

# The Centurion

The Parish Magazine of St. Alban's Church

1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, Maryland, 21085



My dear People:

I begin my column by wishing each of you what I always wish you at the beginning of Advent: Happy New Year! In western Christendom the season of Advent has long been reckoned as the beginning of the ecclesiastical year. This year at Saint Alban's we'll be introducing the beautiful blue vestment set for use during this season. Since our church, like most Anglican churches, follows the Roman Catholic color scheme we are used to seeing purple during Advent. The use of blue (or "Sarum" blue) for this season and other seasons is an old medieval English custom. Our set came about when Fr. Edelman donated a gorgeous old blue chasuble to the church a few years ago. We then used some bequest money from the late Suzanne Foster and a donation by Gayanne Basham to purchase the rest of the pieces of the set (a frontal, burse, and pulpit fall). Since Fr. Don and Gayanne are still with us I refer to it as a "memorial thanksgiving" set. It is a *memorial* to our beloved Suzanne, and a *thanksgiving to God* by Fr. Don and Gayanne. Another anonymous person donated an additional blue priest's stole for an assisting priest to use. All in all it will look very striking in the church, and will pick up some of the blues in the beautiful reredos designed and painted by former parishioner Chris Browne. The blue frontal has the word "alleluia" emblazoned across it. This is very appropriate for the season, as the "alleluia" is not omitted from the Mass. In that we see the distinction between Advent and Lent in terms of being "penitential" seasons. Many think of Advent as penitential because purple vestments are traditionally used and the *Gloria* is retired. This is not quite right, as the inclusion of the *Alleluia* shows. Advent is not penitential in the exact same sense or degree as Lent. Rather it is, as my liturgy professor, the late Fr. Tony Perez, S.S. once said, "a season of quiet expectation." What, or rather *who*, are we expecting? Jesus of course! We are expecting the coming of our great king... thinking *back* to his first Advent (that word, by the way, means "coming") as a babe in the manger, and simultaneously looking *forward* to his second coming as judge. The blue chasuble and chalice veil each have a stunning appliqué of a shield with a crown in it. What an incredible reminder that we are awaiting the coming of our king and defender and savior, Jesus Christ! The fact they are emblazoned on eucharistic vestments reminds us that our king comes to us *now* in the *here and present* under the forms of bread and wine. In every celebration of the Holy Eucharist he becomes present to us. The bread and wine, in an incredible mystery that no philosopher, theologian, scientist, or theoretician can explain, become, by the power of Jesus' words, his *sacramental* Body and Blood to be our offering to God and, at the same time, the food of eternal life for us. He is with us now! He comes to us now! Let rejoice in his presence.

Faithfully, your priest,

*J. Gordon Anderson*

December 2016

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UPCOMING PRAYER BOOK  
HOLY DAYS:

**Dec 14th, 16th, and 17th -  
Advent Ember Days**

Holy Communion at 12:00 p.m.

**Dec 21st - St. Thomas**

Holy Communion at 12:00 p.m.

**Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve**

Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

**Dec. 25th - Christmas Day**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Dec. 26th - St. Stephen**

Holy Communion at 12:00 p.m.

**Dec. 27th - St. John**

Holy Communion at 12:00 p.m.

**Dec. 28th - Holy Innocents**

Holy Communion at 12:00 p.m.

*Don't forget that we offer the Holy Communion Tuesday - Friday at 12:00 p.m. for other feasts and fasts of the Church! The schedule is found online.*

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 PARISH LIFE: *A Recap From Our Annual Meeting*

We had a great annual meeting on the Sunday before Advent! It was fantastic to see everything that has been done this past year at Saint Alban's Church.

In particular we were able to do a lot of much-needed work on our building. We got the entire building painted (10K), had a new front walk built and the office entrance completely restored (7K), installed a new water purification system (7K), installed a new air conditioner for the parish hall (5K), added a 32' pipe for the organ (\$300), installed new lights for the parish hall (\$600), purchased an Advent blue frontal and pulpit fall to complete that vestment set (\$1,000), and a black casket pall to be used at Requiem Masses (\$1,200).

We continued to support diocesan ministries (Lenten Appeal, Seminarian Support Sunday, etc.) and we increased our giving to the diocese. We also continue to support our seminarian Tyler Phass who is doing a great job and will soon be ordained.

A number of new people joined us over this past year and we are so thankful for them. The participation level in the church is great! Sunday school is going very strong and sometimes has up to ten children. The teen Sunday school lead by Father Anderson always has good discussion after the 10:00 service. The servers' guild and altar guild are doing a fabulous job. Mr. Glock's organ playing is spectacular and inspirational. Let us all be sure to thank him for all that he brings to the church and how he inspires us in our worship of God.

The vestry has been absolutely fantastic and has really done a lot of hard work and great planning to get us where we are. It has been very pleasing to see plans that were made a few years ago coming to fruition. Good planning and good execution is a key to success. Please be sure to pray for the vestry as much you pray for the clergy!

On that note, Father Don Edelmann and Father Bill Smith have blessed the church immeasurably with their excellent ministry and service. They have been a huge help and blessing to Fr. Anderson! Be sure to keep them in prayer and let them know how much you love and appreciate them.

Sean Sliney, a "friend of the church", has also been a huge blessing to Fr. Anderson. He helps out around the church in so many ways during the week and is a tremendous blessing to all who know him.

We welcomed two new vestrymen, Dora Nyborg (8:00 a.m.) and Chikwelu Umeh (10:00 a.m.). While Chikwelu has served on the vestry before, this is Dora's first time. It is nice to welcome him back and welcome here for the first time! Rotating off were Tom Dixon and

Daniel Kelly. They contributed greatly to the vestry these past three years and will be missed.

Looking ahead to 2017 there is a lot of stuff on the horizon. We need to do some work on the interior of the building. Some of this has been mentioned before. We need to address our entrances, the flooring in the kitchen, hallway, and other places. And we need to do some work on our pews. Ultimately we need to come up with a plan to reconfigure the nave and expand it. This has been discussed in the past, but the decision was made to focus on the exterior first. Now that we've done that we may move forward in these other areas.

We will make more of an effort to advertise in the new year, in particular by taking advantage of the free ad space in The Aegis, using Facebook and the internet, and printing signs to place out front. Keep in mind, though, that the best way to introduce people to Saint Alban's (and thereby to Christ) is to personally invite them to church... to a special event, service, etc. *Don't just assume that they would never like to join our church! Don't make the decision for them!* Invite them and let them decide for themselves!

We will continue to support Welcome-One Emergency Shelter as we have done for many years. We will also be making more of an effort to highlight our overseas missions in India, Philippines, Haiti, and Ecuador. There is a lot of good stuff happening in those places, and we've assisted them over the years, but we only tend to hear about during Lent. That will change, as we hope to have a quarterly "missions" focus on each of these four regions... what's happening there and how we can help.

Local outreach was discussed at the meeting. This is very important. We need to pray about what we can do in terms of starting some sort of "signature" ministry focus in our community. Not a "fundraiser activity" (e.g. Yard Sale, Pony Show, etc.) but a "ministry" – service for the Gospel. It is a hard and vexing problem because we are all so spread out geographically, and because our community is in flux. What was once "horsey" country is now a sprawling suburban bedroom community. It is international and interracial. It is modern... and yet our church sits in the middle of a field. So pinpointing a particular kind of ministry and focus is not as easy as one would think. But if we pray about it, and think, and place, God will show us the way. He always does. Let us make it a special point to pray about this in the new year and look forward to an exciting new year in general. ✠

MINISTRY: *Gift List for Tyler Phass*

Our postulant, Tyler Phass, is progressing very well in his studies at Reformed Episcopal Seminary. If all goes well he will probably be ordained sometime in 2017. The parish is taking up a collection to help Tyler buy the items he needs for his ministry. These things can be expensive and since being a priest is not financially lucrative he will need help getting them. The parish helped Fr. Anderson in the exact same way back in 2006, and he still uses every one of the things that that were given to him! But whereas a general collection was taken for Fr. Anderson the vestry thought that for the future Fr. Phass it would be best to offer specific items that people can buy him. These are expensive, but keep in mind they will be used throughout his life. They will be around as long as he is and probably even longer! Here is a list of things he will need and their estimated cost:

- 1) **Chalice and Paten.** The very symbol of the priesthood, the sacred vessels he uses to exercise his sacerdotal ministry by offering the Holy Eucharist. \$2,000
- 2) **Pyx.** A special container used to carry consecrated Hosts to sick. \$100
- 3) **Oil Stock.** A special contained used to hold oils consecrated by the bishop for use at baptisms, consecrations, ordinations, and anointing of the sick. \$185
- 4) **“Manual for Priests.”** A book that contains extra blessings and services used at various times throughout the Christian year. \$45
- 5) **Ribbon stole.** A two-sided (white and purple), compact stole worn when visiting sick and shut-ins that can be easily carried with a pyx and oil stock. \$60
- 6) **Purple Stole.** For the seasons of Advent, Pre-Lent, Lent, and the Rogation and Ember Days, as well as certain votive Masses. \$200
- 7) **Red Stole.** For use in the season of Pentecost, on saints days (martyrs), and certain votive Masses. \$200
- 8) **White Stole.** For use in Christmastide, on Epiphany, Eastertide, Ascensiontide, Trinity Sunday, and other holy days, as well as on certain saint’s days and votive Masses. \$200
- 9) **Green Stole.** For use in Trinitytide and Epiphanytide. \$200
- 10) **Black Stole.** For use in Requiem (funeral) Masses and Good Friday and All Souls’ Day. \$200
- 11) **Purple Chasuble (five piece set).** The set consists of a chasuble, stole, maniple, burse, and veil. Purple is for the seasons of Advent, Pre-Lent, Lent, and the Rogation and Ember Days, as well as certain votive Masses. \$1,000
- 12) **White Chasuble (five piece set).** The set consists of a chasuble, stole, maniple, burse, and veil. For use in Christmastide, on Epiphany, Eastertide, Ascensiontide, Trinity Sunday, and other holy days, as well as on certain saint’s days and votive Masses. \$1,000
- 13) **Green Chasuble (five piece set).** The set consists of a chasuble, stole, maniple, burse, and veil. For use in Trinitytide and Epiphanytide. \$1,000
- 14) **Purple Chasuble (five piece set).** The set consists of a chasuble, stole, maniple, burse, and veil. Purple is for the seasons of Advent, Pre-Lent, Lent, and the Rogation and Ember Days, as well as certain votive Masses. \$1,000
- 15) **Black Chasuble (five piece set).** The set consists of a chasuble, stole, maniple, burse, and veil. For use in Requiem (funeral) Masses and Good Friday and All Souls’ Day. \$1,000
- 16) **Amice (2).** A head covering worn under the alb that protects the other vestments from being soiled. As it is being put on the priest prays, “Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation upon my head, to repel the assaults of the devil.” \$32/each
- 17) **Alb (2).** A white (“alba” means “white”) garment worn underneath the chasuble that symbolizes the purity of Christ. As it is being put on the priest prays, “Cleanse me, O Lord, and purify my heart, that, being made white in the blood of the Lamb I may attain everlasting joy.” \$75/each
- 18) **Girdle (2).** A rope belt used to hold alb and stole in place. It symbolizes the ropes used to bind Christ’s hands at his crucifixion. As he puts it on the priest prays, “Gird me, O Lord, with the girdle of purity, and quench in me the fire of concupiscence, that grace of temperance and chastity may remain in me.” \$26/each
- 19) **Clergy shirts (5).** One shirt for each work day of the week. A good quality shirt will easily last ten years. \$48/shirt.
- 20) **4 Pack of collars and collar buttons.** The white collar a priest wears and the button to attach it to the black clergy shirt. \$55.

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- 21) Biretta.** The special hat worn by clergy upon entering and leaving the church and at other times during the liturgy. It is always worn at church only – never out on the street! \$15
- 22) Tippet.** The black “scarf” worn by the priest when he recites the “choir offices” of Morning and Evening Prayer. It is traditionally worn with his academic hood. \$95
- 23) Black Suit.** Needed to wear at the office, on visits, at dinners, meetings, and more! \$500

- 24) Surplice.** The white gown worn over the cassock at the choir offices and during the liturgy. \$150

If there is something else that is not on this list that you would like to buy for Tyler please let Fr. Anderson know. Please know that these are estimates. In some cases the estimate has been made a bit higher to cover shipping or to allow for variations. These items are expensive, but they are for the ministry of our Lord, and they are very well made and last for a long time. Perhaps, in closing, the best way to think of, let’s say, a chalice and paten is not as \$2,000, but as \$3.85/Sunday for ten years! ✠

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PARISH NEWS & UPDATES: *Please note these important items!*

### Need Help Following Holy Day Services?

On “Prayer Book” Holy Days (Holy Days found in the Book of Common Prayer) our custom is to read the first part of Morning Prayer and then segue into the service of Holy Communion. If you would like to follow the entire service on your own, including the readings for Morning Prayer, then you are encouraged to purchase a *1928 Book of Common Prayer with King James Bible & Apocrypha*. This is what the rector uses to conduct these services. Using this book is very convenient, because it means that one does not have to flip back and forth between a Bible and the Prayer Book for Morning (or Evening) Prayer. They may be purchased in hardback (\$80) or leather (\$120). Now, if you attend the other daily Masses and would like to follow along, and/or if you would like to follow along at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass and not rely on the the service leaflet, then you are encouraged to purchase “*The Peoples Anglican Missal*” (\$25) published by the Anglican Parishes Association. This book contains all of the devotional additions to the Prayer Book Eucharist to which we’ve grown accustomed. It’s expanded calendar includes many more saints, biblical and extra biblical, that the church venerates. It also contains excellent devotions and explanations of different aspects of the service. Please see Fr. Anderson if you would like to purchase one of these.

### Daily Mass

Saint Alban’s will now offer Mass on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at noon. Please avail yourself of these services from time to time, as the Mass is the main offering of the Church to God the Father, offered in union with Jesus, our great high priest. Note: Prayer Book Holy Day Communion services will also now be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. rather than their old time

(10:00 a.m.). Please, however, always be sure to check the schedule and website and Facebook page to make sure the service is at the time you think it is as occasionally the time will change or the service will be called off (such as if the priest is out of town). You may also call Fr. Anderson before you are planning on coming to make sure the service will be on for that day.

### Missions Minute

Did you know that the Anglican Province of America has missionary partnerships in Haiti, Ecuador, India, and the Philippines? We operate schools, medical missions, and of course churches. We also train clergy and provide them with transportation and salaries. We provide salaries for teachers at the parochial schools, and sponsor poor children so they may attend these schools. In each of the four quarters of 2017 the hope is to collect funds to send to one of these four mission regions. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements and information about how you can help spread the Gospel of Christ to those in need in other parts of the world.

### Reminders

“The minister is ordered, from time to time, to advise the People, whilst they are still in health, to make Wills arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, and, when of ability, to leave Bequests for religious and other charitable uses.” (BCP, p. 320) ✠