

## AROUND THE PARISH

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.



**JULY 1, 2022**

### SUNDAY – July 3, 2022

**10:30am, Sunday Eucharist on Facebook/YouTube**

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

**9:00am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom – Class is currently studying Acts**

**NOTE: Class will not be held during August.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545992628?pwd=d08vTmZNBmk1SW1PUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

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**

### Vacation and Vocation

I have been getting daily meditations from the Society of St. John the Evangelist since the beginning of Lent. SSJE is an Episcopal religious order, with a house on the Charles River near the Kennedy School and all the other big-name institutions of higher education in Cambridge, MA. They serve as a quiet, contemplative, retreat center in the midst of all that power, erudition, and ambition, and they serve these powerful ones while also placing a significant emphasis on serving the poor and underprivileged. A very enlivening balance. My friend from seminary, David, is a brother there.

Here's today's offering.

### Vocation

You can say “no” to your vocation. You can choose a life more in keeping with your parents' wishes, social convention, or simply greater security and wealth. God never forces us to say “yes.” But God, who knows the secrets of our hearts, will never stop calling us, inviting us, enticing us, to live the life for which we have been made.      -Br. Geoffrey Tristram

I had planned on writing this column about Vacation. School is now officially on Summer Break, the Fourth of July is this coming week, so the weather is about to turn dry, warm, summery, vacation plans are being made, etc., so it seemed fitting. But then, this mediation on Vocation came to my email inbox.

After such an exhausting period of pandemic, war, crazy political unrest (both nationally and internationally), I am left feeling like so much – maybe everything – is out of balance. I am ready for vacation. But even thinking about all the details around that seem a bit overwhelming. I need a vacation from planning, because the experience of the last two and half years has shown the impermanence of the whole process. Plans are made, then everything changes --



### A Prayer that God's Will May Be Done in Our Nation

Lord....remind us today that You have shown us what is good in what You require of us; to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. We ask that as a people, we may humble ourselves before You and seek Your will for our lives and for this great nation. Help us in our nation to work as never before to strengthen our families and to give our children hope and a moral foundation for the future. So may our desire be to serve You, and in so doing, serve one another. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Billy Graham

sometimes right in the middle of executing them! – and new plans have to be made.

So Br. Geoffrey's short, but in no way simple, mediation helps put things in perspective. It's not so much *the* vacation as *what* the vacation is supposed to facilitate: relaxation, refreshment, peace, joy, insight, deepened relationships, renewed vigor. In other words, a reconnection to vocation.

But vocation, even at its best and most fulfilling, without vacation becomes grinding drudgery. We need vacation to reenergize for vocation. Most simply and most explicitly, it is sabbath rest, one of the greatest gifts and deepest wisdoms given to all of us from our Jewish cousins. (A not too in-depth reading of the Pentateuch shows that sabbath is given to all creation, really.)

So I had intended to bookend this column with two prayers from our Prayer Book. To my mind, one leads to the other, and Br. Geoffrey's mediation reminds me that they both lead back to vocation – to the fulfilling of God's purpose for each of us. I leave you with them and pray that, this vacation season (whenever it comes to you) that you are strengthened, rejuvenated, restored to hear – clearly – God's persistent loving call, to see – clearly – the secrets of your own heart, and then can answer – clearly, definitively -- "Yes, Lord. Yes."

### 32. For the Good Use of Leisure

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. BCP 825*

### 59. For Quiet Confidence

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we may be still and know that *thou art* God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. BCP 832*



## **INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT JULY 4**

The Declaration of Independence was announced on July 4<sup>th</sup>, although the formal signing didn't occur until August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the colonies actually voted to accept it

on July 2. So, you may wonder – what day is the real Independence Day?

John Adams, who first proposed the idea of declaring independence from England, wrote a famous letter to his wife, Abigail, about how he believed July 2<sup>nd</sup> would be a day that was remembered and celebrated in America for years to come. Apparently, everyone else remembered otherwise.

*Charles Thompson and the infamous John Hancock were the only two men who actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The other 54 delegates signed over the course of the next month.*

Although our Independence Day celebrations fall on a different date, today's July 4 festivities would look familiar to John Adams, who called for people to celebrate the day with "Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Funs, Bells, Bonfires and illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."

Other early July 4 traditions have not carried through to the present day. Some colonists celebrated the day by holding mock funerals for England's King George III, as a way of reinforcing America's victory over the British monarchy.

*Three United States presidents have died on July 4 – James Monroe John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Adams and Jefferson both died in 1826 and Monroe passed five years later in 1831. America's 30<sup>th</sup> president, Calvin Coolidge, was born on July 4, 1872.*

According to the National Sausage and Hot Dog Council, Americans are expected to eat 150 million hot dogs over the July 4 holiday. This is part of an estimated 7 billion that are expected to be eaten during the summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

*(Information from various websites)*



## **OUTREACH 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER**

Clothes For Kids was the recipient of our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter outreach donations from our third week basket. We received \$760 in donations this quarter. Our donations will be received in time to help stock up for the return to school in the fall. Thank you everyone for your support.

Clothes For Kids provides quality clothing for thousands of students in a retail store environment, where kids and teens can pick out their own clothes

with their families. The only thing that is missing from their store is a cash register! For more information: <https://clothesforkids.org/>



**PETER and PAUL -- June 29**  
**Apostles and Martyrs**

Peter and Paul are commemorated individually on January 18 and January 25, respectively. However, following an ancient custom, we remember them together on June 29 on the presumed date of their martyrdom. Christian tradition has long held that these two stalwart leaders of the early church died together in the Neronian persecution of 64 A.D.

In so many ways, Peter and Paul were very different from one another. Paul was a well educated and cosmopolitan Jew of the Diaspora, reared in the sophisticated city of Tarsus. Peter was an uneducated provincial and a fisherman. Peter was the more conservative of the two, as one might expect, and it is not surprising that they had strong differences of opinion. They were leaders of opposing points of view at the first church council in Jerusalem. However, their common commitment to Christ and his church proved far stronger than their individual points of view. In the risen Christ, they found reconciliation and, fittingly, they died together.

Nero thought he had found “the final solution to the Christian problem.” On the contrary, the church was “nourished by the blood of her martyrs” and it was Christ, the Lord of Peter and Paul, who was ultimately to triumph, not Nero.

*Grant that your household the Church may be instructed by their teaching and example.*

(From Calendar of Saints, Forward Movement)



**DAY-BY-DAY REFLECTIONS**

Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale is the author of this reflection celebrating Saint Peter and Saint Paul. In addition to serving as canon to the ordinary for administration and evangelism for the Episcopal

Diocese of Indianapolis, he is a member of All Saints Episcopal in Indianapolis. He is husband to Frank and lives with an undisclosed number of cats.

*2 Timothy 4:6-7 – As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

We celebrate Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day not because of their partnership in ministry, but because tradition holds that they died on the same day, or, possibly, that their remains were moved on the same day.

It is nonetheless appropriate to celebrate their lives and work together: between the two of them, they were the architects of the church at its beginning. Their discernment of the activity of the Spirit led to an understanding that Jesus was the Messiah not just for the Jews but for the whole world.

Each one also reflects how even those who have rejected Christ, out of cowardice in Peter’s case and zeal for a particular understanding of religious teaching in Paul’s, can become powerful vessels of holiness and growers of the household of God. Peter and Paul built a foundation of the church strong enough that when the time of their departure came, a new generation was prepared to keep the faith that has been handed down to us to this day.

**FROM THE READER BOARD**

Lee Forsberg



From Dave Wilson

I went to Walmart today, and I was there for about five minutes. When I came out, there was a cop writing a parking ticket for being in a handicap spot.

So I went up to him and said, “Come on, buddy, how about giving a guy a break?” He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. So I called him a “pencil-necked cop.”

He glared at me and started writing another ticket for worn tires. Then I asked him if his psychiatrist makes him lie face down on the couch because he's so ugly.

He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket.

This went on until he had placed five tickets on the windshield! The more I insulted him, the more tickets he wrote. I didn't care. My car was parked around the corner!

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

### JULY 3 – 4 PENTECOST

*"Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" ... and yes, all of us, even we who are town and city dwellers are called to labor for the Lord's harvest. After all, he gives us everything we have; can we not work for his Kingdom in return? How good it will be to hear the old hymn words, "And a glad sound comes with the setting sun – servant, well done."*

### JULY 10 – 5 PENTECOST

The story of the Good Samaritan calls being merciful an important attribute of a servant of the Lord. With God's own examples of abundant mercy shown to all his people (even at their worst) in all times, we have a perfect guide to help us as we try to respond to his blessings with love and mercy of our own.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### JULY 3 – 4 PENTECOST

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### Collect for 4 Pentecost

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### JULY 10 – 5 PENTECOST

Amos 7:7-17

Psalms 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37



## 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—Housing Hope
- 4th week—Ukraine Refugee Offering
- 5<sup>th</sup> Week—One Thousand Days of Light (ERD)

## 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

To maintain social distancing and minimize any possible exposures to Covid-19, please observe the following:

- Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or [stalbansedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:stalbansedmonds@gmail.com) to make appointment.
- Wear a mask.

In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

## GREG'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, 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 [kiwicat1@gmail.com](mailto:kiwicat1@gmail.com) or  
425-745-1390

### 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.

