



SAINT ALBAN'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

17 March 2021

Dear St. Alban's Family:

During the pandemic, our congregation's primary channels of communication have been email and social media. These methods are fast, reliable, and low cost. Sending out paper letters in the mail is significantly more expensive (about \$1,700 per mailing) and takes longer to reach our members.

Nevertheless, we want to make sure we are keeping everyone in the loop, and so we are occasionally sending letters like this one. In this letter, you'll find news about our worship services, Holy Week and Easter, our newest staff member, and my upcoming Sabbatical. I hope you find this letter helpful and informative.

I also encourage all members to sign up for our weekly email which goes out every Friday. To sign up, send an email message to stalbans@stalbanswaco.org. Or just call the church office at (254) 752-1773. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram at [stalbanswaco](https://www.stalbanswaco.org).

A final note. During the pandemic, many loved gathering online for worship (church in pajamas!). Going forward, we will continue to offer online worship, as it allows those who are ill, have limited mobility, or are out of town to join us remotely. But as we begin to emerge from the pandemic, I encourage you to come back for in-person worship. For now, our outdoor services are beautiful, unique, fun, meaningful, and even historic (you can tell your grandkids you went to church outside). Soon, we will begin to worship indoors (in the Parish Hall, as the church is renovated). Pandemic habits may have taken root, but **I invite you to come back to church.** "Baby, Come Back" (Player, 1977). I've missed so many of you and look forward to seeing you again.

God bless you and keep you.

Yours,

The Rev. Aaron M. G. Zimmerman
Rector

PARISH NEWS *IN BRIEF*

Spring 2021

In-Person Worship on Sundays

- We currently offer two **in-person outdoor** worship services on Sundays.
- Location: Parking lot
- Times: **7:30 AM & 11:15 AM**
- 7:30 AM service details: Holy Communion (Rite I), sermon, no music
- 11:15 service details: Holy Communion (Rite II), sermon, choir and hymns with piano accompaniment. Singing (with masks) is permitted.
- Holy Communion is offered in one kind only (bread).
- **Social distancing and masks (covering mouth and nose) are required.**
- Inclement Weather Policy: We will notify the parish via email and social media on Friday if services are canceled for Sunday. You may also call the church for information.

Online Worship on Sundays

- Every Sunday at 9:00 AM CT, we offer a service of Choral Morning Prayer via livestream on Facebook and YouTube.
- The service is recorded and may be watched later in the day.

Re-Gathering Indoors

- We will re-gather when it becomes safe to do so.
- McLennan County is still at high risk for the spread of COVID-19.
- Required metrics for St. Alban's to resume indoor gathering (based on recommendations from the CDC and epidemiologists):

Metric	Required Level	Current Level
COVID-19 positive test rate	5% or lower	7%
Daily new cases per 100,000 residents	10 or below	12
ICU Capacity	70% or lower	88%

- **Important: The church interior is currently closed for renovation until December 2021. Thus, when we re-gather for indoor worship, services will be located in the Parish Hall.**

Welcome New Staff Member: Rachel Toombs, Ph.D.

- Effective May 1, Rachel Toombs (Ph.D. in theology, Baylor University) will serve as our Director of Christian Formation, overseeing Sunday School, Small Groups, and more. Welcome, Dr. Toombs!

Rector's Sabbatical

Per Diocese of Texas policy, with full vestry support, after eight years of ministry at St. Alban's, the Rev. Aaron Zimmerman will take a four-month sabbatical from May 17 to September 17, 2021. Aaron will take time for personal retreat, study, and visits to extended family. In addition, he and Andrea and their children will take an eight-week trip to Europe. Aaron will participate in a seven-day hundred-mile run of the Tour du Mont Blanc, circumnavigating Europe's highest peak, passing through France, Italy, and Switzerland (info at runthealps.com).

The cost of the sabbatical is covered by a \$50,000 Clergy Renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., and a \$7,500 grant from the Bishop Quin Foundation of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. Aaron's last Sunday at St. Alban's will be May 16, with an outdoor send-off planned for the Zimmerman family after the 11:15 AM service. Aaron will rejoin us in worship on Sunday, September 19. During Aaron's leave, the Rev. Neal McGowan, Associate Rector, will oversee all parish activities.

Easter Lilies and Brass

Easter Day, April 4, is soon approaching. To celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, worship at St. Alban's is traditionally beautified with Lilies and a Brass Quintet. We encourage you to offer a donation towards lilies and/or brass in thanksgiving for, or in memory of your loved ones by filling out and returning the form at the bottom of this letter. Alternatively, you can also visit stalbanswaco.org/give and donate online by selecting Lilies or Easter Brass.

Holy Week Services

Please Note:

- All **in-person** services are **outdoors in the parking lot**. Masks and distancing required.
- The **Maundy Thursday prayer vigil** takes place **inside the church**, with capacity limited to five people at a time for each hour. You may also sign up for a time slot to pray for an hour at home.
- In addition to the services listed below, we will continue our regular **daily services of Morning Prayer**, livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube, at 7:30 AM, Monday through Friday of Holy Week.

PALM SUNDAY, March 28, 2021 – BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BRANCHES)

IN-PERSON 7:30 AM – Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, Rite I
ONLINE 9:00 AM – Morning Prayer, Rite I – *live-stream only* (with Choir)
IN-PERSON 11:15 AM – Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, Rite I (with Choir)
ONLINE 5:30 PM – Evensong – *live-stream only* (with Choir)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1, 2021

ONLINE 6:00 PM – Maundy Thursday Service – *live-stream only* (with Choir)
IN-PERSON 7:30 PM – Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar (with Choir)
IN-PERSON Thursday 8:00 PM – Friday 7:00 AM – All-night prayer vigil (Sign up to pray for an hour, either in the church or at home, by calling the church office or emailing stalbans@stalbanswaco.org)

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2, 2021

IN-PERSON 12:00 PM – Good Friday Service w/ Solemn Collects (with Choir)

ONLINE 3:00 PM – Good Friday Service w/ Solemn Collects (with Choir) – *live-stream only*

IN-PERSON 7:30 PM – Good Friday Service w/ Solemn Collects (with Choir)

HOLY SATURDAY, April 3, 2021

IN-PERSON 9:00 AM – Holy Saturday Liturgy (no choir, lasts 10 minutes)

Easter Services – Nursery (ages 0-3) Available at Most Services

EASTER EVE, Saturday, April 3, 2021

IN-PERSON 7:30 PM – The Great Vigil of Easter with Holy Eucharist, Holy Baptism, and the lighting of the Easter Fire (with Choir). *Nursery available for ages 0-3.*

EASTER DAY, Sunday, April 4, 2021

IN-PERSON 7:30 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite I. *No nursery available.*

ONLINE 9:00 AM – Morning Prayer, Rite II – *live-stream only* (with Choir and Brass)

IN-PERSON 9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II - *in-person in the parking lot* (with Choir and Brass). *Nursery available for ages 0-3.*

IN-PERSON 11:15 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II - *in-person in the parking lot* (with Choir and Brass). *Nursery available for ages 0-3.*

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Alban's this Easter season!

EASTER LILIES

Your Name:

In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:

Amount (any amount may be given):

EASTER BRASS

Your Name:

In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:

Amount (any amount may be given):

Please return form and money to the church office, 2900 W. Waco Drive, Waco, TX 76710 no later than March 31 to ensure your donation will be printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. You may make your donation securely online at our website: stalbanswaco.org. Just click the blue "Give" circle, enter the amount, select "Special Flowers: Easter Lilies" or "Easter Brass," add payment info, then click "Add a note" to type in the Memorial/Thanksgiving information.