

AROUND THE PARISH

March 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 – March 5

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services for those fully vaccinated

9:15am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom – Class is continuing the study of John

<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 Pete

It has become part of our congregational practice to hear the Exhortation from the Penitential Rite on the First Sunday of Lent. It's simply a reminder to take Holy Communion seriously and to prepare for receiving it by self-examination, acknowledgment and confession of sins, reconciliation with those we have hurt through those sins, forgiving those who have hurt us, and going forward having the intent of changing one's life.

Every year, I am struck by this line in the Exhortation, "if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice."

The observation is true, our sins cause us grief. And they cause grief to those around us and to our communities – they cause grief within the Body of Christ.

There is, in fact, a whole rite in the Prayer Book that addresses this grief and intention for amendment of life, the Reconciliation of a Penitent, what our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers know as Private Confession.

I don't think that I have ever publicly offered that, but recently someone suggested that I do. So this Lent (or anytime really), I'd like to offer to hear confessions privately. People do, occasionally, come for absolution and council. Often this happens in Holy Week in preparation for Good Friday and Easter, but all of Lent is a uniquely appropriate season for Reconciliation.

As this is intended for the healing and promotion of the spiritual health of individuals for the overall health of our congregation and community: In the words of the Exhortation, to assist in the "removal of doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of faith."

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 3/4 1:00pm, Alice Guyot Memorial
- 3/6 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 3/7 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scout Meeting, Parish Hall
- 3/8 3:00-4:30pm, Food Bank Distribution, Park Lot
6:00pm, Evening Prayer
6:30pm, Soup Supper & Lenten Program
- 3/9 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 3/10 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 3/11 1:30-6:30pm, Eagle Scout Ceremony, Parish Hall
- 3/13 6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Zoom
- 3/14 2:00-3:30pm, Altar Guild Meeting, Parish Hall
4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 3/17 9:30am-4:00pm, Brian McLaren, Saint Mark's
- 3/18 11:00am, Dave Wilson Memorial Service

Give us patience, O Lord, to follow the road you have taken. Let our confidence not rest in our own understanding but in your guiding hand; let our desires not be for our own comfort, but for the joy of your kingdom; for your cross is our hope and our joy now and unto the day of eternity. Amen

St. Augustine's Prayer Book

Toward the end of the Exhortation, we hear,
“And then, being reconciled with one another, come to
the banquet of that most heavenly Food.”

This is God’s eternal desire that we, who have been
created in the Divine image and likeness, be
continually transformed into the completeness and
fullness of that image, and ultimately to feast in the
Kingdom, in the Divine Presence and in the
community of the whole body of the faithful, the
communion of saints.

If you’d like to avail yourself of the Rite of
Reconciliation, please contact me at (206) 778- 1506,
and we’ll set up a time.

If you’d rather do this with another priest, “discreet
and understanding,” I can offer some suggestions for
that too.

And just so you know, I’ll be doing this with my
own discreet and understanding priest.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER – MARCH 8

Join us for the second Lenten Soup Supper on
Wednesday, March 8. Evening Prayer is in the
Sanctuary at 6:00pm, supper at 6:30pm in the Parish
Hall, with our continuation of Episcopalianism 101
following. The evening ends with Compline by
8:00pm.

The program continues through chapters of *The
Episcopal Way* as our study guide. Fr. Greg will lead
us through Chapters 6 and 7 this coming Wednesday.
There is plenty of time for questions and sharing. The
food is perfect for these cold evenings, and the
fellowship even better!.

You are invited to bring soup, salad, bread, and/or
dessert to share as you are able.

Come, Feast on the Word, Sacraments, and
Fellowship every Wednesday in March.

PLANNING AHEAD

**Daylight Savings Time begins on Monday,
March 13, 2023. Be sure to move your clocks
ahead one hour.**



OUTREACH WINNERS FOR NEXT 4 QUARTERS

Thank you to everyone who cast a ballot for the 3rd
Week Outreach Basket Recipients. We had 37 ballots
cast and here are the top 4 winners: Domestic
Violence Services, Hand in Hand Kids, Homage,
Washington Kids in Transition.

Domestic Violence Services is a non-profit
organization providing free and confidential services --
emergency shelter, legal advocacy, support groups and
domestic violence education. DVS is the only program
in Snohomish County providing emergency shelter and
comprehensive, confidential services to all victims of
domestic abuse. (2nd Quarter)

Hand in Hand Kids provides critical care and support
for children who have been removed from their homes
due to abuse, neglect, drug raids, abandonment and
other dangerous circumstances and entering foster care.
(3rd 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. (4th 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. 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. (1st Quarter 2024)

Oh, Great Spirit,
whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world,
hear me.
I am small and weak.
I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes
ever behold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things you have
made

and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
 Make me wise so that I may understand
 the things you have taught my people.
 Let me learn the lessons you have
 hidden in every leaf and rock.
 I seek strength, not to be superior to my
 brother,
 but to fight my greatest enemy - myself.
 Make me always ready to come to you
 with clean hands and straight eyes,
 so when life fades, as the fading sunset,
 my spirit will come to you
 without shame.

- Chief Yellow Lark, Lakota, 1887



VESTRY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

At its February 13 Vestry Meeting, the following Vestry board was approved with two remaining vacancies to fill:

Senior Warden: Liz Bee
 Junior Warden, People's Warden: Jan Skidmore
 Junior Warden, Buildings & Ground: Eric Hanson
 Clerk: Debby Wilson
 Treasurer: Maryellen Young

Additionally, the following Liaison Leaders were approved:

Worship: Jan Skidmore
 Faith Formation: Jean Burpee
 Buildings & Grounds: Eric Hanson
 Communications: Harvey Smith
 Finance: Jan Skidmore
 Fellowship: Judy Fleenor
 Faith Expressions: Jeanie Wells
 Stewardship: Liz Bee
 Evangelism & Social Justice: Vacant

Convention Delegates: Cyndi & Jake Jacobson
 Alternates: Pat Chandler, Shirley Clark

Our Liaison leaders are responsible for coordinating with ministry leaders, parishioners and other Vestry members in the accomplishment of our ministries; i.e., Prayer Chain, Adult Education, Evangelism, Finance, Fellowship, Food Bank, etc.

If you have questions, suggestions or ideas regarding any of our ministry areas, we encourage you to reach out to one of our Liaison leaders.

UNIQUE FOOD DRIVE FOR EDMONDS FOOD BANK

Jan Skidmore

Let us entertain you for peanut butter, the number one item needed by the Food Bank. You are invited to a **live theater presentation of "The Golden Age of Radio,"** on Saturday April 1, 2023, at 7:00pm **here at St Alban's.**



This program is to honor the contributions radio made to the world. Under the call letters KDKA, Pittsburg's the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company transmitted the first scheduled broadcast on November 2, 1920. This was the beginning of the public being able to hear news in real time followed by having access to entertainment in their homes.

Join us for this evening of fun entertainment! Invite your family members, friends, and strangers! Printed "invitations" for you to give to those folks will be available at this Sunday's services. Invitations will continue to be available at the poster board area in the church entry. And best of all, no ticket is needed! We request you bring an any-size, any brand of Peanut Butter to be donated to the Edmonds Food Bank. If you need transportation or could provide transportation, please call Jan Skidmore at 425-315-5412.

REST IN PEACE, REV. ROBERT DUNN

Fr. Robert Dunn passed away at the age of 84 on February 26 from cancer. He grew up as a member of Trinity in Everett and has been assisting at St. Aidan's on Camano Island.

Fr. Bob served at St. Alban's as an interim priest from December 2014 to November 2015. As one of several interims during the long search process for Fr. Greg, he blessed us with spiritual guidance, leadership, and compassion. Fr. Bob also brought Jeff Johnson and his musical group to St. Alban's, where we had several years of wonderful Celtic Concerts.

At a future date, Fr. Bob's funeral will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Everett.

"IS CHRISTIANITY WORTH SAVING?"

Friday, March 17, 9:30am – 4:00pm

At Saint Mark's Cathedral

One-Day Interactive Event with Brian McLaren

Join renowned leader Brian McLaren for a dynamic interactive event exploring the future of Christian faith in the 21st Century. Brian will engage in a series of

civil and substantive exchanges with special guests, subject matter experts, practitioners, advocates, critics and folks in the audience. See a review of Brian’s latest book by Harvey Smith in the next article for more information about the topic for this event.



Brian is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for “a new kind of Christianity” – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good.

St. Alban’s will pay the cost for the class; please contact the church office if you wish to attend or for more information, contact the office at 425-778-0371 or stalbansedmonds@gmail.com.

REVIEW OF BOOK: DO I STAY CHRISTIAN?

By Harvey Smith

Brian McLaren’s latest book, Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed and Disillusioned begins by identifying one of the most significant sources of doubt, disappointment and disillusionment for those who look to Jesus as the model for their lives, however difficult and flawed is their effort. It is the overwhelming support Donald Trump and the Republican Party has had from those who consider themselves Evangelical Christians.

The book is in three sections: 1) reasons for saying “no”; 2) reasons for saying “Yes”; and last, 3) how to go about it.

While I was aware of many of the reasons for saying “no,” the book revealed many other practices and events that were a function of institutional religion, i.e, the desire for control and power. Not unlike what is happening these days among the large number of supporters of Christian Nationalism. I kept thinking, wait a minute, we tried that once - when Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire - and look at what that produced.

The “Yes” and the “How” are two thirds of the book. I was especially inspired by:

- “Because it would be a shame to leave a religion in its infancy;”
- “Because - where else would I go” and
- “Because Christianity is changing for the better.”

The final chapters focusing on “How” were very motivating.

Reading theology books is one of my favorite things to do and I consider this book my best read in 2022. I am looking forward to being able to experience Bryan McLaren face to face at St. Mark’s on March 17th. I hope you will consider joining us.

PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Susie Nichols
Acacia Senior Home
9904 240th Pl SW
Edmonds, WA, 98020
206-801-7061

(Please call before visiting; visit after 1:00pm.)

PANCAKE SUPPER RESULTS

As noted in last week’s Around the Parish, all proceeds from the Pancake Supper will be donated to the Edmonds Food Bank. Below is the information about income and expenses.

In addition to the proceeds, we received some additional donations for the food bank on both Tuesday evening and Ash Wednesday. These designated donations increased the amount we will be sending to the food bank. Thank you for your participation and your generosity in supporting the pancake supper and local food bank.

TOTAL INCOME	\$392.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$260.90
NET PROCEEDS	\$131.10
FOOD BANK DONATIONS	\$153.00
TOTAL FOR FOOD BANK	\$284.10



PLANNING AHEAD FOR EASTER

None of the events and activities at St. Alban’s, or any church, just happen. They take planning ahead and seeking help from parishioners. The following are ways we can all contribute to and be a part of our Easter celebration.

Flowers to Celebrate Easter

We all enjoy the beautiful flowers decorating our Sanctuary and altar area. St. Monica’s Altar Guild is inviting you to help decorate our Sanctuary in celebration of Jesus’ rising on Easter. Your donation

for flowers can be as a memorial to someone who has passed from your life, or as thanksgiving to someone, an event, or a thanksgiving to God.

Flower donation envelopes are in the pews; please indicate “in memory of” or “in thanksgiving for” on the envelope. Please also note “Easter Flowers” on your check and have your **donation into church by Sunday, March 20**, for inclusion in our Easter bulletins.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations & Volunteers

Last year’s Egg Hunt was a smashing success and made many children and their parents very happy as they hunted for the MANY eggs hidden on the property. Special care and attention was given to those children who have difficulties and challenges in getting around to hunt for eggs.

This year’s Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 8, and lots of plastic eggs, small wrapped candy and small toys are needed. Please leave your contributions in the Parish Hall **before Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 2**.

If you are able to help stuff eggs or help on the day of the hunt, please contact Wendre at church or at 425-892-3329. Thank you!

FROM THE READER BOARD

Note: From Lee Forsberg: Jim Gilman will be doing the reader board hereafter with a few suggestions thrown in. Thanks to Lee for years of great notices of information and faith. It is a treasured part of St. Alban’s, not just for our parishioners, but for our neighbors as well.



jokes

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.

From Dave Wilson

A man was walking along the beach, enjoying an afternoon vacation stroll when he heard someone

screaming. Looking around, he saw an obviously distraught woman kneeling next to a little girl.

The man quickly determined the child had swallowed something that was blocking her airway, and he held her up by her heels and gave a few quick thumps to her back. Sure enough, the child started to sputter and cough and spit a coin onto the sand.

“Oh, thank you, sir!” cried the grateful mother. “You seemed to know exactly what to do. Are you a doctor?”

“No ma’am,” the man replied. “I’m retired. But I am the chair of the stewardship committee for my church.”



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

MARCH 5 – LENT 2

Psalm 121 says in part: “*The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.*” Who or what in this world can save or protect us for all time? The promise is not that we will not have times of trial, maybe many of them, but rather that God will be with us as we go through them, always ready with love and support of the kind no human or object can provide. Praise God for such a gift.

MARCH 12 – LENT 3

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 living strengthen our life in Christ?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MARCH 5 – LENT 2

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

Collect for Lent 2

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

MARCH 12 – LENT 3

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

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.

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."

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)

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

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.

