



**St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Syracuse, New York  
December News & Inspiration**

**Sunday Mornings in Advent: In Person and on Zoom**

**8:30 a.m. Bible Study (not Christmas or New Year's Days)  
Both In Person and on Zoom**

\* Zoom Code and Password  
835 9000 0245 and 562087

**9:30 a.m. Holy Communion In Person and  
Spiritual Communion on Zoom  
(To use your phone for Zoom, dial 1-646-558-8656)**

\* Zoom Code and Password  
826 9515 6305 and 446765

**10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour: December 4 and 11  
Christmas Brunch: December 18**



**Christmas and New Year's Day Services: Also on Zoom**

**Christmas Eve**

**5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at Emmanuel, East Syracuse**

**8:00 p.m. Festive Holy Eucharist at St. Alban's  
with Organ Music and St. Alban's Quartet**

**Sunday Worship is at 10:00 a.m.**

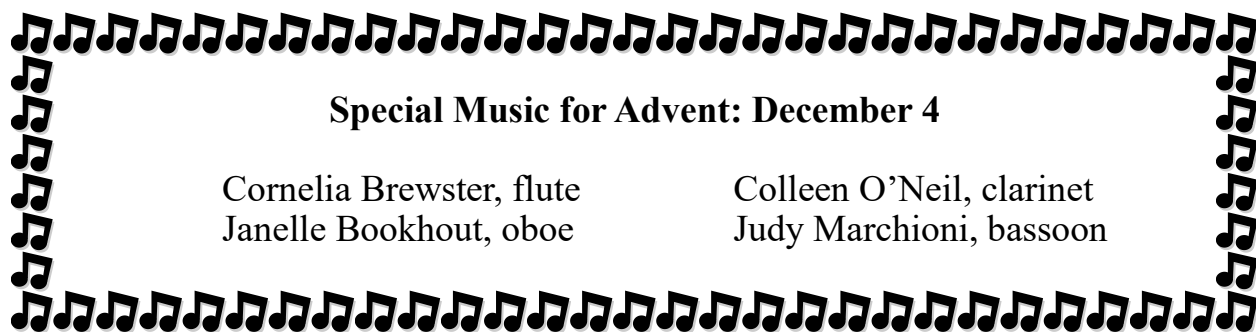
**Christmas Day: Holy Eucharist and Carols**

**New Year's Day: Holy Eucharist and Carols**

**January 8: East Side Episcopalians at St. David's, DeWitt**



Note Time



### Special Music for Advent: December 4

Cornelia Brewster, flute  
Janelle Bookhout, oboe

Colleen O'Neil, clarinet  
Judy Marchioni, bassoon

### Priestly Ponderings

Advent is a delightful season for it is filled with hope and eager expectation of the coming of Christ. Unlike the solemn season of Lent, a season of penitence and fasting which prepares us for Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday, Advent is a time to prepare to receive with joy the birth of the Christ child. The babe in Bethlehem is God incarnate, God made human, in whom our salvation has begun.

The Sundays in Advent move backward in time toward Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent we look to the second coming of Jesus, who will once for all destroy the power of evil and death. We live in the time between the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. On Easter morning God was proved stronger than the power of death, so we know the outcome of the final confrontation between God and Satan. We await that day with hope and longing, for our hope is in God and God's future for humankind.

On the second and third Sundays of Advent John the Baptist takes center stage as he prepares the people of Israel for the coming of the Messiah, the Christ. Advent is a season of preparation, specifically of the preparation of our hearts to meet the Son of God. When we invite someone to our house we work to make our home inviting. We want our guest to feel welcome and honored. Would Jesus feel welcome and honored in your heart? Is your heart forgiving or holding on to the wrongs done to you? Is there room in it for joy? Is there room in it for hope in God's future? This will be the focus of the Advent program I am offering on Thursday, December 1.

Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent our lessons look to the first coming of Jesus as the Christ child. We hear the story of how Mary or Joseph prepared for his holy birth (Joseph this year). The wait is nearly over. Can you feel the joy of the impending birth of Christ the Lord? In Jesus we behold the face of God.

Jesus comes to call us back to God, to reorient the very center of our being back to our Creator. As you go about preparing to celebrate Christmas take the time and make the effort to prepare your heart for Jesus.

Wishing you a blessed Advent,

Mother Julie+

## Thursday Evenings in December

December 1

6:00 p.m.

Eat and Chat

6:30 p.m.

**Advent Program led by Mother Julie on Zoom**

\* Zoom Code and Password

832 7749 1314 & 159688

Don't Zoom? Come join her in her office at St. Alban's.

December 8

6:00 p.m.

**Second Thursday Dinner at St. Alban's**

Please sign up to provide the dinner and to attend.

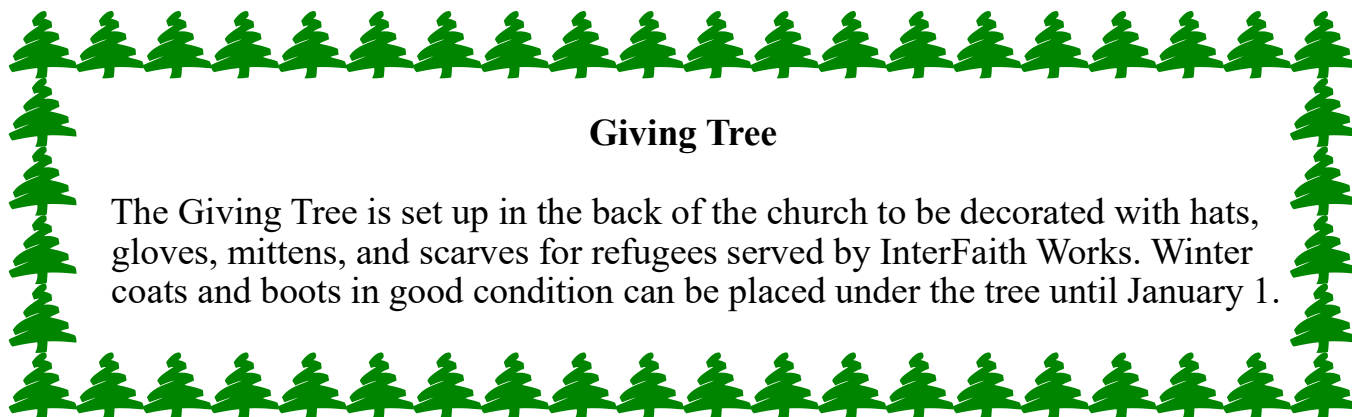
7:00 p.m.

Healing and Holy Eucharist in person and on Zoom

December 15

6:00 p.m.

Eat & Chat



### Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is set up in the back of the church to be decorated with hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for refugees served by InterFaith Works. Winter coats and boots in good condition can be placed under the tree until January 1.

### Tuesday Morning on Zoom

**10:00 a.m.**

**Morning Prayer (not December 27)**

\* Zoom Code and Password:

817 4372 7305 and 891158

**Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: In Person at Emmanuel and on Zoom (Repeated the following Sunday)**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Bible Study (not December 28)**

\* Zoom Code and Password

840 0349 8213 and 586548



### A Very Special Thank You To...

Ham and Kiki White who came to the rescue on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 12 when the AA group alerted Mother Julie that trouble was brewing. Ham and Kiki called the plumber and stayed until 10:30 p.m. cleaning and sanitizing after sewage came up through a pipe in the undercroft. Thanks also to Steve Pekich who followed up with the plumber and finished up the cleaning and sanitizing;

David Houston for keeping us connected with twice weekly parish emails;

Steve Pekich for the hours of lawn care at the end of the mowing and leaf season;

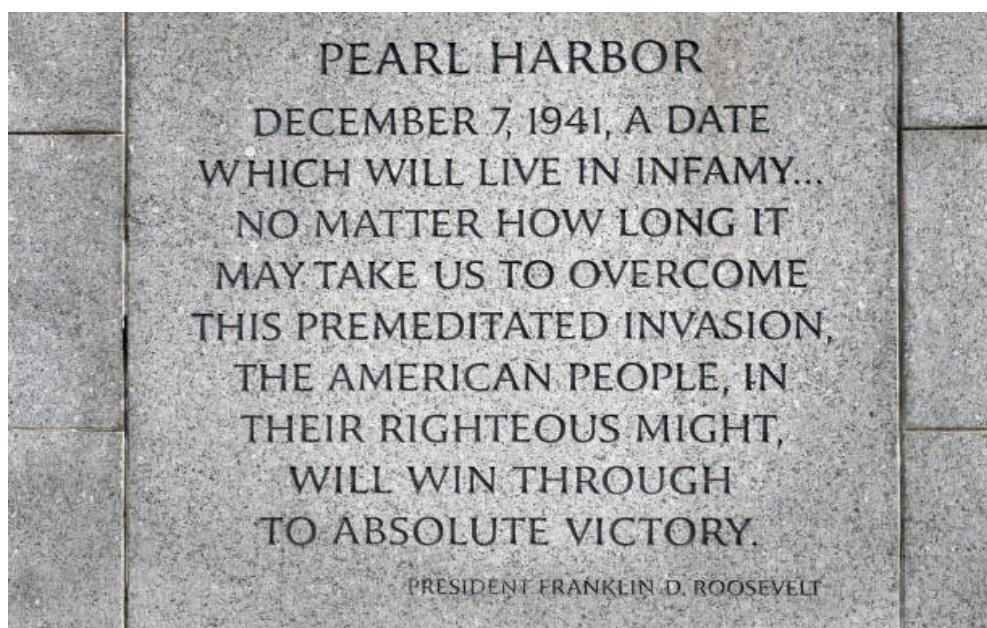
Brian Calhoun-Bryant, Dottie White, and Kiki White for their contributions to the All Saints' Sunday brunch;

Jan Bookhout for providing dinner for Second Thursday and Kiki White for the dessert;

Kate Bell and Kiki White for representing St. Alban's at Diocesan Convention!

## NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Each year in the United States National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day honors all those who lost their lives when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. More than 3,500 Americans lost their lives or were wounded on that solemn day.



## CHRISTMAS EVE



**Christmas Eve kicks off a series of holy traditions, worship and time with family among them.**

**Here are some ways to celebrate:**

**Attend Church for a candlelight service**

**Put out cookies and milk for Santa**

**Go caroling in your neighborhood or at a senior center**

**Hang up Christmas stockings**

**Read Christmas classics like The Night Before Christmas and A Christmas Carol**

**Watch Christmas movies**



**Every year on December 25, people around the world celebrate Christmas, a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. One of the most popular Christmas customs is gift-giving. This custom has its roots in the Magi who brought gifts to Jesus on the twelfth night of Christmas.**

## Christmas Preparations



*Altar Guild*

**Altar Guild Clean and Shine**  
Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Flower Memorials due by Sunday, December 18**

Those who would like to give Christmas flower memorials and/or thanksgivings please call Valerie during office hours or sign up in the church. The minimum donation is \$20. Thank you!

**Christmas Brunch**  
is  
**after the Service on December 18**



**Greening of the Church**  
is  
**Friday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m.**

Many hands are needed to decorated the church and hang wreaths.  
The Altar Guild welcomes volunteers!

I am updating the key list.  
Anyone who has a key to the church please fill out the form in  
the Fellowship Room or let me know. Thank You!! Val

**Secretary's Schedule**  
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00 (Office is closed December 27).

**Giving to St. Alban's**  
Send us a check or to give online go to [cnyepiscopal.org/give-to-my-parish](http://cnyepiscopal.org/give-to-my-parish)

## St. Alban's Leadership

**Rector:** The Rev. Julie E.  
Calhoun-Bryant

### Wardens

Senior: Margo Kowalczyk  
Junior: Gelene Lewis  
Emeritus: Bert Bookhout

### Vestry Members

Jan Bookhout  
Meg Houston  
Steve Pekich  
Gina Odell  
Mary "Kiki" White

Kate Bell, Vestry Clerk

### Parish Secretary

Valerie Warfield

### Organist

Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas

### Treasurer

Kathleen Eckermann

### Financial Secretary

Fred Wilson

### Ministry Team Leaders

#### Communications Team

David Houston

#### Congregational Life Team

Kiki White

#### Mission Team

Bobbi Lombardo  
Dottie White

#### Property Team

Steve Pekich

#### Spiritual Life Team

Mother Julie  
Altar Guild: Bobbi  
Lombardo  
Music: Jan Bookhout

## December Birthdays

8 Emily Coulon  
Wendy Wickenden  
9 Brian Calhoun-Bryant  
11 Christopher Calhoun-Bryant  
14 David Leader  
17 Alissen Coulon  
28 Lorena Coulon  
Frank Grosso  
30 Valerie Warfield

HAPPY  
*Birthday!*



**Vestry meets  
Tuesday,  
December 20  
at 6:30 p.m.  
on Zoom.**

## St. Alban's Episcopal Church

1308 Meadowbrook Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718  
(315) 446-3490

Website: [stalbansyracuse.org](http://stalbansyracuse.org)

Facebook: Click the link on the website home page or go to St. Albans Church Syracuse.

#### Secretary's Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Secretary's Email: [stalbans.syr@gmail.com](mailto:stalbans.syr@gmail.com)

#### Contacting Mother Julie

- Call the secretary during office hours.
- Email: [julieatalban@gmail.com](mailto:julieatalban@gmail.com)
- 315-416-7133 (cell)

**Please don't leave urgent or time sensitive messages on the church answering machine.**