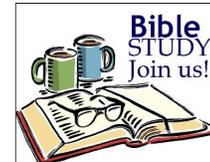


**St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Syracuse, New York**

May News & Inspiration

Sunday Morning

**8:30 a.m. Bible Study
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**
(To use your phone for Zoom, dial 1-646-558-8656)
* Zoom Code and Password
826 9515 6305 and 446765

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Tuesday Morning on Zoom

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
* Zoom Code and Password:
824 6993 1403 and 680299

Wednesday Afternoon on Zoom

**2:00 p.m. Bible Study (repeated on Sunday)
In person at Emmanuel, East Syracuse**
* Zoom Code and Password
840 0349 8213 and 586548

Thursday Evening on Zoom

May 5:Chapter 8, May 12:Chapter 9, May 19: Chapter 10

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat
6:30 p.m. Book Study on Jesus, by Marcus Borg
* Zoom Code and Password
861 7759 3272 and 295096

Priestly Ponderings

In the Sunday, April 24 edition of The Post-Standard Michael Gerson wrote an opinion piece entitled, "War's horrors may shake our faith. Where is God amid such pain?" He begins it by sighting a "horrible and sacred story I hesitate to use. But it is being reenacted in our time. In 'Night,' Elie Wiesel describes the execution by hanging of two Jewish men and a boy, conducted before the entire camp at Auschwitz. 'The men died quickly,' Wiesel wrote, 'but the death struggle of the boy lasted half an hour. "Where is God? Where is he?" a man behind me asked. As the boy, after a long time, was still in agony on the rope, I heard the man cry again, "Where is God now?" and I heard a voice within me answer, "Here he is - he is hanging here on the gallows."' "

Gerson goes on to speak of the suffering in Ukraine and comments that "the world seems bound on some hideous wheel, destined to repeat its worst crimes." Pointing to the cause for hope he speaks of Jesus Christ's crucifixion and concludes, "The Christian faith does not set out a philosophy explaining the problem of evil. It responds, instead, with a person. It answers an experience of pain with an experience of pain. It offers the fellowship of suffering. In the process, it gives permission for grief, outrage, even despair. Yet it also raises the prospect of a dramatic reversal. A hope on the far side of anguish. A homecoming on the far side of death. An assurance that the violent will not inherit the earth. ... We can live in the hope that there is a deeper meaning, even if we do not fully comprehend it. ... Humans live in a democracy of vulnerability. We are alike in our susceptibility to pain and loss. We are equal in our capacity for hope and heroism. This is the message of the cross and the empty tomb. God is on the side of the boy on the gallows and the man on the cross. Even amid horror, some vital purpose is making itself known. Against all my doubts, I choose to believe in a God with scars."

That last description of God - a God with scars - continues to grab my attention. God did not overcome human evil easily. God chose to enter into human existence in the sending of his Son, to experience humanity at its cruelest, and to love us still with love that goes beyond our comprehension and to grant, to those who would have it, a peace that surpasses all understanding. We cannot fully comprehend how God is working in Ukraine, or among the thousands of people in refugee camps in eastern Africa, or in other war-torn areas of the globe. We cannot fully understand where God is in the political warfare of our own nation. Yet we dare to trust that our future lies in God's all-powerful hands. We long for that future now. We want an end to war, to the pandemic, to racial injustice, to food insecurity, to the seemingly daily shootings locally. But God's answer is, "Not yet." For now we live by faith, until the glory of God is revealed. For now we follow the man on the cross, our resurrected Lord.

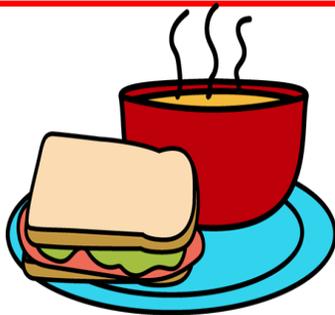
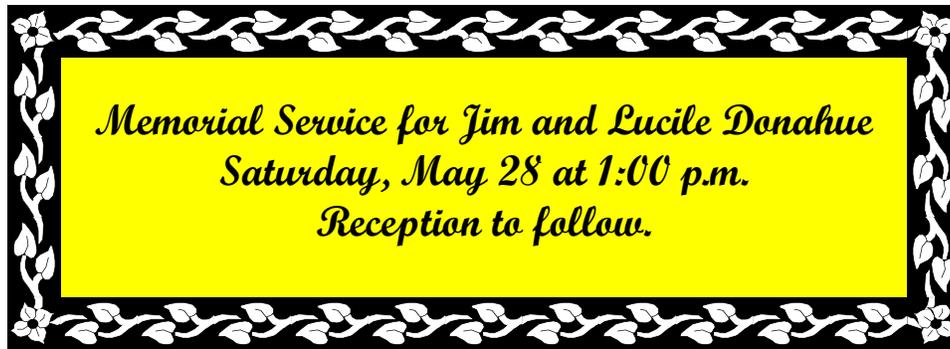
- Mother Julie+

Thank you to our Musicians

Thank you to Jan Bookhout for coordinating the special music for Lent and Easter and to our musicians: Bert and Jan Bookhout, Cornelia Brewster, and Frank Grosso. Thank you also to organist Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas, whose postludes keep us in our seats. Together, your music enlivens our worship and nurtures our souls!

Altar Servers Urgently Needed

When Emera moves to Michigan at the end of June we will be down to just two altar servers, Art Pichette and Donnie Keefe. Any baptized person can assist Mother Julie at the altar. Please speak to her if you would like to be trained for this sacred ministry.



Martha's Kitchen is Cooking On

Saturday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Help prepare quality food for the hungry!

Worship & Technology Update

We have submitted an application for a grant from the diocese to purchase a remote control webcam with a zoom feature to mount on the middle set of ceiling beams and a laptop dedicated to running the system. The new microphone purchased just before Easter is getting good reviews from our Zoom attendees.

Many thanks to David Houston for running the Zoom portion of the service!

Property Team News

New Team Leader

After many years as the leader of the Property Team Margo Kowalczyk has retired from the position. Under Margo's leadership projects such as the remodeling of the kitchen, installation of new carpeting in the church, flooding mitigation in the basement, the installation of all the new windows in the church, hallway, fellowship room, and sacristy; and many other tasks both large and small were accomplished. Margo you have left the church buildings in much better shape for the future and our gratitude for your service runs deep.

We are happy to welcome the new leader, Steve Pekich, who already is working toward a goal to lower our routine property expenses. Steve and David Wiediger will mow the lawn each week. This will save the church about \$2000 (Cost was \$1950 in 2021.) Thanks also to Rob Lombardo for tuning up the lawn tractor for use this season.

New Ramp Hand Rail

Many thanks to Rob Lombardo for replacing the broken hand rail on the outdoor ramp!

A Mother is like a flower,
each one beautiful and unique.

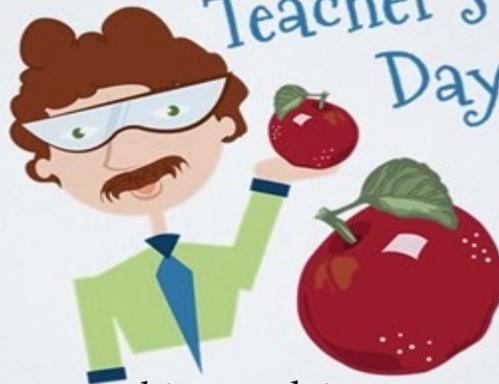
For all the Mothers, Grandmothers,
Great-Grandmothers, Stepmothers,
Daughters, Daughters -in-Law, Wives,
Sisters, Aunts, Friends
and Future Mothers,

Have a Wonderful Mother's Day!!!
May 8th



May 3

National
Teacher's
Day



Everybody who does something good, important, and valuable deserves a day in their honor. Teachers certainly are among the most deserving. This day honors those hard working, patient and understanding people to whom we entrust our children. So let's give them their due. The future of America is in their hands.

Thank You

Memorial Day is May 30

Memorial Day is dedicated to service men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and country. It is also a time to remember loved ones who have passed away by attending a parade or visiting a cemetery to honor and remember our servicemen and women. Take time to remember them in whatever way you feel appropriate.



Memorial Day also marks the beginning of the gardening and summer seasons. This day usually includes the first family picnic of the year.

St. Alban's Memorial Garden
will be renovated this spring.

The glory of gardening:
Hands in the dirt, Head in the sun,
Heart with nature.

To nurture a garden is to
feed not just the body,
but also the soul.

There are many kinds of gardens,
be creative.

May 16

It seems some of you out there fear that aliens from outer space consider earthlings to be too hostile. As a result, they have yet to visit or make contact with us. So it was decided by some people to promote world peace by establishing.

Wear Purple for Peace Day.

The goal is to make the world a peaceful place and, of course, encourage alien species to make contact with earth.

Do you want to meet aliens from another planet?

Me, Too! So lets all wear purple for peace today.



"I wonder if these earthlings are peaceful!"

Everyone is invited to participate in bringing our newsletter to life. If you have an opinion, article, idea, event, organization or any other relevant topic of interest, please let us know. This is everyone's newsletter, we welcome your participation. The deadline for any upcoming events is the 15th of the month. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting this deadline.

The service of Holy Eucharist is taped on Saturdays at Mother Julie's service at Emmanuel Church and posted on our website.

stalbansyracuse.org
Click on Pics & Vids

Giving to St. Alban's
Send us a check or to give online go to cnyepiscopal.org/give-to-my-parish

St. Alban's Leadership

Rector: The Rev. Julie E.
Calhoun-Bryant

Wardens

Senior: Margo Kowalczyk
Junior: Gelene Lewis
Emeritus: Bert Bookhout

Vestry Members

Jan Bookhout
Meg Houston
Steve Pekich
Gina Odell
Terri Tighe
Mary "Kiki" White

Kate Bell, Vestry Clerk

Parish Secretary

Valerie Warfield

Organist

Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas

Treasurer

Kathleen Eckermann

Financial Secretary

Fred Wilson

Ministry Team Leaders

Communications Team

David Houston

Congregational Life Team

Kiki White

Mission Team

Bobbi Lombardo
Dottie White

Property Team

Steve Pekich

Spiritual Life Team

Mother Julie
Music: Jan Bookhout

May Birthdays

11 Mark Johnson
12 Gina Odell
13 Margo Kowalczyk
15 Andrew Augustine
19 Russell Calhoun-Bryant
Skip Visco
24 Barbara Lee
Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas



**Vestry Meets
Tuesday
May 17 at 6 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.**