

AROUND THE PARISH

March 13, 2020

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.



Fr. Greg Peters

PLEASE NOTE: All events and activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.



DONATE TO DISCRETIONARY FUND

With the closing of schools, students who rely on the schools for breakfast and lunch will be in considerable need of assistance. Please make donations to the Discretionary Fund – try out the new Online Giving option on the church's website--to continue to support the students of Chase Lake Community School.



CHURCH DONATIONS

If you would like to continue to contribute your pledge or other donations even though you are not at church, you can donate as follows:

- ✓ Mail check to church
21405 – 82nd Place W.
Edmonds, WA 98026
- ✓ Drop off donation through the slot in Greg's door.
- ✓ Online donation, see article in ATP

St. Alban's Closed for the Next Two Weeks

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Following the wise direction of our Bishop, St. Alban's, along with all the churches of our Diocese, will be closed to all public worship, functions, gatherings, and programs for the next two weeks. This closure may be extended depending on how the coronavirus pandemic progresses.

I am in full agreement with this decision. As you know, most everything is disrupted and in flux. Please know that your Vestry, Staff, and I are determining how best to meet the needs of the members and neighbors of St. Alban's. We have some preliminary plans about how we will worship together, stay connected, keep from allowing ourselves to fall into isolation, and support each other during this pandemic.

Here are things as they stand right now:

For worship, we will livestream one service on Sunday mornings. Only the ministers of the service will be in church. Since we cannot exchange communion, we will likely conduct Morning Prayer services with a sermon and a hymn or two. If you have a prayer book at home, you will be able to follow along. We are working on printing out the service and getting it to those who do not have a prayer book at home.

We're working on establishing buddy groups or some other means of checking in with each other, to make sure we are all safe, provisioned, and staying healthy.

To the best of our abilities, we will maintain our office hours. Generally, we do not work in close proximity to each other, so we're conscious of working safely. The work of keeping the business of the congregation going will certainly not be any less, and simply keeping connected will be more important than ever. It is likely, though, that a good deal of the work will be done from home. The best way to contact me, for example, is via my cell phone (206) 778-1506, texts to that number, or email gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com. We have yet to determine how best to utilize with care the many volunteers who answer the phone and run the front office.

As far as the Wednesday Night Lenten Program goes, we are looking into the feasibility of making the presentations online, via Zoom or Facebook Live. We will let you know one way or the other once that has been decided.

The church closing is for two weeks but could very well be extended. Considering that the schools of Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties have been closed until late April, it seems likely that the church closing will likewise be extended. This may affect our Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

I'm sorry that I can't tell you with any kind of certainty how we will commemorate Holy Week or celebrate the Resurrection. We've planned and made contingency plans for each service, but, now, even those contingency plans may have to be scrapped.

This year's Lenten journey is leading us deeper into the suffering of Christ; not simply the reenactment and remembrance of his Passion and Death, but into surrendering our understanding of how we commemorate these events. The meaning of Jesus' selfless surrender of power remains the same, but the ways we have remembered this for 2000 years is being challenged. In the end, we do not worship our liturgy, we worship the God who comes into the world having surrendered divinity and power by taking on humanity and humility.

I am sorry for the disruptions. As Jesus in the Gethsemane faced doubt, so he is with us in our fright and concern during this turmoil. He

is scared, disrupted, and confused with us. With the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to serve each other. I'm heartened to know that God is with us in all the disruptions.

During the Plague of the 14th Century, Sebastian was considered the patron saint of those who feared and suffered. Here's part of a prayer to him that I found recently. I offer it to you as a comfort, from the history and tradition of the church.

O St Sebastian, guard and defend me, morning and evening, every minute of every hour, while I am still of sound mind; and, Martyr, diminish the strength of that vile illness called an epidemic which is threatening me. Protect and keep me and all my friends from this plague. We put our trust in God and St Mary, and in you, O holy Martyr.

I do not think what we need the intermediary of a saint, but I do know that people of faith have faced these situations before. Likely, they feared that God had abandoned them or was punishing them. Those were different times, but those people experienced the same needs. They faced that plague - the Black Death - without the wealth of scientific knowledge that we have today, and, yet, even with our knowledge, we need the strength, comfort, protection, and guidance of our Savior Christ.

So, friends, be of sound mind. Do your work to diminish the strength of the vile illness (wash your hands!), protect yourself and your friends (keep your distance and stay home if sick), and demonstrate your love for God, by loving your neighbor (stay in touch, pray for, support, and keep watch for each other).

In the Peace and Health of Christ,
Greg





EVENT & ACTIVITY CHANGES

Due to the current coronavirus situation and the directions from Bishop Rickel and Governor Inslee, the following schedule and activity changes have been made. As Fr. Greg said in his March 11 email, “It is more than ourselves we need to keep in mind; it is also all the people we come in contact with when we are out in public.”

Wednesday Lenten Suppers – The dinner scheduled for March 18 and 25 has been cancelled. You will be kept advised of further cancellations.

Episcopal Church Women Coffee – This event scheduled for March 21, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled later.

Celtic Music Concert – “Darkness to Light” scheduled for March 29 is cancelled and rescheduled later.

West Edmonds CoOp Preschool Art Walk & Basket Raffle – Cancelled and new date to be determined.



ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

Maryellen Young, Treasurer

Online giving is now available. You can go to www.StAlbansEdmonds.org and click on the “Giving” link and then to the “Donate Now” button. You can either make a **one-time** donation **OR** set-up an automatic **recurring** giving schedule. If you create a profile, future giving will be easy to do.

You have the choice to use a credit card or a bank account. There are charges associated with online giving, but you can easily contribute a little extra to offset costs.

- If you use your bank account, there is a space on the first page with a suggestion to add 1% to your donation amount to offset the ACH fee.
- If you use a credit card, there is a block on the second page where you enter your credit card information that you can check to add 2.75% to help offset credit card processing fees.

Another Option...To pay your pledge automatically, you can also consider using your bank’s online banking service. Just schedule your pledge payment to St. Alban’s Episcopal Church as a recurring bill. This is an effective way to make a recurring donation, and there are no fees to the parish involved.

Electronic gifts are fast and secure, and provide the following benefits for you:

- Give anytime, anywhere
- Make one-time donations
- Schedule and manage recurring donations

If you are not present at church, online giving is an easy way to make donations. Any questions or issues, please contact Maryellen Young, maryelleny@comcast.net

SO MANY REASONS...to Use New Online Giving Option

Susan Hanson

It all started with the Thousand Days of Giving challenge. I got my box and started collecting change.

Reason 1. I rarely use actual money anymore. We collect miles so we use our credit card as much as possible so there isn’t much money going into the box.

Reason 2. If somehow I did collect a box of change, and we all collected a box of change, just think about all the change that would need to be counted on the 5th Sunday.

Reason 3. Then things started getting complicated. We’ve paid our pledge this year, so all our giving goes to the many worthy causes the church supports. The Thousand

Days of Giving comes on the 5th Sunday. There aren't many of them, so perhaps I should give more at one time. But, how much more? This is taking some thought. Perhaps I should round up every time I visit Starbucks and give that much. I visit Starbucks way too often!

Reason 4. Then the virus struck, and things changed around the church. We are encouraged to stay home on Sunday. We don't do the offertory the same way, and there are very few people attending to donate. And yet our bills don't stop.

Reason 5. I explored the Online Giving link on the church website and saw how well set up it is so I can do lots of specific giving there. You can easily make donations for church Easter flowers; there is even a place for you to include your dedication as memorials or in thanksgiving.

I'm sure you can think of many reasons on your own to try it out.



The following schedule is subject to change depending on ongoing health concerns. Parishioners will be notified of those changes

- Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday,**
8:00 & 10:30am Eucharist
- Wednesday, April 8 – Tenebrae, 7:00pm**
- Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday**
6:00pm, Agape Supper & Eucharist
7:00pm, Stripping of Altar
- Friday, April 10 – Good Friday**
12:00 & 7:00pm, Evening Prayer
12:00-7:00pm, Stations of the Cross,
Labyrinth (Brochures available)
- Saturday, April 11 – Holy Saturday**
8:00pm, Easter Vigil, Eucharist
- Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday**
8:00 & 10:30am, Eucharist
Brunch between services
Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30am service



VONYA KING-NORTON

Vonya has been the Family Support Coordinator for Chase Lake Community School for 16 years and has visited St. Alban's several times to accept our donations to the school. She has decided to make a career change and join an organization that provides job coaching and other services to people with special needs.

Vonya has been dedicated to the children and families of Chase Lake and is very appreciative of the help St. Alban's and the community have given. "I am grateful to you for everything! For your support of our school, for your compassion and willingness to help children and families that you don't even know. I also am grateful for your friendship. The incredible community will leave a lasting warmth and humbleness in my heart."

A THANK YOU NOTE:

Thank you so much for your kind donation to the Lynnwood Food Bank. With monetary donations, we are able to supplement our grocery rescue to balance nutrients and increase the healthier options for our families.

In November 2019 we served 1,843 households. These households are served only because of our community that provides countless hours of volunteer work and financial support. We thank you for your kindness and generosity toward our community. You are helping make our community a better place.

Alissa E. Jones, Director
Lynnwood Food Bank

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready Lord for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit me still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do I it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the spirit of Jesus.

Prayers New and Old



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

March 15 – Third Sunday in 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 22 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 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 for all time!

March 29 – Fifth Sunday in 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!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The following schedule is subject to change depending on ongoing health concerns. Parishioners will be notified of those changes

For a link to the weekly readings, click <http://www.lectionarypage.net>

March 29 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

8:00 Lector:

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Maureen Forsythe

EM: Connie Forsberg

April 5 – Psalm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66

8:00 Lector: Shannon Duggan

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Jean Burpee

EM: Dan Mullene

April 8 – Tenebrae

7:00 Maryellen Young & Mary Fowler

April 9 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1, 10-17

1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

7:00 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Reilly Mannery

April 10 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

12:00 Reilly Mannery

7:00 Shannon Duggan

April 11 – Easter Vigil

8:00 Jim Gilman

Dan Mullene

April 12 - Easter

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Mary Fowler

Reilly Mannery

