
From the Rector

Happy new year! As out of step as it may feel with our culture, this is, in fact, a new church year. Now we're in "Year B" of the lectionary, and we begin the story of our faith again, as we await the coming of Jesus, and follow his life from his birth to his ministry, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension.

But the curious thing about Advent is that in the beginning of our church year, we don't just await the birth of Jesus, the infant, born two thousand years ago. We also await the future coming of the same Jesus when he returns to complete the promise of peace and justice heralded by his earthly ministry.



Anglicans aren't too fond of talking about the second coming. We are usually so focused on the idea of the incarnation here and now-- the fact that Jesus' presence is, indeed, among us eternally-- that we aren't usually too worried about when he will return. But let's be honest—are any of us satisfied with the world we're living in? Do any of us feel like God would be satisfied with it?

We don't await Jesus' coming because we think we're righteous and we want him to stamp out those who aren't living up to our standards. We look for Jesus to come back because we recognize that most of us-- religious people and benevolent non-religious people alike-- are doing (close to) the best we can, and our world still looks . . . well, like this. We might disagree about the solution to society's ills, but we all lament the pain and suffering of so many of God's beloved children. The answer isn't a new political platform. The solution, ultimately, is Jesus himself. Our world needs Jesus now, the same way our world needed Jesus 2,000 years ago.

In our Eucharistic prayer this month, we'll use this acclamation: "We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory." Are we really awaiting his coming? Before we move closer to Christmas, let's spend some time meditating on that. Let's truly, honestly, wholeheartedly embrace the promise that yes, just as he came before, Jesus will come again, and he will bring us to oneness with the Father. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Faithfully,
Mother Terry+

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.

Bishop John's Advent 2023 Video Message to the Diocese

[Please find linked here](#) Bishop John Stephens's Advent 2023 video message to the diocese.



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.

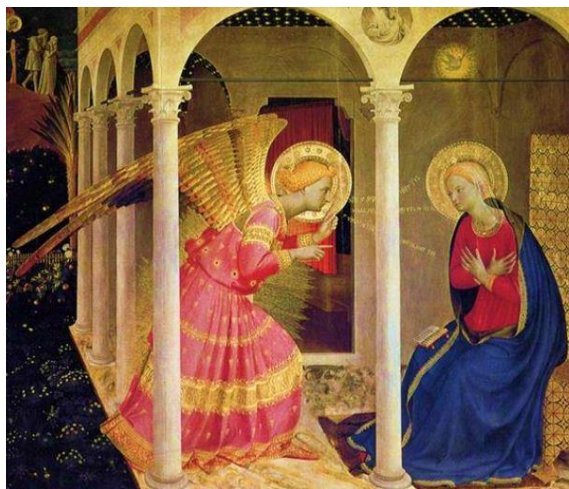
Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry

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:

- Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- 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

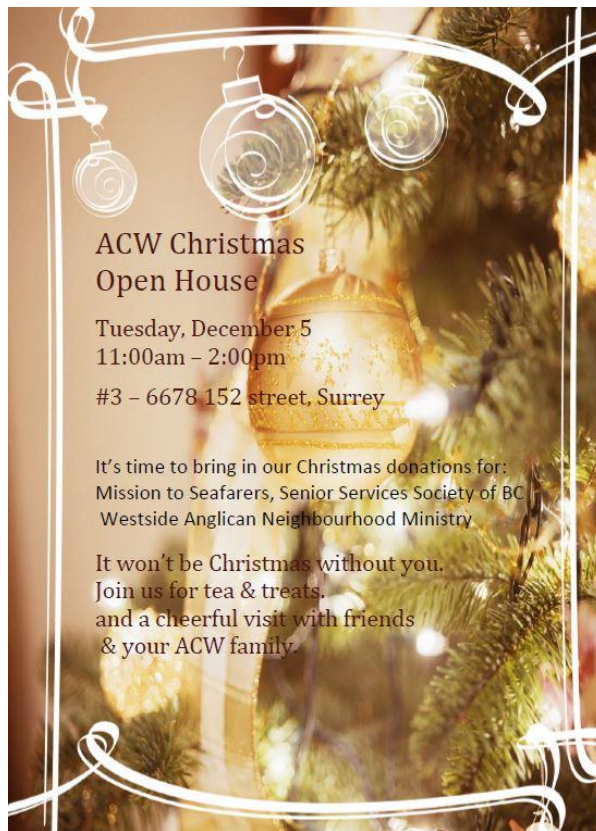
Prayer List

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.



Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 4 pm





Pottery Hand Building Workshop - Spiritual Practice of Creativity

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@sjns.net



ADVENT RETREAT: WAITING WITH HOPE

"THE TRUE LIGHT,
WHO GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE,
WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD"
- JOHN 1:9

**AT ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16TH
1PM-4PM**

Description:

Our Advent journey is marked by a time of waiting for the fulfillment of promise for the birth of Jesus Christ, God-with-us. Advent also marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year. This retreat invites you into a quiet time of reflection to explore places in your own heart and life where you are waiting and longing for God to come, and into hope for new beginnings. This retreat time will include guided reflection, prayer stations, and facilitated sharing. All are welcome.

Bio:

Katherine Murray is passionate about spiritual formation and transformation, and spiritual practices that deepen our awareness of God. She is a spiritual director, retreat leader, and is also the Associate Director of the Centre for Spiritual Renewal at St. Dunstan's Parish. Katherine has a background in social work, a graduate degree in International Relations, and completed the SoulGuiding program with Pacific Jubilee. She has also studied theological courses at the Vancouver School of Theology. Time spent in South Africa, Israel, Palestine, and Kenya, and involvement in the Abbotsford Interfaith Movement, have been significant in her spiritual formation and in expanding her awareness of God.



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, <i>Rector</i>	terry.dirbas@sj.net
The Reverend James Hwang, <i>Curate</i>	jhwang@sj.net
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, <i>Honorary Assisting Priest</i>	
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, <i>Honorary Deacon</i>	
The Reverend Pitman Potter, <i>Honorary Deacon</i>	
Michael Dirk, <i>Principal Organist and Artist-in-Residence</i>	organist@sj.net
Deanna Ferguson, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	church.office@sj.net

Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, <i>Rector</i>	terry.dirbas@sj.net
Ken Pepin, <i>Rector's Warden</i>	ken.pepin@sjsparish.net
Joan Stewart, <i>People's Warden</i>	joan.stewart@sjsparish.net
Mike Dezell	mike.dezell@sjsparish.net
Catherine Holmen	catherine.holmen@sjsparish.net



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