

Stewardship Ingathering -- this Sunday!

In the season following Harvest Thanksgiving, our parish has been encouraged to reflect on the many blessings of our lives. We have been challenged in sermons to give thanks in all circumstances, recalling that, somewhat counterintuitively, it is not happy people who are grateful, but it is grateful people who are happy. Deacon Karin also reminded us that what we are really after in life is not happiness, but a kind of joy which transcends our circumstances. Gratitude and joy go hand in hand.

At the Eucharist this month, before the appointed prayer over the gifts, we have prayed the verse from Chronicles, “All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” We have reminded ourselves that everything we have belongs to God, and when we make an offering out of gratitude, we are giving to God what already belongs to God in the first place.

Yet our offerings also represent ourselves. Our time, talent, and financial resources don't come easily to us. We work hard for them. And the decisions we make about how to use them—they are personal and meaningful. Each choice to give of ourselves toward God's mission through the church is also a choice about where that time, or effort, or money is not being directed. There are so many needs in the world. There are so many needs in our own lives and the lives of our loved ones. A gift, even out of what already belongs to God, still represents a sacrifice on our part. And that is a holy thing.

One of my favourite parts of the *Book of Common Prayer* service of Holy Communion is the prayer, “And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee.” When we make an offering at the Eucharist, it is not simply a matter of dropping an envelope in a plate. We are offering the fruits of our labour, and indeed our very lives, to the God who has so richly blessed us.

This Sunday, I invite you to bring your pledge cards to church for our ingathering. At the offertory, you are invited to come forward and place your cards in the basket, to be consecrated on the altar before the Eucharist. When we do so, let us remember that we are blessing more than pieces of cardstock, and more, even, than money. We are offering our very lives in service to God.

If you have not received a pledge card yet, they will be available at church on Sunday. If you worship from home and would like to have a pledge card mailed to you, you may contact the parish office and we would be happy to send one to you.

Let us prayerfully consider the ways God has blessed us in this life, and how we are being called to contribute toward the church's ministry in 2023, that we might be a blessing to this parish, to our community, and the world.

With love,
Mother Terry+

Dear Abbey,

I was wondering why we use different creeds at different services? Is there a pattern to when we do which ones?

*Sincerely,
Wondering Worshiper*

Dear Wondering,

Ah, creeds. Some people love them. Some people find them challenging. And I can see how it may be a bit confusing trying to determine when we use each one, and why.

Creeds are basic statements of belief about God. Anglicans use two creeds in worship—the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. (There is also the Athanasian Creed, which we affirm but don't say in worship. It describes the nature of the incarnation and our belief in the Trinity. But that's a discussion for another day.)

The Apostles' Creed is the ancient creed of Baptism; it is used in the daily office (morning and evening prayer) to recall our Baptismal Covenant. The Nicene Creed, on the other hand, is the creed of the universal church. Its roots are in the fourth century, as a means of defining correct belief in a time of theological controversy.

As for when to use which creed at the Eucharist, there's a lot of flexibility. The Nicene Creed is permissible at any Sunday Eucharist, but it is only strongly encouraged on major feasts. The rest of the time, we are free to use the Apostles' Creed instead. At St. John's, Shaughnessy, our custom is to focus on the faith of our baptism most weeks.

In fact, this coming Sunday when we observe All Saints Day, we'll actually be doing the Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant. Instead of reciting the creed as usual, the Celebrant will ask questions: "Do you believe in God the Father?" "Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?" "Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?" We will respond to each question with a portion of the creed, just like we would at a baptism. And we will continue by renewing the promises we have made to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Afterward, in place of the Prayers of the People, we'll pray the same prayers for ourselves that we pray for the candidates when a baptism takes place. They are short, but meaningful—and all the more lovely because we will chant them with the choir.

So, when will we use the Nicene Creed again? Probably not until Christmas. But if you find yourself missing it, you can join us any Sunday at eight o'clock, when we worship from the *Book of Common Prayer* and recite the Nicene Creed weekly.

Faithfully,
Abbey

Do you have a question about church, liturgy, Anglicanism, etc.? Is there something you've always wanted to ask but thought you should already know? Send those questions to Mother Terry at terry.dirbas@sjs.net. All questions will remain anonymous.

Outreach Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 8 at 7pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82743639135?pwd=UIZZaVgyZzVCZXhjQlQ2ZXlwM2d2dz09>

Have you been hoping to find a way to make a difference in the community? Whether you have ideas of your own, or you just want to get together with others and brainstorm, this is the group for you! We are holding an organizational meeting of the SJS Outreach Committee this Tuesday on Zoom. Join us as we consider our goals for the group and how we might engage more deeply in the work of promoting peace, justice, and dignity for all people.

Hospitality Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy having coffee and refreshments after church? We do, too! It's a great time to get to know one another and welcome new members to the parish. But **we cannot have coffee hour without volunteers!**

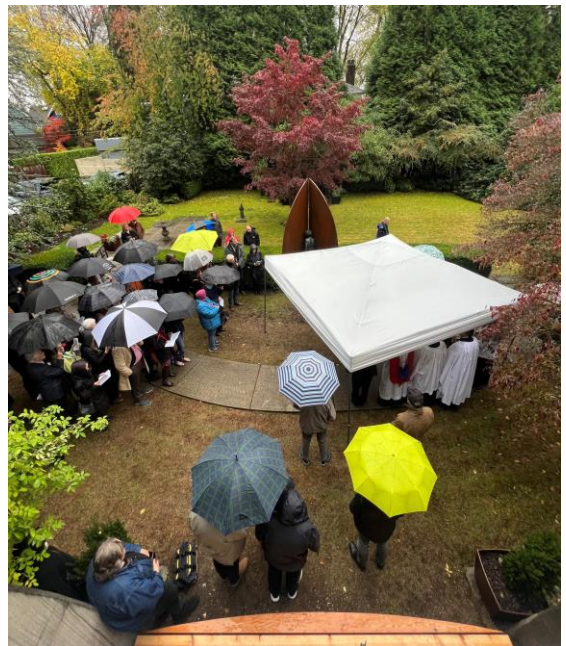
Please consider signing up to help. It is not difficult, Helping with hospitality entails that you bring something to eat, it could be anything you like (cookies, fruit, cheese ... any snacks). Ethan helps to set the room up and someone purchases the milk and cream. Someone will gladly work with you all to show you what to do and where everything is!

Choral Evensong - Thank you!



We had a beautiful solemn choral evensong on Sunday, October 30, in commemoration of all the faithful departed. Nearly one hundred people were present for this special service in which we remembered those we've lost, especially those who have left this life in the past year. At the end of the service, we dedicated the Limina sculpture, which is now at home in our Memorial Garden. Both the artist, David Robinson, and the project's patron, Lise Struthers, spoke at the service, and the choir offered beautiful music by William Byrd, Sarah MacDonald, and J.S. Bach. Bishop Stephens was also in attendance, and he was kind enough to bless the sculpture for us after the service. If you weren't able to join us, please [check out the video on our Youtube channel](#).

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible! Thank you to Lise, and to David and his team. Thank you to the Limina planning group, including Mike Dezell, Judith Downes, Maggie Sanders, and Robyn Woodward. Thank you to Karin Fulcher, Maggie Sanders, Robyn Woodward, and all who helped prepare the beautiful reception. Thank you to Ethan Baker and Bruce Gregg for their technical support. Thank you to our acolytes: Patrick Gregg, Charlotte Molyneux, George Dirbas, and Chatham Dirbas. Thank you to Geoff Carson (the Dirbas children's Godfather) for serving as thurifer, and to Joe Dirbas for being our master of ceremonies. And a special thanks to Michael Dirk, Jaime Yoon, and the SJS Choir for the beautiful music they offered. Finally, thank you to everyone who shared names for the necrology, to all those who invited friends, and to all who worshiped with us, whether in person or online. What a blessing it was to share this great occasion with all of you!



SJS Prayer List

If you request that someone's name be added to the prayer list, please keep in touch with us. At the end of each month, all names will be removed, so you will need to add the names again at the end of each month. Please also let us know if you want someone removed from the list. Email the office (church@sjs.net) anytime! Thank you.

Greeting volunteers needed at the 10am service

We could use several more greeters! Please contact the office (church@sjs.net) for more details if you are interested in greeting on Sunday mornings.

SJS Garden Club Needs New Volunteers

It is time for the Garden Club to renew their efforts at St Johns. We hope we have some new volunteers who could join us from time to time. Or every week! Weather permitting, we meet on **Monday mornings**, but the day/time can be adjusted to accommodate other schedules. We do watering, light pruning (no saws or ladders), weeding, dividing, planting, etc. We enjoy wonderful chit chats in the safety of the outdoors. You can bring your own gloves and tools if you want to, or you can borrow ours. If you have old tools in your garage that you don't use any more, please let us know. **We are accepting donations of old garden tools.**

WNM items for Homeless Needed

We are very low on proteins for the packets: Boost and Ensure, and especially tuna cans. If anyone has a line of dental care items (small tubes of toothpaste, toothbrushes - perhaps our family dentists would be interested in donating to the cause?) that would be helpful.

One of the regulars is looking for women's size 8 waterproof shoes or boots (not rain boots). If one of us has such a pair around the house it would be welcomed.

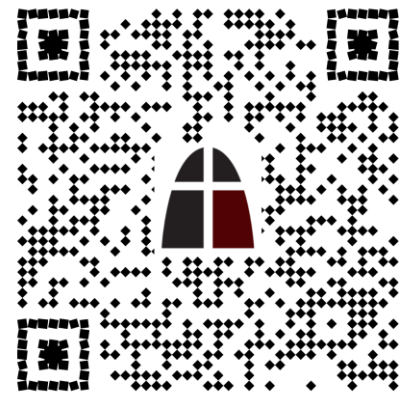
Other items that would be welcomed: Winter clothing, raingear, boots, sleeping bags, socks, pudding cups, granola bars (soft with no fruit/nuts), & juice boxes.

Financial Support - Stewardship

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help support the worship and ministry of St.

John's Shaughnessy, please do! You can use this QR code

(point your phone's camera at it) and it will take you to the donation page of our website. If you have recently made a contribution online or by cheque, thank you so very much! If you currently give by Pre-Authorized Donation, thank you! Our church has been affected by COVID-19 in many ways and financial giving is certainly one.



If you would like to give via monthly Pre-Authorized Donations (easy to change and easy to cancel), please contact Cynthia in the office (church@sjis.net or 604-731-4966). If you would like to give to the church using a credit card, please use the DONATE button on our website

(Canada Helps on top of page one, and Paypal on the bottom of page one). Cheques may be mailed or dropped through the church mail slot.

ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to our mailing list, so that we may let you know about upcoming events.

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector terry.dirbas@sjs.net
The Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz, Assisting Priest erceliz@vst.edu
The Reverend Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assisting Priest
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, Deacon
The Reverend Pitman Potter, Deacon
Michael Dirk, Music Director organist@sjs.net
Jaime Yoon, Interim Choir Director jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net
Cynthia Jutras, Interim Parish Administrator church.office@sjs.net

Trustees

Judith Downes, Rector's Warden
Maggie Sanders, People's Warden
Mike Dezell, Property Trustee
Donald Wood, Treasurer



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