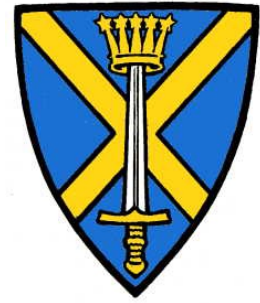


The Centurion

The Parish Magazine of St. Alban's Church

1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, Maryland, 21085



My dear People:

I hope that you all are doing well. I miss seeing you at church and look forward to the day when we will be back at full capacity at Saint Alban's. Some have indeed ventured back to church (the 8 a.m. service is back at its usual pre-pandemic level), but others are taking their time and no doubt have good reasons for that. Please stay in touch with me. Drop me a line, send me a text or an e-mail, and let me know how you are doing every now and then. I enjoy chatting with you all on the phone when I give you a call. During the pandemic I have been impressed with how much God has watched over me and my family and friends and loved ones. Have you felt the same way? It would be an understatement to say that the prognosticators of doom and gloom were way off target in terms of the numbers of people who would die from this thing. Just yesterday I heard that among young people (20 and under) one is statistically more likely to get struck by lightning than die from Covid-19. So things are not as awful as we initially thought they would be. But this is because of God! He always watches over us and protects us... not just believers, mind you, but even unbelievers. He always preserves and protects us. As Jesus said in Matthew 5:45, God "maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Yes, we have pretty good scientists and policymakers who are helping guide us through this. But who do we think is guiding them? It is God! One of the keys to staying sane in times like this (and *always*, quite frankly) is to live with the constant realization that we are loved and cherished by our heavenly Father, and that he will never hang us out to dry. God is faithful. In Lamentations 3:22-23 the prophet Jeremiah writes, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." We should bear in mind that he is writing this on the occasion of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians! I think what he is saying is something like: "Yes, things are bad right now. But they could be a whole lot worse. It is God who is seeing that we just get carried into captivity and not wholly annihilated and erased from history." The old cliché "hindsight is 20-20" is especially relevant here. When I look back at my life, and a lot of the dumb situations I let myself get into, I am amazed and humbled at how God watched over me and got me through them. Psalm 139—one of my favorites—talks about how God knows us and is always with us. There is nowhere we can go that God cannot see us and help us, and there is no situation that we can be in that God cannot sustain us during or deliver us from if needed. I hope your daily Rule of Life is conducive to helping you realize that God is always with you and watching over you, no matter what is going on in your life or the world. May he bless, guide, and keep each of you!

Faithfully, your priest,

J. Gordon Anderson

August 2020

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Recent News from St. Alban's

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS:

Aug 6th - The Transfiguration of Christ

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Aug 15th - The Assumption of Our Lady

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Aug 24th - St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Sep 8th - The Nativity of Our Lady

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Sep 16th, 18th, & 19th - Autumnal Ember Days

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Sep 21st - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Sep 29th - St. Michael and All Angels

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

DEAR FATHER FLAPDOODLE: *Godly Advice from the Rev'd Athelston Charles Flapdoodle, D.D.*

Dear Father Flapdoodle,

I find that I disagree with certain moral teachings that I read about in the Bible and which the Church teaches as true, so I just choose to not accept and believe those things. Is there anything wrong with that?

-Relative in Reno

Dear Relative,

The problem with that approach is that it leads us to pick and choose from the scriptures and church teaching what is right or wrong. And if we do that then that means everyone else is allowed to do so as well. So while we might be comfortable dismissing what the scriptures and church teach on certain subjects, such as marriage and sexuality, someone else might be comfortable with dismissing what the the scriptures and church teach about murder, or lying, or stealing that we agree with. Then what are we we do??!! We have no grounds on which to criticize those other opinions! The bottom line is that when man makes himself and his own private opinions the ultimate standard of what is right and wrong—which opinions are more often than not based on emotion and/or misinformation—he ends up trapped in a vortex of moral relativism where he can ultimately pronounce nothing truly right or wrong. And it is patently obvious that that is intellectually absurd and an impossible way for man to live and society to survive. Maybe what will help you is to study more thoroughly the doctrines of scripture and the church with which you disagree and see if you cannot come to a better understanding of what they really mean as opposed to what postmodern polemicists and our own subjective feelings *say* that they mean. I truly believe that if the doctrines of scripture and the church are thoroughly studied and understood most disagreement and confusion about them will vanish. ACF+

Dear Father Flapdoodle,

I've always been told that reading the Bible is one of the most important disciplines of the Christian life. But honestly I can't see the point in it! The little bit that I have read or heard makes no sense to me, plus it is just so old and out of date. Why should I read this book?

- Skeptical in Schenectady

Dear Skeptical,

The answer to your question is found in your very question! You wrote, “The little bit that I have read or heard makes no sense to me.” Here’s the thing: I’ll bet the more you read the scriptures the more relevant you will find them to your daily life. I’ve read them through many times and yet to this day I still learn something new each time I read them! The characters, with their victories and defeats, triumphs and tragedies, and their very human struggles and weaknesses, are very much like the people we encounter today and indeed just like us. The more we read about them in the Bible the more we find how much we really relate to them. More important, when we read the scriptures we are communing with God himself, and his Holy Spirit speaks to us and to our situation through the ancient words of this book. Read the scriptures daily and watch your life be changed for the better! ACF+

Dear Father Flapdoodle,

My best friend really hurt me a few years back by saying mean things behind my back and being generally unpleasant towards me. I am having trouble forgiving her and am still super angry at her. I know that God does not want me to feel this way. What should I do?

- Angry in Anaheim

Dear Angry,

I am so very sorry that you were hurt and that this once beautiful friendship has been ruined. What I have found is that if we pray for those people whom we’re mad at it helps us get over the anger. Think of what Jesus said: “*I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*” (Mt. 5:44) When we pray for people it is very hard to remain mad at them. And I would add that praying for such people doesn’t mean we have to go back and pretend that nothing has ever happened, or that the relationship can just go back to normal... maybe that is not what God wants for us or them anyway! It only means that we are doing something charitable for them and that we are trying to get rid of our anger. And God will honor that. May he be with you in this endeavor. ACF+

Ed. Note: Fr. Flapdoodle is a longtime friend and associate of Fr. Anderson. He will be answering questions from the mailbag from time to time in The Centurion. ☩

BOOK RECOMMENDATION: *The People's Anglican Missal*

Are you looking for a book to use that follows along with the 10:00 a.m. service and that has the full calendar of holy and saints days as seen in the church Ordo Kalendar? Look no further than *The People's Anglican Missal* (hereafter referred to as PAM). It may be purchased new here for \$25.00: <https://anglican-parishes-association.myshopify.com/collections/missals/products/peoples-anglican-missal> You can also find used copies online at various price points. If you get this book and become familiar with how to use it you will no longer have to rely on a printed service leaflet at our 10:00 a.m. service. It is important at the outset to explain that this book is a *missal*, not a Book of Common Prayer (BCP). While the Prayer Book has a section that we would call a "missal" (pp.67-269) the book itself in its entirety is its own unique thing, being several service books (breviary, missal, pontifical, etc.) that have been simplified and combined into one single volume. A missal on the other hand is a book that contains *only* the service of the Mass (Latin *Missa*), or what we typically call Holy Communion. The large missal on the altar—appropriately known as the "altar missal"—is used by the priest to celebrate the divine service. PAM is simply a smaller, personal sized addition that may be used by the laity to follow along. In the Roman Catholic Church they call these books "missalettes," but whereas ours is a nice hardbound edition theirs tend to be cheap mass market paperbacks. Size is the main difference between PAM and the altar missal. You are warned in advance that PAM is only 6"x4" so take that into consideration if you have poor eyesight! There are a few other differences worth mentioning as well. The altar missal contains detailed instructions at the beginning for use by the priest when planning services. It also contains chant notation for special services. PAM does not contain any chant notation or detailed instructions. In contrast to the altar missal, however, PAM contains wonderful explanations of the nature and meaning of the service, as well as all sorts of extra devotional prayers. Notable features found in PAM include an expanded liturgical calendar (many additional biblical and post-biblical saints' days); a total of three "Canons of the Mass" (the 1928 American Prayer Book Canon, the 1549 Prayer Book Canon, and the so-called "Gregorian Canon"); and the full set of liturgical "propers" for the day. (i.e. The Introit, Collect, Epistle, Gradual/Alleluia/Tract/Sequence, Gospel, Offertory, Secret, Communion, and Post-Communion, not just the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel as found in the BCP.)

Using PAM at Holy Communion is really not that much different from using the Prayer Book at Holy Communion. With both one simply must remember to keep one bookmark/finger on the service page, and another on the page(s) that has the readings and prayers proper for that day. The only thing that is remotely confusing about PAM is the different lettered sections into which it is divided. The sections of PAM are A-H, plus a supplement known as S. Section A contains the proper of the season from Advent through Holy Week. Section B contains the Ordinary of the Mass (i.e. the unchanging parts of the service of Holy Communion). Section C contains the proper of the season from Easter Trinitytide. Sections A and C therefore is where one would find all of the normal Sunday services as appointed in the BCP. Section D is the shortest of all and contains propers for certain "moveable" Holy Days (e.g. Holy Family, Sacred Heart, Compassion of Our Lady, etc.). Section E contains the "Proper of Saints" which are for the fixed Holy Days throughout the year. This is where one would find the BCP propers for the "Prayer Book" Holy Days. The next section, F, is known as the "Common of Saints." Not every saint is important enough to merit having an entire set of propers to him or herself. Sometimes there is just some extra Collects that are appointed to be read. (e.g. for St. Catherine of Sienna) In that case the *rest* of the service appointed for that day is to be found in Section F. So for St. Catherine, PAM the Collect, Secret, and Post-communion prayers are taken from the Proper of Saints, and the *rest* of the service is taken from the Common of Saints (in her case *Mass 19, Dilexisti*, which is a Mass for a Virgin). There are also a few other items in this section that are not worth mentioning here. Section G contains "Votive Masses." These are Masses for special intentions, such as a marriage, an ordination, healing, etc. Section H contains Masses for the Dead, which are used at funerals and other times during the year (e.g. All Souls' Day). The last section is S which stands for supplement. It is a supplement to the Proper of Saints, and therefore contains additional services for saints and "worthies" (the name PAM gives to famous Anglican divines such as Laud, Keble, Willberforce, etc.) PAM is definitely a good book to have around. If you get it and learn how to use it it can be used during the 10 a.m. service just as you would use the BCP during the 8 a.m. service, and not have to worry about fiddling around with service leaflets, most of which just get thrown away. ☩

PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES:

New Book by Jim Rutledge

Congratulations to Senior Warden Jim Rutledge who just published his first novel! Entitled “Bobby King: Bard of Vengeance” it is a culmination of years of hard work, research, planning, and preparation. Here is the description from Amazon: *“Come to the river snaking through Georgia where murder and myth mingle, where curses hang like Spanish Moss from the Live Oaks. It's the Spring of 1982 when the owner of FoxAgriCom calls on Savannah criminal defense attorney Bobby King for help. Bobby King and his investigator Gunny Armstrong take the tough cases, or do the tough cases take them? The wreckage of wars, home and abroad, more recent and long past, haunt those who make coastal Georgia their home. Will Bobby King find the evidence he needs to save his wealthy client from almost certain ruin? Come with him as he searches the depths of evil lurking on the water's edge and drifting across the squares of old Savannah. Welcome to Bobby King, Bard of Vengeance.”* It can be purchased as an e-book or paperback for \$9.99. Here is the link: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08FHJN2WV?ref=cm_sw_p_kb_dp&tag=kpembed-20&linkCode=kpe

Update on Deacon Waldhauser's Priestly Ordination

Mason's ordination to the sacred order of priests will take place at the Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts (3400 Norman Avenue, Baltimore) on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. A light reception will follow outdoors on the patio. The building can seat over 100 people under the current restrictions and is already set up with roped off pews and other safety measures. This venue will allow more people to participate in the service. We are very grateful to artistic director Stephen Holmes for allowing us to use the building! We hope to have a small ensemble from the choir provide some special music, and we are delighted that Mr. Holmes himself, who is friends with the Waldhauser family, will be the organist for the service! Donations for Mason's ordination purse may be sent to the church with “Mason” in the memo line of the check. Online donations may also be given. Just make sure that your gift is designated for Mason.

Two Special Prayers for Trinitytide

O LORD God Almighty, eternal, immortal, invisible, the mysteries of whose being are unsearchable: Accept, we beseech thee, our praises for the revelation which thou hast made of thyself, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three persons, and one God; and mercifully grant that ever

holding fast this faith we may magnify thy glorious name; who livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

(Scottish Prayer Book)

O God, who hast made thyself known to us as Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity, in order that we may be informed of thy love and thy majesty: Mercifully grant that we may not be terrified by what thou hast revealed of thy majesty, nor tempted to trespass upon thy mercy by what we know of thy love for us; but that by the power of thy Spirit we may be forever drawn to thee in true adoration and worship; who livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

(Euchologium Anglicanum)

Multiple Ways to Give to Saint Alban's

In addition to putting cash or checks into the offering plate (or mailing a check to the church) don't forget that we have a donation kiosk at the church where you can give with a card or device *and* online giving through our website. Just go to the website and click the “Give” tab to make a secure donation. You can also now donate securities (stock and other assets) to the church. For details on how to do that please see Fr. Anderson or Sr. Warden, Jim Rutledge.

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care from Fr. Anderson please do not hesitate to call him on his mobile phone, or text or e-mail him. He is always available to parishioners in need. The rector does not read minds. Please contact him if you need something. He is paid to be “inconvenienced” so please do not ever feel like you are inconveniencing him by getting in touch with him about something!

Standing Notices:

“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) ✠