



Welcome to St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Wednesday, December 28, 2025
Lessons and Carols

St. Alban's seeks to be an open and welcoming, Christ-centered community committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering all people to grow spiritually, deepening our relationship with Christ, and living out our faith in our community and the world.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: *Once In Royal David's City* Hymn 102

Welcome to St. Alban's Episcopal Church. We're here in Edmonds, WA, and wherever you are in the world, we're honored that you have welcomed us into your life this evening, as together we worship the God of all creation incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth. Whether you're with us for an hour or a lifetime, we hope and trust that you will find this a refuge that nourishes the Holy Spirit within you.

Before we begin, we acknowledge that we are blessed to be situated on traditional and ancestral Snohomish, Coast Salish land. They cared for this land for millennia before it was taken from them. We honor them, and pray for the wisdom to care for it as well as they. We recognize that we are living among them still, so we are seeking ways of building relationships so that, working together, we can be better stewards of this place and all its people.

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the messages of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God – the glorious Redemption brought to us by this holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace, goodwill, and justice over all the earth, especially in Ukraine, Palestine and

Israel, Lebanon, Thailand and Cambodia, Myanmar, South Sudan, and everywhere that there is violence;

for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, especially in this country and within this city; for Fernely and Irma Robles and the ministries of Templo Emanuel; Sarah the Archbishop of Canterbury-Designate and for the Anglican Church of Canada; Sean Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church , for Phil Bishop of the D and Diocese of Olympia and for churches of our diocese including Holy Spirit, Battle Ground and St. Matthew's, Castle Rock; for Jim and all deacons; for Greg and all priests; and for this congregation, especially Edith Lawrence for whom we give thanks this week, for those who serve on the Altar Guild, and for those who, through their generosity, empower all our ministries, especially Mona Carter and the other members of the Legacy Society.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember in his name:

the poor and helpless, especially those served by Episcopal Relief and Development, the Refugee Resettlement Office, and Women's Spirit Coalition;

the hungry and oppressed, for those served by the Edmonds Food Bank and our Blessings Pantry;

the sick and those who mourn, for Marge, Marilee, Susan D., Jack and Donna, Judy Fleenor, Tom, Shirley Clark, and Howard; for those ministered to by the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets here, and those for whom we prayer aloud or in the silence of our hearts;

the lonely and the unloved;

the aged and the little children: for the work and ministries of Chase Lake Community School, West Edmonds Cooperative Preschool, Scout Troop 300, and Girl Scout Troop 46254;

and those who know not the Savior Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, his obedient and caring Father, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, especially those we name now, and that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Savior Jesus, we are one forever more.

These prayers and praises let us offer up to the throne of heaven.

The Almighty God bless us with holy grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. ***Amen.***

Lesson 1

Luke 1:1 – 4; 26 - 38

A reading from Gospel according to Saint Luke; Chapter 1 beginning with the first verse.

¹Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'³⁵ The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^{*} will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Psalm 147:1 – 21 (Read Responsively)

¹Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

²*The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; **
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

⁴*He counts the number of the stars **
and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

⁶*The LORD lifts up the lowly, **
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

⁸*He covers the heavens with clouds **
and prepares rain for the earth;

⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

¹⁰*He provides food for flocks and herds **
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

¹²*But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, **
in those who await his gracious favor.

¹³the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

¹⁴*For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; **
he has blessed your children within you.

¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁶*He sends out his command to the earth, **
and his word runs very swiftly.

¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

¹⁸*He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; **
who can stand against his cold?

¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

²⁰*He declares his word to Jacob, **
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

Carol

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hymn 93

Lesson 2

Luke 1: 39 – 46a

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord

comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

⁴⁶ And Mary said, (Read Responsively)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
*my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; **

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

*the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.*

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

*He has shown the strength of his arm, **
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

*He has filled the hungry with good things, **
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

*The promise he made to our fathers, **
to Abraham and his children for ever.

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Carol

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Hymn 99

Lesson 3

Luke 1:57 – 66 The Birth of John the Baptist

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, ‘No; he is to be called John.’ ⁶¹ They said to her, ‘None of your relatives has this name.’ ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, ‘His name is John.’ And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, ‘What then will this child become?’ For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Carol

The First Nowell

Hymn 109

Lesson 4

Luke 1:67– 80

⁶⁷ Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸ ‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty saviour^[a] for us
in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon^[b] us,
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'
⁸⁰ The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Carol

Tell Out My Soul

Hymn 438

Lesson 5

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth

to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,
¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’^[c]
¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 78

Lesson 6

Matthew 2:13 - 18 The Escape to Egypt

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 2 beginning with the 13th verse.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph^[a] got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,^[b] he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.^[c] ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Jeremiah 31:15 – 17 (Read Responsively)

Thus says the Lord:
A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

*Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.*

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:
Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;

*for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;*

¹⁷ there is hope for your future,
says the Lord:
your children shall come back to their own country.

The Collect for the Holy Innocents (December 29)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Carol *What Child Is This* Hymn 115

Lesson 7 *John 1:1 - 18*

A reading from Gospel according to Saint John; Chapter 1 beginning with the first verse.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into

being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Here ends the reading.

Carol

Let All Mortal Flesh

Hymn 324

The Collect of the Feast Day of John the Evangelist (December 27)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Lesson 8 Isaiah 9:2 – 7 (Read responsively)

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9 beginning with the second verse.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

*those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.*

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

*they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.*

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

*For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.*

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;

*authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named*

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace*

for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it

*with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.*

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Here ends the reading.

Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

Hymn 83

Collect for Christmas I

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Your light shining in our lives, Most Holy, reveals the many ways we are estranged, through our own blindness, from you, and so we pray for the forgiveness of our sins, the things that keep us separate from you and from our neighbors.

*Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, and other Blessings

Announcements

The Offertory

Offertory: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* Hymn 105

Eucharistic Prayer 2

From Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

The St. James Christmas Service

Gently [in One]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,

God of pow'r and_ might,_____ heav'n and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Blessed is he, is he who comes in the

name of the Lord._____ Ho - san - na in the

high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.
On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with Mary, Joseph, Alban, and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Fraction Anthem

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ was born for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn 1	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Hymn 101
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Communion Hymn 2	<i>Silent Night</i>	Hymn 111
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Post Communion Prayer	BCP 366
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God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Closing Hymn:

Joy to the World

Hymn 100

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

21405 82nd Place West, Edmonds, WA 98026 Office (425) 778-0371

Sunday Worship 10:30am In Person, Facebook Live & YouTube

Adult Education Sundays 9:30am Annex & Zoom

Wednesday Evening Prayer 6pm Facebook Live

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Website www.stalbansedmonds.org

the Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle, Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia

the Rev. Greg Peters, Rector

Dan Mullene, Parish Care Minister

Serving in Today's Worship

Celebrant	Father Greg Peters
Deacon	Jim Gilman
Music Director & Organist	John Palmer
8 am Lectors	Ron Austin
	J.L. Krilevich
	Gretchen Munsey
	Betsy Newnum
	John Rowan
10:30am Lectors	Barbie Brooks
	Connie Forsberg
	Eric Hanson
	Susan Hanson
	Judy Kistner
	Debby Wilson
Chalice & Alms Bearers	Eric Hanson
	Susan Hanson
Crucifer	Colyn LaVergne
A/V Ministry	Phil McClelland
	Denise Robertson
	Brad Goergen

Thank you to all on St. Monica's Altar Guild!