

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Oakland & Franklin Lakes

The Feast of the Epiphany Observed

January 2, 2022

WEEKEND UPDATE



EPIPHANY

**Please join us this Sunday for our 10 AM Worship Service
as we celebrate The Epiphany.**

The Service will be In-Person and livestream.

**We welcome back Rev. Fr. David B. Rude
who will be presiding and preaching.**

**WE WILL BE INDOORS WITH PLENTY OF ROOM FOR
DISTANCING. PLEASE WEAR A MASK FOR SINGING, AND BE
CONSCIOUS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING**

PLEASE JOIN US!!! ALL ARE WELCOME!



Instructions for Blessing your home at Epiphany

Using chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 22 saying:

Leader: The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty two years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen.**

Then say the following prayers together:

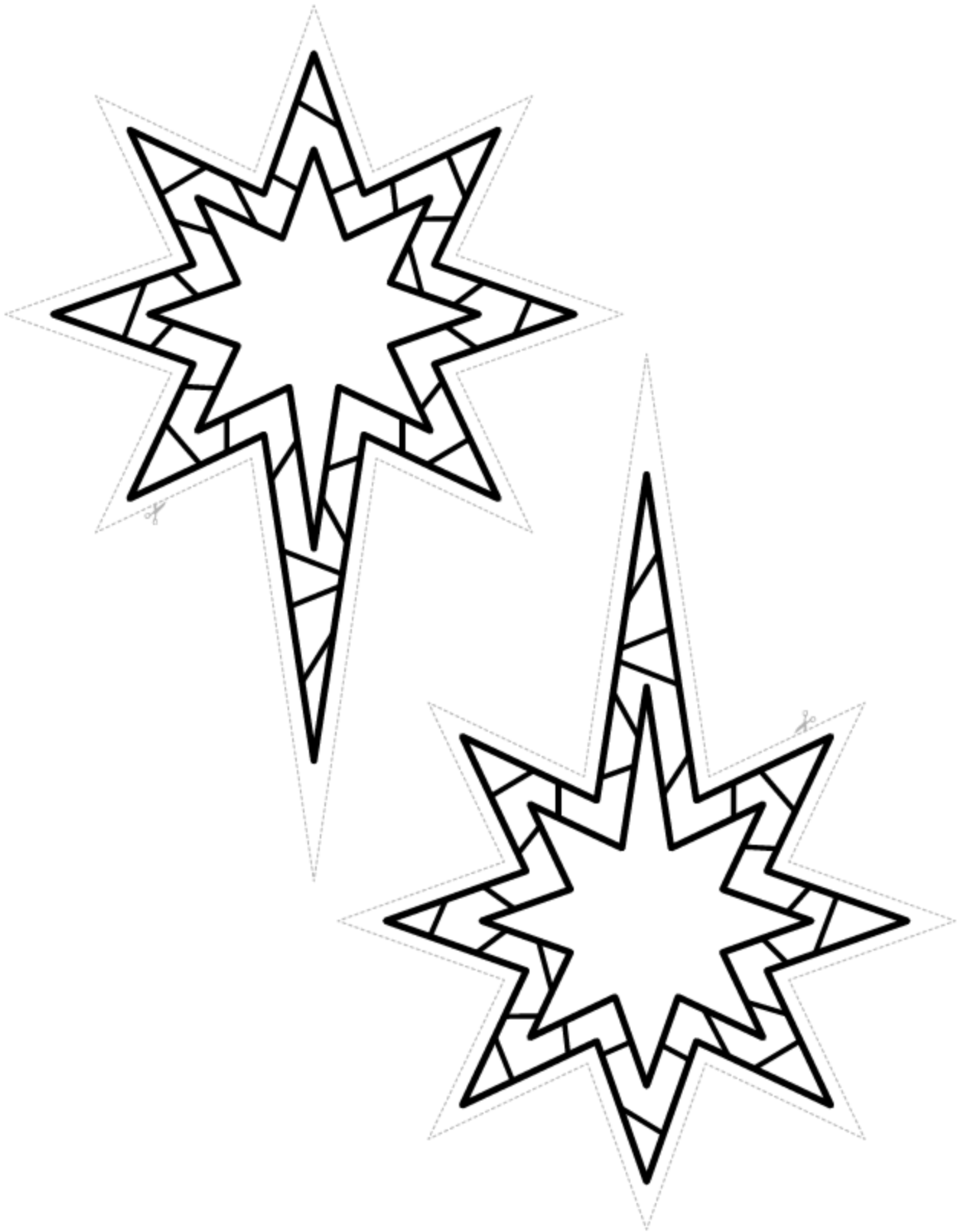
Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose life we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord our God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. We give thanks to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

When you have finished hang the star nearby to remind you as you come in and out of your home to always seek Jesus just as the Magi did so long ago.





To the saints of St. Alban's,

It is with deep thanks and appreciation that we want to thank you for the generous Christmas gift that we each received. We are especially grateful that during these challenging times you have continued this thoughtful tradition during the holidays for us.

We wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

The staff of St. Alban's

Teresa, Christine & Mike



**MORNING
PRAYER**

We are looking for volunteers who can help with Morning Prayer as needed in the future. We will review and provide you with a reference binder with step-by-step instructions.

Morning Prayer can be led from the church In-Person or on Zoom from your home.

Please email the parish office if you can help out.

REMINDER



Every Perfect Gift



PLEASE - WE NEED TO HEAR FROM EACH HOUSEHOLD – EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO PLEDGE AT THIS TIME

It is a critical time for each of us to prayerfully consider how we can financially support the ongoing ministry of our parish family as we respond to the call of Christ to be his heart, hands, and presence in the world.

We need to hear from each household in order to make the necessary decisions and plans for the coming year. It is especially important that we all make our commitments known. Every pledge is critical and every member is needed to continue our vital ministries into the future.

Please review all the information carefully, think about all that this family of faith is about, and make a prayerful response. We are called to sacrificial giving to offer of ourselves as Christ poured himself out for us. Thank you for who you are and all that you offer to uphold and support our common life.

If you haven't done so already, please send in your 2022 Stewardship pledge. You can either mail it to the church office or bring it with you to Sunday's Service. Thank you!

*~“Every Perfect Gift” 2021 Year B ~
~Stewardship 2022~*

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.



The 12 Days of Christmas - True Meaning



On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree.

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . two turtledoves. These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God's plan for the world.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . three French hens. These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift refers to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . four calling birds. One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . five gold rings. The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . six geese a-laying. These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . seven swans a-swimming. This refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eight maids a-milking. As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake – the 'blessed are the ...' from the Beatitudes.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . nine ladies dancing. These nine dancers are the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . ten lords a-leaping. This verse represents the Ten Commandments.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eleven pipers piping. This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and took his own life, there only were eleven male disciples who carried the gospel message.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . twelve drummers drumming. The final gift is tied directly to the church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."





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!

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://stalbansflow.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.



We will be updating our prayer list after this Sunday's Service.

- If you have added names to the list and would like those names to remain on there, please email the parish office stalbansofl@optimum.net
- If you would like to add / remove any names from the list, please also email the parish office.

Thank you !

Prayer Request