

The Good News!

December
2011

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Church office hours: Monday — Friday 8 am to 4 pm

Rector's Reflections

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Advent 2011

What a wacky culture we live in when it comes to Christmas. We are encouraged to buy as much as we can possibly afford, (and more), to celebrate the season; yet more and more the word "Christmas" is replaced by the word "holiday." The Governor of Rhode Island, in what he says is a bow to the religious tolerance of its heritage, has put a "holiday tree" in the Governor's mansion.

While I respect the integrity of many religious traditions, and the freedom of expression of the non, (or anti), religious, how can we have it both ways? Yes to gift giving, but no to naming the reason why we give gifts in the first place? In case you need reminding—and you don't—we give gifts at Christmas to share the love of God present in the birth of his Son, the incarnate Word, Jesus. As God gave himself to us in Jesus, so we celebrate that love by giving ourselves to each other, and by giving ourselves to those in whom Jesus is especially present: the poor, the sick, prisoners, and all who are in need.

The best way to spend the time before Christmas, is to honor the season of Advent, (like the word "adventure" from the latin verb "to come"). The four Sundays before Christmas remind us to take time to prepare ourselves to understand again, with fresh eyes and an open heart, the mystery of God's love made flesh. Dying on the cross, teaching and loving and healing, eating and drinking, playing and learning, Jesus began his life like us, as a baby: vulnerable, dependent, in need of human nurture for his very life.

This image has such power, still, to move us beyond the festivities and the commercialism of the season into the quiet tenderness of our own hearts, like the hush of voices around a sleeping baby. Such is our experience of God at Christmas—present in the adoration of those who behold his face in the newborn child of Bethlehem. Take some real time this Advent to prepare yourself for the feast of the Nativity, Christmas. Enjoy the merriment, but take time, clear out a space, make the road straight. And head to the cradle where Christ is born once more.

in Christ's love,

Susan +

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Worship Services

Sundays:

8 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Holy Eucharist

Parish Staff

The Rev. Susan W. Klein, Rector
The Rev. Norm Ishizaki, Rector Emeritus
The Rev. Warner Traynham, Assisting Priest
James Taulbee, Minister of Music
Nancy John, Administrator
Gordon Toler, Sexton

Church School Sonya Nimri

Vestry

Christine Mason, Sr. Warden
John Hinning, Jr. Warden
Rudy Marloth, Treasurer
Glen Wright, asst. Treasurer
Vivian Hay, Clerk

Sacrament of Baptism

Our next baptisms will be on the First Sunday after Epiphany, JANUARY 8, during the 10:00 a.m. service, and at the Easter Vigil April 7th at 8:00 p.m.

Please call the church office for more information.

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Kerygma: Bible Study
meets at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays
in the Library. We studying the
prophets of Israel and would love
for you to join us.

Mid-week Holy Eucharist
Take a mid-week moment and
refresh yourself spiritually by join-
ing us for our Holy Eucharist.
Every Wednesday at noon
In the Chapel.

The Diaconate
Discernment Group for the Diacon-
ate will be meeting each month for
a potluck supper and discussion.
Please see Susan if you are
interested.



THIS Sunday, December 4

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***Lessons and Carols***  
***4 p.m.***

Patterned after the Christmas Eve observance at King's Col-  
lege in Cambridge, England, A Festival of Lessons & Carols  
has become a holiday tradition. This performance consists of  
seven Advent and Christmas readings, each followed by a  
traditional carol performed by the choir or a carol sung by the  
choir and Congregation. Works by Palestrina, Howells, Rutti  
and traditional carols. Please plan to join us for this most joy-  
ous event!

**Join us for These Weekly Services and Activities!**

**Sunday**

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
(Chapel)
- 9:00 am Adult Forum  
(Library)
- 9:30 am Centering Prayer  
(chapel)
- 10:00 am \*Choral Eucharist  
(main Church)
- \*Nursery and  
Church school available

**Tuesday**

- 11:00 am Bible Study in the library

**Wednesday**

- 12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist  
(Chapel)
- 5:00 pm UCLA Methodist/  
Episcopalian student  
fellowship  
(Library)

**Thursday**

*Choir rehearsal 7:30 pm*  
**Please come 15 minutes early  
if it's your first time!**

Dec. 4  
Sun 4 pm **Lessons and Carols**  
*Main church*  
Baptism at 10 am svc.

Dec. 11  
Sunday  
11:30am **"Happy Holiday"**  
Discussion  
Dr. George Lough  
*library*

Dec 12  
Monday  
7pm **Finance /Vestry**  
Meeting  
(*library*)

Dec. 14  
Wed. 12:30 **Christmas Lunch!**  
(*library*)

Dec. 17  
Saturday  
4pm **Christmas Party**  
*Rectory*

Dec. 24  
Christmas  
Eve **5pm family Xmas Svc**  
**10 pm Concert**  
**11pm Service**  
*Main church*

Dec. 25  
Christmas  
Day **10 am**  
Service

## Pot-luck Christmas Party

Join us at **The Rectory** for a Parish 'Pot-luck' Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 17th beginning at 4:00 p.m.** We'll meet, exchange good food, fellowship, thanksgiving and cheer for all that God has done this past year! Please RSVP on Sundays or call the church office. **The address is 9606 Oakmore 90035**

*Join us the next day for the*  
**GREENING OF THE CHURCH**  
Sun., Dec. 18, after the 10:00 service.  
All are welcome to help!

## Outreach!

We are, again, celebrating the Christmas Season by contributing to "Christmas gift bags" for the New Directions Women's Program for homeless women veterans. Each bag will consist of toiletries, gift cards, food cards, movie passes, etc. Each gift bag costs approx. \$30. If you can make a full or partial donation, please leave us a check for that amount payable to *St. Alban's Episcopal Church* and earmarked, "New Directions".

**Thank You!**

## Parish Community News Board

### December Prayer List



Betty Jones, Carol Cummings, Lorraine Secor, Ann Shannon, Miranda Reem, Carol Cummings,

Jose Ramos, Barbara Bryant, Phil Palisoul, David Brown, Jim McGee, Lorraine Frankel, Daniel Corns, and Steve Hale; *For those in the military, especially Lt. Ryan Klint, Sgt. Jeremy Aldrich, Lt. Garret Moore, Staff Sgt. Robert Wallen*

### Christmas Lunch Bunch"

(pray and stay) The Lunch Bunch gathering continues to be a blessed time of fellowship. We will have our next lunch (\$5 per person) on Wed., December 14, starting with the Noon Eucharist and finishing with lunch from 12:30 —1:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be on the patio for you to indicate whether you can join us.

## Pledges

### We're Halfway There!

We thank everyone who has made a pledge for 2012. Your generosity is wonderful! We will conclude the stewardship drive at the first of the year with a goal of receiving pledges for our ministry at St. Alban's at the level of \$200,000 or more. ***We'd also, like to remind you that you can pledge online!*** It's so easy to set up electronic donations. Just follow the instructions on our website: **[www.stalbanwestwood.com/giving.htm](http://www.stalbanwestwood.com/giving.htm)**. It's simple!

*Thank you!*

### Closing the Book on 2011

*Help us close out the year in good standing by making sure your pledge is current. If you're not sure please feel free to call the office.*

We thank you all for your generosity through these difficult economic times. Your pledges have served to help many in our community.

***In Conjunction with the Federal Holiday Schedule as well as the Los Angeles Diocesan Center, the Office will be closed on the following dates:  
Dec. 26; Dec. 30-Jan. 2***

## The Good News

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
580 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Phone: 310.208.6516  
Fax: 310.208.6389

We celebrate the grace and love of God in worship and prayer, and seek to follow God's example in the fellowship we offer.

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[www.stalbanswestwood.com](http://www.stalbanswestwood.com)

*Welcome!*

## Christmas Service Schedule

**Sunday, December 4**

**4:00 pm**

**Festival of Lessons and Carols** - with anthems sung by the choir of St. Alban's and readings of the season. *Reception to follow.*

**Saturday, December 17**

**4:00 pm**

***Christmas Party at the Rectory***

Join us for an evening of fellowship and cheer!

**Saturday, December 24,**

**5:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Pageant, Carols, and Holy Eucharist**

**10:00 pm**

**The Music of Christmas in Concert**

*Music the Nativity featuring the choir of St. Alban's and vocal and instrumental soloists.*

**11:00 pm**

**Candlelight service of Carols and Eucharist**

**Sunday, December 25,**

**10:00 am**

**Christmas Day**

Carols and Holy Eucharist

*All services are held in the Main Church.*