

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Oakland & Franklin Lakes

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Feast of St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals
October 3, 2021

WEEKEND UPDATE



This Sunday we will be holding In-Person Worship at 10 AM.

**WE WILL BE OUTDOORS WITH PLENTY OF ROOM FOR DISTANCING,
AND PLENTY OF WALKING ROOM FOR PETS! PLEASE WEAR A MASK
FOR SINGING, AND BE CONSCIOUS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING**

PLEASE JOIN US!!!

**No preregistration is necessary but there will be a sign-in book
upon entrance.**

**The Zoom Information and Sunday Bulletin for the service will be
forwarded in a separate email.**

Our pets are a blessing to us...



...join us in blessing them!

Bring your pet (or a photo of your pet) to
A Blessing of the Animals



- October 3rd -
Bring your beloved pets for their annual blessing!

St. Francis Day Observance

We Love All God's Critters We welcome all pets to join us for worship, blessings, treats, homemade puppy ice cream, and family pictures as we remember St. Francis and proclaim our Creator's intention for the unity in Creation. It's a favorite annual celebration for members and visitors! Come with or without a pet! GREAT FUN! **Sunday, October 3rd at 10 AM.**





What Happens Now?

Now that Kathryn has announced that she will be concluding her ministry among us at St. Alban's, what happens now? Well, the first thing is that we will take the next few weeks to let the news settle in, give thanks for all that has been, and be intentional about saying good-bye to each other. We all are embarking on a new time in our lives as we continue to faithfully serve Christ but will be doing so in different places.

Bishop Carlye Hughes and Canon Margo Clarck are fully aware of the transition time ahead and are committed to partnering with us so that we can plan and step boldly into the future that God envisions for us. But just as important will be the discernment that we will enter into to assess what future we hear God calling us into as well as what we want for ourselves and our beloved church family. Even if we were not entering a clergy transition this would be a time of transition for us because we are completing the sale of the property, retiring the debt, and ... oh yes ... there is the pandemic still hanging around and impacting nearly every aspect of our lives!

Canon Clark's area of ministry responsibility is clergy deployment and parish transition. She brings important skills and experience to working closely with congregations in just such times as these. Canon Clark will be with us within a Sunday or two of Kathryn's departure and we will all have the opportunity and responsibility to engage the process moving forward.

Until then, please keep our parish family as well as Kathryn and Nicholas in your daily prayers. May we all find a lively sense of God's presence with us as we journey forward into all that is yet to be.

Did You Get the New Mailing? We hope that you received the new mailing that is hot off the press! This was a monumental undertaking and we are thrilled with the resulting brochure that is packed with testimonials, photos, and glimpses of our family of faith life together. Working with our realtor, Eileen Bassi, we used the listing of all homes purchased in Oakland by people moving into the area during the pandemic. Each of these households received the mailing, hand addressed, and by first class mail. We also sent them to parish members, people who have visited St. Alban's, and we sent them home in all the preschool backpacks.

We hope that you will enjoy your copy, make note of the dates of upcoming events, and then pass it on to someone that you know who doesn't have a church home. It has been a long 18 months of restrictions and now that some things are continuing to open up we have intentionally reached out to those who are new to town and have not been able to make connections. Statically, most people visit or join a church community because someone invited them. So, between you sharing your copy of the flyer and us doing some direct mailing we hope to continue to get the word out about this welcoming community of faith.

If you did not receive the mailing and would like a copy, please contact the parish office at stalbansofl@optimum.net and we will be happy to send you one.



“Every Perfect Gift” 2021 Year B

We are called in this moment to reflect on the cycle of abundance sparked with the first light and made manifest in the Creation, in the calling of prophets, and in the gift of God’s own son on Earth. As we share our gifts through the Eucharist and through our service to the world, we participate in the ongoing creation of abundance and generosity.

Every Perfect Gift

The Gift of Wonder

I was the kind of child who asked a lot of questions. The world fascinated me, I was filled with wonder. As a consequence to my inquisitive nature, I learned a lot.

Many kids are like this, asking questions about the world around them, testing the relationships they have experienced. Not only do children ask questions, but they expect answers, and they expect answers that are true. Until children learn to find other sources for information, answers are all they have.

The loss of the innocence of childhood brings an end to asking questions, for some. We become awkward, second guessing our understanding. “Maybe I should know the answer, already?” “I don’t want to be the first to ask.” “They’ll think I’m not paying attention...” We replace the act of wonder with the practice of worry.

Three years ago, our congregation made a special effort to include children in the annual pledge campaign, offering each child the opportunity to have a conversation about their giving and their hopes for the church. We learned two important things: Children are generous – we had 100% participation from the kids, each one of them turned in a pledge card. (And, the treasurers will be happy to know that we had 100% redemption rate on the pledges, as well!) The second thing we learned, was that the kids had lots of suggestions for ministries, ways to volunteer, ideas about church. Filled out in crayon or pencil, each pledge card was a touching, deeply theological, beautiful expression of generosity and hope – of love.

When Jesus suggests that we must receive the wonder of the world and the work we are given to do as children, I think the example above is exactly why. We must get back in touch with our sense of wonder, of possibility, of love. These are the basic skills God needs from us to work in God’s vineyard. | TENS.org

J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS, and a member of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in San Francisco, California



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How do you reacquaint yourself with your sense of wonder when you realize you might have lost it through the trials of life experience?

How does feeling hopeful impact your generosity?



Schedule
Change

We have been notified that Bishop Hughes has **rescheduled** her visit to St. Alban's in **June 2022** for her Episcopal Visitation.

We will have one service at 10 AM.

Bishop Hughes will preach and preside. The service will be followed by a parish forum and she will meet with the Vestry following the forum.



CHURCH LEADER UNIVERSITY

SAT, OCT 09, 2021 9:00 AM

Church Leader University Fall 2021

Register by **5:00 pm on Thursday, Oct 7**

Lorenzo Lebrija is the founder and director of TryTank, the experimental lab for church growth and innovation. He was the chief development officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, and served as pastor at St. John's in San Bernardino and priest associate at St. Athanasius in Los Angeles. He earned his Master of Divinity degree at the General Theological Seminary, as well as an MBA from Florida International University. He has been a frequent speaker on development, community involvement, the arts, business strategy, and marketing. He lives in Cathedral City, California.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 7, 2021, 5:00pm

<https://dioceseofnewark.org/event/church-leader-university-fall-2021#registration>

This fall's Church Leader University will be something special! Lorenzo Lebrija, director of TryTank, a lab for church growth and innovation, will lead participants through a straightforward framework for experiments in new ministry and provide a different perspective on how to do the ongoing work of the church. In just three clear steps, this framework can have a lasting impact on any church that uses it.

The agenda for this half-day event will be:

- 9 AM – Welcome and opening by Bishop Hughes
- 9:30 AM – First half with Lorenzo Lebrija
- 10:20 AM – Break
- 10:40 AM – Second half with Lorenzo Lebrija (interactive)
- 11:30 AM – Conclusion





Just a reminder to please continue to send in your pledges either by mailing them into the church office or through our online giving on our website at <http://www.stalbansflow.org/> Your support is greatly appreciated!



If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please email the parish office stalbansofl@optimum.net .



ALTAR CANDLE WEEKLY DEDICATIONS AVAILABLE

St. Alban's will be again offering an opportunity to remember your loved ones with a weekly dedication of the lit sanctuary candle. For a \$10 donation, your loved ones will be remembered in memory or thanksgiving during our weekly prayers and bulletin as well as dedicating the lit sanctuary candle to them for the week beginning on the Sunday Service of your choosing.

If you are interested in making a donation, you can either mail in your check with the names of your dedication or make a donation directly on our website <http://stalbanflow.org/> All dedications must be made by Thursday of the week prior to the date of your choosing.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 201-337-4909.



Don't forget to choose St. Alban's as your designated charity at smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3802711 to generate donations for Rector Wardens Vestrymen of St Albans Episcopal Church in Ofl and check out our [AmazonSmile Charity Lists](#) to donate items we need most.

