

## St. Alban's Weekly E-Blast January 6-12, 2020

### RAVES

*"He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name."*

Psalm 147:4

And their names are Addison, Geneva, Cohen, Cailyn, Violet, Nicole, Marshall, Scott, Jane, Charlie, Sherry, Robin, Loretta, Apryl, Kim, and Laura!! Oh, what a performance of the little and big saints of St. Alban's last night. If you missed it, mark your calendars for Epiphany 2021 because they will be back.

Words cannot express my heart this morning. It was the best Epiphany pageant I have ever seen! Everyone played their part perfectly – the singing rose to the rafters (we do have some of them). It was more than a moment to cherish. It was many moments!

A thank you to all the saintly stars, but an especially big **THANK YOU** to Laura Showers for directing and gathering the costumes, for Kim Feeney and Apryl Winckler for their assistance in all ways, and for Nicole who discovered the skit. My heart sings this morning with thanks to God for putting the stars in the skies of St. Alban's.

And what about the hidden symbols? They were not hidden in the Epiphany cake, but ask Violet, Cailyn, and Apryl if all were found. The Epiphany cake was adorned with purple and green frosting, representing justice and faith, and jelly beans. Thank you Robin for the delicious end to our wonder-filled Epiphany Evening.

### RAMBLINGS

Today is the first day of the Epiphany season, a time to manifest Christ. Basil the Great (AD 330-379) wrote: *"Stars across the sky wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race. Now it is no longer 'dust you are and to dust*



This angel was the BEST. Next year bigger wings for sure.





*you shall return, but “you are joined to heaven and into heaven shall you be taken up.”*

Last night (January 6) we watched the wise women bring gifts to the Child – gold, frankincense, and myrrh—all symbols of WHO He is, now and forever. Priest. King. Savior. And we might be thinking Christmas and Epiphany are over, Lent is weeks away, is there anything left to celebrate and ponder. And I say **YES** there is much to celebrate and ponder.

When we gather on the first Sunday after the Epiphany we will be hearing and perhaps even experiencing the Baptism of Jesus by his cousin, John the B. I have often wondered how Jesus goes from 2 to 30 in just seven days!

In the early Church, the baptism of Jesus was a major feast. Not so much for the Church today. And yet, the baptism of Jesus is not only an event that happened to him, but one that happens to us. Jesus was baptized for the sins of the people for whom he was going to die. Remember John the B’s proclamation at the Jordan “*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*”? (John 1:20)

We don’t often associate baptism with the Cross when we gather around the Baptism Font, even though we seal the children with a Cross as they are marked as God’s own. In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he writes: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was

raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (6:3-5)

This week as we prepare to remember the Baptism of our Lord, reflect on the questions that are asked of the parents, godparents, or the person himself being baptized, found on pages 302-303 in the Book of Common Prayer. Questions that were asked of your sponsors and perhaps, even you have answered them. May the waters, the living waters, pour over you this day.

*Judith+*

**DATE CHANGE**  
**The Annual Meeting will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, not January 26<sup>th</sup> as previously published. 9:30 AM Service**

**THINGS/DATES to REMEMBER**  
**Saturday, Jan 11 9AM-3PM**  
**Becoming a Beloved Community-  
 Dismantling Racism**

All Vestry Members, present and future, should be registered. Call Robin or Judith for more info.

**Saturday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM** ECW Breakfast at SteepleGate. All women of the Church are invited. 1

**FLOWER chart for 2020 is waiting for signatures. A great way to remember those we love and celebrate. Sign-up in the Parish Hall Bulletin Board.**

**Readings**  
**Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**January 12, 2020**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 10:34-43  
 Matthew 3:13-17

**Readers – 8:00 AM**