

## AROUND THE PARISH

March 20, 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 – March 22

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

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

2:00-5:00pm, Rental, Sanctuary/Parish Hall

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



Fr. Greg Peters

Yesterday was the Feast of St. Joseph. My carpenter's shop yesterday was my computer. My woodwork was devoted to crafting the services of Holy Week. There was some fitting the pieces together but mostly it was sanding and finishing work. There are still a few rough spots, but mostly things are ready for Jeannie to apply the top coat, and for us all to put these services to the good use for which they were intended – our celebration of Jesus' life in us, our praise, our growing deeper into the image and likeness of God. I hope I honored Joseph in my own way.

By midafternoon, though, I needed some fresh air, so it was off to the garden.

The peas we planted last week, before the snow, are just starting to peek out. They are hardy.

Erika and I prepared another bed and then planted a variety of spring greens. There were weeds to pull, cover crop and parsley to dig in, compost to apply, and then seeds to plant. Kale and mustard greens, collards and chard; little seeds of hope.

(Speaking of hardy, how about that parsley. We planted it once – 20 some years ago – in a single small patch in our garden, and over the years it has self-propagated and spread throughout our entire garden, in the raised beds, amongst the flowers, under the fruit trees; it's probably in the grass kept short and discreet by the mower. We have so much of it that we have the luxury of just digging it in. I propose that parsley is the true "mustard seed" of faith. But I digress.)

We do this every year, in fact we do it several times throughout the year, this planting of seeds, this committing our hopes of food and flowers to the depths of the dark ground, this commitment to the future. No risky experiment: there are predictable results, but nonetheless an act of faith.

To be sure there is other work involved. We have to weed, thin, remove and move plants that are crowded or simply in the wrong place. Come the summer dry spell, we'll be watering. We have to fertilize and

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 3/21 9:00am-noon, ECLA/LMF, Annex  
10:00-2:00pm, FOOD BANK COLLECTION  
10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
- 3/22 Easter Egg Stuffing, between/after services
- 3/25 6:00/6:30pm, Evening Prayer/Supper/Program
- 3/27 3:00pm, Assets & Archives Group, Parish Hall
- 3/28 9:00am-1:00pm, Boy Scouts Grounds Cleanup
- 3/30 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube only
- 3/31 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube only
- 4/1 6:00pm, Tenebrae, In Person and YouTube
- 4/2 6:00pm, Maundy Thursday, Agape Potluck,  
Eucharist, Stripping of Altar, In Person only
- 4/3 12:00pm, Good Friday Service at St. Alban's  
6:00pm, Good Friday Service at St Hilda St Patrick  
12:00-5:00pm, Stations of the Cross, Labyrinth
- 4/4 10:30am, Altar Guild, Parish Hall/Sanctuary  
12:00pm, Meditative Service, YouTube only  
1:00pm, Easter Egg Hunt  
8:00pm, Easter Vigil/Eucharist, In Person/YouTube
- 4/5 8:00/10:30am, Easter Sunday Eucharist
- 4/11 9:00am-12:00pm, ECLA LMF, Annex  
10:30am, Men's Circle, Parish Hall

See full Easter & Holy Week Schedule  
on Page 2 of this issue.

### RECURRING EVENTS

- Mon: 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- Tues: 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall, (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
6:30pm, AA Serenity Seekers, Parish Hall
- Wed: 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube
- Thur: 7:00-9:00pm, Rental, Sanctuary
- Fri: 7:00-8:30pm, Rental, Sanctuary
- Sun: 6:30pm, AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Next ATP Issue: Friday, April 3  
Article Deadline: Wednesday Noon, April 1

amend the soil. We plant cover crop in the Fall so that the winter rains don't leach the soil or wash it all away. We have to tend. We have to care for this little patch of earth.

There is joy in all this. Not much in the way of profit, there's nothing to sell or trade even, but much in the way of fulfillment. We have occasionally had too many zucchini and been able to give some away – but not so many as to strain friendships!

(And speaking of zucchini, it seems to me that zucchini is proof that no one, absolutely no one, should go hungry in this world. Because who hasn't planted zucchini and had too many? But I digress – again!)

So, this gardening feeds our bellies and our souls. It's a lesson in faith and trust, in work and care, in surrender and diligence.

Yesterday was St. Joseph's Day, a day celebrating one man's obedience and faithful nurture. Today is the first day of Spring, Winter's sabbatical rest giving way to resurgent life. We need both sabbath and renewal, rest and work, effort and celebration. We need to strive and trust that our efforts will yield vegetables, flowers, and fruit.

I suppose it's the same with God. Set evolution in motion and see what happens. Set the Holy Spirit in humans and see what comes of it. Enter into Creation, in the midst of humanity and see who responds, who trusts, who is faithful, who is willing to be changed. See what new life might spring up.

And by all means, remember to rest the soil, restore the soul, celebrate life the old, the new, and that which is coming into being.

### **PREPARATION PRAYER FOR EASTER**

As the days draw near to the celebration of Your Son's victory over sin and death, I come before You with a humble heart.

Cleanse me from all that distracts me from Your presence. Help me to lay down my pride, my fears, and my doubts at the foot of the Cross.

Teach me to walk the path of humility and obedience, just as Jesus did. May I learn to love as He loved — with compassion, forgiveness, and selflessness.

In this season of preparation, open my eyes to see the depth of Your mercy. Let the story of the Cross not be distant history, but a living truth that transforms my life today.

As I await the dawn of Easter morning, fill me with hope that cannot be shaken, joy that cannot be stolen, and faith that cannot be extinguished.

May the power of the Resurrection renew my heart, restore my spirit, and guide my steps in the days ahead.

Through Jesus Christ, my risen Lord, Amen.

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**



#### **March 29, Palm Sunday**

8:00am, Eucharist, In Person

10:30am, Eucharist, In Person & You Tube

#### **March 30, Monday of Holy Week**

6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube only

#### **March 31, Tuesday of Holy Week**

6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube only

#### **April 1, Tenebrae Psalms & Lessons**

6:00pm, In Person & You Tube

#### **April 2, Maundy Thursday**

6:00pm, Agape Potluck with Eucharist,  
Foot/Hand Washing, Stripping of Altar,  
In Person only

#### **April 3, Good Friday**

12:00pm, Service at St. Alban's

6:00pm, Service at St. Hilda St. Patrick

12:00-5:00pm, Stations of the Cross, Labyrinth

#### **April 4, Holy Saturday**

12:00pm, Meditative Service, YouTube only

1:00pm, Easter Egg Hunt

8:00pm, Easter Vigil – Gather outdoors for fire  
lighting, process to Sanctuary for Lessons,  
Renewal of Baptismal Covenant & Eucharist

#### **April 5, Easter Sunday**

8:00am, Eucharist, In Person only

10:30am, Eucharist, In Person & YouTube



Join us for worship on **Palm Sunday, April 29**. There will be two services –

8:00am – Eucharist in Person only

10:30am – Eucharist In Person & YouTube

We will gather in the Parish Hall prior to each service. Following the blessing of our palms, we will process with joy around the grounds. We then will

return to the Sanctuary for a Palm Sunday service at 8:00am and for a reading of the Passion according to Matthew at 10:30am.

There will not be a Coffee Hour after either service.



**JOIN 'LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS – A PALM SUNDAY VIGIL'**

**March 29, 8:00pm Eastern Time**

Join Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe for an online Vigil the evening of Palm Sunday to pray for the continued conversion of our hearts and for God's blessing on our witness during Holy Week. The service will include a reflection from Bishop Rowe, special music, and readings by Episcopalians from all nine provinces of the church.

"I believe that as we Episcopalians turn, as we fast and pray for the conversion of our hearts, we can make a great witness to a world that has been brought to its knees by the power of hatred and division," Bishop Rowe shared in his Ash Wednesday letter.

Also as noted in the letter, various dioceses will hold public liturgies and prayer services on Monday, March 30, "to lament the violence and hatred that has come to define our common life and to witness to our conviction that Christians must come together across our unholy divisions."

Spanish interpretation at the Palm Sunday Zoom Vigil will be available. Registrants will receive a recording of the service. Please register at the link below.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 – AGAPE POTLUCK & SERVICE**

Join us at 6:00pm for a special Maundy Thursday service that includes hand/foot washing and an Agape Potluck with Eucharist. After dinner we will move

back into the Sanctuary as we strip the altar and remember Gethsemane.

The culinary theme of our meal will be Eastern Mediterranean, and we invite you to bring a dish you would like to share on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Baked chicken and beverages will be provided. Please join us for this very special and meaningful evening of fellowship and worship. The service will be in person only.



The final session of our Lenten Soup Suppers will be **Wednesday, March 25, beginning at 6:00pm** with Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary. We then share a supper of soup, salad, bread and dessert in the Parish Hall followed by this year's theme of spiritual disciplines. It is a very rewarding time of breaking bread, learning, and sharing. Questions are encouraged by leaders Jim Gilman and Fr. Greg.

There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall for those wishing to contribute to our supper.

**EASTER FLOWER DECORATIONS**

Sharon Joy, Altar Guild Directress

Envelopes have been placed in the pews for those who wish to contribute to our Easter flower decorations. Your generous donations enable Altar Guild to bring Spring into our church in celebration and thanksgiving for Jesus' resurrection.



Your donation can be in memory of someone, in celebration of an event, thanksgiving to God or whatever you wish. Please include your name and dedication on the flower envelope.

Dedications are listed in the Easter bulletins.

**Please have your flower envelope to the office on or before Palm Sunday, March 29.**



**DRIVE BY FOOD DRIVE**

Tomorrow – **Saturday, March 21** – is the date for our next Food Drive to benefit Edmonds Food Bank. Please be generous in helping our neighbors in great need of food assistance. The drive for non-perishable

foods is from **10:00am – 2:00pm**, and Phil McClelland will be on hand to greet and assist in any way possible.

If you are unable to shop, please consider making a monetary contribution. Donations can be made in cash or by check (made out to St. Alban's Episcopal Church and designated for Food Bank). Food can be dropped off at any time on the Food Table in the Parish Hall.



### **EASTER EGGS FILLED WITH CANDY**

So many plastic Easter Eggs and so much Easter Candy! Now all we have to do is put the two together! **This work party is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, between and after both services.**

Join in the fun and fellowship with parishioners in filling the Easter Eggs in preparation for the Hunt on **Saturday, April 4, at 1:00pm.**

Please Note: This is a day change from previous years; this year's Egg stuffing is the Sunday before Palm Sunday enabling worshipers to depart in peace, quiet and contemplation after the Palm Sunday service.



### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE REMINDER**

**We will gather at 6:00pm** at St. Hilda St. Patrick for a **Good Friday Service on April 3.** There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall if you would like to carpool.

There will be a self-paced Stations of the Cross in the St. Alban's Labyrinth from 12:00 – 5:00pm.

There will also be a **noon Good Friday Service** at St. Alban's.

### **GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING**

"For more than a century, Episcopalians have given generously to the Good Friday Offering, which supports the vital work and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Today, the need of the church in the Holy Land is greater than ever, particularly given the recent escalation of war in the Middle East, and I hope you will join me in making a generous gift today."

From Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe

Dear Father Greg and members of St. Alban's,

Thank you for the card noting my ordination. It touched me deeply. My 17 years as Rector were a true blessing.

Claire and I still consider ourselves members of the congregation and look forward to being able to attend again.

George Wilson

### **RESHAPING OUR STORIES**

*The following article appeared in Richard Rohr's Blog on March 14, 2026. It was written by Laurie Brock, an Episcopal priest and author. She witnesses how God gathers together the "scraps" of our lives, reweaving them into a unified and beautiful whole.*

We all have scraps and pieces and parts that have been deeply worn and torn by suffering and crisis and catastrophe. We can unhelpfully frame these events in life as God's doing. Some theologies say God does the breaking, the tearing apart, so that God's glory is somehow revealed. I disagree. God allows life to happen, yes, and life means tearing and mending, sowing and reaping, and wounding and healing. But God doesn't have to get involved for things to rip and break. We humans do a fine job of breaking each other and ourselves, which no doubt shatters God's heart.

Instead of forever cushioning us from the consequences of personal and community choices with which we wound each other, God imbues creation with the wisdom of quilting. We aren't all that adept at piecing and reforming. For that, we need God's quilting prowess. We need God to remind us that no part of our selves and souls is beyond redemption, beyond being useful in another way. Mistakes are pieced together with threads of God's compassion. Personas we wore when we were younger but no longer fit can be altered. God's love provides the framework to sew all these parts and pieces into something renewed, refashioned and redeemed.

God treasures the things we throw away or stop caring about. God adores these scraps of our selves. God longs for us to sit in the holy space long enough to see the quilt that God creates from what we thought were worthless scraps. God touches those scraps like women over centuries. God fingers them, noting the beauty of small patterns. God reshapes our scraps into new things, useful things, even extraordinarily beautiful things.



## FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- Income was \$16,349.60 (budget: \$15,595.00) which was \$754.60 over budget
- Expenses were \$18,256.19 (budget: \$19,015.00) which was \$758.81 under budget
- Net Deficit: (\$1,906.59) vs. budgeted deficit of (\$3,420.00), which was \$1,513.41 better than plan

### Year-to-Date (through February)

- Income: \$30,749.57
- Expenses: \$37,428.86
- YTD Deficit: (\$6,679.29) vs. budgeted deficit of (\$6,840.00) — tracking \$160.71 ahead of plan

**Notes:** As members will recall from the annual meeting, the parish has budgeted for a planned deficit in 2026.

Your faithful pledge giving makes all of this possible. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to the ministry of St. Albans.

Nick Sharpe  
Treasurer, St. Alban's Episcopal Church



## TARTAN SUNDAY COMING – APRIL 12

Mark your calendar and dust off your kilt. It's time to celebrate Scottish heritage with Kirkin' o' the Tartans, Blessing of the Tartans.

This celebration grew out of the time when the Scots were being persecuted by the English and were not allowed to wear kilts and tartans. As a form of resistance, the Scots would carry a small patch of tartan hidden in their clothes. Once a year, they would have it blessed in church.

## MEANINGFUL MOVIES PROJECT PRESENTS 'THE INQUISITOR,' Sunday, March 22, 3:00pm

The Meaningful Movies Project presents *The Inquisitor*, the life story of Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, the first Black woman from the South elected to Congress. Jordan became a well-known

figure during the Watergate hearings. The film encourages viewers to question those in power and think about how to build a more active and fair future for everyone. A panel discussion, led by Rev. Carla Robinson, follows the screening. This event is online and free.

Click on this link for more information and to register for the screening, go to <https://meaningfulmovies.org/events/the-inquisitor/>

## **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

### MARCH 22 – 5<sup>TH</sup> 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!

### MARCH 29 – PALM SUNDAY

Psalm 31:16 says, *"Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving kindness save me."* And our ever-loving God reaches out with all His mercy, time after time, to bring help and consolation to those who put their whole trust in Him and are faithful stewards of His blessings and gifts. Let us pray, then, that as grateful servants, we daily *"give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,"* and truly trust *"that His mercy endures forever."*

### APRIL 2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* One of the hymns often used on Maundy Thursday is #602; its refrain is, *"Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you."* A large part of the faithful steward's life is a response to both our baptismal covenant and this command to seek and serve others in Christ's name.

### APRIL 4 – THE EASTER VIGIL

The stories told at the Easter Vigil repeat time after time, the many ways in which God has entered the lives of His people in saving and grace-filled manifestations. And He has promised to live in us and through us, too, as we allow Him to undergird our daily lives of discipleship. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### MARCH 22 – 5<sup>TH</sup> LENT

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

#### Collect for 5<sup>th</sup> Lent

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners; Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### MARCH 29 – PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66

#### Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon Him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of His great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of His suffering, and also share in His resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### APRIL 2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 10:16-25  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

#### Collect for Maundy Thursday

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### APRIL 3 – GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

#### Collect for Good Friday

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



#### WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank  
2nd week—Discretionary Fund  
3rd week—Outreach  
4th week—International Relief  
5<sup>th</sup> Week—Indigenous Women Support

#### 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 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

Monday 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](mailto:gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com)  
Cell: 206-778-1506  
SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm  
(Available by appointment)