

The Centurion

The Parish Magazine of St. Alban's Church

1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, Maryland, 21085



My dear People:

It is very fascinating watching children's television with my son. Some of our favorite shows are Transformers Rescue Bots, Curious George, Peppa Pig, Jake and the Neverland Pirates, Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, and Wild Kratts. It is amazing seeing what Evan learns from watching these shows. He knows all of the characters' names, and what they do, and he does a great job following the story line. One of the things that is so interesting to me about these shows in comparison to the ones I watched as a child is how didactic they are... *especially with what may be considered contemporary "special interests."* Rescue Bots, for example, always makes sure to show the human partners of the robots buckling their seat belts as they jump into the bots. Curious George has numerous female characters cast as construction workers, scientists, and other roles that most older shows would have depicted as males. The Cat in the Hat has turned Nick into a black boy. Wild Kratts teaches kids to take care of the environment. Not a single authority figure - even police chief Charlie Burns in Rescue Bots - carries a weapon. Most of the programs are very multicultural in their cast of characters as well, and also depict more heavy set people than I remember. All of this - safety, inclusivity, multiculturalism, etc. - is good, refreshing, and welcome. It also makes good business sense for the producers of these shows! *But nowhere in any of these shows is there reference to God or religion.* The same goes for many of the children's books that Evan reads (and like daddy, he has a huge library of books). Many books don't even show a church steeple in background pictures! The fact is that the aggressive secularism of our culture and the media industry is not interested in promoting anything related to God or religion. So where will kids learn about God? Primarily from mom and dad. If my wife and I did not take the time each day to teach my son about the Christian faith, and read him Bible stories, and bring him to church, he would know *nothing* about God or religion. *Christian parents today have to be especially intentional about practicing their Christian faith and teaching it to their children.* Otherwise their kids will grow up in a spiritual and moral vacuum. They are *not* going to get religion through TV or culture. Those days are long gone. Parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents - and any adult Christian - should take time each day to teach the children in their lives the Christian faith... who God is, who Jesus is, and what Jesus did for us on the cross, and what God expects from us. We learn many good things from culture - a lot of which is residual from our more Christianized past - but TV and Dr. Seuss books will not teach children the story of Jonah and the Whale, David and Goliath, and the other stories that form our faith and shaped our culture and nation. Let us take time to teach the young people in our lives about God. If we don't do it who will?

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

J. Gordon Anderson

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UPCOMING HOLY DAYS:

October 18th - St. Luke

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

October 28th - St. Simon & St. Jude

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

November 1st - All Saints Day

Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m.

November 27th - Thanksgiving Day

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

December 1st - St. Andrew

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

December 17th, 19th, 20th - Ember Days

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

December 22nd - St. Thomas

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

December 24th - 25th Christmas

Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day.

LITURGY & WORSHIP: *The History and Symbolism of Vestments*

I was recently asked by some parishioners about the use of vestments in the worship of church, and why we use such fine appointments in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and in other rites when Jesus himself did not. After talking about it a bit they suggested that this topic might make for an interesting Tuesday evening class series! We may just do that once we restart that event. In the meantime we can explore the topic in a brief article here in *The Centurion*. (As an aside, you may want to reread the article "Spending Money on Worship" in the May 2013 issue of *The Centurion*, available on the parish website. That article explains why the church often spends large sums of money to have certain specially designed appointments in general.)

Most Christian vestments seen today originated as everyday clothing worn in the Roman Empire. This is common in many of the world's religions. Clothing that was worn at the time the religion came into being was preserved for cultic use as secular fashions evolved. What follows is a brief description of what the clergy wear when celebrating the Holy Eucharist.

Cassock: This is the long, usually black, garment that is worn underneath the vestments. In the medieval west and later it was the sign that the man was a priest. The cassock is still the official outfit of the clergy. Strictly speaking the cassock is not a vestment.

Amice: This large, square cloth was originally a head covering. Later it came to be worn around the neck so as to keep the rest of the vestments free from oily dirty skin. The prayer traditionally said while putting on amice refers to it as the "Helmet of Salvation," referring to its origins as a sort of hood.

Alb: Coming from the Latin word for "white," the alb is the long, white gown worn over the cassock, and under the chasuble. It symbolizes the purity of Christ as it says in the accompanying prayer: "Cleanse me, O Lord, and purify my heart, that, by being made white in the Blood of the Lamb..." It was originally the under tunic worn by people in Roman days. Sometimes they are decorated with "apparels" (colored bands of fabric) or with lace. But they are always white.

Girdle: This is a rope belt used to hold the alb up and in place. The prayer that accompanies it goes: "Gird me, O Lord, with the girdle of purity, and quench in me the fire of concupiscence, that the grace of temperance and chastity may abide in me." On one hand it symbolizes priestly chastity, and on the other hand it symbolizes the ropes with which our Lord was bound at his crucifixion.

Maniple: This is small, rectangular vestment that hangs from the priest's left forearm. It was originally a handkerchief or towel that was used to wipe things up. Bishop Jones has said that it is a very important vestment because it especially symbolizes that the priest is a servant. The prayer said while putting it on goes: "Grant me, O Lord, to bear the light burden of grief and sorrow, that I may with gladness take the reward of my labor." The maniple often has a small cross embroidered on it that is kissed before putting it on or taking it off.

Stole: This is the scarf-like vestment worn around the neck. Its origins are murky. But some scholars think that it is derived from special ensigns worn by important Roman officials. The stole is worn by clergy in major orders: deacons, priests, and bishops. A deacon wears it over his left shoulder, a priest around his neck and crossed in the middle, and a

bishop around his neck hanging straight down. The vesting prayer that goes with it reads: "Give me again O Lord the stole of immortality, which I lost by the transgression of my first parents, and although I am unworthy to come unto thy holy sacrament, grant that I may attain everlasting felicity."

Chasuble: The chasuble is the outermost, poncho-like garment worn by priests or bishops when celebrating the Mass. It is derived from an outer cloak worn by ancient Romans. Later, in the church, it came to be understood as the "seamless garment" worn by Christ at his crucifixion. The prayer that accompanies it goes: "O Lord, who has said, 'My yoke is easy, and my burden light,' grant that I may so bear it to attain thy grace. Amen."

From time to time at divine service we see other vestments as well. Here is a brief list of some of the more common ones.

Cope: This is a large cape derived from the same clothing as the chasuble. It is traditionally used in processions and in the celebration of certain rites, such as the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Copes may be worn by laity from time to time on certain occasions.

Dalmatic and Tunicle: These are worn by deacon and subdeacon respectively at High Mass. The former is believed to be derived from a popular type of clothing worn in Dalmatia in the 2nd century, while the latter is derived from an ancient overcoat. Now they are virtually indistinguishable from each other, except that the tunicle is less ornate.

Next time we will look at the colors of the Church Year and some other vestments worn by bishops, and worn for non-eucharistic services. For further reading on these and other vestments it is recommended that you look them up online on Wikipedia. ☩

ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES: *A Report on Some of our Recent Inter-Church Activities*

In recent days St. Alban's has been blessed with wonderful interactions with some other parishes. It is nice to see that even though Christendom is somewhat divided along doctrinal and other lines we can still try to get along and help each other out as needed. Here is a brief overview of just a few things that have happened in the last couple months.

This past summer Church of the Resurrection (ACNA) in Lutherville had a seminarian intern, Mr. Bryan Biba of Duke Divinity School. Their leadership approached us about having him work with us a bit so as to give him exposure to our more high church way of being Anglican. Those of us who met him were blessed by his presence and preaching. He went with the rector to do some sick visits and communion services in town. It was such a good experience that we hope to make this a regular thing with Church of the Resurrection in the summer.

In September Fr. Anderson went and participated in an ordination at St. Stephen's Church (ACA) in Timonium. And only days earlier the rector of St. Stephen's, Fr. Hawtin, and one of their deacons, Fr. Belt, assisted Frs. Anderson and Edelmann at the Solemn High Requiem Mass for Raymond Harting, beloved husband of

Gayle Harting. The funeral was held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Glen Arm. The rector, Dr. Fran Stanford, very graciously let us use Trinity Church for the Mass. At the funeral we used a beautiful black casket pall lent to us by Fr. Frederick Thomas, SSC, of Grace and St. Peter's Church (Episcopal) in Mt. Vernon. It was a joy to be able to partner with other churches on behalf of the Harting family.

In our own neighborhood, the Rev'd Thomas Allen, SSC, graciously let us use St. Mary's Church for the Phass-Dixon wedding. We also share the Brightview-Avondell Holy Communion service with Fr. Allen and St. Mary's. And earlier in the year Fr. Anderson was invited to one of the Lenten Lunches. Our good relations with St. Mary's no doubt helped us get the permission of Bishop Sutton of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland to have Fr. Bill Smith assist in our diocese and at St. Alban's as needed.

And who can forget how Mt. Calvary Church (RCC) lent us the white High Mass set this past Christmas.

These are just a few examples of the ways that other churches in the area have worked with us and us with them. We give thanks to God for their charity and help! And we have offered *our help* to them when they need it. Let us thank God for the way that our churches can work together and assist each other out as needed! ✠

CHURCH MUSIC: *Thank You, Barbara Jones, For Over Twenty Years Of Faithful Service!*

On November 1st, All Saints' Day, Barbara Jones will be retiring as church organist to devote more time to her ailing husband, Ron. She has given tirelessly of her time, treasure, and talent over the years, and her faithfulness and love for God is well known to everyone in our community. Most of us know that in addition to serving as organist of St. Alban's Barbara is very active in ministering to the homeless through Welcome-One in Belcamp, MD. She is a case worker with this organization and works with clients and their families as they transition out of homelessness. As organist she has cheerfully done everything the rector has asked, including learning two new Mass settings (*Missa Marialis*, which we sing during pre-Lent and Lent; and *St. Stephen Service*, which we sing during the summer). She has played at baptisms, weddings, and funerals for countless people in the church and community. Barbara has touched many lives over the years through her ministry at St. Alban's Church. Thank you, Barbara for your faithful service! By popular demand, the rector is appointing Barbara "Organist Emeritus." So we will no doubt hear Barbara play the organ from time to time.

Our new organist is Mr. R. Warren Glock. Mr. Glock, or Warren as he prefers to be called, is a well-known and highly accomplished organist and music educator in the Baltimore area. Though he has already played for a few services here at church his official start date is November 2nd. Warren has bachelors and masters degrees in organ and music education from the Peabody Conservatory, University of Maryland, and Morgan State University. He also studied piano, voice, and musical theater. Warren began studying organ as a boy in Baltimore City. Over the years he has played at many of Baltimore's most prestigious churches. Most recently he was the organist and choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church in Towson. He taught music in the public school system and at different colleges for many years, and has also directed innumerable choirs. In addition, he has worked as an organ consultant/designer/demonstrator/tonal regulator for Baldwin, Moeller, Wicks, Casavant, Allen, and Rogers organ makers. Warren and his wife Sandra live in the Cub Hill section of Baltimore, within walking distance from Father Anderson! Please be sure to welcome Warren to the parish and show him the love and hospitality for which we are known. ✠

PARISH NEWS: *News, Updates, and Thoughts from St. Alban's Church*

Men's Breakfast and Fellowship, Oct. 4th:

Men of the parish interested in getting together for breakfast and fellowship please join us this Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at Bob Evans (Rt. 24 and Bel Air South Pkwy.)

Children's Church School, Start Time TBA

Very soon we will have a Sunday school for children at the 10:00 a.m. service. A few volunteers have stepped up and offered their services so young children do not have to sit in the church and create a disturbance during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. While a child's behavior in church might not disturb his or her parents it may very well (and often *does* I have been told) disturb others. Sunday school will give these kids a chance to be themselves and learn the stories of the Bible and about the Book of Common Prayer and the Christian faith in a kid-friendly way, and allow parents and adults to focus on worship. Parents, be sure to take advantage of this offering!

Art Museum Tour, Saturday, Oct. 11th

Join us on Saturday, October 11th at 10:00 a.m. as we tour the Baltimore Museum of Art! Father Anderson will lead a tour that will focus especially on the museum's stunning collection of modern art. We will begin with the Impressionists, who were the first modern artists, and work our way up all the way to some important contemporary artists. The museum is located near Johns Hopkins University and is free! Bring a friend.

Provincial Synod, Wednesday - Friday, Oct. 15th - 17th

Fr. Anderson and Frannie Flatau will be away on these days at our triennial provincial synod. This year it is being held in Illinois. Similar to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, at provincial synod all of the dioceses of the church (the "province") meet. As always, Fr. Anderson will be available by phone, text, and e-mail in case there are any emergencies.

Care Packages for College Kids, Oct. 19th

It is once again time to send some goodies to our student members and show them our love! Please bring in items to spread among five students by October 19th.

Retirement Party for Barbara Jones, Saturday, Nov. 1st

On Saturday, November 1st, the feast of All Saints, we will have a service of Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m. followed by a dinner in honor of our longtime organist Barbara Jones. Please make plans to come out for this important event and to say thank you to Barbara for her years of faithful service.

Annual Meeting, Sunday, Nov. 16th

Join us on Sunday, November 16th for our annual meeting. The time of the meeting has not yet been decided, but it is important that everyone show up to discuss the business of the parish, elect new vestrymen, and approve the 2015 budget.

Episcopal Visit, Sunday, Nov. 23rd

On Sunday, November 23rd, the Rt. Rev'd Chandler Holder Jones, SSC will visit the parish to preach and celebrate the 10:00 a.m. Mass. "Bishop Chad" as he is known is a delightful fellow who used to serve as rector of St. Alban's. Please be sure to come and welcome him that Sunday.

St. Alban's Choir, Dec. 2014

Those of you who are interested in singing in a Christmas choir should see our organist, Mr. R. Warren Glock. He will be putting a choir together to sing at Christmas. Rehearsals will be held throughout the month of December before and after the 10:00 a.m. service. The choir is open to people of all ages.

Final Thoughts: What is a good way to prepare for Sunday Mass? By Reading the Propers the Night Before!

One of the best ways to prepare for Sunday morning worship is to read and mediate on the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel appointed for the day the night before. If we find it confusing we might look up the passage in the bible and read it in its larger context. This can be especially helpful for understanding St. Paul's Epistles! If you don't have a Prayer Book or decent bible at home to do this please see Father Anderson and he'll give you one! The spiritual life and our relationship with God is like everything else in life: the more we put into it the more we will get out of it.✠