

Did You Know?

The Vestry

The Vestry meets once each month to conduct parish business. All parish members are encouraged to attend the Vestry meetings. The minutes of the Vestry meetings and parish monthly income and expenses are posted on the Vestry bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Sunday School

Our Sunday school meets from the first Sunday after Labor Day until the last Sunday before Memorial Day. There are classes for all ages, including teens and adults.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for maintaining all those small, but extremely important things we use when we worship. They work with the Rector to be sure our worship goes forward without a hitch. Mary Minshall is director.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Attendance is always good for our Pancake Supper. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and is therefore the last day before Lent. The supper follows a sung Evening Prayer without a sermon. After praising our Lord we descend upon the Parish Hall to devour pancakes and sausage in this traditional English last fling before Lent.

Lent and Holy Week

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day marking the beginning of Lent. We begin our Lenten fast by praying the penitential Office and receiving ashes on our foreheads as sign of our repentance. We then celebrate of the Holy Eucharist.

Each week during Lent we remember our Lord's suffering by walking the Way of the Cross in the **Stations of the Cross**.

On **Maundy Thursday** we observe the institution of the Holy Communion with a Solemn Mass and a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. The evening ends with stripping of the altar and a silent exit from the church. We then gather before our Lord at the Altar of Repose and pray.

On this most sacred Holy Day of **Good Friday**, we honor our Lord's death with the Veneration of the Holy Cross followed by the Holy Communion. We also observe His suffering and death for us on that first Good Friday with the Stations of the Cross.

Easter

Our resurrection celebration begins with the lighting of New Fire and the Blessing of the Paschal Candle. The Exultet, the ancient hymn of the Easter Vigil, is sung before the first celebration of the Holy Eucharist. A Solemn Mass is celebrated at the 9 am to mark the great solemnity and joy of this, the greatest of Christian feasts.

Parish Clean Up Day (Spring)

Each spring, we spread mulch, trim trees and shrubs and generally clean up after the long winter. We enjoy fellowship as we work. The entire parish is encouraged to turn out.

Epiphany Pot Luck and Gift Exchange

After the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in honor of the visit of the wise men, who brought gifts for Jesus, we have a pot luck dinner with a worst gift exchange. A prize is awarded for the worst gift.

Ascension Day Spaghetti Dinner

Our Annual Ascension Day Holy Eucharist and Spaghetti Dinner is a favorite among parishioners. Spaghetti sauce is provided by members and some bring dessert and bread. Everyone enjoys the fellowship and company of his fellow Christians.

St. Alban's Day Cook Out (June)

Each year on the Saturday afternoon following the heavenly birthday of our Patron Saint, we celebrate with a Holy Eucharist followed by a picnic with good food, and cold beverages and often games for the children.

Pony Show and Yard Sale (July)

Our annual Pony Show begins bright and early on a Saturday morning with the measuring of the ponies. Food and drink are available for all. The children especially enjoy petting and touching the ponies. We always have fun. The St. Alban's "Pony Show" is our primary fund-raising event each year.

APA/REC Joint Evensong and Joint Holy Eucharist

St. Alban's participates in APA/REC worship services. Several times per year the REC and APA parishes in Maryland gather at one of our churches and join in worship with a Choral Evensong. We also join together annually to receive our Lord in the Holy Communion at a joint celebration of the Holy Eucharist. As at most church functions, food is served following church so that we can get to know each other and talk while we graze.

All Saints' Day Novemberfest (November 1)

We eat to eat good food on All Saints' Day after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in honor of all the saints.

Quilting at St. Alban's

The local quilt guild often uses our parish hall for sewing bees and quilt marathons.

Ministry and Mission

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shawls are knitted for the sick and suffering, while the knitters pray for the person for whom it is made. The shawl is blessed and is usually presented to the sick at church on Sunday morning.

Eye Clinic in India

St. Alban's raised support for an Eye Clinic in India for the poor in 2007. The parish, both children and adults, gave generously through Lenten Mite Boxes.

Narcotics Anonymous

A local chapter of NA meets in our parish hall each Friday night.