

Weekly Newsletter for Sunday December 1 2024

Please bring food to church for donation to the Lady Lake Christian Food Pantry

Did you remember? Fr. Greg was ordained as a priest on November 21, 2015. Congratulations Fr. Greg!

This Sunday, December 1 2024, is The First Sunday in Advent

Communion Service begins at 9:30 am.

The Service Bulletin is attached.

Holy Communion will be celebrated by Fr. Greg Koon.

Coffee and sweets will be available after the service

Notes to your calendar:

Christmas Eve, December 24 - 7:00 pm.

Christmas Day, December 25 - 10:00 am.

Please plan to attend. And, ask a friend who may be uncertain about which church to attend. Offer to drive them to St. Albans. Or, just agree to meet them there. Who knows, they might like it. We do!

"Sunday School on Saturday" will be held on 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10 am of each month at the church. Call Fr. Greg for details 352-205-8567

Take a look at the bulletin and see if you can find a new addition. It means that it is Quite Right.

Quiz: Which Saint is associated with the patronage of: Contemplative life; contemplatives; mystical theology; mystics; Spanish poets. See answer below.

Have you looked at the church website lately? StAlbansAnglicanChurch.com

<https://stalbansanglicanchurch.com/> Click on this link to go to the website.

Or go to stalbans.church web address without the www in front. Please let me know if this works for you. Thanks.

If you need a ride to church please call one of the Vestry Members listed on the back of the service bulletin. They will be gratified that you asked and pleased to give you a ride or arrange for one. Contact me, or Fr. Greg, at 352-205-8567.

Fr. Greg's Discretionary Fund - *If you would like to donate to this fund please write a check to St. Alban's Anglican Church with the notation that it is for this fund.*

Prayer List on Service Bulletins - Each week a prayer list is published in the bulletin. Changes to the list should be sent to Fr. Greg Koon.

St. Alban's Anglican Church, 625 W. Lady Lake Blvd., Lady Lake, FL 32159 Telephone: 352-205-8567.

If you would like to dedicate flowers to some one or some event, donate to the Altar Flower fund. Please contact Mitzi Hennessey a few weeks in advance so the flowers can be ordered. Call Mitzi at 352-633-9926 or email mitzi2201965@gmail.com.

Commemorations from the Ordo Kalendar

Unless noted otherwise most information is from <http://www.wikipedia.org>

[The following commemoration is from Encyclopedia Britannica]

December 3 - Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity, and is part of the wider Christmas and holiday season.

The term "Advent" is also used in Eastern Orthodoxy for the 40-day Nativity Fast, which has practices different from those in the West.

The name was adopted from Latin *adventus* "coming; arrival", translating Greek *parousia*. In the New Testament, this is the term used for the Second Coming of Christ.

Thus, the season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming.

Practices associated with Advent include keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, erecting a Christmas tree or a Chrismon tree, lighting a Christingle, as well as other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas decorations, a custom that is sometimes done liturgically through a hanging of the greens ceremony. The equivalent of Advent in Eastern Christianity is called the Nativity Fast, but it differs in length and observances, and does not begin the liturgical church year as it does in the West. The Eastern Nativity Fast does not use the equivalent *parousia* in its preparatory services.

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the Western Rite of the Orthodox Church, and the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian, Presbyterian, and Methodist calendars, Advent commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (always falling between 27 November and 3 December), and ends on Christmas Eve on 24 December.

November 24 – St. John of the Cross (Confessor, Doctor) --[A great amount of information is available at www.wikipedia.org]

Saint John of the Cross, (Spanish: San Juan de la Cruz; 1542 – 14 December 1591), was a major figure of the Counter-Reformation, a Spanish mystic, a Roman Catholic saint, a Carmelite friar and a priest who was born at Fontiveros, Old Castile.

John of the Cross was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered, along with Saint Teresa of Ávila, as a founder of the Discalced Carmelites.

He is also known for his writings. Both his poetry and his studies on the growth of the soul are considered the summit of mystical Spanish literature and one of the peaks of all Spanish literature. He was canonized as a saint in 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII. He is one of the thirty-five Doctors of the Church.

St. John of the Cross is considered one of the foremost poets in the Spanish language. Although his complete poems add up to fewer than 2500 verses, two of them — the *Spiritual Canticle* and the *Dark Night of the Soul* — are widely considered masterpieces of Spanish poetry, both for their formal stylistic point of view and their rich symbolism and imagery. His theological works often consist of commentaries on these poems. All the works were written between 1578 and his death in 1591, meaning there is great consistency in the views presented in them.

Proceedings to beatify John began with the gathering of information on his life between 1614 and 1616, although he was only beatified in 1675 by Pope Clement X, and was canonized by Benedict XIII in 1726. When his feast day was added to the General Roman Calendar in 1738, it was assigned to 24 November, since his date of death was impeded by the then-existing octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This obstacle was removed in 1955 and in 1969 Pope Paul VI moved it to the dies natalis (birthday to heaven) of the saint, 14 December. The Church of England commemorates him as a "Teacher of the Faith" on the same date. In 1926, he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI.

Patronage: Contemplative life; contemplatives; mystical theology; mystics; Spanish poets.

November 25 - Catherine of Alexandria, V.M. (b.287 - d.304 or 5)

"Holy Catherine the Great Martyr;" is, according to tradition, a Christian saint and virgin, who was martyred in the early 4th century at the hands of the emperor Maxentius. According to her hagiography, she was both a princess and a noted scholar who became a Christian around the age of 14, converted hundreds of people to Christianity and was martyred around the age of 18. More than 1,100 years after Catherine's martyrdom, Joan of Arc identified her as one of the saints who appeared to and counseled her.

The Eastern Orthodox Church venerates her as a Great Martyr and celebrates her feast day on 24 or 25 November, depending on the regional tradition. In Catholicism,

Catherine is traditionally revered as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers and she is commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on 25 November. Her feast was removed from the General Roman Calendar in 1969, but restored in 2002 as an optional memorial.

Some modern scholars consider that the legend of Catherine was probably based on the life and murder of the virgin Saint Dorothea of Alexandria and the Greek philosopher Hypatia, with reversed role of a Christian and Neo-Platonist in the case of the latter.

According to the traditional narrative, Catherine was the daughter of Constus, the governor of Alexandria during the reign of the emperor Maximian (286–305). From a young age she devoted herself to study. A vision of the Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus persuaded her to become a Christian. When the persecutions began under Maxentius, she went to the emperor and rebuked him for his cruelty. The emperor summoned 50 of the best pagan philosophers and orators to dispute with her, hoping that they would refute her pro-Christian arguments, but Catherine won the debate. Several of her adversaries, conquered by her eloquence, declared themselves Christians and were at once put to death.

The emperor gave orders to subject the saint to terrible tortures and then throw her in prison. During the confinement, angels tended her wounds with salve and she was fed daily by a dove from Heaven and Christ also visited her, encouraging her to fight bravely, and promised her the crown of everlasting glory.

During her imprisonment more than 200 people came to see her, including Maxentius' wife, Valeria Maximilla; all converted to Christianity and were subsequently martyred. Twelve days later, when the dungeon was opened, a bright light and fragrant perfume filled it and Catherine came forth even more radiant and beautiful.

Upon the failure of Maxentius to make Catherine yield by way of torture, he tried to win the beautiful and wise princess over by proposing marriage. Catherine refused, declaring that her spouse was Jesus Christ, to whom she had consecrated her virginity.

The furious emperor condemned Catherine to death on a spiked breaking wheel, but, at her touch, it shattered. Maxentius ordered her to be beheaded. Catherine herself ordered the execution to commence. A milk-like substance rather than blood flowed from her neck.

November 30 - St Andrew, Abbot, Apostle --Andrew the Apostle (from the early 1st century – mid to late 1st century AD); known by some as Saint Andrew, was a Christian Apostle and the brother of Saint Peter. The name "Andrew" (Greek: manly, brave, manhood, valor), like other Greek names, appears to have been common among the Jews, Christians, and other Hellenized people of the region. No Hebrew or Aramaic name is recorded for him. He is considered the founder and the first bishop of the Church of Byzantium and is consequently the patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The New Testament states that Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter, by which it is inferred that he was likewise a son of John, or Jonah. He was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. Both he and his brother Peter were fishermen by trade, hence the tradition that Jesus called them to be his disciples by saying that he will make them "fishers of men." At the beginning of Jesus' public life, they were said to have occupied the same house at Capernaum.

The Gospel of John states that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist, whose testimony first led him, and another unnamed disciple of John the Baptist to follow Jesus. Andrew at once recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and hastened to introduce him to his brother. Thenceforth, the two brothers were Disciples of Christ. On a subsequent occasion, prior to the final call to the Apostolate, they were called to a closer companionship, and then they left all things to follow Jesus.

In the gospels, Andrew is referred to as being present on some important occasions as one of the disciples more closely attached to Jesus. Andrew told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes (John 6:8), with Philip told Jesus about the Greeks seeking Him, and was present at the Last Supper.

Andrew is said to have been martyred by crucifixion at the city of Patras in Achaea, on the northern coast of the Peloponnese. Early texts, such as the Acts of Andrew known to Gregory of Tours, describe Andrew as bound, not nailed, to a Latin cross of the kind on which Jesus is said to have been crucified; yet a tradition developed that Andrew had been crucified on a cross of the form called *Crux decussata* (X-shaped cross, or "saltire"), now commonly known as a "Saint Andrew's Cross" — supposedly at his own request, as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus had been.

All the relics, which consist of the small finger, the skull (part of the top of the cranium of Saint Andrew), and the cross on which he was martyred, have been kept in the Church of St. Andrew at Patras in a special shrine and are revered in a special ceremony every November 30, his feast day.

Please let the editor of this weekly eNewsletter know if it is useful to you, or not, or have suggestions on how to improve it, or would like to help write it.

If you received this message in error or would like to be removed from the email list please let me know.

Keeping the Faith,

Ed Williams

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