

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbansyracuse.org
Church email: stalbans.syr@gmail.com

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector
Email: julieatalban@gmail.com
Cell: 315-416-7133



Emmanuel Episcopal Church
400 W. Yates Street
East Syracuse, NY 13057
Find the Sunday Service on Facebook
facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse
Email: emmanuel13057@gmail.com

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

June 20, 2023

Dear Friends,

On the recommendation of several of you I am watching The Chosen and am through the first two seasons. It's available online from Angel Studios at <http://new.thechosen.tv/>

Now in its third season, The Chosen is a depiction of Jesus and his disciples from the perspective of the disciples. Simon Peter is the lead character, especially in Season 1. While it takes creative liberties in creating backgrounds for each disciple, and jumps back and forth between the Gospels of Matthew and John, it's worth watching for the sheer humanity of the portrayals. Here's what I mean, the disciples are portrayed as real people, not saints. Example 1: when Jesus tells them they are going to Samaria they begin to argue with him. After a few minutes Jesus says something to the effect of, "If you argue with me about every decision it's going to be very 'annoying'. How about you just trust me on this?" Example 2: There's animosity between Simon (Peter), the fisherman who is behind on his taxes and Matthew the tax collector. Simon's ill feeling doesn't magically go away once they are both Jesus' disciples. Example 3: When Jesus is with them they are much better at working as a team than when he's not with them. When he's not they argue with each other about what the plan for Jesus' ministry should be, where they should go next, and who is in charge when he's away. It's so human! and it's in line with the portrayal of the disciples in the Gospels.

Jesus, too, is portrayed more humanly than in most other productions. He gets tired, he's tender with his mother Mary, he's commanding yet kind. Much of what he says is taken from the Gospels, but the actor makes it believable. One has to be careful about not taking the show too literally, but it is inspirational, uplifting, and, for the main part, theologically sound.

One thing that struck me from a historical perspective was the constant presence of the Romans. Season one begins in Capernaum, the biblical home of fisherman Simon (Peter) and Andrew, James and John. The Jews live their lives and conduct their business under Rome's watchful eye. There's no escape. The Romans are part of the story. The Pharisees are there too, Nicodemus as a friend to Jesus and his student Shmuel as a foe who will stop at nothing to bring the "false prophet" to justice.

Take a look, I think you will find The Chosen to be worth watching.

Mother Julie+

This will be my last letter until I return from vacation in early August.



A close-up photograph of a hot dog in a light-colored bun, topped with a zig-zag pattern of yellow mustard. The hot dog is a reddish-brown color. The background is a solid dark blue.

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are Welcome!

Sunday St. Alban's * 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Emmanuel: 812 9701 3112 & 381729

Sunday

9:30 a.m. St. Alban's: 826 9515 6305 & 446765

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 817 4372 7305 & 891158



NOTE

Mother Julie's Schedule

Mother Julie is on sabbatical from St. Alban's from June 5 - July 4. Father Gerry Beritela will celebrate Holy Eucharist on the four Sundays. She will continue to be at Emmanuel on Saturday evenings and Wednesdays, though she will be on retreat June 27-30. She is in her 17th year at St. Alban's, but only in her 2nd year at Emmanuel.

She will be on vacation from both parishes July 5 - August 4. At St. Alban's Morning Prayer will be led by Lay Leader Steve Pekich. At Emmanuel Evening Prayer will be led by Lay Leaders Barbara Crane (July 8 and 15), Deborah McGavin (22), and Lois McEwan (29).