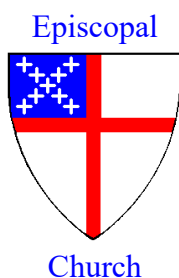


St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
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Website: stalbansyracuse.org  
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The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector  
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
400 W. Yates 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

## Food Drive for InterFaith Works 20+ Food Pantries

September and October

Pasta and Sauce  
Canned Fruits  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Canned Vegetables  
Soups/Ramen  
Ensure  
Cake mix/frosting



Canned Tuna/Chicken  
Vegetable Oil  
Cereal/Oatmeal  
Baby formula  
Pancake mix/syrup  
Flour and sugar  
Mayo  
Shelf Stable Milk



**Autumn Treasures Craft & Vendor Event**  
**Saturday, September 23 at Emmanuel**  
**10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Vendors   Raffles   Meatball Subs   Bake Sale

St. Alban's  
Tuesday, September 19  
6:30 p.m. on Zoom



Emmanuel Vestry Retreat  
Saturday, September 23  
Trinity, Fayetteville  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## **Mother Julie's Sermon on Matthew 18:15-20 for September 9/10**

By now I hope you all know the two great commandments, if not by that name, by their familiarity. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind, and all your strength. AND You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Christian life and faith are all about relationships, our relationship with God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and our relationship with one another. For, you see, our very existence is a product of divine love. The pure, perfect, joyful love in the Godhead between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit led God to create humankind to reach out to in love and to share the divine love with us. This love is not erotic love. Nor is it the love of friendship. It is agape, a self-giving, sacrificial, holy love.

Having been created out of the expression of divine love God's hope is that we return that love to God, however imperfectly. Humankind was created with free will so that we would choose to love our creator God. In fact, the divine spark within us causes us to search for God and our souls will not be satisfied until they find their created purpose. Unfortunately, we often try to satisfy our souls by loving things other than God.

The problem with trying to satisfy our soul with something other than the love of God is that it doesn't work! We'll always crave more. The more money you have the more you'll want. Have lots of stuff? There's always a bigger and better model to replace the old one with. Have a position of power? How much power and influence is enough? There's no rest for your soul until it finds its rest in God. We were created to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

The love of wealth is one of the biggest temptations we humans face. There's a reason that tithing, giving ten percent of one's net income to the church and other charitable organizations, is a spiritual discipline. For those who couldn't pay the rent or feed their family if they tithed you are asked to determine what percentage of your net income you can give and still provide food, shelter, and clothing. Then give that percentage. Personally, there are things I'd love to do that I could afford if I wasn't tithing, travel for one. But would that satisfy my soul? If I ask myself the question, "What's more important than my relationship with God?", the choice is an easy one to make.

We deny ourselves for the sake of agape love. Last week Jesus called us to deny ourselves. As I said then, "To put it another way, it is to make God's dream for your life your dream, to make God's plan your plan." God's dream for us includes the second great commandment: love your neighbor as yourself. We show our love for God by reaching out beyond ourselves in love. Christianity is all about being in relationship with God and one another. For our sake God the Father did not spare God the Son the agony of the cross. For our sake God the Son emptied himself to become human and endured the cross. Would you empty yourself to become a worker ant in an ant colony? Seriously, would you? We can't begin to approach the kind of love with which God loves us, but we can aspire to it.

What happens when we fail to love one another? That's what today's Gospel lesson addresses. If someone has something against us and we fail to ask them for forgiveness our relationship is damaged. Christians are meant to live in right relationship with one another. Many years ago at St. Alban's we were having a basket auction to raise money, I don't remember what for. What I do remember is that there was a children's basket that my son was really hoping to win with his allowance money. Several church kids bid on that basket. An older member of the church decided she wanted that basket for a grandchild and outbid all the children. When it was pointed out to her that the Sunday School children were bidding with their allowance money it made no difference and refused to withdraw her bid. We had made an impression on her though. When she opened the basket she saved one toy for her grandchild and handed out the other toys to the kids who had bid on the basket. This was not her original intention, but because one or two people had the guts to speak up to a person of power in the community she was able to amend her ways and find a loving solution. In the kids' eyes she went from villain to hero. In my eyes I saw God at work in her.

How many times have problems been resolved in the parish because someone had the courage to start a difficult conversation. Relationships are restored and the community is at peace. If that doesn't work then it needs to be taken to the next level, perhaps with the me or a Warden present. If that doesn't work take it to the Vestry. And if the offender still refuses to repent extreme consequences such as denying holy communion might be taken. A single person can't be permitted to destroy the community. We find extreme examples of sinful behavior in the New Testament when Paul chastises the Corinthians for permitting a woman and her stepson to carry on an affair in the open and for members of the church suing each other in civil court to settle disputes.

In this time of social turmoil and unrest in our nation we are blessed that both St. Alban's and Emmanuel members are at peace with one another and supported by one another. That doesn't mean we agree with each other politically. God knows we don't! But politics is not the basis of our relationships, the love of God is. How are we to be a witness of Christian community to the world if we are angry and yelling at one another? This isn't just about us. It's also about how the world sees and judges us. You don't have to be a "woke" Democrat for me to love you. Those of you who aren't have shown me great respect and it doesn't go unnoticed. I'm reading a book right now that one of you asked me to read. Keep the lines of communication open. We are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. That's what's at the heart of Christian relationships. What binds us together is so much more important than what separates us. We are a people striving to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love one another as ourselves. It's the only journey that will satisfy and give rest to our souls. Amen.

## **Emmanuel**

**September 16 Memorial Service for Thomas Ghent at 11:00 a.m.**

Tom is the long time partner of Father Gerry Beritela.  
A luncheon follows the service.



## **East Side Episcopalians Annual Eucharist & Picnic**

**September 24 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Ryder Park Pavilion next to the DeWitt Town Hall**

**Sign up to attend and to bring a side dish or dessert!**

**Collection will be taken for Episcopal Relief & Dev. Disaster Fund**

## **Thursday Evenings on Zoom**

**Zoom Codes: 836 0660 6389 and 371096**

Sept. 14 Service of Healing and Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m. (at St. Alban's)

Sept. 21 Sacred Ground, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-8:00 - Session 1

Sept. 28 Rule of Life, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-7:30 - Meeting

Oct. 5 Sacred Ground, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-8:00 - Session 2

**Oct. 12 Classical Music Concert Preview, 7:00 p.m. (at St. Alban's)**  
**Katerina Skafidas and Kyle Seniw, Vocalists**  
**Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas, Pianist**

Oct. 19 Sacred Ground, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-8:00 - Session 3

Oct. 26 Rule of Life, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-7:30 - Meeting

Nov. 2 Sacred Ground, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-8:00 - Session 4

Nov. 9 Service of Healing and Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m. (at St. Alban's)

Nov. 16 Sacred Ground, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-8:00 - Session 5

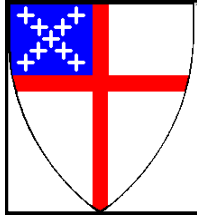
Nov. 23 \*\*\* Thanksgiving Day \*\*\*

Nov. 30 Sacred Ground, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-8:00 - Session 6

Dec. 7 Service of Healing and Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m. (at St. Alban's)

\*\*\* Moved to First Thursday this month \*\*\*

Dec. 14 Sacred Ground, 6:00 - Eat & Chat, 6:30-8:00 - Session 7



## Prayers for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Bishop Curry will have surgery on September 20 to remove a mass on his adrenal gland and the gland.

### Emmanuel's Rummage Sale is October 14!

There will be a bake sale and streamlined rummage sale. Tables also will be available to rent for \$25 if anyone wants to have their own sale for crafts or a "garage sale table".

We are looking for the following items for the streamlined rummage sale:

Toys & Games	Small household items in good condition
Puzzles	Winter Coats and accessories
Children's Clothing	Jewelry

### In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are Welcome!

Saturday	Emmanuel Home	* 4:15 p.m.: Coffee Hour 5:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist, Church School on Sept. 9 & 23
Sunday	St. Alban's	* 8:30 a.m.: Bible Study * 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour
* also on Zoom		

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### Zoom Schedule & Codes

#### Saturday

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

#### Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: 825 2837 9378 & 695433

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

#### Tuesday

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

#### Wednesday

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

Thursdays 836 0660 6389 and 371096