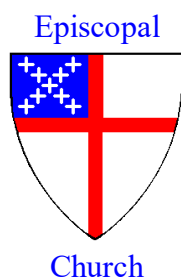


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
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Church email: stalbans.syr@gmail.com

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church
400 W. Yates Street
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Find the Sunday Service on Facebook
facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse
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The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

March 8, 2022

Dear Friends,

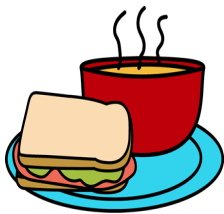
Last Sunday's Gospel lesson on the temptation of Jesus by Satan in the wilderness has sparked a lot of conversation in both Bible Study groups about Satan and Putin. Is Putin being tempted by Satan? First let me say something about Satan. Jesus speaks about Satan or Beelzebub. He sees "Satan fall like lightning". He is accused by religious leaders of acting with the power of Satan rather than with the power of God. Paul tells the people in the church at Corinth to "hand over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh" a man who is having sexual relations with his father's wife. (I Cor. 5) The author of I Peter writes, "Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith." (5:8-9a) That was first century Judaism. What about today?

In the baptism service we renounce three different forms of evil. The first is: "Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?" Candidates for Baptism, or their parents and godparents, are asked to respond in the words "I renounce them." This is from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. We believe that there are spiritual forces of evil that exist above and beyond humanity. We also believe in powerful heavenly beings known as angels who are sent by God to protect us from the forces of evil and to bring messages from God. The Old Testament has many accounts of angels interacting with humans on God's behalf and we all know that the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and to Joseph. On September 29 the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, Michael being the chief Archangel and leader of the army of angels. It's not a huge jump to believe that there also are powerful beings that work against God's purposes, whose goal is to destroy our relationship with God. Whatever terminology you choose to refer to them, the powers of evil are real.

Back to the question: is Satan tempting Putin? Personally, I believe that Putin has opened himself up and allowed himself to be influenced by evil forces above and beyond humankind. While true demonic possession is rare, it is quite common to be influenced by evil. This brings me to the other two renunciations in our Baptism service: "Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?" Putin is an evil power of this world, a human being who, under the influence of the spiritual forces of evil, is advancing his selfish goals through evil means. He uses his membership in the Russian Orthodox Church to deflect criticism of his methods. He fills the Russian airwaves with lies about what's really happening in Ukraine. He instructs the military to target civilians fleeing from the terror he has brought upon them. In this case renouncing him means not only standing up and speaking the truth about what he is doing, but being willing to suffer the consequences of fighting against him. Yes, gas prices are going to sky rocket, but it's a small price to pay given that families are going without heat and water in the middle of winter while sheltering in place or else fleeing Ukraine.

The final renunciation of evil is this: “Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?” On a personal level, Putin has sinful desires that put him at cross purposes with God’s will for him, the need for power and his personal vanity among them. Let all Christians continue to renounce the forces of evil, whether spiritual or of this world. And let us be on guard against sinful desires that draw us individually from the love of God.

Mother Julie+



St. Alban's Martha's Kitchen ministry is making quiche and 36 sandwiches on Tuesday, March 15 at 1:00 p.m. The food is taken to the Women's Opportunity Center in Liverpool, which trains women to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Confirmation Classes Continue Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. on Zoom

They are open to anyone who is interested in attending!

March 9: English Reformation: Henry VIII and Edward VI

March 16: English Reformation: Mary and Elizabeth I

March 23: The Book of Common Prayer

March 30: Beginning of The Episcopal Church in America

Zoom codes: 878 5399 0472 and 014354

Thursday Evenings on Zoom in March - Lenten Book Study

6:00 p.m. Gather and share dinner from your home

6:30 p.m. Book Study: Jesus, by Marcus Borg

Zoom Codes: 861 7759 3272 and 295096

In Person Schedule

Saturday	Emmanuel	Coffee Hour: 4:15 pm	Worship: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	St. Alban's	Bible Study: 8:30 a.m.	Worship: 9:30 a.m.
		Coffee Hour: 10:30 a.m.	
Wednesday	Emmanuel	Bible Study: 2:00 p.m.	

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: **835 9000 0245 & 562087**

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

Use your telephone for Zoom Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-646-558-8656

When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**

When prompted Enter **#**

When prompted Enter **446765#**

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: **824 6993 1403 & 680299**

Wednesday

2:00 p.m. Bible Study: **840 0349 8213 & 586548**

5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class: **878 5399 0472 and 014354**

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat: **861 7759 3272 and 295096**

6:30 p.m. Mother Julie's Class

Mother Julie's Schedule for March 10-16

<u>Emmanuel</u>	<u>St. Alban's</u>	<u>Days Off</u>
Saturday: 4:00-6:30 p.m.	Sunday: 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Monday
Wednesday: 11:00-7:00 p.m.	Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	Friday
	Thursday: 1:00-8:00 p.m.	

Lenten Food Drive

Items to be given to InterFaith Works' 20+ pantries in underserved areas



Pasta
Canned Fruits
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Dried or Canned Beans
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soup
Boxed Macaroni & Cheese

Canned Tuna or Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Oatmeal
Cereal
Walnuts/Almonds
Juice
Flour
Rice
Shelf Stable Milk

Emmanuel: Please place food items on the shelf just inside the door from the parking lot.
St. Alban's: Please leave food items in the Fellowship Room.

Remember to pray daily for your Lenten Friend!
Send an anonymous note or give it to Mother Julie to deliver for you,
so your friend knows they are being prayed for.

Emmanuel News

March 12 at 4:00 p.m. Kate Bell will lead people in the making and meaning of Anglican prayer beads, also known as the Anglican rosary. Materials are provided.

New COVID Protocols in Effect March 12

The Bishop announced last week that as of March 12 Vestries had the authority to set COVID protocols for their parishes. At tonight's Vestry meeting it was decided:

Masks: Wearing of masks will be optional unless Onondaga County's CDC rating returns to a high level. If you might have been exposed to COVID please wear a mask to church. If folks are wearing masks Mother Julie will wear one at the altar.

Social Distancing is optional unless the rating returns to high.

Use of the altar rail and drinking from the chalice: We will not change our current communion practice at this time. If Onondaga County's rating falls to low the Vestry will reevaluate.

Signing In: We will continue to ask people to sign in for contact tracing purposes.