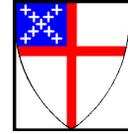


**St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Syracuse, New York**



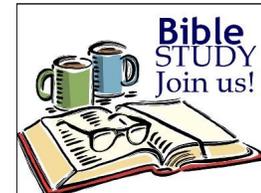
Late December - January News & Inspiration

Sunday Mornings at St. Alban's

8:30 a.m.

**Bible Study (no class Jan. 2)
Both In Person and on Zoom**

* Zoom Code and Password
835 9000 0245 and 562087



**9:30 a.m.
(not Jan. 2)**

**Holy Communion In Person and
Spiritual Communion on Zoom**

* Zoom Code and Password
826 9515 6305 and 446765

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.)

Zoom Codes: 820 7263 1779 and 310697

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

Organ music and carols

Zoom Codes: 860 0413 2186 and 540798

1st Sunday after Christmas, December 26

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.

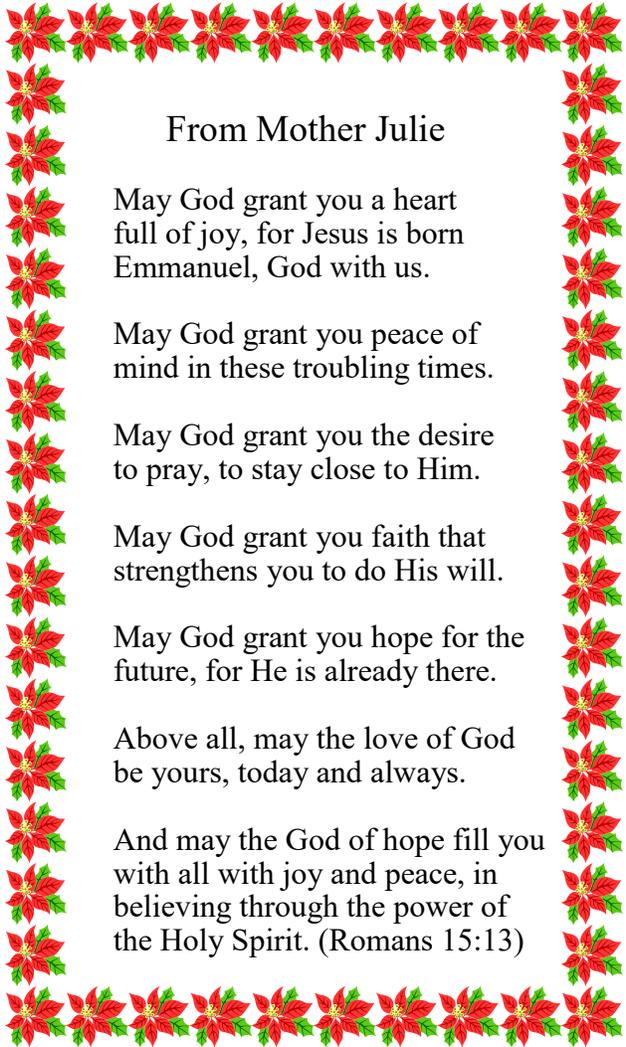
2nd Sunday after Christmas, January 2

East Side Episcopalians gather at St. David's, DeWitt at 10:00 a.m.
for Lessons and Carols, with Holy Eucharist.

The Service will also be live streamed on Facebook and on Zoom.

Zoom Codes: 847 9954 5748 and 01022022

Registration is required. The link will be sent to our email list ahead of time.



From Mother Julie

May God grant you a heart full of joy, for Jesus is born Emmanuel, God with us.

May God grant you peace of mind in these troubling times.

May God grant you the desire to pray, to stay close to Him.

May God grant you faith that strengthens you to do His will.

May God grant you hope for the future, for He is already there.

Above all, may the love of God be yours, today and always.

And may the God of hope fill you with all with joy and peace, in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

The first 3 Tuesdays of Advent I have written about faith, hope, and joy. This 4th Advent Tuesday I write about love, specifically agape love, the love God has for us, the love we are called to share with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We only know how to love because God first loved us. As a child learns how to love from loving parents, so we learned how to love from our loving God.

When we think of the love of God it's natural to think of the cross. The depth and breadth of the love God that the Father showed us in the sending of God the Son, and the love Jesus lived out when he was nailed to the cross, remain the primary means by which God's love is demonstrated for us.

Yet Christmas, too, is about the love of God. It is the Feast of the Incarnation: God made human. Consider this passage from Jesus Always,” by Sarah Young. It is written as if Jesus is speaking. “I became poor so that you might become rich. My incarnation - the essence of Christmas - was a gift of infinitely great value. However, it impoverished Me immeasurably! I gave up the majestic splendors of heaven to become a helpless baby. My parents were poor, young, and far away from home when I was born in a stable in Bethlehem.”

Jesus calls us to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, which he did by his birth, by his life, and by his death. He also calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Agape love for our neighbors is perhaps best described by Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13 “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. ... Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Love is practical. Love points us outward instead of inward. Love is forgiving. Love is putting others' needs ahead of your own. Love is a mother feeding her children and not herself when there's not enough food to go around. Love is the person who prepares or delivers food to the hungry. Love is welcoming the stranger with warm clothing when they arrive as refugees in Central New York. Love is visiting or telephoning the lonely so they hear another human voice that day. Love is about giving, not receiving.

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine. Love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign. (Hymn 84, verse 1)

Merry Christmas,
Mother Julie+

Annual Meeting is January 26

The Annual Meeting of St. Alban's Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, January 26.

The meeting will open at the end of the 9:30 a.m. service. We will elect one Warden and three Vestry Members. Gelene Lewis has consented to run for Warden. Thank you Gelene! All nominations must be given in writing by one week before the meeting. Vestry members must have been active attenders who have contributed to the church as they are able for at least one year. Only Wardens need to be confirmed or received Episcopalians.

From Mother Julie

On January 1 I become Priest-in-Charge of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in East Syracuse. Their Vestry and I have signed a three year commitment and the relationship can be made permanent after a year if all agree. I plan to be at Emmanuel on Saturday and Wednesday. Saturday I will be there from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Coffee hour will begin at 4:15 p.m. and Holy Eucharist will be at 5:00 p.m. Kate Bell and Meg Houston will move with me from Saturday morning at St. Alban's to Saturday evening and will videotape the service and then post it on both Emmanuel's and St. Alban's websites. I am pleased that they have made the commitment to worship at Emmanuel; they will maintain their membership at St. Alban's.

On Wednesdays I will be at Emmanuel from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. I plan to hold a weekly Bible Study both in person and on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. If you've wanted to participate in my weekly Bible Study, but 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning doesn't work for you, you are most welcome to come. Both the Wednesday and Sunday studies will be the same. I will continue to hold a joint class many Thursday evenings. My weekly letter will now be sent to both parishes and include the activities of both.

The whole idea behind East Side Episcopalians was to explore what we could do better together, while still maintaining the identities of our three parishes, the third being St. David's in DeWitt. Now that I will be priest to two of the three churches it is my hope that the relationships between us can continue to grow and develop. Since the pandemic began several members from Emmanuel have joined the book studies and other classes that I have held Thursday evenings on Zoom. Such ties only enrich us. With that in mind, let me say that I won't have "Emmanuel" days and "St. Alban's" days. You are welcome to reach out to me at any time, though I ask that you not call on my days off unless it's an emergency. Feel free to email or text me on my days off and I will respond the next day. I know people like to send a message while they're thinking about something. I am at Emmanuel quarter-time and St. Alban's half-time.

My "in the building" schedule will be:	<u>St. Alban's</u>	<u>Emmanuel</u>	<u>Days Off</u>
	Sunday	Saturday	Monday
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
	Thursday		

At some point in mid to late January my family will be moving from Marcellus to North Syracuse. We close on the Marcellus house on or about Feb. 3, so we can take our time to paint the new house and pack up the old. Our new address is: 104 Single Drive, North Syracuse, 13212.

Lots of exciting changes in the new year! May God bless and guide St. Alban's, and be with my family as we make this big transition.



New Year's Eve Traditions

- ◇ A kiss at midnight from the one person you hope to keep kissing the rest of the year is a common custom.
- ◇ Making noise - either in the form of fireworks, ringing bells, horns, blasting, or pistol shots - is traditional around the world.
- ◇ In Holland they toast to the new year with spiced wine; in England they toast with wassail, and in the United States with champagne.

January 31



January 4 is NATIONAL TRIVIA DAY

Let's play some Trivia

1. How many books are in the Bible?
2. What is the first book in the Bible?
3. What did Jesus do at the Last Supper to his disciples?
4. Name the place where Jesus walked on water.
5. Name the city where Jesus was born.
6. Where did God give Moses the Ten Commandments?
7. What did Jacob give Joseph that sparked jealousy from his brothers?

Answers—No Peaking
1. 66, 2. Genesis, 3. Washed their feet, 4. Sea of Galilee,
5. Bethlehem, 6. Mt. Sinai, 7. A coat of many colors.



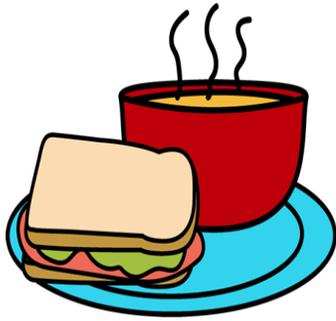
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

January 17

While President Ronald Reagan signed the established observance into law in 1983, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was first observed as a United States federal holiday in 1986. Martin Luther King Jr. Day honors the American

clergyman, activist, and Civil Rights Movement leader. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience. King has become a national icon in the history of American progressivism. In this time when the Blacks Live Matter movement has been spread across the land let us honor Dr. King and share his dream.

Helping Our Neighbors



Martha's Kitchen is Cooking On

Saturday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Help prepare quality food for the hungry!

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.



Many thanks to all who decorated the

Giving Tree

with hats, scarves, Gloves, mittens, warm socks, coats & boots for refugees arriving in Syracuse.

Donations to the Mission Fund for items from St. Alban's Boutique have surpassed \$400.

Many thanks to Jan Bookhout and Kathleen Eckermann for the handmade gifts made for the boutique!

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



Meets Tuesday,
January 18 at
7:00 p.m. on Zoom

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.