

## From the Rector

Rejoice always!

This Sunday is "Gaudete Sunday"-- "gaudete" from the Latin word for "rejoice." It is that joy which prompts us to light the pink candle in the midst of this more somber season of expectation.

What brings you joy, right now? Not the joy of commercialism in this holiday season-- the picture-perfect Hallmark gatherings, the hot cocoa by the Christmas tree with Burl Ives on the radio (although that is lovely), the shopping list checked off in plenty of time. Instead, I'm wondering, what brings you the kind of joy that lasts beyond this Christmas and surpasses the next? What brings you joy that is everlasting?

In the letter to the Philippians, Paul tells us to rejoice in the Lord always. But even more than finding joy in every situation, I think we're called to find the joy that is greater than the day-to-day circumstances of our lives. The joy of relationship with God, made possible in and through Jesus, surpasses all the trials and tribulations and fleeting happiness of our individual lives, because it is bigger than we are. In Jesus, we have an everlasting joy-- a light that no one and nothing can extinguish.

As we light the third candle of our Advent wreaths this week, let us look for that joy, within us, and let that light shine brightly.

Joyfully,  
Mother Terry+

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*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](mailto:terry.dirbas@sjs.net). All questions will remain anonymous.*

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## Outreach Survey

Our new Outreach Committee had a great second meeting last week. We are in the process of brainstorming events and activities for 2023, and we would like your input! We would be so grateful if you would complete our survey (<https://forms.office.com/r/LZPVyIAyqp>) and share your thoughts with us about service and about community engagement.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, at 7pm on Zoom.

## Christmas Decorating December 23, 10am

Join us on Friday Dec 23 to decorate the church in time for Christmas. It will be great fun and there will be yummy festive treats!

## Christmas Pageant December 24, 4 p.m.

This year at our Christmas Eve family service, we will witness the Christmas story told by our young people. This is a very simple pageant, with no lines to memorize. Children are invited to arrive at 3:30 to put on a costume. **If you have children or grandchildren who will be with you for the holidays, please consider bringing them to be part of this experience!** For more information, contact Mother Terry.

## SJS chorister winter activities

Thur Dec 15 1:30pm Shaughnessy Elementary Gym: K-7 Winter Concert (Michael, Annabelle)  
<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/shaughnessy/>

Sat Dec 17 7:30pm Christ Church Cathedral: Musica Intima *Winter Patterns* (Jaime, Danny)

Sun Dec 18 3pm WestVan United: Musica Intima *Winter Patterns* (Jaime, Danny)  
<https://www.musicaintima.org/winter-patterns>

Dec 22 8pm St James Community Square: Musica Intima *Ding Dong* (Jaime, Danny)  
<https://www.musicaintima.org/ding>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

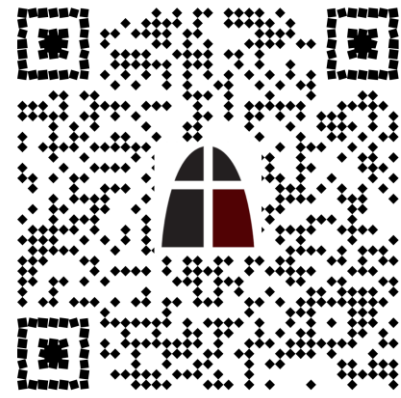
### **WNM items for Homeless Needed**

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.

**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@sjns.net](mailto:church@sjns.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](mailto:terry.dirbas@sjs.net)

The Reverend James Hwang, Curate

The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assisting Priest

The Reverend Karin Fulcher, Deacon

The Reverend Pitman Potter, Deacon

Michael Dirk, Music Director

[organist@sjs.net](mailto:organist@sjs.net)

Jaime Yoon, Interim Choir Director

[jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net](mailto:jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net)

Cynthia Jutras, Interim Parish Administrator

[church.office@sjs.net](mailto:church.office@sjs.net)

### Trustees

Judith Downes, Rector's Warden

Maggie Sanders, People's Warden

Mike Dezell, Property Trustee

Donald Wood, Treasurer



1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2

(604) 731-4966

[www.sjs.net](http://www.sjs.net)