

St. Alban's Weekly E-Blast For the Week of 1/13/20

Friday (10th) as the forecasters were predicting wintry weather with accumulations of inches of snow my heart began to swell. For you see, I love snow days – days where travel is prohibited unless necessary, days when the PJ's can stay on without guilt. Then the cancellations or questions began to arise – no training on Saturday; who decides to cancel church. Then the waiting. Looking for that first snowflake or sleeting rain. Then a phone call, “Grandma, can Joey and I send the night?” And so the thought of a quiet snow day fled.

But what did happen was a growing sense of anticipation, expectation. The frequent trips to the sliding glass door to check the weather. Growing disappointment that nothing seemed to be happening. Why Joseph and I even put on our coats to stand on the porch, slipping on the floor (of course, Joseph had on his ‘hamburger designed slippers’ with little grip! and I in my kerchief – oh, that is another story entirely). We waited and waited. Nothing. That hope for a day of nothingness began to diminish.

And then that very first large snowflake (you know the flakes that are beautiful but don't really stick to the ground or enable one to build a r-e-a-l-l-y big snowman) was seen and hope began to swell within us. It is here and now we can truly have a do-nothing-day. Then out came Joseph's sword and the jumping and swishing and I thought of Jeremiah's words two weeks ago: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness.

Wilderness and grace? In the midst of my wilderness, have I found grace, that unmerited, undeserved gift from God? Have you?

This is the season of Epiphany – the Manifestation of Jesus. We all should be having those ah-ah moments as He reveals Himself to us in the unlikely places like a swishing sword, a drop of rain, a snowflake floating to the ground, and even hamburger designed slippers. Today may He reveal Himself to you and may you be surprised by His grace.

Judith+

Sunday, January 19th, Morning Prayer led by Ann Capion at 8:00 AM and Jane Shovar at 10:15 AM with Charlie Rodriguez preaching. Communion from the Reserve Sacrament.

DATE CHANGE

Tradition won again. Originally, I had scheduled the Annual Meeting for the last Sunday in January, the 26th. And then, I discovered that St. Alban's traditionally holds its Annual Meeting on Super Bowl Sunday. So, we will be gathering on February 2nd at 9:30 AM for one service, followed by brunch, and for the state of the Christ's Church to be proclaimed. “It is well with our soul”. Make every effort to be part of the discussions this day, as we share our hopes, our disappointments, our joys and our grace-filled moments.

Because the date of the Annual Meeting has been changed after publication of the serving schedules, please note: Those scheduled to serve on the 26th of January will now serve on February 2nd; and those scheduled to serve on the 2nd will move to the 26th of January. Don't worry if you are confused, we will gently remind you.

J+

Have you noticed anything new in the Prayers of the People? After the sermon mentioning the Herod's in the world, a request was made that we pray for all the countries in the world and their leadership. Great idea, but then how do we pray: are they allies or our enemies? It depends on the day or frame of mind. So, let us pray that swords will be made into plowshares, for freedom for those oppressed, for God's love to be revealed to all. After all, it is the season of Epiphany – a time for Him to be manifested.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

For those people who need to turn in reports for the annual meeting, please make sure they get to Robin by 27 January.

SCHEDULE 1/19/20

8:00 am (MP)

Worship Leader: Ann Capion
Lector 1: Ann Capion
Lector 2: Judy (Vern) Murdock
Prayers: Don France
Altar: Michelle Dierickx

10:15 am (MP)

Worship Leader: Jane Shovar
Preacher: Charlie Rodriguez
LEM: Chris Cash
Acolyte: Michelle Dierickx
Lector 1: Karrie Dvorak
Lector 2: Sue McCoy
Prayers: Mandy Cash
Usher: Jon Irelan
Altar: Michelle Dierickx
Counters: Michelle Dierickx/Sherry Rodriguez
LEV: Sue McCoy
Sexton: Robin Sade

SCHEDULE CHANGE 1/26

8:00

Lector 1: Don France
Lector 2: Vern Murdock
Prayers: Ann Capion

10:15

LEM: Karrie Dvorak
Acolyte: Angie Roberts
Lector 1: Robin Sade
Lector 2: Marshall Callaway
Prayers: Laura Showers
Usher: Scott Shovar
Altar: Robin Sade
Counters: Sue McCoy/Charlie Rodriguez
LEV: Charlie and Sherry Rodriguez

FEB 2ND ONE SERVICE AT 9:30

LEM: Sherry Rodriguez
Acolyte: Loretta Rice
Lector 1: Kim Feeney
Lector 2: Vern Murdock
Prayers: Ann Capion
Usher: Chris Cash
Altar: Loretta Rice
Counters: Robin Sade
Charlie Rodriguez
LEV: Sue McCoy

SIGN UP SHEET

There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall on the bulletin board for the brunch before the Annual Meeting on 2/2/20.

**VESTRY MEETING
TONIGHT, JAN. 13TH AT
6:00 PM!!**