

From our Curate:



A famous Korean essayist, WanSuh Park, lost her son at his age of 25 by a car accident in 1988, in the same year she lost her husband to cancer. She shared how devastating it was for her. For many Koreans, there is a special, strong attachment between a mother and a son, and losing her son seemed to her a death sentence at that time.

She was a Christian, and upon that incident, God who she believed to be benevolent and merciful had become a recipient of her anger and hatred. She said she cried like a wounded beast every day, as if she had something stuck in her stomach to throw up. She was so mad that God took her son away, and she thought there was no reason for this punishment. “How dare he do this when

He is believed to be the God of Love? If this is all who He is, it is better that He does not exist”, she thought.

As she was tormented in everlasting agony, one day, she read something that a young religious sister wrote. This sister had a brother who was causing all troubles and never got better even after he grew up. She resented having a brother like that, and asked herself why her brother, of all people, was a troublemaker. Then it came to her mind that there were so many people who were lost and wandering, and why not that my brother could be one of them. After that, she changed her mind. Who am I to demand what I am entitled to have? As she accepted the reality, interestingly, her relationship with her brother got better, she wrote.

This brought to Park so many thoughts. She kept asking “why” all the time, but “why not”? Why do I deserve to claim only all good things in my life? Why not me? What have others done who lost their sons? What about God Himself watching Jesus dying on the cross? It puzzled her and opened a space for her to find a seed of peace or at least stop being a prisoner of her own anger and hatred. Until then, she kept asking “Lord, only speak a word”, a word of apology, or a word to clarify her mind, and God kept silent. But as time went by, she realized that God had been letting her pain and resentment come out into His silence.

Sometimes, we are so entitled. We are not grateful for what we already have received, and we get angry when we do not get more of what we think deserve. That was my first reaction when I read the Gospel passage this Sunday. How could Jesus call Canaanite woman a dog and refuse to help her? How come? He should have helped her as the Lord. But on second thought, why not? What makes us deserve God’s blessing? Literally, God does not owe anything to us. I am not doubting the love of God. But at times, we are challenged to look into our anger, frustration, or disappointment in which we think we know better what God’s Love should be like. Knowing our limits, and trusting God’s unlimited love upon humility, we will be able to free ourselves from whatever has been keeping us from growing love and trust in God.

Fr. James

If 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.



Weekly Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers

Thursdays at 10 a.m.

We invite you to join us for our new mid-week service of Holy Eucharist. If you'd like to receive prayers for healing, there will be opportunity for anointing with holy oil and healing prayers with the clergy.

Afterward, please stick around for a quick cup of tea or coffee and some conversation. All are welcome!



As you can see,

Róbert Zacharovský
has arrived home in central
Slovakia safe and sound.

This is a picture of him in
front of his church in his
hometown of
Banská Štiavnica, which
is considered one of the
prettiest towns in
Europe. It is a completely
preserved medieval town
and a Unesco World
Heritage site.

His church is
The Lutheran Church of Banská Štiavnica.





This is a photo of Róbert and his family taken about 2 years ago. The little ones are nieces and nephews.

He welcomes communication from his friends here at SJS. If you would like to get his email address or other ways of getting hold of him please just call Ann in the office.



Pottery hand building workshop

- spiritual practice of creativity

August 25th Friday 7pm

September 2nd Saturday 2pm

At St. John's Shaughnessy Parish

Facilitated by James Hwang

Number of participants is limited

Spirituality in general always includes restoring connection. From my experience of doing pottery over 10 years, pottery in that sense, is not just a craft but also a spiritual practice of being in touch with the soil in a tactile way, being in touch with your body, being in touch with your inner creativity.

The session is offered separate on different dates and will include some reflective sharing about creativity and conversations. Since there is no wheel at the parish, it will be slap building, coiling, or pinching. Due to the limits of space, each session will accommodate a limited number of 4 participants, but there will be more sessions if there is a demand.

The materials and kiln will be offered by Hand Eye Pottery Studio. The fee is for the material and firing fee. It will be decided by the size of the object later, and I speculate approximately 10 CAD for the size of cereal bowl. Please register at jhwang@sjs.net (please indicate what you would like to make, i.e. cup, bowl, vase, plant pot, plate, etc.)

Organ Concert



On Friday, August 25 from 7:30-9:30pm at St. James Anglican Church, 303 E. Cordova St., Vancouver, renown Polish concert organist **Michał Szostak, performs on St James' majestic three-manual Casavant organ.**

The concert will include music by Bach, Chopin, Lefébure-Wély, and Vierne. Admission is by donation, and the event is followed by a reception. Please confirm your attendance for planning purposes.

[Confirm your attendance](#)

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.

Financial

If you would like support the Shaughnessy, (point your you to the have recently made a contribution online or by cheque, thank you so very much!



Support – Stewardship

to make a financial contribution to help worship and ministry of St. John's please do! You can use this QR code phone's camera at it) and it will take donation page of our website. If you

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 Ann 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.

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, Honorary Deacon

The Reverend Pitman Potter, Honorary Deacon
Michael Dirk, Music Director organist@sjs.net
Ann Houghton, Interim Parish Administrator church.office@sjs.net

Trustees

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