

AROUND THE PARISH

January 2, 2026

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 – January 4

2nd Sunday of Christmas

8:00 & 10:30am, Eucharist Services in Sanctuary

9:30am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545992628?pwd=d08vTmZNbmk1SW1PUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 4599 2628 Passcode: SeekFirst

2:00-5:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary/Parish Hall

NOTE: No Facebook account? Watch the Sunday service on YouTube or later as a video on Facebook



Fr. Greg Peters

This morning arrived still and quiet, blanketed in fog. None of the usual rush and traffic.

I realized this holiday is different. Everyone is still asleep. No one is in a hurry to greet this day, this new year. There are no presents to open, nowhere to go, nothing to attend to.

Though everyone in our house eventually woke up and the typical activities ensued, but somehow less earnestly, moments of stillness came and went. A walk late in the day came with only three cars passing by and few planes overhead.

I love how fog hushes and mutes. I thought midnight's New Year's fireworks from the fog-shrouded Space Needle were especially beautiful, the bright color muffled and diffused. It's the same with sounds.

Two pieces of art came to mind. One that looked something like this

SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE
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SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE
SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE
SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE SILENCE

And the other, composer John Cage's classic *4' 33''* in which a concert pianist sits for that precise amount of time never touching the keys. Cage's other works tended to be cacophonous, odd, and weird (recordings of plucked cactus thorns for example), but *4' 33''*, like that SILENCE of the missing SILENCE, is the music that is all around us, all the time, everywhere – if only we could perceive it.

If you've ever sat in a room filled with others at a silent retreat, you know that they are anything but silent. There is the sound of others breathing. There's the sound of your own breath. Stomachs gurgle. Heating systems or air conditioners switch on and off. The scratching of an itch can be heard from across the room. Clocks tick. But then, finally, when the mind clears and all the hubbub of life is set aside, comes

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1/3&4 10:00am-4:00pm, Boy Scout Tree Recycle

1/7 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube

1/8 1:00-3:00pm, Discussion Group, Parish Hall

1/10 9:30am-noon, LMF, Annex

10:00am-4:00pm, Boy Scout Tree Recycle

10:30am, Mens Circle, Parish Hall

1/13 1:30pm, Altar Guild Meeting, Parish Hall

1/14 3:00pm, Food Bank Distribution, Parking Lot

5:00pm, Vestry Meeting, Annex

6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube

1/17 10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall

1/21 6:00pm, Evening Prayer/Soup Supper

1/22 1:00-3:00pm, Discussion Group, Parish Hall

1/28 4:00pm, Worship Committee Mtg, Parish Hall

RECURRING EVENTS

Mon: 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall

Tues: 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall, (1st, 3rd)

Wed: 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube

Thur: 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

Fri: 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

Sun: 6:30pm, AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Next ATP Issue: Friday, January 16

Article Deadline: Wednesday Noon, January 14



birdsong, insect hummings, maybe the sound of rain or a fountain outside or the wind.

And occasionally,
one is blessed to move beyond being in silence to being one with the silence, another voice comes, sometimes with actual words, more often something beyond words,
something at the center of your being, at the center of all things,
where your being meets ultimate Being
soul unites in Soul.

As we enter this new year, I pray for you these times of clarity, awareness, openness, and peace. The world with all its cares will still be there. Life with all its needs, strivings, demands, obfuscations, and distractions will still be there. But amongst all that, may we all be blessed with clarity of vision and awareness of what is essential, so that we, disciples of the Prince of Peace, may be bearers of the peace that passes all understanding to all those around us.

PRAYER FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one...
Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.
Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path.
Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.
Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.
Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help...
God, make my year a happy one.

—*Guideposts Magazine (January 1973)*

Our Boy Scout Troop 300 is again recycling Christmas trees in St. Alban's parking lot. This is the group's major fundraiser to finance their activities. They will appreciate your support!

Saturday/Sunday, January 3 & 4, 10:00am-4:00pm
Saturday, January 10, 10:00am-4:00pm



INDIGENOUS CIRCLE MEETING

Jim Gilman

The next meeting of our group is scheduled for **Saturday, January 17, at 10:30am**, in the Parish Hall. The agenda includes:

- +Religion among the nations of the Salish Sea presented by Jim Gilman
- +Discussion of the "Introduction" to Ladder to the Light by Steven Charleston



SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULED

Our next soup supper is **Wednesday, January 21**, beginning with Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm, followed by supper and a program at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Please bring soup, salad, bread and/or dessert as you are able.



ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE

Our Annual Parish Meeting is **Sunday, February 1**. There will be one service that day at 9:30am, followed by lunch and the Annual Meeting. At this meeting, we will gather to review our finances, goals and accomplishments in 2025, outlook for 2026, and observations from Greg and Vestry members.

There will be a few oral reports, but most ministry reports will be written by the various group leaders and published in an overall report.

In an email dated December 12, our Parish Administrator Jeannie Wells requested that all ministry and group leaders submit their annual reports to the church office via email to jeannie.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com.

The deadline for reports is Friday, January 9.
A copy of the 2024 Annual Report was included with that email for reference.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

On the third Sunday of the month, we collect donations for outreach. It's time to start looking for proposed recipients for 2026. Each year a small committee reviews potential recipients to be listed on the ballot for the upcoming year. Recipients are voted for during February, starting with the Annual Meeting.

We are interested in having more parishioners participate with us in selecting these ministries. This is an easy committee, because we generally only have one meeting a year. If you are interested, please contact Maryellen Young, maryellen@comcast.net or 425-776-2461. Current committee members are Carrie Cone, Connie Forsberg, Mary Fowler and Maryellen Young.

Members of our congregation are encouraged to nominate a charity to receive these funds. Special consideration is given to organizations supported by our members with time or treasure and to local charities. If you have any suggested ministries to be considered, please contact any member of the committee.



BASKET DONATIONS FOR 1st Quarter 2026

1st week—**Food Banks** for Edmonds, Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace Food Banks

2nd week—**Discretionary Fund** to help people who contact the church for assistance with gas cards, utility bills, rent and other emergency aid requests

3rd week— **Homage**, providing of services for older adults and people with disabilities in Snohomish County

4th Week—**Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** cares for people affected by conflict, disease outbreaks, natural and human-made disasters, and exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries.

5th week— **Indigenous Women** for WomenSpirit Coalition. There is a 5th week in March.

Donations can be made at any time by placing your donation in an envelope and designating category for your donation.

December 30, 2025

Dear Friends of the Diocese of Olympia,

I am writing to let you know that I am sunsetting the Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land. I am grateful to Haynes Lund—their current chair—and the committee members for their tireless work on behalf of Palestinians to come to know lasting justice these past many years.

During the discernment period and the Meet and Greets, I highlighted both my previous work and my ongoing desire to actively engage in interfaith and ecumenical dialogue. As such, I will be seeking to establish a Bishop's Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations in the Spring of 2026 to build on the grassroots work being done by many congregations in our diocese, and to strengthen our bonds with Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, and Christian neighbors as we seek to be people of faith working toward peace for all in our world.

During these days of Christmas and beyond, our call is to live into our baptismal vows to respect the dignity of every human being and to seek and serve Christ in all persons. My hope is that we will do so earnestly with all those amongst whom we live and work.

Faithfully,
Phil



St. Alban's Community,

Our deepest thanks to you all for your incredibly generous donation to our Holiday Cheer Event. Our school was able to assist all families in need thanks in part to your support!

With gratitude,
Chase Lake Community School

Dear Friends at St. Alban's,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$96.00 from your Thanksgiving Offering in support of the Diocese of Olympia's Refugee Settlement Office. We

are deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness and for holding refugee and immigrant families in your prayers and giving during this season of gratitude.

Your donation helps us provide practical support to newcomers as they navigate life in the United States, including assistance with housing, employment, legal pathways, and the many daily challenges of resettlement. Gifts like yours are a tangible expression of welcome and compassion.

Sincerely,
Greg Hope, Refugee Resettlement Office
Diocese of Olympia

Greetings to St. Alban's,

Thank you for your generous donation dated December 10, 2025, of \$2,300 to WomenSpirit Coalition.

Your gift helps support our mission to eliminate violence against Native women and promote the well-being of Native families and communities throughout Washington State.

Sincerely,
Dee Rhodes-Koester, M.S.
Founder/COO



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

The following reflection is authored by Dorothy Sanders Wells who serves as bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi. Committed to working for racial healing, justice, and equity for all of God's people, she was a lawyer for many years before leaving the practice to follow God's call to ordained ministry. She and her husband have two daughters.

John 6:12 -- When they were satisfied, He told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over so that nothing may be lost."

After the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples gathered up the leftovers "so that nothing may be lost." Twelve basketfuls remain. I don't think that number is mere coincidence; if the apostles come to mind, I suspect they're meant to. Jesus' first disciples must have wondered what the fruits of their efforts would be and if their efforts were for naught. They experienced grace upon grace in God Incarnate, and yet, like us,

they also experienced adversity, disappointment, and failure. Yet here we are, in part because they followed the example of their Lord; they took, blessed, broke and gave – nothing was lost.

Christmas is a time of abundance: God's taking on our humanity is nothing less than overflowing generosity. As the days pass and the world returns to its usual cadences, we may wonder if the good news of God-with-us is lost in the startling rhythms of the ordinary. Yet we belong to a God in whose economy nothing is lost: the baskets remain full, and the harvest plentiful.

*I will light candles this Christmas.
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all of my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.*

— Howard Thurman

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

JANUARY 4 – CHRISTMAS 2

Psalm 94 says in part, "*Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.*" The Christmas season is a comfortable and natural time to praise God through all the familiar carols and stories. How then will you covenant to continue that grateful praise in the New Year? How can you make your life as a faithful steward grow as a new year begins?

JANUARY 6 – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

We hear about Herod's command to the Magi "*to go and seek diligently for the child...*" As grateful disciples and stewards, we need also to search for Jesus, to listen to his teachings, to worship together as a supporting community, and to carry out his mandate to love and serve others in his name. May we always be led by the star of his generous and eternal love!

JANUARY 11 – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Our Baptismal Covenant will be renewed in most churches today. Look at the verbs in the statements: Continue in the prayers and teaching; persevere in resisting evil and repent; proclaim the Good News;

seek and serve others; strive for justice and peace. Are our time, talents and resources being used to further these “marching orders”?

JANUARY 18 – EPIPHANY 2

“Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine...that He may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth...”

Quite a tall order! But even if we just start where we are and share with those around us the wondrous blessings and gifts we have been given, the intentions of this prayer will be fulfilled.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JANUARY 4 – CHRISTMAS 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 84

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Matthew 2:1-23

Collect for 2 Christmas

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, your son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

JANUARY 11 – EPIPHANY 1, BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Collect for Epiphany 1

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed Him your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

JANUARY 18 – 2 EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Collect for 2 Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory, that He may be known, worshiped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen

ST. ALBAN’S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Wednesday 2:00 - 4:00pm

Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

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

Tuesday Church Office 10:00am – 2:30 pm

Wednesday Church Office 10:00am – 2:30pm

Thursday Home 10:00am – 2:00pm

(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—International Relief

5th Week—Indigenous Women Support

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

*Collection plates and baskets on Sunday.

*Mail check – 21405 82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026

*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- or use

pictured QR code



