

### **Message from the Rector**

We had a beautiful baptism last Sunday at our 10 a.m. service! Baptisms are always joyful occasions, but this one felt especially warm and energetic, with full pews and lots of children running around. It was interesting to me that even with all that activity, the baby being baptized slept through the entire thing! In over twelve years of ordained ministry, I thought I'd experienced all kinds of baptisms by now. I've had babies scream, cry, startle, laugh, play with the water, pull my hair, and more! I've had babies who were happy at first but cried when the water touched their heads, and babies who screamed through all the baptismal covenant but found the water calming. But in all that time, I have never had a child sleep through the entire sacrament!

I've been thinking, this past week, about that variety of reactions, and I've come to the conclusion that this is really a beautiful representation of the diversity of experiences we have, as we join the Christian community. Some of us come to faith after sadness or trauma. We are crying inside (and possibly outside), but the faith community embraces us and supports us as we move into healing and wholeness. Others come to the church with joy and enthusiasm, but we may find that parts of life in this community of baptismal covenant are surprising, challenging, or disappointing. And like the baby who slept through the whole thing, some of us were baptized so early in life that we simply absorbed faith as we grew—we have never known any different.

I always tell parents during baptismal preparation, "Whatever the child does on the day of the baptism is fine! Whether they fuss, cry, play—it's all holy!" After all, whatever happens at the font, in the end we've brought a new person into our fellowship. And have any of us ever witnessed a baptism at which that wasn't a beautiful thing? I sure haven't.

As Anglicans, we tend not to talk much about how we became a part of the church. Maybe that's at least partly because deep down, we wonder if other people's experiences are more "spiritual" or more "correct" than our own. Those who convert later in life might feel self-conscious about not having a Christian upbringing, while those who've been Christians their whole lives might wonder if they should have a more profound catalyst for their commitment. But what if we saw ourselves as we do the little ones who are baptized before they're old enough to be self-conscious? Their reactions are unique, just as their Christian journeys will be. And they are all holy and beautiful. May we recognize our own faith stories as sacred and wonderful, too.

*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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### **Upcoming Parish Events**

February 19 after 10 a.m. service - Pancake Breakfast (in anticipation of Shrove Tuesday)  
February 22 - Ash Wednesday (services at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.)  
February 26 after the 10 a.m. service - Annual Vestry Meeting

### **Do You Have Questions?**

About Faith  
About Jesus  
About Liturgy  
About Life  
About St. John's

Then this may be the Course for YOU!  
Transforming Questions is for anyone:  
young or old, cradle Christian or new to church, a believer or an explorer.  
A place to join with others and ask the questions that have been burning in your brain and/or heart!!

Beginning Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.  
here at the church and for 8 Tuesdays following (we shall take a break for Holy Week) we shall meet for fellowship, conversations and questions – and perhaps some answers!

Video presentations, small group discussions, and a time to get to know each other better –  
Please join us.  
But PLEASE RSVP to  
Deacon Karin Fulcher –  
[fulcher.karin@gmail.com](mailto:fulcher.karin@gmail.com)  
Father James Hwang - [jhwang@sjs.net](mailto:jhwang@sjs.net)

### **Notice of Annual Vestry**

Our annual vestry meeting will be held on Sunday, February 26, following the 10 a.m. worship service. Please mark your calendars for this important gathering.

All those with reports to submit for vestry are asked to send those to the parish office no later than February 15, to allow time for the vestry booklet to be compiled. Your timely submissions are greatly appreciated!

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

Thank you so much for your kind donations! We are a little low on pudding cups, protein (small cans of tuna or chicken), fruit cups and as always socks. We are quite well stocked at the moment for other items.

### **Send us your sign suggestions!**

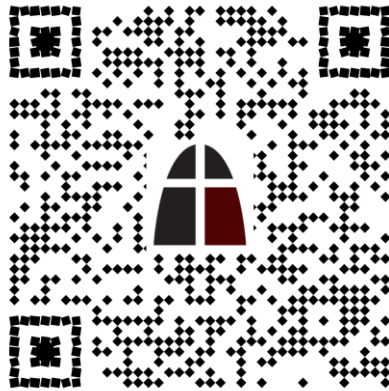
We are looking for suggestions for messages to put on our sign board on Granville Street throughout the year. Please email the office ([church@sjs.net](mailto:church@sjs.net)) with your ideas!

## 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.

## 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.office@sjs.net](mailto:church.office@sjs.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 [jhwang@sjs.net](mailto:jhwang@sjs.net)  
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)  
Patrick Mahon, Verger

### Trustees

Ken Pepin, Rector's Warden  
Maggie Sanders, People's Warden  
Mike Dezell, Property Trustee  
Donald Wood, Treasurer



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