

Message from the Curate

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we just entered the Lenten season. Maybe it would be the same as another day, but just like the different season in nature, the liturgical season helps us experience different colors and tastes of faith in width and depth.

When I was younger, Lent was not my favorite season. Personally, I loved Advent. It was the same sense of waiting, but for me, one was waiting for coming, and the other one was waiting to be over. It appeared to me that somehow, I had to cut off what I enjoyed the most, do more sacrifice with my time or money, making my life more barren or dry than usual. I thought it was ironic that Lent always fell at the time of seasonal change from winter to spring.

I do not know how you perceive this season. What changed my mind was when I did a full week fasting during my early formation years as a Franciscan. I only drank water and offered what I saved by fasting for charity. It was way more difficult than I thought. I felt so hollow literally in my body, and as time went by, I felt so weak and craving for food. When it was time to finish fasting, I had to be careful not to eat heavy food. So I started with a rice porridge. I still remember the time clearly. It was my best rice porridge ever. I could taste the rice with my whole taste buds, the flavor, texture, and temperature; everything was coming alive within my mouth. Then, I realized how much I took things for granted. I realized the blessing of having food, tasting, smelling, not necessarily a gourmet dish, but just every simple thing was a gift, gem to enjoy, celebrate, and appreciate.

From that moment, I saw Lent differently. It is not about giving up. It is about regaining and restoring. It is not disconnecting. It is about reconnecting. We are invited to unplug from all we have excessively, unnecessarily, such as sensual pleasure, habitual way of feeding our emotions, greed, or ego. And it is to plug in to relations that make us who we truly are, such as with our body, mind, emotions, our family, friends, and neighbors waiting for our connection, and most of all Gods who are eager to love us.

If I may share an invitation for you, it would not be “what are you giving up”, but “what are you giving up for?”

Fr. James

Staff Transitions

We have been so blessed to have had Cynthia Jutras with us as our interim parish administrator for the past nine months. Cynthia stepped in on very short notice and always brought a warm, positive energy to the office. However, it has become clear that our administrative needs require more hours than Cynthia has available. We are sad to see her go, but we wish her the best as she continues her work at St. Helen's, Point Grey.

I am pleased to announce that beginning Monday, February 27, Ann Houghton will be joining us as our new interim parish administrator. Ann has many years of experience in parish administration in both Anglican and United Church congregations, and we are confident she will make a great addition to our ministry team. She will be in the office Monday to Thursday from 9am to 4pm. Please read below to learn a bit about her.

Blessings,
Mother Terry+

From Ann Houghton:

“Ann is delighted to be working with the congregation of this nearly 100-year-old church. She lives in Vancouver with a growing collection of books and dvds and a dwindling supply of chocolate. When not reading or watching films she can be found exploring the great indoors of thrift stores and book shops.”

Dear Abbey,

I've noticed that some clergy sign their names with a plus sign at the end. What does this mean?

Sincerely,
A wondering worshiper

Dear Wondering,

The plus sign used in emails is intended to represent a cross. In a handwritten signature, many priests include a cross afterward, as a way of conveying a blessing to the recipient. Bishops, in contrast, sign their names with the cross before the signature, rather than afterward. Thus when John Stephens went from rector of SJS to bishop of our diocese, his signature would have changed from "John+" to "+John."

There are various explanations for how the custom came about. Some say that once upon a time, this was a practice of all Christians that did not indicate ordination status. Others point to the use of a cross before the bishop's signature in the Middle Ages as a shorthand for closing a letter in humility by referring to oneself as a sinner. Whatever the origin, today it is a common practice among Anglicans and Roman Catholics, though it is not universally observed.

Warmly,
Abbey

P.S. I once had a parishioner who found the custom to be clericalist. In protest, he signed all his emails to me with an exclamation point after his name.

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.

Acolyte Training – Postponed

The March 5th Acolyte training has been postponed, and we will advise the new date. This is a good refresher for those who have been serving in the past, and an opportunity for new volunteers to join our worship ministries. Please RSVP to Mother Terry.

If you would like to participate but this date/time don't work for you, we can arrange an alternate time.

Notice of Annual Vestry - POSTPONED

Our annual vestry meeting is being postponed and will now be held this Sunday, March 5th, following the 10 a.m.

worship service. Please plan to join us as we reflect on our ministry in 2022 and look forward to the year ahead.

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

Father James Hwang - jhwang@sjs.net

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.

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.

Pulling Out All The Stops

On March 4, 2023, Master Musicians from three continents will give the first of its kind, cross continental Pipe Organ performance and education workshops in Africa.

As part of a collaborative effort to bring the pipe organ to places the instrument does not exist, pipe organist (Michael Dirk, UBC and VSO instructor of organ and vice president of Vancouver RCCO) will perform at Vancouver St-John's Shaughnessy (3700 pipes) an arrangement of a Rwandan traditional song (Humura Rwanda) written by Vancouver composer Denis Bédard. This performance will be broadcasted through live streaming to Rwanda providing the accompaniment to a Rwandan choir singing an arrangement of a traditional song called Humura Rwanda.

Where this project gets bold is where a Rwandan music student will be performing specific parts of the song on a digital keyboard to activate and be heard back on the Vancouver pipe organ!

"I cant wait to see the look on their faces when they play the real thing for the first time!" exclaimed Gilles Parenteau, project

coordinator and retired Selkirk College music instructor, Nelson BC.

e: gilles_parenteau@hotmail.com t: 250-505-5739

Since there are no pipe organs in Rwanda and considering the sheer size of the instrument, this world premiere will give the opportunity to Rwandan musicians to experience the pipe organ's magnitude and play in real time (across continents) our cherished patrimonial instrument. This will be possible via telemidi technology under the direction of Matt Bray (PhD student Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia). The telemidi signal (musical instrument digital interface) will be traveling near the earth circumference through over 35,000km of internet links.

The performance is scheduled for March 4th and will be live and available on the internet. (links and info can be found at virtualsymphony.org/rwanda). Six other African countries will be invited to view the performance, with promotion made by SAGE Colleges & Institutes Canada, office located in St-Lucia, Caribbean.

Parenteau and Dominique Soutif (former Juno awarded CBC producer, Ottawa, Ont) are coordinating and producing this new music merging the organ with traditional and original songs from Rwanda. Jacques Murigande (artist name Popo and former Canadian Juno recipient) is the director of the School of Creative Art and Music in Rwanda.

Funding for this project is provided by the Canada Arts Council.

For more information or to line up an interview, please contact Gilles Parenteau

Introducing the pipe organ in Rwanda
Facebook

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090374703368>

Website: <https://www.virtualsymphony.org/rwanda>



Michael Dirk - Vice president Vancouver RCCO and Pipe Organist



Gilles Parenteau (Canadian composer and retires Selkirk College music teacher)

with Jacques Murigande (artist name Popo and former Canadian Juno recipient) in Rwanda



Rwanda, Africa: Music students who will be playing a pipe organ in Canada

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 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 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
Jaime Yoon, Interim Choir Director jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net
Cynthia Jutras, Interim Parish Administrator 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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