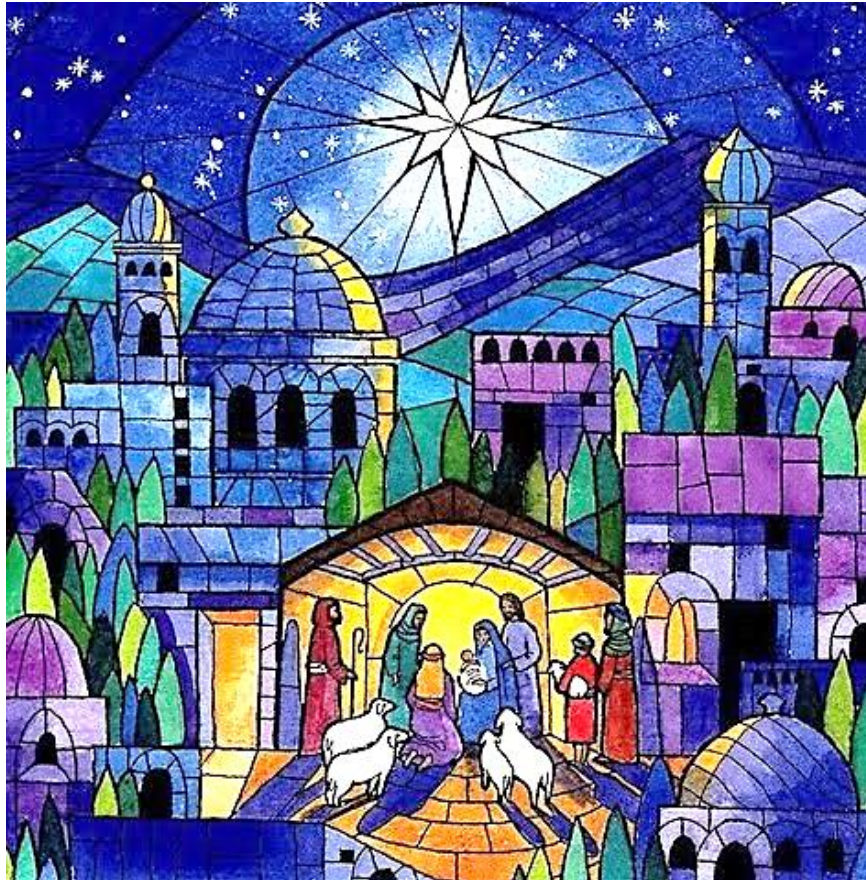


ST ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE



DECEMBER 24, 2023

6:00 PM

THE REVEREND DR. WILLY CRESPO
TRANSITIONAL PRIEST

JUSTIN HANSEN, ORGANIST

Welcome Newcomers!

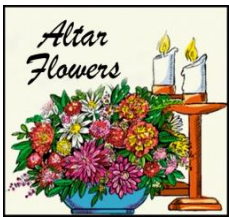
We are blessed to have you with us today. Please sign our newcomer's book at the back of the church, introduce yourself the priest, and join us for coffee hour in the Parish Hall immediately after the service, just across the courtyard.

Our hope is that you find a home among us, in a place where the love of God is shared, the mystery of grace is experienced and the joy and laughter of the Christian life is taught.

To learn more about St. Alban's call the office at (619) 444-8212 or email us at: generalbusiness@stalbanschurch.info. Also, check out our website at www.st-albans-church.org.



Children are welcome in our worship! Sunday School is available in the building across the courtyard at 9:30am. The children return to their parents at the church for the Communion service.



Flowers today are given to the glory of God

Have you ever wondered how we get such beautiful flowers at St. Alban's on Sundays? They are paid for by parishioners who dedicate flowers to commemorate a special occasion such as an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, a graduation, or in memory of departed loved ones. If you would like to dedicate flowers for a special occasion or memorial, you can do so by filling out a flower donation envelope found in the narthex (the main church entrance), place your check or cash in the envelope and put it in the offering plate or in one of the wooden boxes at the front or back of the church. Please remember to mark on your envelope who you are and who you are commemorating with your gift.

To maintain a peaceful worship environment, please silence your cell phone. Thank you!



ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED IN THE PARISH HALL ACROSS THE COURTYARD

The Entrance Rite

Prelude

All stand as you are able

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Jesus said: “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (**Matthew 5:14-16**)

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #109 - “The First Noel”

Christmas—White Candle-Christ’s Candle-“Happy birthday dear Jesus!”

Celebrant: Today we re-light all the previous candles and we light the center White Candle, also called the Christ Candle. “Happy birthday Jesus!” **Amen.**

Gloria – S280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY –

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Please be seated for the readings.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 62:6-12

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand
 and by his mighty arm:
 I will not again give your grain
 to be food for your enemies,
 and foreigners shall not drink the wine
 for which you have labored;
 but those who garner it shall eat it
 and praise the LORD,
 and those who gather it shall drink it
 in my holy courts.
 Go through, go through the gates,
 prepare the way for the people;
 build up, build up the highway,
 clear it of stones,
 lift up an ensign over the peoples.
 The LORD has proclaimed
 to the end of the earth:
 Say to daughter Zion,
 "See, your salvation comes;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him."
 They shall be called, "The Holy People,
 The Redeemed of the LORD";
 and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
 A City Not Forsaken."
Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM – Psalm 97

BCP pg. 726-727

<p>1 The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; * let the multitude of the isles be glad.</p> <p>2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, * righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.</p> <p>3 A fire goes before him * and burns up his enemies on every side.</p> <p>4 His lightnings light up the world; * the earth sees it and is afraid.</p> <p>5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, * at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.</p> <p>6 The heavens declare his righteousness, * and all the peoples see his glory.</p> <p>7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! * Bow down before him, all you gods.</p>	<p>8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, * because of your judgments, O LORD.</p> <p>9 For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; * you are exalted far above all gods.</p> <p>10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; * he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.</p> <p>11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, * and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.</p> <p>12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, * and give thanks to his holy Name.</p>
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THE EPISTLE – Titus 3:4-7

Lector: A reading from the book of Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Music – LEV (Lift Every Voice) #78, “Blessed be the name”

THE GOSPEL – Luke 2:8-20

Celebrant: The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon – The Reverend Dr Willy Crespo

Celebrant: Let us stand together and say the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All say together:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - *(Please stand or kneel if you are able)*

Intercessor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Intercessor: Let us pray.

Intercessor: We pray for those around us as they live their lives.

People: For those close, for those far away, and for those who have no one else to pray for them.

Intercessor: For our communities, especially El Cajon.

People: For friends, strangers, and the ties that keep them together.

Intercessor: For our nation – we pray for wisdom for its leaders, particularly our President, and for the health and safety for those serving in the military. Especially Riley, Lindzy, Denny, Cris, Ben, Bryan, Matt, Clarence, David Nye, Kristyn, Donovan, Christopher and Joshua Ibanez, Brandon, Travis Warner, and for all our veterans.

People: May it shine forth as a beacon of nobility and compassion.

Intercessor: We pray for this earth, your creation;

People: That we may be faithful stewards of its bounty.

Intercessor: We pray for unity in the Church, and peace for all its members;

People: For those who spread your Gospel by word or by action.

People: We pray for the leaders of our church; for Michael our presiding bishop, Susan our bishop, Willy our interim priest, and for all bishops, priests and deacons.

Intercessor: We pray for people in our world. Most especially for our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Myanmar (known as Burma), Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia, Eritrea, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Israel and Palestine, and all places on the earth where people are in danger and treated unfairly.

People: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: We lift up to you our concerns, praying especially for: all who are refugees, Hilda Ro & family, Christine P, Judith Taylor, Victoria, Mike & Penny, Ralph McMillen, Betty Johnsen, Georgina & Phil, Bonnie, George Elia, Ibtisam, Terri B, Amina Rofial, Lee Todd, Mu Tay, Ju Ju, Eugene & Malinda, Deborah Thomas, Almas Issa, Nancy S, Lanie Vigil, James P, Tom W, and Bill Smith.

(Please take a few moments to express thanks to God either vocally or silently.)

Intercessor: We pray for those who have died.

People: Grant rest to their souls and comfort to those they have left behind.

Intercessor: Almighty God, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new priest for our church. You know our special needs and the task that lies to our hand. Direct us in our search and give us insight to perceive the leader you would choose for us. And we further pray, O Lord, that in this time of waiting we may all devote ourselves afresh to your service, so that nothing be lost of the faithful work of the past, but rather that it may be brought to a rich harvest in the years to come. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebrant: Lord hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE CONFESSION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and neighbor:

Celebrant and People:

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you for all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you!

All: And also with you.

Please remember that Passing the Peace is part of our liturgy. It is a time to welcome each other and to share a phrase like: "The peace of the Lord be with you", and to hear a response in kind like "And also with you". It is not intended to be a time for discussion. It is better to keep discussions for before or after church, at Coffee Hour is a great place for fellowship. At this time, you are invited to greet others with a handshake, a wave or hug in peace as you are comfortable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Sunday School students join their families.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND TRAVELERS

If you had a birthday, anniversary last week or this week, or if you are going to travel soon, please stand / come forward and we will pray for you.

Birthday: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) _____ as he/she/they begin another year. Grant that he/she/they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen his/her/their trust in your goodness all the days of his/her/their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Many happy returns on the day of your birth. May seasons of joy be given. May God in his mercy prepare you on earth for a beautiful birthday in heaven. Amen.

Anniversaries: Lord, we thank you for this couple _____ and for all of the years that they have had together.

Today, as we celebrate their anniversary, our prayer is that you will continue to bless them. Lord, we pray that you will honor their commitment to each other and to You by granting them many more years of happiness together. Amen.

Travelers: O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel _____; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

OFFERTORY Hymn – LEV #27, "Away in a Manger"

Doxology – Hymnal 380 (all sing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sursum Corda (*Please stand, as you are able*)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus – S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might (repeat)

Heaven and earth are full,

Full of thy glory

Hosanna in the highest (repeat)

Blessed it he that comes

In the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest (repeat)

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: And now let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

(To be read in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.	And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

A moment of reverence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Invitation - Celebrant

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ.

It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;

you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time;

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed;

come, not because the church invites you;

it is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn – Hymnal #111, “Silent Night”

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn – *LEV #21, “Go Tell it on the Mountain”*

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Christ is risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude





PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers, praying especially for: all who are refugees, Hilda Ro & family, Christine P, Judith Taylor, Victoria, Mike & Penny, Ralph McMillen, Betty Johnsen, Georgina & Phil, Bonnie, George Elia, Ibtisam, Terri B, Amina Rofial, Lee Todd, Mu Tay, Ju Ju, Eugene & Malinda, Deborah Thomas, Almas Issa, Nancy S, Lanie Vigil, James P, Tom W, and Bill Smith.

Pray for those serving in the military especially: Riley, Lindzy, Denny, Cris, Ben, Bryan, Matt, Clarence, David Nye, Kristyn, Donovan, Christopher and Joshua Ibanez, Brandon, and for our veterans.

We pray for peace in the Holy Land most especially for our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Myanmar (known as Burma), Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia, Eritrea, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Israel and Palestine, and all places on the earth where people are in danger and treated unfairly, who are suffering deprivation, torture, and death for confessing Christ as their Lord.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray and give thanks today for the Clergy and people of St Michael's by-the-sea, in Carlsbad. And for the Diocese of Western Mexico and our companion relationship.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we give thanks today for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement.

Participants in Today's In-Person and Online Worship

Transitional Priest: The Reverend Dr Willy Crespo

Prayers: Judy Brown

Streaming Tech: Hsa Blu Moo, Hser Tha Law, Sa Nay Kyaw

Altar Assistant: Sa Nay Kyaw

Verger: Judy Brown

Reader (English):

Gospel Readers: Arabic Nawal Yousif, Mary Zori, Jamil Shorees, Ibtisam Bashee, Nahrien Patak, Intissar Razoq, Reem Karen Angelynn Than

Usher: Sharon Hathaway



Thank You for Your Support
During these challenging times, we
encourage you to support your home church.
If you have no home church and like what you see here
you may support St Alban's Ministries by going to:
<https://st-albans-church.org/giving>

Announcements for the week of 12/24/2023

2024 Kalendars are here

Get your 2024 Kalendar! The new Episcopal Kalendar is now available for 2024 for just \$5.00! A convenient size, and all the important dates relevant to the Episcopal calendar year are clearly designated with helpful information on the back of each month's page. Visit or call the St Alban's office, (T-F, 9am-1pm, 619-444-8212), and get yours today!

Weekly Bible Study on Zoom, with Fr Willy

Please join us on Wednesdays, 6-7pm, on Zoom. Contact Fr Willy for details.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83513559709> Meeting ID: 835 1355 9709 Passcode: 139092

Join us for our Monthly Forum

Our Forum will take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month, after coffee hour in the Parish Hall. The forums are popular church topics and will run for about 45 minutes. For example, our first forum, on 7/9, was on reactions to the sermon and any questions/ideas folks may want to share and raise. Please join us, we would love to hear your views.

Sunday School

Sunday School starts **each Sunday at 9:30 am**. The children will be attending in-person at St. Alban's Church in the Education Room. (If your child needs to attend the Sunday School via Zoom please contact Caroline Mahon Hurd for details.) Children who attend the in-person Sunday School can join their families for communion during the church service. Also, on months with 5 Sundays: on the 5th Sunday please bring your children to service for a children's sermon!

Sunday School email: stalbansundayschool@gmail.com

Please use this email with any questions about Sunday School, or special needs attendance.

Where to Find Other St Alban's Regular Meetings

The Monthly Vestry meeting -

The Vestry meeting is on the 3rd SUNDAY of each month following the worship service.

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am, We are now meeting in the sanctuary, and also this service can be found on the St Alban's Facebook page each Sunday morning if you prefer to attend from your home.

Bi-Lingual (Arabic) Eucharist Service at 8:30am, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month followed by the food distribution pantry.

Regular Notices

Prayer Requests: To make a request for the prayer chain or bulletin or to update requests, please call the St Alban's office: 619-444-8212, or email: generalbusiness@stalbanschurh.info. You are also invited to add a prayer request to be read in our Sunday public prayers. Names added will be listed for three weeks only, unless otherwise requested. We can also now receive prayer requests through our website: www.st-albans-church.org

Parking: If you are able-bodied, please park in the lot on Camden or the side streets, saving the prime spots for those who require a closer parking space. Thank you!

Report Misconduct: As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidences are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact Mr. John Seitman, jseitman@pacbell.net, 858-793-4555 or the Rev. Janet Wheelock, jwheelock@edsd.org, 952-240-8067.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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