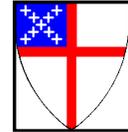




St. Alban's Episcopal Church Syracuse, New York

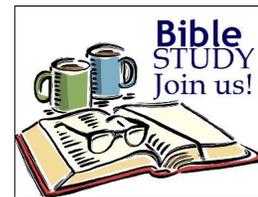


December News & Inspiration

Sunday Mornings at St. Alban's

**8:30 a.m. Bible Study (no class Dec. 26)
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**

* Zoom Code and Password
826 9515 6305 and 446765

Sundays in Advent

Advent 1: Nov. 28 Special music provided by Cornelia Brewster and Bert and Jan Bookhout (Their music will be recorded and added to the Advent 2 website service.)

Advent 4: Dec. 19 St. Alban's Quartet Returns!
Bert Bookhout, Flugelhorn
Jan Bookhout, Oboe
Cornelia Brewster, Flute
Frank Grosso, Bass Clarinet

Christmas Worship, In Person and on Zoom

Friday, Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m.

Special Music by Bert & Jan Bookhout and Cornelia Brewster
(This service will be recorded and posted on our website.)

Saturday, Christmas Day at 11:30 a.m.

Organ music and carols

1st Sunday after Christmas

Children's Communion Class Celebration
Soloist Katerina Skafidas returns!

Kat is a second year student at the New England Conservatory, studying for a Master's Degree in opera.

Priestly Ponderings on Advent

Advent 1: Before we look to the first coming of Jesus Christ as a babe in the manger, we remember his promise that he will come again. His second coming was foretold by the angel to his disciples immediately after Jesus ascended into heaven. Our Lord's second coming will be as the Son of God in power and great glory to complete the work begun by his crucifixion and resurrection. Advent 1 reminds us that we live in between the first and second comings of Jesus Christ, between the promise and the fulfillment. We believe that it is God who holds the end of human history in his power. This is why hope is a major theme of Advent.

Advent 2-3: The middle Sundays of Advent look to the mission and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, as foretold by John the Baptist. John's mission is to prepare the people of Israel for the coming of the Messiah, the heir of King David and promised One of Israel. Preparing to receive Jesus also is a major theme of Advent. While we're busy preparing our homes are we preparing our hearts?

Advent 4: This year the Advent 4 reading is Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, greeting Mary, the mother of our Lord. Both are pregnant with their sons and John leaps for joy in the womb as Mary greets Elizabeth. Mary responds with the *Magnificat*, which we will say together on December 19. The faith that God will keep his promises to Israel is beautifully expressed in her words. Faith and joy are also themes of Advent.

But there is yet one more theme running through the Advent and Christmas season. Why would God act to save us in such a profoundly intimate way, coming to us as one of us? The answer is love, God's pure and perfect love for us, who are created in God's own image. The best response to God's love that we can offer is to prepare our hearts, joyfully and faithfully, as a home for Jesus Christ.

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, which mourn in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Mother Julie+

Advent Study Thursday Evenings on Zoom

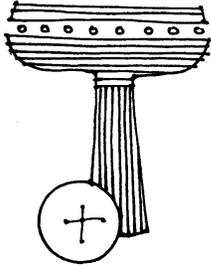
Zoom Codes: 834 3382 8700 and 900643

6:00 p.m. Bring your dinner to the screen and we'll dine and chat.

6:30 p.m. Bible Study, led by Mother Julie+
December 2: Faith
December 9: Hope and Joy
December 16: Love

7:30 p.m. Closing Prayer

If you are unable to Zoom you are most welcome to join Mother Julie at the church.



Children's Communion Instruction

On December 5 and 19 the children will be instructed by Shelby Calhoun during Sunday School and then come and join Mother Julie at the altar for further instruction. On Sunday, December 26 we will celebrate with them during the service and at coffee hour.

Use your telephone for Zoom on Sunday

Dial 1-646-558-8656

Enter 826 9515 6305#

Enter #

Enter 446765#

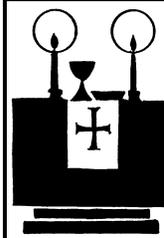
That will put you in Zoom's waiting room and Mother Julie will let you in.

**Tuesday
Abbreviated Morning Prayer
at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom**

**Zoom Code and Password:
868 3084 1089 and 114552**

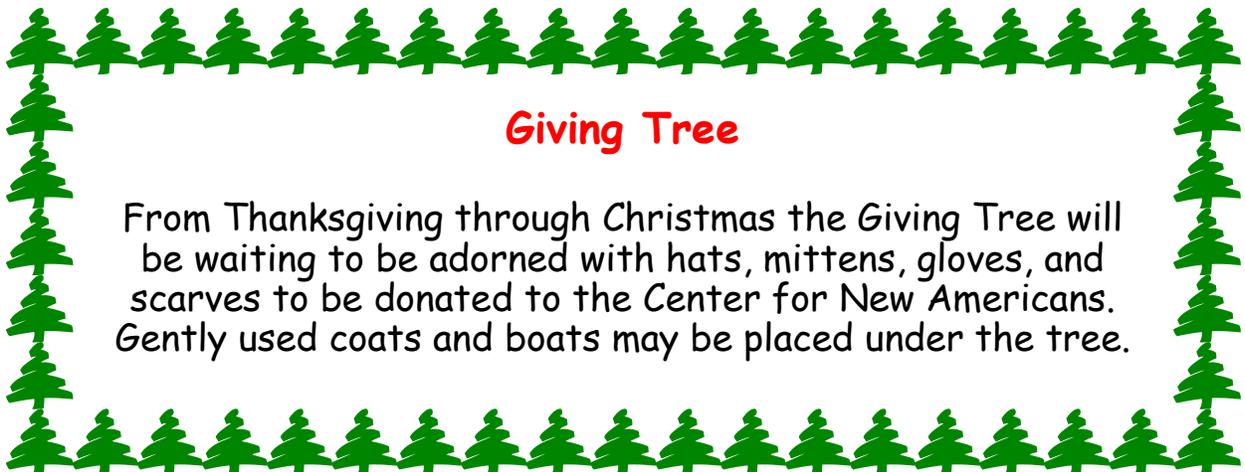
Giving to St. Alban's

Send us a check or
to give online go to
[cnyepiscopal.org/
give-to-my-parish](http://cnyepiscopal.org/give-to-my-parish)



Altar Guild

**Meets on Saturday, December 4
at
10:00 a.m.**



Giving Tree

From Thanksgiving through Christmas the Giving Tree will be waiting to be adorned with hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to be donated to the Center for New Americans. Gently used coats and boots may be placed under the tree.



**Pearl Harbor
80th Anniversary
December 7, 2021**



This year's celebration theme is *Valor, Sacrifice, and Peace.*

In 2021, watch for special ceremonies marking the 80th Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration paying tribute to those who lost their lives in the attack.

Activities will include a wreath presentation from the Marine Corps Base in Hawaii, a Freedom Bell Ringing at the USS *Bowfin*, a performance of the Pearl Harbor Mass Band, a USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Ceremony on Ford Island, and participation by top American leadership from all branches of government.



The *USS Arizona* remains the final resting place of 1,102 of the 1,177 sailors and Marines killed on board during the Japanese surprise attack.



**Meets on Tuesday, December 14
at 7 p.m. on Zoom.**

**Agenda Items Include:
Year End Mission Fund Gifts
Approval of 2022 Budget**

Advent Season

Advent begins on November 28 and includes the four Sundays before Christmas and the days in between.



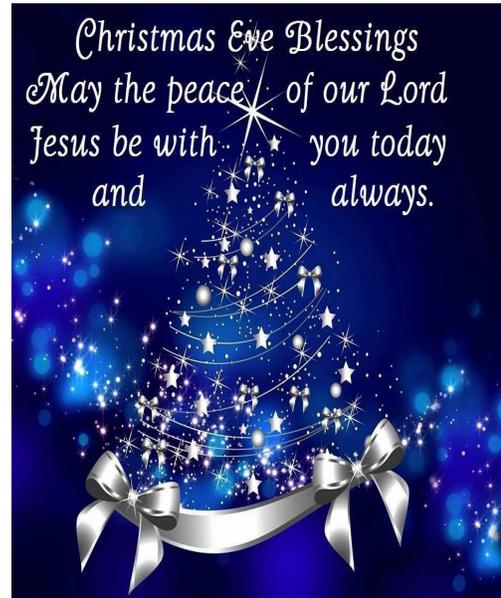
A Prayer for Advent

Author Unknown



Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ
for all the benefits which you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother.

May I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. AMEN.



Christmas Flowers

Please call or email the office by December 16, or sign up on the sheet in the church by Sunday, December 19. Suggested donation is \$20. Flowers remain in the church for the 12 days of Christmas!

Helping Our Neighbor



Martha's Kitchen is Cooking On

Saturday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m.
Spaghetti Sauce & 36 Sandwiches

Help prepare quality food for the hungry!

New and Gently Used Bras

Women in Africa and Central and South America sell them. One bra can feed a family for a week!

We will add our bras to those collected at the Women's Opportunity Center. Please put donations in the metal box in the Fellowship Room by the fireplace.



Valley Worship Center Food Pantry, 2929 Midland Ave. **Volunteers are needed on Thursday afternoons.**

We partner with Valley Worship Center by providing volunteers. The first Thursday of the month is the biggest and busiest, as it is the monthly fresh foods supply. Tables are full of fruits and vegetables, as well as eggs and dairy products.

2nd-5th Thursdays are smaller and less strenuous.

First Thursdays the larger Fresh Foods pantry is from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
All other Thursdays volunteers are needed from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

St. Alban's Leadership

Rector: The Rev. Julie E.
Calhoun-Bryant

Wardens

Senior: Bert Bookhout
Junior: Margo Kowalczyk
Emerita: Emera Bridger Wilson

Vestry Members

Jan Bookhout
Meg Houston
Gelene Lewis
Gina Odell
Mary "Kiki" White
Fred Wilson
Kate Bell, Vestry Clerk

Parish Secretary

Valerie Warfield

Organist

Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas

Treasurer

Kathleen Eckermann

Financial Secretary

Fred Wilson

Sunday School Teacher

Shelby Calhoun

Ministry Team Leaders

Communications Team

David Houston

Congregational Life Team

Kiki White

Mission Team

Bobbi Lombardo
Dottie White

Property Team

Margo Kowalczyk
Don Keefe

Spiritual Life Team

Mother Julie
Music: Jan Bookhout

December Birthdays

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

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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

Website: 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

Contacting Mother Julie

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

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