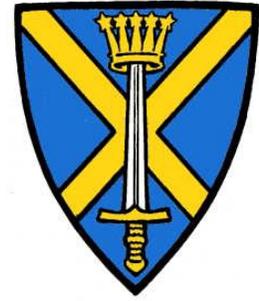


# The Centurion

The Parish Magazine of St. Alban's Church

1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, Maryland, 21085



My dear People:

Happy New Year to one and all! I hope your holidays were full of joy. My family and I want to thank the church for the nice cards and generous Christmas gifts. Saint Alban's Church is certainly full of kind and loving people! It is a joy to serve as your pastor. Our Advent and Christmas services went well overall. Unfortunately, despite advertising on several fronts, we got no new visitors from the community. We did get a number of positive responses to our advertising, but none of these resulted in any visits. I had wanted to try a circular mailing, as some people have said that "snail mail" is making a comeback, and that people are more likely to read a postcard in their mailbox than an e-mail in their inbox. So we may try that around Easter. The visitors we did get for Christmas —local relatives of parishioners— came because they were invited by their family. Make note of that! Word of mouth and a personal invitation, and perhaps a personal testimony along with it (what our church means to you) is the absolute best form of advertising. Think of people you know who do not have a church home —who are not churchgoers— and invite them to visit us for special services and events. The way to come to know Christ, grow in faith in him, receive his divine grace, and find eternal salvation is to enter into the life of Church, which is his mystical Body. So we *want* people to join our parish. We don't want them to be part of any old body that calls itself a "church", because the mere fact that some organization calls itself or claims to be a "church" or "the" church (e.g. the "Church" of Scientology) doesn't mean it actually *is* a valid expression of the Christ's Holy Catholic Church. Saint Alban's exists to glorify God through traditional worship and compassionate service. We are here to worship God almighty and be used of him to bring others to a knowledge and love of him through his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We are not a club of relatively like-minded people whose only purpose is to get more members. On the contrary we are a visible expression and incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. So please invite people to join us for worship and fellowship. reach out to those in need, those who do not know the Lord Jesus and let them know that we'd love to have them enter into our parish life and fellowship. Let me close with something my dad taught me when I was in sales, and which I am sure I've told you all before. *Don't make a person's decision to visit or join our parish for them!* In other words, don't size someone up and say, "Ah, well, Joe (or Jen, or Jan, or Jack, etc.) would never like St. Alban's so I am not even going to bother inviting him (or her)." Just invite people and then let *them* decide if they wish to take you up on your offer or not. When I was in sales some of my biggest sales came from the most unlikely sources. So, onward and upward, my friends! May God bless each of us in 2018 and beyond.

Faithfully, your priest,

*J. Gordon Anderson*

January 2018

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UPCOMING SERVICES:

**Jan. 1st - The Circumcision of Christ**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Jan. 5th - The Epiphany**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Jan. 12th - Of the Octave**

Healing Mass at 10:00 a.m.

**Jan. 19th - St. Wulfstan**

Requiem Mass at 10:00 a.m.

**Jan. 30th - King Charles the Martyr**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Feb. 2nd - The Purification of St. Mary the Virgin**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Feb. 2nd - The Purification of St. Mary the Virgin & Blessing of Throats for St. Blaise**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Feb. 9th - St. Cyril of Alexandria**

Healing Mass at 10:00 a.m.

**Feb. 14th - Ash Wednesday**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

CHURCH HISTORY: *The Martyrdom of King Charles I of England in Context*

Those who purchased an Ordo Kalendar will notice that on January 30th we remember the martyrdom of King Charles I of England in 1649. Charles (reigned 1625-1649) was the son of James I, who gave us the King James Bible. He was the second monarch of the House of Stuart, the Scottish royal family, which had taken over England after the death of the childless Queen Elizabeth I.

After the Reformation the English monarchs had their hands full trying to keep peace in the kingdom. The nation was full of factions, each vying for control of political and religious life. With most Roman Catholics having fled the country, gone into hiding, or converting to the state church, Elizabeth I had only to broker a settlement, between the various remaining Protestant factions to maintain peace. The main parties that had to be reconciled were the established church - the Church of England, and the Puritans. Generally speaking, Elizabeth was always able to keep a tenuous peace between these parties during her reign.

Yet throughout her reign the religious tension between these parties was always just beneath the surface, ready to erupt in controversy or even violence. When the House of Stuart ascended the throne the Puritans thought they would finally have a monarch sympathetic with their interests, since James I came from Puritan and Presbyterian Scotland. Unfortunately for them, James loathed the Puritans and much of what they stood for. Among other things he was a passionate advocate for the divine right of kings, and believed in the near absolute power of the king. Related to this, he was a vigorous believer in the doctrine of the episcopacy (that the Church is to be governed by bishops). In his mind monarchy and episcopacy went together. If there were no bishops then there could be no kings. James therefore did not entertain the desire of some of the Puritans to change the polity of the English Church from an episcopal to a presbyterian model.

These despotic tendencies and doctrinal positions were passed on to his son, Charles I, his successor to the English throne. Charles was less politically shrewd than his father, and so was much more willing to put his beliefs into practice. One of his plans was to force the Church of Scotland, which was Presbyterian, to accept the Episcopacy and the Book of Common Prayer. A new Prayer Book for Scotland was compiled, but it was considered too Catholic, and its delivery was greatly botched. A revolt ensued, and in 1639 a war between Scotland and England. While this was going on Charles and his associates pushed through the church the passage

of several new canons designed to strengthen the tie between monarch and church.

By 1641 parliament was getting very tired of King Charles. Politically, they loathed his despotism, and religiously, the Puritans did not like the reforms he and his archbishop (William Laud) made in the church, finding them too Romish and high church for their tastes. By 1642 a civil war broke out. It was the divine right of kings and episcopacy versus parliamentary rule and presbyterianism. Both sides believed that God was with them, and fought from the conviction that their beliefs were biblical, and good for the life of the church. During the civil war Puritan thugs and parliamentarian troops ransacked churches and destroyed many valuable works of art and appointments used for the worship of the Church.

Charles was defeated in the civil war and eventually taken prisoner. Oliver Cromwell, who was the head of the anti-royalists, established a puritan dictatorship (for lack of a better term) with himself at the head. By the time the war ended in 1645 the Book of Common Prayer was banned, and the episcopal structure of the Church demolished. In 1649 Charles, who had been locked up in prison, was hauled before a special court where he tried, sentenced to death, and then publicly beheaded. His execution, however, had the opposite effect intended by the Puritans overlords. The people were horrified by it, and eventually the monarchy was restored.

In spite of his despotic tendencies, Charles is considered a martyr of the English Church. This is because of the stand he took for the episcopacy, and his firm belief in catholic polity even to the point of death. From 1662-1859 there was a special Holy Day in the Prayer Book commemorating his death, making him someone as close to a saint as the English Church can proclaim.

In 1894 the *Society of King Charles the Martyr* (SKCM) was established in England. Today it is a worldwide society that meets once a year to remember the martyrdom of King Charles.

Locally there is an historic anglo-catholic parish in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood of Baltimore, Grace & St. Peters, which has a gorgeous shrine to King Charles the Martyr. If you look online at Wikipedia entry on the SKCM you can see a picture of this beautiful shrine. Or you can visit it, and light a candle and say a prayer in honor of this man who, though imperfect, stood firmly for retaining the catholic structure of the Church of England. And for that we all owe him a debt of gratitude. ✠

*(Reprinted from the January 2013 edition of The Centurion)*

## DIOCESAN NEWS: Christmas and New Year Greetings from Bishop Grundorf

To: All Clergy and Leadership of the Anglican Province of America and our Communion Partners, Christmas and New Year Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

What an eventful year 2017 has been in so many ways. There have been so many blessings in the life of our Church, it is hard to recount them all in a brief letter. But before thinking about the blessings of this earthly life, may we take the time to be thankful for the greatest gift of all, the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we think upon his coming as a babe in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, let us thank him for the Love this demonstrates to each of us. The God of the Universe cares about you and me, willful sinners though we be. What can we possibly give to him in return for his Love to us? One of the wonderful Christmas Carols in our Hymnal, In the bleak mid-winter, the final verse says, "What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him—Give my heart."

When it comes to reflecting upon what the Lord has done for us in the past year, I know I speak for all of us, in thanking the Lord for the men who have given themselves to the ministry of the Church. This also includes their wives and those women who have given themselves to serve as deaconesses. When we look around at the culture in which we live, they are committing as Traditional Anglican to marching against the grain. This is no easy life, but one that will mean walking in the steps of our Lord. It will also mean that our established parishes must be willing to provide a place of training for our new men before they are on their own. This is part of our challenge for the new year and the years to come.

I want to express thanks to our Global Partners which are part of our Anglican Province of America. We were able to visit the Anglican Church of India with Bishop Jaya Rao in Andhra Pradesh and most of the village churches in that far-flung Province. We also visited the

Good Shepherd School in Telangana Province which we helped build with OM (Good Shepherd Ministries). For those who do not know, all of those we minister to are Dalit (out-castes) of the Hindu Religion. A mission team including Bishop Chad Jones and Dean Ralph Waterhouse visited the Indigenous Pastoral of the Anglican Province of America in Ecuador for Ordination and Confirmation. We also give thanks for Fr. Mews Guerrier of our Church and School in Haiti. Father Mews and his wife Gisele lost their young daughter, Faisa, in a tragic car accident this year. And, also pray for our Churches in the Philippines under Fr. Joel Arellano. All of these Global Partners are under the Pastoral leadership of Vicar General David Haines who administers and also leads the missionary visits.

Finally, the great blessing of the Joint Anglican Synods in Atlanta, Georgia, was a highlight of the year. Praise God for the work and good faith on the part of each Jurisdiction of the G-4. It has been a pleasure working with the Archbishops/Bishop and getting to know them all on a personal basis. The Synod(s) went extremely well and the final plenary session was consummated with a Eucharist of Unity.

God bless each of you this Christmas and Christmastide and may the love of God through our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with all Spiritual Blessings.

Mary joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ✠

*The Most Rev. Walter H. Grundorf, D.D. Presiding Bishop,  
Anglican Province of America*



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

### January 2017 Update from Seminarian Mason Waldhauser

Dear Church Family,

It has been so wonderful to be back home with you all this winter break. You have been very warm in welcoming me back and allowing me to preach these two times. I especially enjoyed the prolonged opportunity to meditate on those passages before my sermons; it was really nourishing to me to just sit with the same text and see how the Spirit speaks to me from it. I appreciate your support as I begin to find my own preaching style. I feel completely recharged and ready for my second semester. I will be taking four classes, and I am most excited for homiletics, the preaching class. Hopefully you'll be able to notice a difference next time I'm back. Last semester was pretty intense, especially finals week, but all the exams went well. The most intimidating was Fr. Pryor's church music exam, which was 32 pages long! Hebrew wasn't the easiest either, but I enjoyed the class well-enough to sign up for Hebrew 2 as an elective. It's a reading course, so instead of memorizing paradigms and vocab words, I will be spending my time with actual passages. I'm really excited! I have my interview for postulancy later this month at the APA's winter conference, so please pray for me on the morning of Wednesday, January 24. It will be nice to get away briefly from the Wisconsin winter. I am thankful that I live in a central location on campus, in the same building as the chapel and classrooms, so I never have too long of a walk in the cold. It was a really nice Christmas being back here with you all. I remember you in my prayers and wish you a happy new year!

Best,

Mason

Mr. Mason Waldhauser  
Nashotah House Theological Seminary  
2777 Mission Road  
Nashotah, WI 53058

### 2018 Easter Proclamation

Know ye beloved brethren that as by God's favor we rejoiced in the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so too we announce to you the glad tidings of the Resurrection of Our Savior. The Sunday of Septuagesima will fall on the twenty-eighth day of January. Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the most holy Lenten fast on the fourteenth day of February. On the first day of April you shall celebrate with greatest joy the holy Pasch of Our Lord

Jesus Christ. The Ascension of Our Lord will occur on the tenth day of May. The feast of Whitsunday on the twentieth day of May. The thirty-first day of May is the Feast of Corpus Christi. The second day of December will usher in the Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be honor and glory eternally. Amen.

*This proclamation, often sung to the tune of the Exsultet (the chant used in blessing the Paschal Candle), dates back to pre-literate times when these matters had to be advised in speech and remembered. The musical cadence when chanted helped memory, and established the connection of all feasts to Easter.*

### 2018 Clergy Conference

Father Anderson and Mason Waldhauser will be attending the diocesan clergy conference at the end of January in Palatka, Florida. The host parish is All Saints' Anglican Church. Please pray for a productive and refreshing time. Also, Mason will be meeting with the Bishop's Advisory Committee and the Board of Examining Chaplains to see if he may be formally admitted as a postulant for Holy Orders. Additionally, he will have to take a basic Prayer Book and Bible exam. Please keep him in prayer!

### Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Party

Please join us on Tuesday, February 13th for our annual Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras party. We'll have Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. followed by a lovely dinner. Mark your calendars now! More details to come.

### 2018 Lenten Activities and Study

We have a very short Epiphany season this year — just three weeks. That is followed by the three week season of pre-Lent, and then finally comes the forty days of Lent. In addition to our usual Holy Day services, as well as our monthly Healing and Requiem Masses, we will have Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays at noon. We'll also have a Lenten study. This year for our study we will be looking at the Four Cardinal Virtues: Prudence, Temperance, Justice, and Fortitude. These virtues form the basis of the moral life. The day and time of meeting will be announced. As always we will begin the study with a service of Evening Prayer and dinner will be provided. May God help us to keep a holy Lent! ☩