



# THE ALTON ANGELUS

December '24 and January '25

The Reverend Garron C. Daniels, OCS, Priest in Charge

***The Episcopal Parish of Alton has as its mission:  
To live and show Christ in our midst.***



## From Fr. Garron Daniels+

Greetings to the Episcopal Parish of Alton!

We have been so incredibly busy around the Parish with so many wonderful worship opportunities, events, fundraisers, and a massively successful stewardship campaign. We have all been on the go and have taken to heart the message of Jesus Christ to worship Him and spread the Good News.

As we enter into the Advent Season, it seems like the rush continues. Not only with Parish events and worship opportunities, but in our own everyday lives. We all know too well how busy December can get with work, organizations we are involved in, gifts to buy family and friends, decorations that need to be put up, and end of the year school assignments. December almost seems to fly by and not always in the best of ways!

My hope is you will take a moment or two throughout this time to slow down, reflect, and pray. Advent is a somber time in our liturgical calendar. A time where we reflect and pray for the coming of Christ; his coming in his incarnation and his coming again at the end of times. This is a time marked with a longing for Christ. It would be good for us to take a moment to feel this longing and to reflect upon it. How does the coming of Christ into our world still impact our world and our lives today? What does it mean to yearn for and desire for Christ to come again to establish his Kingdom in our broken world? These questions we can only reflect upon if we take a moment and sit with God and be present with Him.

I encourage all of us to take this time together as individuals and as a community to pray, worship, reflect, and engage in this season of Advent so we may prepare our minds, bodies, and souls for the coming of Christ in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
**Fr. Garron+**





## *From the Senior Warden...*

As we are winding down the year 2024, I have been thinking about how far we have come in the past six months as a parish. We have become a very, very active group of people! We are worshipping together, learning together, attending various church activities together, working side by side in keeping our church running efficiently, and helping others through outreach projects. You should pat yourselves on the back, because you have helped us grow and thrive!

In whatever way you have chosen to spend your time in the Episcopal Parish of Alton, please remember that you are part of our church family, a family who loves and appreciates you!

Have a blessed Advent season.

Yours in Christ,  
*Mimi Almonroeder*

## **From the Organ Loft**

As we begin this season of Advent I am reminded of the phrase ‘hurry up and wait!’ How often are we driving down the road in a rush only to be stopped by that pesky stoplight that just happens to turn yellow too soon before we can slide through it!

Advent is our liturgical season of deliberate ‘expectant waiting’ and reflective preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. So often, especially musically, it is tempting in many denominations to gloss over Advent selections and ‘hurry on’ to the more popular and well-known Christmas tunes. This is unfortunate, but the short Christmas to Epiphany season makes it hard to incorporate all the Christmas hymns that we would like to sing during those few services.

The word ‘Advent’ comes from the Latin ‘*adventus*’ meaning ‘coming.’ It is believed that Advent began to be celebrated as a church season sometime in the mid 500’s-probably introduced by the Catholic Council of Tours to require monks to fast every day in the month of December until Christmas.

The Advent wreath tradition had its roots in the 16th century- originally a fir wreath with 24 candles (the 24 days before Christmas starting December 1st.) By the 19th century the awkwardness of having so many candles on the wreath reduced the number to the four that we now know that are represented as the candles of hope, peace, joy and love-with the Christ candle in the center.

As an interesting trivia, probably the earliest (oldest) of what is considered an Advent hymn is Mary’s Magnificat which can be found in Luke 1:46-55. In this scripture passage Mary highly praises God for keeping God’s promises to Abraham. The text of the Magnificat has been set to numerous pieces of music over the centuries. We recently sang one of these during our Even Song service on November 10 (#438 Tell out my soul). Let’s take the time this Advent to not ‘rush’ the season but wait ‘expectantly’ for the Christ Child.

*Gay Anderson*



## ***Worship Change: Eucharistic Prayer I during Advent***

During our time in Advent you will notice a slight change in the Eucharistic Prayer we use. Typically we use Rite I Eucharistic Prayer II for our worship services together. During the time of Advent, we will switch to Rite I Eucharistic Prayer I to set our minds and hearts on what is taking place during this Advent season. You won't notice any difference in responses to the prayers, but you will notice that the Priest says a little more during the prayers and some of the page numbers for the Eucharist may be different!

After Advent we will go back to our normal use of Rite I Eucharistic Prayer II.

## ***Episcopal Church Men (ECM) to host All Parish Christmas Party***

The annual ECM All Parish Christmas party is set for Thursday, December 19th. We will gather at Castelli's 255 for cocktails beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner selections will include prime rib (\$27), salmon (\$23), or fried chicken (\$15-16). Be sure to sign up (sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board) by December 8th if you have not already done so! Contact Tom Harris 618-407-0173 or Dereck Cook 618-977-1538 if you have any questions.

***Dereck Cook***



## **Major Feast Days of the Episcopal Church To Be Celebrated in December and January**

Fr. Garron will be celebrating all Principal Feasts and Major Feasts of the liturgical calendar as noted below. These feasts will be celebrated at **Trinity Chapel** with a Mass and fellowship to follow, unless otherwise stated. If the feast day is during the week, the Mass is held at 5:30 p.m. If it is on Saturday or a holiday, Mass will be held at Noon.

### **The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe— Thursday, December 12th at 5:30 p.m.**

Our Lady of Guadalupe is Jesus Christ's mother, the Virgin of Guadalupe. She appeared to Juan Diego as he walked to Mass on a Saturday morning in December 1531. Juan Diego told the unbelieving Franciscan bishop of the sighting and Mary directed Juan Diego to gather flowers from the hilltop where roses grew – unusual for winter, even in Mexico. He collected the flowers in his cloak and as the roses fell to the ground before the bishop, Mary's image appeared and it was just as he had seen in Mary's first appearance to him. The bishop fell to his knees. Mary chose to appear before a common man which reminds us of her love for all people, through a kind and benevolent God.



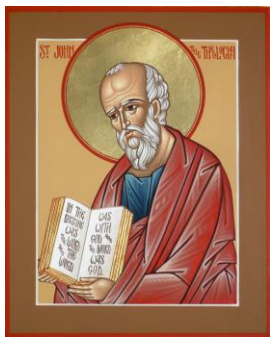
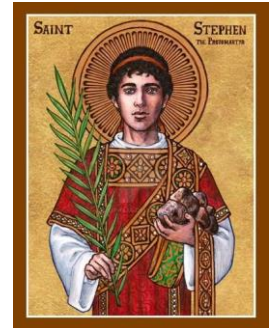
## The Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle — Saturday, December 21st at Noon

Thomas's skepticism regarding the resurrection of Jesus is well-known. In [John 20:24-29](#), we read that Thomas was absent when the resurrected Jesus first appeared to the other disciples. When they told him about their miraculous encounter, he expressed doubt, saying he needed to see and feel Jesus' wounds to believe. Later, Jesus appeared to Thomas and invited him to touch his wounds, leading to Thomas's profound profession of faith, "My Lord and my God!"



## The Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr — Thursday, December 26th at 5:30 p.m.

St. Stephen's story tells us that we should never be afraid of proclaiming the Gospel. While men could kill his body, his death glorified the Lord – and won him the martyr's crown in heaven. St. Stephen was one of the seven made responsible above all for charity. But it was impossible to separate charity from faith. This is the first lesson we learn from St. Stephen: charity and the proclamation of faith always go hand in hand.

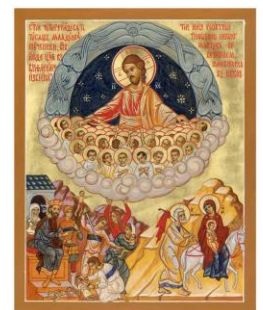


## The Feast of St. John The Evangelist — Friday, December 27th at 5:30 p.m.

John was called while mending his nets to follow Jesus and became the beloved disciple of Jesus. He wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse. His passages on the pre-existence of the Word, who by His Incarnation became the light of the world and the life of our souls, are among the finest of the New Testament. He is the evangelist of the divinity of Christ and His fraternal love. With James, his brother, and Simon Peter, he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration. At the Last Supper, he leans on the Master's breast. At the foot of the cross, Jesus entrusts His Mother to his care. John's pure life kept him very close to Jesus and Mary in years to come.

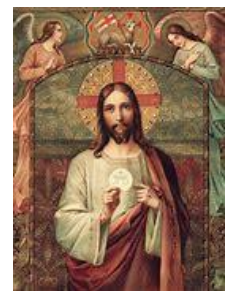
## Holy Innocents — Saturday, December 28th at Noon

King Herod was a jealous king, placed in power by the Roman Empire. Like most kings he wanted more power, not less power. Then, out of the east came the wise men on camels bearing fancy gifts, asking one question: where could they find the newly born king of the Jews? They added "We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him" ([Matthew 2:2](#)). They didn't come all this way to see King Herod but another king. The Feast of the Holy Innocents, also called Childermas or Innocents' Day is a feast day in remembrance of the massacre of young children in Bethlehem by King Herod in his attempt to kill baby Jesus.

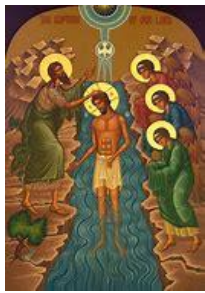


## The Holy Name — Wednesday, January 1st at 5:30 p.m.

St. Paul tells us in his Letter to the Philippians, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, / of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (2:10). The name of Jesus was first spoken by an angel and is the cause of adoration by the heavenly court. It is a name revered especially during the Mass, as the General Instruction of the Roman Missal instructs the priest to bow his head at the mention of Jesus' name (see No. 275). It is a name that evil fears, and when invoked can cast out demons. We honor and celebrate the name of Jesus because the name of God deserves reverence. By celebrating this feast, we seek to make reparation for the irreverent use of God's name and restore it to proper dignity.







## The Epiphany — Monday, January 6th at 5:30 p.m.

Epiphany has been part of traditional Christian worship since at least the fourth century. In the traditional Western Church calendar, the coming of the Magi is recalled as twelve days after Christmas, on 6th January which is called Epiphany. The day before is called the Twelfth Night, which is traditionally when Christmas decorations are taken down. This Epiphany is the idea that the Gentiles first came to know of the incarnation of God, through the Magi, when the baby Jesus was revealed for who he was. Epiphany is therefore also sometimes unofficially known as "The Three Kings' Day".

## Confession of St. Peter — Saturday, January 18th at Noon

The proclamation of Jesus as Christ is fundamental to Christology; the Confession of Peter and Jesus' acceptance of the title "Messiah" form a definitive statement in the New Testament narrative regarding the person of Jesus Christ. In this New Testament narrative, Jesus not only accepts the titles Christ and *Son of God*, but declares the proclamation a divine revelation by stating that his Father in Heaven had revealed it to Peter, unequivocally declaring himself to be both Christ and the Son of God.



## Schedule for Fellowship after Feast Day Services

Groups responsible for refreshments on Feast Days for December are:

- |                   |                               |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Vestry         | 4. ECM                        | 6. Trinity Missionary Society |
| 2. Guild of Grace | 5. Acolytes and Altar Servers | 7. Book Club                  |
| 3. Altar Guild    |                               |                               |

We are now in our second rotation of groups assigned to provide refreshments for feast days. The feast days have been well attended and the fellowship following has been widely popular!

Would each group please ask your membership to attend and be in charge of refreshments for the date assigned below? Usually three people can handle the fellowship setup, bring food, wine, and clean up.

Each group may handle the feast days in any way they wish; my thought – if a list of members is created, then, three people from the list would be asked or volunteer to be responsible for a particular date. The next time that group is assigned a date, three different people would be in charge of bringing refreshments. When everyone takes a turn, it is enjoyable for all.

When assigning the feast day fellowships, I did not add groups to be in charge of refreshments for the December feast days. Please decide in your group whether you will be available to fit this in during your Christmas holiday schedule. Thank you!

### December

- Thursday, December 12th *The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity; **Fr. Garron**
- Saturday, December 21st *The Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle* Noon at Trinity Chapel; no fellowship
- Tuesday, December 24th *Christmas Eve Mass* 10:00 p.m. at St. Paul's; no fellowship
- Wednesday, December 25th *Christmas Day* 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Chapel; no fellowship
- Thursday, December 26th *The Feast of St. Stephen* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Chapel
- Friday, December 27th *The Feast of St. John The Evangelist* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Chapel
- Saturday, December 28th *Feast of Holy Innocents* Noon at Trinity Chapel

## **January**

- Wednesday, January 1st *The Holy Name* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Chapel
- Monday, January 6th *The Epiphany* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Chapel
- Saturday, January 18th *Confession of St. Peter* Noon at Trinity Chapel

***Mimi Almonroeder***

## ***Woah! That's a lot of December Feast Days!***

You probably noticed that there are back to back feast days right after Christmas Day. We have a lot of important Saints and Holy Days we celebrate at the Parish. This can seem overwhelming and one might feel a sense of guilt in not being able to attend them or frustration for how much there is during a time meant to spend with family and friends.

Please know I don't expect you to attend every single feast day during that week of December. I know it's a lot and many people already have plans. I hold these services because I believe as a Priest it's important to celebrate the Mass in celebration of the major saints and holy days of our Calendar. Whether there are 15 people there or just me, I will be there to celebrate the Mass and I completely understand when people have other plans or obligations!

I hope you will join me in worship when you are able. If you aren't able to join us, say a short prayer for the Parish and keep us close to your hearts!

***Fr. Garron+***

## ***News from the Episcopal Church Women (ECW)***

If you are looking for a great hostess or teacher gift, or a gift for your hairdresser or manicurist...then the ECW has got you covered!! A gift bag with both a savory pecan cone and a sweet pecan cone is perfect for \$15. Single cones are \$8. The pecans will be for sale at the Green Bazaar and you may also purchase them during coffee hour! See Irene McLaughlin, Donna Fisher or Liz Bumbacher.



We welcome all women of the parish to join our ECW meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. The upcoming meeting dates are December 4th and January 8th. Our meetings are held in the conference room at St. Paul's at 10:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!

***Liz Bumbacher***

# Anthony Louis Springman Memorial Scholarship

After the passing of our beloved Junior Warden Emeritus, Tony Springman, the Vestry voted in favor of honoring Tony through a Scholarship. After many conversations, it was approved to have a scholarship set up in honor of Tony at SIUE, where Tony had attended during his first two years of undergraduate studies before transferring to Vanderbilt University.

The scholarship is intended for those enrolled in the Graduate level program for Education Administration with an emphasis on social sciences. Preference will be given to graduate students who had previously attended either the Episcopal Parish of Alton or were graduates of Marquette High School.

The total to have the Scholarship enacted in January 2025 while giving us time to set up an endowed fund is \$30,000. Tony's family have already promised \$15,000 and the Vestry has currently raised \$500.

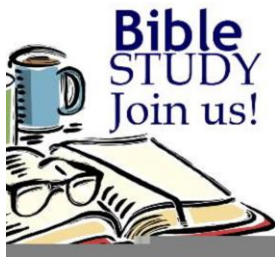
The balance of \$14,500 is to be raised over the course of the next five years in order to set up an endowed fund that will supply a yearly \$1,000 scholarship to a student in need. The Vestry and Springman family believe we will be able to raise this money, but we need your help! Will you join Fr. Garron, the Springman family and the Parish in helping not only remember Tony, but helping students in need in our community?

If you would like to donate towards the Scholarship, please make your check out to "St Paul's Episcopal Church" with the memo stating "Memorial Scholarship". If you prefer leaving cash, put it in an envelope and leave it on the offering plate or slip it under the door of the office. Please make sure to write "Memorial Scholarship" on the envelope and who it's from!

Let's honor Tony and the long line of educators of this Parish by supporting our local students!

***Fr. Garron+***

## Tuesday Bible Study Continues with Fr. Garron



Fr. Garron will continue Tuesday morning Bible Study at St. Paul's beginning at 10:00 a.m. following Morning Prayer, which now begins at 9:00 a.m.

For those who cannot attend on Tuesday mornings because of work or other commitments, Fr. Garron is now also providing a Tuesday evening Bible Study which meets at St. Paul's each week beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Both Bible study classes will soon be completing their study of the Gospel of Mark. At that time, they will begin their study of Revelation. Fr. Garron is working to keep the two classes on the same chapters so that any individual could attend either morning or evening on any given week as their schedule allows. Be sure to bring your Bible!

***Education Commission***



The upcoming dates for the **Pet Food Pantry** are **December 1<sup>st</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>**. The Pet Food Pantry is open one hour monthly, usually on the first Sunday of the month, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. People may enter St. Paul's through the Market Street entrance.

We are grateful for five local businesses for keeping a donation jar on their counter. Please support these businesses and thank them for helping us provide pet food for families in need:

Farm Fresh, Roxana;  
Daniel-Randall Veterinary Clinic, Godfrey;  
St. Peter's Hardware, Alton;  
White Birch, Godfrey; and  
Mississippi Mud Pottery, Alton.

## *Evangelism and Outreach Commission*

## Lapel Pins Now on Sale

EPA lapel pins are now available! Get your very own lapel pin to show off your EPA pride! Pins are \$5.00 and can be purchased from Fr. Garron. Cash or checks (made out to St. Paul's Episcopal Church) are accepted. All proceeds will be given to the educational endeavors of the Church.

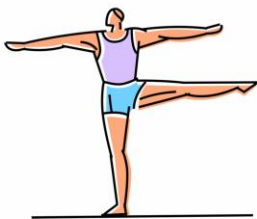


## Second Saturdays: Healthy Living for a Holy Life

Get a jump on your New Year's resolutions for health and fitness by learning more about:

- Ways to protect, maintain, and progress your physical and mental health;
- New forms of exercise to keep active or what it really means to "lift with your legs" when picking up a heavy box;
- Balance and coordination so that when winter rolls around, you feel confident about navigating the outdoors...

Join Nathalia Baum, Occupational Therapist and Certified Exercise Physiologist, for a series of classes targeting different topics surrounding health, wellness, and fitness. Due to Nathalia being out of town, the next class will be held on **Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** in Heneghan Hall at St. Paul's. The focus of the class will be on seated and standing balance.



Individuals of all ages and fitness levels are encouraged to come. Some classes will be more informational than physical, but please always plan to arrive in comfortable clothing that you are able to move freely in. We hope to see you there! For more information, please contact Nathalia at [baumnathalia1@gmail.com](mailto:baumnathalia1@gmail.com).



## ***Get Ready for the Holidays at Margie's Bookstore!***



The holiday season is just around the corner, and Margie's Bookstore has an array of new seasonal items waiting for you! Stop by to browse and discover treasures you simply can't resist.

We're open the first and third Sunday of each month after church services, so mark your calendar and come see what's new. We also enjoyed a special opening to participate in the Green Bazaar Day.

Be sure to visit us for festive finds and holiday cheer! We look forward to seeing you soon and helping you make this season extra special.

Warm regards,

***The Margie's Bookstore Team***



## **Results of Stewardship Campaign**

The Stewardship campaign for 2025 has officially ended as of November 18th. Our goal for 2025 was \$100,000. We are pleased to share with the parish that the pledged giving total for next year is ***\$125,020!*** The Episcopal Parish of Alton has been truly blessed by your commitment to the financial health of our church.

***Judy Jones, Treasurer***

## **The Origin, Meaning and Importance of Advent**

Starting in the month of December the altars of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Trinity Chapel as well as millions of other Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican / Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches will be displaying a wreath that will be adorned with three purple candles, a pink candle and some will have a large white candle in the middle of the wreath as well. The wreath adorned with the candles signifies the beginning of the advent season.



What is Advent? Advent is actually considered the first season of the church year which begins usually on the Sunday closest to November 30th lasting four weeks and concluding on Christmas Day. The word Advent is a Latin word that means: "Coming or Arrival!" Thus, Advent is a season of preparation and waiting.

The earliest known festivities of the Advent season began as early as the 4th century and were believed to be introduced by "The Council of Tours 567," a group established by the Roman Catholic Church in Medieval times. The season began as a period of strict fasting everyday until Christmas which dwindled to a fasting day three times a week over the next few centuries. The number of ways Advent was celebrated greatly differentiated among countries and denominational parishes throughout the centuries. By the thirteenth century, the act of fasting during Advent was no longer observed.

The tradition of the Advent Wreath began in Protestant parishes around the 16th century. The practice of lighting the Advent wreath quickly spread throughout all Europe as well as other countries and was adopted by numerous Christian denominations. Leading up to modern times, the tradition of the Advent wreath and candles began to take shape as practiced today and holds a very symbolic meaning for the season. The evergreen branches of the wreath symbolize the nature of God and his never-ending love, mercy, faithfulness and immortality as well as being a symbol of hope and renewal in the gift of everlasting life through his son Jesus Christ.

The five candles on the wreath also have significance with varying meaning and liturgical practices and customs from denomination to denomination. The meaning of the wreath and candle most associated with the Anglican/Episcopal parishes of North America are:

1. The first purple candle, lit on the first week of Advent is referred to as the “PROHECY CANDLE”. It symbolizes hope and commemorates Isaiah and all the prophets that foretold the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.
2. The second purple candle, lit on the second week of Advent, is referred to as the “BETHLEHEM CANDLE” representing peace. It symbolizes faith, signifying Mary and Joseph’s trip to Bethlehem in preparation of the birth of our Savior.
3. The pink candle is the candle that is lit the third week of Advent and is known as ‘THE SHEPHERD’S CANDLE’. It is a symbol of joy at the birth of Jesus and of reaching the mid-point of Advent.
4. The fourth purple advent candle is “THE ANGELS CANDLE”. Representing peace and love, and reminding us of the Angel’s message, it marks the beginning of the last week of Advent as we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior.

The white “CHRIST CANDLE” is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day representing the life of Jesus. It symbolizes the pure and sinless life he led. Advent is the season of commemorating Jesus’ birth on earth as well as the anticipation and hope of his second coming. Advent serves as a reminder of what the Christmas season is truly about. It should be a time of joy in reflection of Jesus’ birth and also be a time of prayer, repentance, healing reconciliation, generosity and kindness.

Sources: [learnreligions.com](http://learnreligions.com), [christianity.com](http://christianity.com), [Advent: A Rookie Anglican Guide](http://Advent: A Rookie Anglican Guide), [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia), [Anglican life.org](http://Anglican life.org), [Christian.net](http://Christian.net), [stmatthewshillsborough.org](http://stmatthewshillsborough.org).

***Chuck Drennan***

## **From the Altar Guild....**

Some parishioners may be aware that a committee has been formed to research how to replace our Altar linens that were damaged in the cleaning process following the church fire. Serving on the committee are Kareen Eagleton, Susan Lukasik, Millie Hancock, Irene McLaughlin, Fr. Garron and myself.

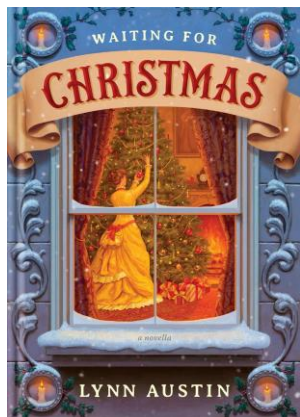
We have located a company in Baxter, MN, Ecclesiastical Sewing, that specializes in reproducing historic church linens. Our white set of altar linens has arrived safely at Ecclesiastical Sewing and the work is beginning as experts begin to reproduce our beloved set.

This will be a lengthy process and comes with some uncertainty. We ask for your prayers as we continue to work with Ecclesiastical Sewing.

***Nancy Weiss-Hayes, Chair***

## Book Club News

In December, the EPA book club will enjoy gathering for one of our most festive book club meetings of the year. Plans are to meet at St. Paul's to first treat ourselves to an amazing buffet of food and beverages. Afterwards, we'll discuss the book, *'Waiting for Christmas'* by Lynn Austin. To add to the party atmosphere, we will each bring a gift wrapped book for a book exchange. We will also try to raise extra funds with a basket raffle. Proceeds raised from the raffle will go towards the Christmas outreach project we sponsor each year.



Our meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th, at 9:30 a.m. We welcome all of our book club members past and present! If you're curious about us and want to join us for the first time, we welcome you too!

For more information, please contact Mimi Almonroeder: [diamondzoe@charter.net](mailto:diamondzoe@charter.net) or 618-581-5756.

*In this hope-filled Gilded Age Christmas novella from bestselling author Lynn Austin, the year is 1901 and the hustle and bustle of the holidays is descending on New York's Fifth Avenue.*

*For the first time in her privileged life, Adelaide Forsythe won't be swept up in it. She couldn't be happier about the prospect of a quieter Christmas. That's not to say her transition from Miss to Mrs. has been without challenge. Though she doesn't regret marrying for love instead of wealth, she can barely light the hearth or cook more than burnt toast. She feels woefully unprepared to run her own household.*

*Then, on the first Sunday of Advent, winter winds bring change through two unlikely means: a young orphan boy, hiding near Adelaide's front steps, and a seasoned housekeeper who seems too good to be true.*

*The boy, Jack, claims he isn't an orphan at all and is desperate to reunite his family. Adelaide and her husband Howard work tirelessly to solve the riddle of Jack's story, while Adelaide's new endeavors open her eyes to a world beyond her past experience—and all the challenge and possibility it holds. As Christmas approaches, small glimmers of wonder light the way toward the answers Adelaide seeks and the most miraculous gift of all.*

### ***Education Commission***



### ***Holiday Choral Performance at St. Paul's***

The Great Rivers Choral Society will present their holiday concert 'Sing We Now of Christmas' at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturday, December 14th, at 3:00 p.m. Come and enjoy beautiful choral music and invite people to tour our church!

A goodwill offering will be taken to support the Society's mission of fostering music education and appreciation in southwestern Illinois.

# *Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Parish of Alton*

It's hard to believe, but the Annual meeting is fast approaching! On Sunday, January 26, 2025, we will hold only one service at St Paul's at 10:30 a.m. After the service, we will hold our Annual meeting in Heneghan Hall.

During the course of the Annual meeting, reports from the different ministries are noted, the 2025 budget is approved, and several different addresses are made on the current state of the Parish and what the coming year will hopefully look like.

It's also the time where the Parish comes together and votes for several key leadership roles in the governance of the Parish. This year there will be elections for four vestry positions. There will also be elections for two lay delegates to Diocesan Synod who also serve as the Darrow Deanery representatives.

The Vestry advises the Rector on the needs, interests, and concerns of the Parish members. They also take an active role in the Parish by chairing or being involved in one of our many Commissions, assisting in subcommittees, and any other work needing to be done to continue the work and mission of the Parish. The Vestry meets at minimum once a month with commissions meeting at least once a month as well. The work of the Vestry is hands on and is vital work for the life of the Parish. Those discerning to join the Vestry should pray before putting their name forward.

So who's eligible to be a member of the Vestry or be a Delegate? Those who wish to run for Vestry and for the Delegate positions must be Communicants in Good Standing as defined by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Springfield, be eighteen years of age, and be a contributing member of the Parish.

Many wonder what it means to be a member of the Parish, especially a "communicant in good standing". To this question we turn to Canon 36 of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Springfield which reads:

## Of Members of the Church

### Section 1.

All persons who have received the sacrament of Holy Baptism with water, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are members thereof.

### Section 2.

All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year are to be considered communicants of this Church.

### Section 3.

All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.

### Section 4.

Communicants sixteen years of age or older are to be considered adult communicants.



As we draw closer to the Annual meeting, take the time to pray and discern whether you feel the call to be a member of the Vestry or a Delegate. To nominate, please have another communicant in good standing nominate you and send an email to [episcoppalalton@gmail.com](mailto:episcoppalalton@gmail.com) who will record the nomination and notify Fr. Garron. Nominations can be made on the floor of the Annual meeting, but we strongly encourage you to **send nominations in before Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**, so we have time to verify and announce our slate of candidates.

For any questions about Vestry or the Delegate positions, please reach out to any of our Vestry members, past Delegates members, or Fr. Garron!

*Fr. Garron+*



## *Love Thy Neighbor*

Many thanks to our parish family for the bountiful collection of food items during the “Love Thy Neighbor” campaign. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and your love will be felt as many area families gather for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals!

In addition to the food, a monetary contribution of \$900 was given to the Crisis Food Center by the Episcopal Parish of Alton.

## *Evangelism and Outreach Commission*



Did you know there is a new and convenient way to earn money for The Episcopal Parish of Alton (EPA) just by shopping online? Remember using AmazonSmile? Your purchases on AmazonSmile earned a percentage of money for the EPA....super easy. Unfortunately, that

program does not exist any longer.

If you recall several years ago, we were introduced to a fundraising program, ShopwithScrip. Our parish is still enrolled in this program which is now called **RaiseRight**. It is an ongoing fundraiser for our church that uses gift cards instead of cash or credit cards to pay for everyday (and not-so-everyday) expenses like groceries, gas, dining out, that morning coffee addiction, even your family’s summer vacation. Each participant in our program can earn money for EPA that comes from their purchase of gift cards. This is still an excellent way to earn money for our church!

**NOW**, you can earn money for our parish in a brand new way – in addition to gift cards – **simply by shopping online!** If you shop online, there is a chance that your brands are available on RaiseRight! There are 450+ brands that are enrolled in this new online way to earn for our church.

As our parish coordinator for RaiseRight, I would love to help you enroll in this program and will be happy to walk you through the process. Each Sunday after church at St. Paul’s, I will be available during coffee hour to assist you in enrolling. If you attend services at Trinity, I can definitely attend service there and meet with you after the service. Let me know you need help and I will gladly work with you.

In the meantime, why don't you check out the website [raiseright.com](https://www.raiseright.com). If you feel pretty confident about your skills navigating websites, here's the link to enroll and the enrollment code connected to The Episcopal Parish of Alton. Copy and paste it to your web browser.

<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=A331139955862>

Our enrollment code is A331139955862

***Mimi Almonroeder***  
RaiseRight Coordinator

## **Saturday Café—In Service with our Neighbors**

Our parish is one of several local churches that joins in serving meals through the Saturday Café program held at First Presbyterian Church on Alby Street that serves free lunches to those in need. **The dates for 2025 are currently being scheduled and will be communicated to you once they have been finalized.**

For more information about how to help, please contact Mimi Almonroeder at 618-581-5756 or [diamondzoe@charter.net](mailto:diamondzoe@charter.net).



***Evangelism and Outreach Commission***

## **Memorial Gifts and Naming Opportunities**

You have probably noticed throughout St Paul's and Trinity Chapel that there are memorial plaques designating certain items in memory or in honor of a loved one. It can be anything from the pipe organ, the parish garden, or even the A/C Unit! So many of the things we have and enjoy at our Parish were given to us by the generosity of family and friends who wanted to honor someone still living or memorialize someone who has departed.

Recently, the processional cross was refurbished and restored in memory of Bette Harris, Tom & Ann's mother. The new sign at Trinity Chapel and the soon to be new sign at St. Paul's are both dedicated in memory of Bill Eagleton, husband of Kareen Eagleton.

There are many opportunities throughout the Parish for members to honor or memorialize someone they love and cherish. Whether you want to remember someone departed or celebrate and honor someone for an accomplishment or years of service, please reach out to Fr. Garron to talk more about what possibilities exist here at the EPA!

***Fr. Garron+***

## **Important Tax Information**

By Federal tax law, if you wish to deduct contributions to your church on your 2024 tax return, you **MUST** submit or postmark any donation **BEFORE MIDNIGHT** on December 31<sup>st</sup>. In order to safeguard the parish's tax-exempt status, **NO** exceptions can be made to this rule.

## **Christmas Greenery and Poinsettias for Advent**

Donations are being accepted for poinsettias and Christmas greens for St. Paul's and Trinity Chapel. Forms are available at church for you to designate whether your donation is in memory or honor of a loved one and to which location you would like the flowers to go. Checks (made payable to the Episcopal Parish of Alton) along with the form may be placed in the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office. December 17<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to turn in donations and forms in order to have names printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



A date for decorating St. Paul's for Christmas will be communicated to you once that has been scheduled so you can join in the fun!

***Nancy Weiss-Hayes***  
Altar Guild Director



### ***Simplify your Giving to the Episcopal Parish of Alton***

Scan the QR code (left) to initiate your gift today!

We encourage you to prayerfully consider setting up a recurring gift that will automate your regular giving. If you have any questions, please reach out to our church office so we can assist you.





## *Calendar for December*

Sunday, December 1st *The First Sunday of Advent*  
*Open Offering supports Rector's Discretionary Fund*  
8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's  
12:00 p.m. Advent wreath assembly – Heneghan Hall  
12:30-1:30 p.m. Pet Food Pantry



Tuesday, December 3rd  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's  
5:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's



Wednesday, December 4th 10:00 a.m. ECW meeting at St. Paul's

Saturday, December 7th 8:00 a.m. All Church Cleaning day – St. Paul's

Sunday, December 8th *The Second Sunday of Advent*  
8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Tuesday, December 10th  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's  
5:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's



Wednesday, December 11th 9:30 a.m. Book Club at St. Paul's

Thursday, December 12th 5:30 p.m. *The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* Mass at Trinity Chapel

Saturday, December 14th  
3:00 p.m. Great Rivers Choral Society concert '*Sing We Now of Christmas*' – St. Paul's

Sunday, December 15th *The Third Sunday of Advent*  
8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's



Tuesday, December 17th

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

5:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

6:30 p.m. Vestry at St. Paul's

Thursday, December 19th

5:30 p.m. ECM All Parish Christmas Party at Castelli's 255; Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 21st *The Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle* Noon at Trinity

Sunday, December 22nd *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Tuesday, December 24th *Christmas Eve Mass* 10:00 p.m. at St. Paul's; no fellowship

Wednesday, December 25th *Christmas Day Mass* 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Chapel; no fellowship

Thursday, December 26th *The Feast of Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity

Friday, December 27th *The Feast of Saint John, The Evangelist* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Chapel

Saturday, December 28th *Feast of The Holy Innocents* Noon at Trinity Chapel

10:00 a.m. Second Saturdays: Healthy Living for a Holy Life at St. Paul's-Heneghan Hall

Sunday, December 29th *The First Sunday after Christmas Day*

8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

## January

Wednesday, January 1st *The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ Mass* 5:30 p.m. at Trinity  
Office Closed

Sunday, January 5th

*Open Offering supports Rector's Discretionary Fund*

8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

12:30-1:30 p.m. Pet Food Pantry

Monday, January 6th *The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ Mass*

5:30 p.m. at Trinity Chapel



Tuesday, January 7th

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

5:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

Wednesday, January 8th 10:00 a.m. ECW meeting at St. Paul's

Sunday, January 12th

8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Tuesday, January 14th

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

5:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

Saturday, January 18th *Confession of St. Peter Mass* Noon at Trinity Chapel

Sunday, January 19th

8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Tuesday, January 21st

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

5:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

6:30 p.m. Vestry

Sunday, January 26th

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's – Annual meeting to follow service

*The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul* - Observed

The Church Office will be closed:

Wednesday, December 25th for Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day

Fr. Garron will lead Morning Prayer in St. Elizabeth's Chapel at St. Paul's  
Monday-Thursday at 9:00 a.m. except as noted above



## December Birthdays

**03 Kate Simpson  
05 Luke Mills  
05 Nancy Elson  
08 Ann Bromaghim  
08 Christine Jones  
12 Janet Riley  
13 Kristina Stone  
14 Verla Moyer  
18 Meg Dorris  
18 Gabrielle Hughes  
20 Jane Hill  
23 Parker Grassle  
24 Christina Butler  
24 Judy Jones  
30 Diana Enloe**



## January Birthdays



**04 Jack Gottlob  
06 Sean Stone  
06 Randy Smith  
08 Mary Roberts  
11 Veronica Wrausmann  
12 Chris Donohoo  
15 Holly Cook  
16 Robbie Cupp  
17 Bryant Johnson  
19 Terry Durham  
19 Elizabeth Foley  
22 Andrew Cook  
26 Tracy Summers  
29 Millie Hancock**

## Vestry

**Fr. Garron Daniels+—Priest in Charge**

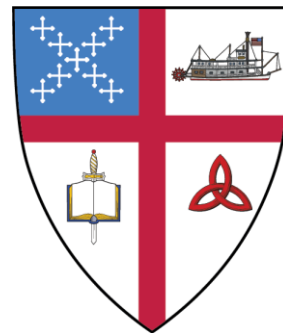
**Mimi Almonroeder—Senior Warden**

**Robbie Cupp—Junior Warden**

**Judy Jones—Treasurer**

**Lisa Springman—Clerk of the Vestry**

**Tony Springman—People's Warden Emeritus**



### Vestry Commissions:

**Education:** \*Mimi Almonroeder, Meg Dorris

**Evangelism & Outreach:** April Drennan, Mary Molloy

**Liturgy & Music:** \*Irene McLaughlin, Robbie Cupp, Chuck Drennan, Millie Hancock

**Parish Life:** \*Mimi Almonroeder, Donna Fisher, April Drennan

**Property & Maintenance:** \*Bill Moyer, Robbie Cupp, Chuck Drennan, Donna Fisher,  
Tom Harris

**Public Relations & Publicity:** \*Millie Hancock, Irene McLaughlin

**Finance & Insurance:** \*Judy Jones (*ex officio*), \*Meg Dorris, Tom Harris, Bill Moyer

\* Indicates lead person



The deadline for the February *Angelus* is January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please email your articles and photos to [episcopalalton@gmail.com](mailto:episcopalalton@gmail.com).

### The Episcopal Parish of Alton



**St. Paul's Church**  
10 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Alton, IL 62002

**Trinity Chapel**  
1901 State St.  
Alton, IL 62002



**Telephone: 618-465-9149**

**Priest's contact: phone 816-262-1904 and email [fgrarron@gmail.com](mailto:fgrarron@gmail.com)**

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**Website: [www.episcopalalton.org](http://www.episcopalalton.org)**

**Facebook.com/episcopalalton**