

From the Curate

Nov 2nd is All Souls Day, and Nov 1st is All Saints Day. What is the difference?

Before the church came to be split by the reformation, the notion of purgatory was wide spread. Simply put, Christ is the head of the body, and in this communion with Christ, there are three different groups. First the body of the holy people, second the body of the dead, and the body of the living. The problem of this notion in history has begun from applying an economical perspective on relations among these three groups.



When people die, they are judged by their good works and wrong doings on earth. So, souls go through process of purification while paying for their sins, and only after they finish their penance, they can enter heaven.

Since people who died cannot change anything but receive the punishment for their sins, people on earth can help them reduce the amount of penance by doing good works or praying for them. Then, when they enter heaven, they will pray for us in return as they remember our prayers for them.

However, once the church began to exploit people by manipulating this notion as a way of collecting money, the notion of one body helping and supporting each other turned into a cheap business model. "Pay more, then you will save yourself, and your beloved ones." Because of this corruption of the church, many protestant churches dropped the notion of purgatory.

Then, how do we understand the relations on this spectrum without bringing back the problematic notion of purgatory? As I was reflecting on this, a number of faces and names came to my mind, those who showed a great example of being a good Christian by loving and trusting God, and extending the same love and trust to others. I can say they are the holy people on earth. On the other hand, there are ordinary people who still fall and fail, wrestle with inner frailty and outer temptations.

If we consider holiness as a state of being close to God, there are holy ones both in heaven and on earth, and there are people who are on the way to holiness among the living and the dead. As healthy cells and unhealthy cells form one body together, we all belong to God whether we are already united with God or still on the way. And how does our body work? When we get sick, healthy cells generate more energy and signals to help the damaged cells. When I think about how our body works, the notion of the communion makes more sense.

If we step back from the distinction between physical death and life, then we are left with just one standard, which is how close we are to God. As we get closer to God, we will be filled with God's love and mercy, and instead of worrying about our own well being, and we will pay more attention to other people who are lost in despair and suffering. The recipients can be people living with us, and also it can be people who are already on their new journey after death. I imagine same is true for the saints. They are not segregated from the messiness of the world. They are the ones who are already full of love, and always attend to the ones who are in pain and suffering.

We all believe in the afterlife, since God would not allow to perish what he has created out of love. We also believe all—the quick and the dead—will be called, guided, and protected until we arrive at our Father's home. Until then, we help each other by sharing life, remembering one another with love, and asking for blessings. Death is not the last word. We continue to remember the deceased ones in our prayer so that they may be comforted and encouraged by us. We believe the holy people—the living and the dead—are holding us in their prayers, and we find strength and peace being reminded of their communion with us.

Father 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.

In loving memory of
Hugh Godfrey Griffith

March 27, 1936 - October 14, 2023



Requiem Holy Eucharist

Monday, November 6, 11 a.m.

St. John's, Shaughnessy

1490 Nanton Ave.

The parish community is warmly invited to attend.

Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony Concert

Our esteemed organist, Michael Dirk, to make a debut with VSO on Friday, November 10, performing Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony* (last performed 2001). Maestro Otto Tausk and the VSO go all out in a dramatic, romantic, and epic performance of this iconic symphony, featuring a rare appearance of the Orpheum's mighty and historic Wurlitzer organ. For more info click [here](#).

Consecration Sunday

There will be no 8am Mass on Consecration Sunday, November 12. Please join us for 10am Mass and the Celebration Luncheon afterward.

New Parish Administrator!

We are delighted to welcome Deanna Ferguson to our team as our new permanent parish administrator. Deanna comes to us with ten years of experience in parish administration, most recently at St. James Anglican Church. She is in the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please join us in welcoming her to St. John's!

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



Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10 a.m. Remembrance Day Service

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

10 a.m. Consecration Sunday &
Stewardship Luncheon

**Note: There is no 8:00
service this Sunday!

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

St. John's, Shaughnessy
1490 NANTON AVE.

Calendar

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 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@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@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@sjsparish.net
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