
From the Curate

Someone said the most beautiful and fundamental prayer that a person can offer to God would be “alleluia” and “amen”.

As we all know, the meaning of “alleluia” is “praise the lord”, and the meaning of “amen” is “so be it”. One refers to what have happened, and the other refers to what will happen.



As I reflect on it, it would be truly a blessed life if we can be aware of the presence of God in our past and in our future. As we are able to be always grateful for what we have received, and able to be always trustful for what we will receive, our present will be full of grace and nothing can trouble our mind.

On the other hand, often times, our minds and hearts are occupied with regrets, guilt, shame, or pride instead of gratitude, or tangled with worries, doubts, pessimism, or despair instead of hope. We often fall into this trap especially when we have been hurt, wounded, left alone without being attended, cared, and healed. Like a haunted house, or an infected body, living with unhealed wounds make us bitter, closed, distorted about our past, future, and present.

As an antidote or remedy, Jesus always tells us “Do not be afraid, I am with you”. Through his life and death, Jesus has shown that God’s love is for each and every one of us, and it will never fail. Just like all the sick and possessed people in the Bible were brought back to wholeness by encountering this promise of love, as we are able to bring His light, His voice, His touch, to where we are still frozen with fear and pain, we will be finally free to praise God with joy, and entrust ourselves with hope.

Last Sunday was Consecration Sunday. I was so moved by people’s generosity, care for the church. Not just the pledge, I have to say St. John’s parish has been blessed with so many who are willing to engage with community by sharing so many things in various ways. Having finished the stewardship campaign with the help and participation of many people was our moment of singing “alleluia” and “amen” in one voice, but our prayer has been echoing already even before and will continue to grow in our community. We are children of God, we are followers of Christ, and we are companions of the Spirit. We are the people who see the love of God in our past, and the promise of God in our future, and we bring our lives to the table at present so to continue to receive and to share.

Fr. James

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.

Labyrinth is Open

The Labyrinth here at St. John's, Shaughnessy will be open for walking on Thursday mornings from 8am to 9:45am. For those who would like to stay, a service of Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers begins at 10am followed by a low-key Bible Study.

Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry

As always, we are very grateful for the generosity of parishioners for packet materials that go out to the folks on the street. Here's what we are a need at the moment:

- Socks (always socks, but especially as Fall is here and Winter is approaching)
- Meal Replacements (Ensure or Boost)
- Soft Granola Bars (not crunchy), Fruit Cups
- Clothing: warm & waterproof jackets, shirts, sweaters, gloves, hats or toques

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.

Pottery Hand Building Workshop - Spiritual Practice of Creativity

November 25th Saturday 2pm | December 2nd Saturday 2pm

St. John's Shaughnessy Parish | Facilitated by James Hwang

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 date 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 limited number between 2 and 4 participants, and you may inquire other specific dates of your own if you are registering with someone (non-parishioner is welcome as well).

The materials and kiln will be offered by Hand Eye pottery studio. To get the final piece, it will take about 2 weeks, and once it is bisque fired, you will get an email to choose which glaze you would like to use. 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. Number of participants is limited. Please register at jhwang@sjis.net





Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 4 pm





YORK HOUSE SCHOOL



Winter Carol Service

December 7, 2023 at 7 pm

St. John's Shaughnessy Church, 1490 Nanton Avenue, Vancouver



Remembrance Day 2023 (photo credits: Jane Dittrich)



Upcoming Events

St. John's, Shaughnessy
1490 NANTON AVE.

Calendar

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

4 p.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

7 p.m. York House Winter Carol Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

10 a.m. Holy Baptism

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

10 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent
**Note: No 8:00 service or
coffee hour

4 p.m. & Christmas Eve Services

10 p.m. *More info coming soon!*

EVERY THURSDAY

8 a.m. Labyrinth Open for Meditation

10 a.m. Healing Eucharist and Bible Study

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 the office (church.office@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.

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@sjis.net
The Reverend James Hwang, *Curate* jhwang@sjis.net
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, *Honorary Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, *Honorary Deacon*
The Reverend Pitman Potter, *Honorary Deacon*
Michael Dirk, *Principal Organist and Artist-in-Residence* organist@sjis.net
Deanna Ferguson, *Parish Administrator* church.office@sjis.net

Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, *Rector* terry.dirbas@sjis.net
Ken Pepin, *Rector's Warden* ken.pepin@sjisparish.net
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