

From the Rector

What a joy it has been to spend my first Christmas with you all! Our Christmas services were absolutely beautiful. Many thanks to those who braved the icy, wet weather to come decorate the church on the morning of Christmas Eve. It made for a very long day, I'm sure, but your efforts truly made our church shine with the light of Christ! Thank you also to our amazing choir, who prepared two separate anthems—one for the family service, and another for midnight mass. It was so uplifting to hear beautiful music and to sing carols together by candlelight. Many thanks to those who served in the liturgy as greeters, readers, acolytes, chalice ministrants, and more. This year at midnight mass we even had a thurifer, who filled our space with the sweet smell of incense brought to us from Oman by Robyn Woodward.

It feels so good to offer our very best in worship, especially on big days like Christmas when we see a number of visitors. This year we had almost 170 people worship with us across our three services! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great celebration.

Christmas, as a season, is the shortest of the liturgical year. Given the build up to the holiday, it can be rather disappointing to wait all that time to sing carols, only to move on twelve days later. I encourage you to keep the season present in your heart and prayers as much as possible, even though the world seems to have forgotten about it. Sing the carols at home. Keep your Christmas tree up until Epiphany if you can. If you have a creche at your house, move the wise men daily on their journey to the Christ Child. In whatever way makes sense for you, try to make Christmas more than just a day.

To that end, I hope you'll join us for worship this Sunday morning at 10 a.m., when we will celebrate a service of Christmas Lessons & Carols. I know it's also New Year's Day, but it's our last chance to sing the carols together with organ and with one another. By the following Sunday, Epiphany will have come and gone, and we'll be on to the Baptism of Jesus. The season passes quickly. Let's enjoy it together!

Faithfully,
Mother Terry+

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.

Special Vestry – Sunday, January 8 after the 10 a.m. service

We will hold a brief special vestry meeting on January 8 after worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve minor changes to our bylaws to bring them into compliance with the canons of the diocese. The proposed amendments will be circulated by a separate e-blast next week. Pending subsequent approval of the bishop and diocesan council, changes would take effect following our annual vestry meeting in February.

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.

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.

WNM items for Homeless Needed

Thank you so much for your kind donations! We are quite well stocked at the moment. We always need proteins for the packets: Boost and Ensure, and especially tuna and chicken cans. Since it is still winter, we are especially interested in socks, and other winter items like coats and boots.

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 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
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



1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2
(604) 731-4966
www.sjs.net