open."
 Husband texts back: Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer."
 Wife texts back 10 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now."



From Dave Wilson

Our brother Dave left us with many stories from his vast collection, and we will continue to share them in gratitude and in his memory.

A lovely woman from County died. She found herself outside a beautiful garden with splashing fountains and bright flowers, but she was alone and the gate was locked.

When St. Peter finally came by, the woman said to him, "This is surely a wonderful place. It must be heaven. How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word," said the Saint.

"What word might that be?" she asked.

"Love."

Well, she spelled it right and was admitted through the Gates of Heaven.

About a year later, St. Peter asked this woman if she would mind guarding the Gates a short while for him. While she was waiting, her husband arrived. "How've you been?" she asked.

"Oh, not bad," he said. "I married the pretty nurse who took care of you, and then I won the lottery. I sold our little cottage and bought a lovely mansion. My wife and I traveled around the world. Today I was skiing and broke my neck and....and here I am. How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word."

"What word?"

"Czechoslovakia."

FROM THE READER BOARD

Lee Forsberg



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

FEBRUARY 5 – 5 EPIPHANY

"....give us the liberty of that abundant life you have made known to us in your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ...." Try to imagine the joy in your life if you concentrate on its abundance and do not allow yourself to live in a mindset of scarcity. God does indeed provide for all our needs if we live in Him and for him.

FEBRUARY 12 – 6 EPIPHANY

Deuteronomy 30 says in part: *"Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him and holding fast to him; for that means life to you...."* These are words from the Hebrew Scriptures which also speak clearly to those who seek to live a faithful life as Christian stewards.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FEBRUARY 5 – 5 EPIPHANY

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)

Psalm 112:1-9, (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

Collect for 5 Epiphany

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 12 – 6 EPIPHANY

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at sheilahreidburn@comcast.net or 425-745-1390

Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People that are used during the 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:

- *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—Ukraine Refugee Offering
- 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)