



NEWSLETTER

Week Commencing Dec 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent



From the Rector

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday and focuses more on the joy of the season, picking up on the words from Thessalonians:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.” Gaudete is the Latin word translated as Rejoice.

The liturgical vestments and the candle lit in the Advent Wreath are the colour rose to signify a different emphasis in our preparation for Christmas. It is seen as a Sunday that offers a break from the penitential feel of Advent and reminds us that it is with great joy and anticipation that we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus. In the readings on Gaudete Sunday we will hear the word rejoice and also John the Baptist’s own eager anticipation of the coming of Christ and also Mary’s song, known as the Magnificat. We are drawing closer to our great high feast of celebrating Jesus’ birth!

The Season of Advent in the Church seems to step out of sync with all that is taking place in the world around us. As shoppers seek out the perfect gift, and carols play in the Mall, and festive activities are taking place all over, in the Church we see this season as a time of preparation and wondering and waiting. We focus much more on the spiritual journey of this time and not the commercialization. This Sunday we do that with joy but it is still all about our relationship with Jesus Christ and God’s call to deepen our faith and growth in how we live out our faith in the world around us. May God continue to bless you in this journey!

God of joy, you call us to rejoice! To rejoice that you continue to come to us to awaken us to your light and love. Stir up our faith. Strengthen our trust. Support our calling. Invite us to live this life deeper and grounded in you. For we anticipate the coming of your Son once more to renew our lives and our gratitude. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.



KEEP CALM
AND
REJOICE IN
THE LORD

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Artist's Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who organized and supported the Artist's Fair last Sunday. It went very well and it was a delight to renew a tradition at St. John's that has not taken place for many years. Special thanks to Aileen Engs for her work with this!

Daily Readings for Advent

Here is a list of daily readings to prepare for Christmas and our celebrations of the birth and the coming of Christ, pushing aside all those things that get attached to Christmas in our society of North America.

Friday, Dec 15, 2017: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16

Saturday, Dec 16, 2017: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32

Sunday, Dec 17, 2017: Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, Dec 18, 2017: Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17

Tuesday, Dec 19, 2017: Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4

Wednesday, Dec 20, 2017: Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13

Thursday, Dec 21, 2017: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4

Friday, Dec 22, 2017: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14

Saturday, Dec 23, 2017: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52

Confirmation

If you or someone that you know is interested in being Confirmed in the Anglican Church of Canada, please speak to Father John or Mother Liz.

Confirmation is about confirming the promises that were made on your behalf when you were baptized as a child. There will be a preparation period of about six weeks of classes to explore the Bible, Theology, Liturgy, Church Governance, Mature Faith and a number of other things. If you are already Confirmed but are interested in Reaffirming your faith, please also contact the Clergy. Please consider it!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Starts Up Again!

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study took a break over Advent and Christmas. It will resume on January 17 and run until February 7 (Lent

begins on February 14 and there will be a Lenten Series at that point) We gather at 10:10am on Wednesday mornings to discuss the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. Please join us!

Lent Series 2018

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John invites participants on a six-week journey into deeper intimacy with God by praying with the words of John the Evangelist (The Gospel According to John and First Letter of John). These two texts describe how God, out of deep love, sends God's only Son Jesus into the world, to take on human form and live among us. By learning from Jesus, his human friendships, and his teachings about the God he calls 'Father,' we will discover God as One who longs for deep intimacy with each of us. We will take to heart the words of Jesus: "I and the Father are one." We will find that God is not a judge, a disapproving parent, a policeman, or a taskmaster; rather God is our companion, our friend, our confidant, our beloved. We are even invited to abide in God as God abides in us. It is in relationship with Jesus that such extraordinary communion with God becomes a personal reality.

Christmas Flower Dedications

Every Christmas St John's is adorned with beautiful flowers, especially poinsettias, and fine music. We are collecting flower dedications - a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember loved ones. For every \$15 we can display one medium sized poinsettia, and for \$25 a larger one.

We ordered several extra poinsettias, and will take flower dedications up until Monday, Dec 18th, at 10am. Please call or email the wording to the office. Like all flower dedications, the Christmas flower dedications will be printed in the Christmas leaflet, and are tax deductible.



Decorating volunteers needed Dec 17th right after the 10am service AND Dec 24th right after the 10am service

We need more volunteers to help us decorate the church right after coffee hour on December 17th AND 24th. Please contact the office to sign up. Sandwiches will be available for the work party on the 24th.

PWRDF - Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

In August, torrential rain in 18 districts of southern Nepal caused widespread flooding, directly affecting some six million people. The rains and floods damaged crops, devastated farmland, and swept away valuable livestock. Farmers lost their livelihoods, and millions of others were displaced. In an instant they became homeless and without a reliable source of food and water.

PWRDF works with partners around the world to alleviate hunger, improve farming practices, and assist small hold farmers to manage the impact of climate change.

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas, when so much of our celebration revolves around sharing meals and fellowship, PWRDF invites you to support our efforts to alleviate hunger and to build healthy futures for individuals, families, and communities.

Speak to Doug Symons to find out how you might participate!

ACW Fellowship Group at SJS

The St. John Shaughnessy Anglican Church Women's Fellowship meetings will resume in January. All women are invited to the last Wednesday of the month meetings. The National ACW prayer is as follows:

"Almighty God, we pray for your blessing and grace on our work and witness as Anglican Church Women in Canada.

We give you thanks and praise for giving us wisdom, knowledge and understanding so that we may serve you in spirit and in truth.

Called to be your church, may our study, learning, worship and service be always to your glory and the building of your kingdom in our communities and throughout the world.

In our ministry may we always respond to the needs of others with your love.

We pray in the name of the One who redeemed and loves us, your Son, Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

May this Christmas Season be filled with Joy and Peace.

Alberta Rudolf, Fellowship Group Chair.

Neighbourhood Ministry: thank you for the winter clothing!

A big thank you to SJS parishioners for the donations of warm winter clothes. The response has been tremendous, and we no longer need anymore!

WISH Women's Drop-in Centre still needs winter clothing!

We are collecting used women's winter clothing, boots, & bedding, for women who use the WISH Drop-in centre in the Downtown Eastside. Many of these women are homeless, so the need is always great. Please label "WISH" or "Janet" and leave in the narthex. Call Janet in the office if you have other items to donate but you aren't sure if they are suitable.

Neighbourhood Ministry Christmas Events - Please join us!

Volunteers are warmly welcome to join us **on Saturday December 16th** for our 10th Annual Christmas Street Outreach to our homeless neighbours, followed by a lunch and carolling at 17th and Dunbar. These are wonderful events that bring together our four churches and friends from the community. Here are the details:

Street Outreach: Volunteers meet up at St. Anselm's church at 9:00 a.m. We will prepare gift and lunch bags, enjoy coffee and muffins, and divide up into teams. Even if you are unable to go out on the street, please do join us for this time of fellowship.

Please let Vicki know if you can volunteer to drive, or to bring a contribution for the lunch bags (sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, mandarins).

vbpotter@hotmail.com 604-730-7846

Dunbar Pre-Christmas Luncheon & Carolling at Dunbar December 16

Saturday December 16th, 12:30-2:30pm, Dunbar Apartments (3595 West 17th Avenue).

Take a pause from the hustle and bustle of Christmas activities and join us at Dunbar Apartments for lunch and carolling with our friends. This is a wonderful event that the residents of Dunbar have grown to anticipate with excitement.

Set up time begins at 11am. If you can provide refreshments for the event, please choose from the following list: Eggnog; Eggs; Milk; Bacon; Onions; Potatoes; Elbow Macaroni; Ham; Cranberry sauce; Cheese; Bananas; Pancake Mix; Pancake Syrup; Salad; Vegetable Platter; Casseroles; Fruit/Mandarin Oranges; Juices; Desserts/Christmas Cookies.

Please let me know if you can assist with setup or cleanup, provide some treats or are able to join in singing Christmas carols. Please contact Joan Stewart: jstewart@westernriver.com



The Longest Night: A Blue Christmas Service

Thursday Dec. 21, 2017 at 7:00pm

St. Faith's Anglican Church 7284 Cypress St. (at W 57th Ave.)

*Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away*

This special service of hope is for those who find it difficult to be merry in the season.

It will provide an opportunity to acknowledge pain and sadness and express the grief, fears and loneliness that are a normal part of living. In worship we will ask for God's healing to face a future sustained by hope and grace.



After the service there will be a quiet space to light a candle, a chapel with a minister offering prayers for healing and "comfort items" for you to take away.



Experience the true meaning of Christmas!

Live Nativity Play

Saturday Dec 16th 1pm - 3pm, rain or shine

Presented by Salal & Cedar www.salalandcedar.com



A beautiful outdoor presentation of the Christmas Story through carols and drama. Meet a gentle donkey and other animals while enjoying music from the St John's Choir. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome. Suitable for all ages.

Performance is at 2pm. To perform or volunteer with the play, please email salalandcedar@vancouver.anglican.ca

 **St John's**
SHAUGHNESSY

1490 Nanton Avenue (at Granville St)
Vancouver BC V6H 2E2
604.731.4966 / www.sjs.net



I bring you good news of a
great joy which will come
to all the people; for to you
is born this day a Saviour,
Christ the Lord.
Luke 2.10-11

Christmas Services

Dec 24th

5:00pm Children's Service with Communion

10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Dec 25th

10:00am Sung Eucharist



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The Christmas Season

Everyone knows the 12 Days of Christmas song. Few of us know the meaning of the gifts delineated in the somewhat monotonous carol or, in fact, the significance of the 12 days to the story of Jesus's birth. When I started poking around, I found some deep historical secrets and also an ongoing mix-up that blows the lid off the usual imagery of baby Jesus in the manger.

Let's start with the facts. I spoke with Dr. Paul Spilsbury, academic dean and professor of the New Testament at Regent College on the UBC campus.

"Basically, the church calendar is divided into seasons, and Christmas, in the church calendar, is a season rather than a day," he says. "Christmas lasts for 12 days. It's a secret we've kept from our kids all this time."

The 12 days of Christmas go from Dec. 25 until Jan. 5. Traditionally, including in my grandmother's house, the Christmas tree had to come down on or before the 5th, because that was the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Epiphany.

Usually we think of the first Christmas as the moment the world (in the Christian narrative) realized the saviour had arrived. Not so. That was 12 days later.

Epiphany is the feast associated with the Magi, the Three Wise Men, coming to Jesus, presenting their gifts. It also commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

"Epiphany is like the coming out of Jesus," says Spilsbury. "The manifestation of Jesus to the world." And here is where much of what you think you know about the manger scene is wrong.

"There are two stories in the Gospels about the birth of Jesus," he explains, one in the Gospel of Matthew and one in the Gospel of Luke. "And the two stories are not exactly the same."

In one gospel, the Magi visit Jesus in a house, not in a manger. In the other, the arrival of Jesus in the manger is met with angels and shepherds, but no wise men.

"Christian tradition has always kind of woven the two stories together and said the one happened first and the other one second or something like that," says Spilsbury. "In your typical pageant or Christmas

card, you often have a scene in which there are wise men in the stable, but if you look at the original stories in the gospel, those are two separate scenes. We've kind of mixed them all together... they get kind of coalesced, fused together."

Mary and Joseph had advance warning that her son was the manifestation of God made flesh. The world, however, became aware of this only on Epiphany — 12 days after Jesus was born. The Three Wise Men represent the awareness of Jesus as the son of God spreading to the larger world.

"It's when the wise men come with their gifts and that, in a sense, is the revealing to the world," Spilsbury says. "That's what epiphany is about, revealing to the world the holiness of this baby... the Magi were from another country, they were not Jews, so it was the making known of the Christ child to the world, as it were."

In traditional Christian churches, especially Anglican and Catholic, there will be fairly strict adherence to the appropriate liturgies of the season. Leading up to Christmas is Advent, a month of spiritual preparation, introspection and repentance. Christmas, which we now know lasts a full 12 days, is associated with a heightened holiness, and then Epiphany is also accompanied by its own traditions.

So that's what the 12 days of Christmas are all about. Now what about that song?

Between 1558 and 1829, Roman Catholics in England were forbidden from openly practising their religion. In order to inculcate the catechism in their children, Catholics created the song as, basically, a series of mnemonic devices to give kids the broad outline of the Roman Catholic worldview and teachings.

Both "my true love" and the partridge in a pear tree represent Jesus — the partridge because it's a bird that will sacrifice its life to save its children. Two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments. The three French hens are faith, hope and love. Four calling birds are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The five golden rings are the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament and so on, through six days of creation (geese a-laying), seven gifts of the holy spirit (swans a-swimming), eight beatitudes (maids a-milking), nine fruits of the holy spirit (ladies dancing),

the 10 commandments (lords a-leaping), 11 faithful apostles (pipers piping) and 12 points of belief in the Apostle's Creed (drummers drumming). If one understood the song's underlying meaning, it provided a pretty good skeleton upon which to begin a wider exploration about religious teachings. And it could be sung publicly leaving the Protestant establishment none the wiser.

Have a merry Christmas... all 12 days of it.

Pat Johnson / Vancouver Courier



Photo by Peter Kidd

Winter Bible Study Series

Join the SJS clergy for an interactive
Christian Formation Series
to discuss the Bible readings for the coming Sunday.

Classes will be located in the church
from approximately 10:10am to 11:15am.
Everyone welcome!

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Wednesday mornings from
January 17 to February 7
right after the 9:30am service

 **St John's**
SHAUGHNESSY

St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

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Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Helen Kline
Rector's Warden	Dr Robyn Woodward
People's Warden	Maggie Sanders
Treasurer	Donald Wood
Property Trustee	Peter Kidd
Vestry Clerk	The Reverend Karin Fulcher
Music Director	Michael Dirk organist@sjs.net
Assistant Choirmaster	Ann Chen
Children's Ministry	Spencer Britten
Parish Administrator	Janet Hamilton
PWRDF Rep	Doug Symons
Sacristan and MC	Paul Bunnell
Verger/caretaker	Amy Thorogood

Sunday services

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday service

9:30am Holy Communion

Cover: John Stuart's drawing coloured by SJS parishioner Georgia Eckman

