
From the Rector

In Advent, we look with hope and expectation for the coming of Christ. It's a time of waiting and watching; it's a time in which we practice patience. That patience can be quite challenging, though, in our contemporary world. We are used to being able to get anything we want with the touch of a button. I



remember once upon a time being amazed that Amazon could do two-day delivery—now I grumble if I don't have enough items in my cart to qualify for same-day arrival. And it's the same with our culture. We are constantly being pushed along to the next thing. We're told to celebrate Christmas in Advent. By New Year's Day we'll start seeing Valentine's Day candy. Soon afterward we'll see chocolate bunnies. As a society, we have a hard time waiting.

With all the preparation this season comes a lot of anxiety. There are presents to buy, travel arrangements to make, meals to plan, and decorations to put up. There are parties and events and concerts. It can be overwhelming. And I know that in my sermon last Sunday I mentioned that it's ok to enjoy some Christmas cheer during December, even if we don't do that in our liturgical life. But I think the experience of waiting also has a lot to offer us, in the midst of the festivities and the stress that surround us this time of year.

We usually talk about adopting a discipline in Lent. And I don't think Advent needs to take on another layer of commitment—things are busy enough! But perhaps we can simply think about giving a spiritual gift to ourselves, in this time. Let's give ourselves the gift of a bit of peace in a busy season.

What does that look like? It might be five minutes of quiet over our morning coffee, in which we remind ourselves that we are still waiting for the coming of Christ. Or maybe

it's some time out of the house in the light of the sun, on the days when it's shining, to remind ourselves that God's light shines in the darkness, and that nothing will stop that light from breaking into our world. Or maybe we can even redeem all the holiday tasks, by using them as reminders to prepare our hearts and our lives to receive Christ when he comes.

Wishing you light and peace,
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

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

Christmas Flower Dedications

Every Christmas St John's is adorned with beautiful flowers, especially poinsettias, and fine music. We are collecting flower dedications - a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember loved ones. Please send in your special flower dedications (the exact wording for your dedication) ASAP, which can be memorials or thanksgivings, to the office by December 19th (Tues). This will allow us time to add all the flower dedications to the Christmas leaflet. Email is best, but you can also call it in.

Christmas Church Decorating

Saturday, December 23 at 10 am

Join us on Saturday, December 23 to decorate the church in time for Christmas. It will be great fun and there will be yummy festive treats!

Request for Greenery, lots and lots of Greenery

To decorate the Church for Christmas, our hard-working decorators are looking for donations of: Cedar, Fir, Pine, or any Evergreens, Holly or other Berried Greens, and Ivy. Please leave any offering near the bench outside the office.

Labyrinth is Open

The Labyrinth here at St. John's, Shaughnessy will be open for walking on Thursday mornings from 8am to 9:45 am. 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 RETREAT: WAITING WITH HOPE

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

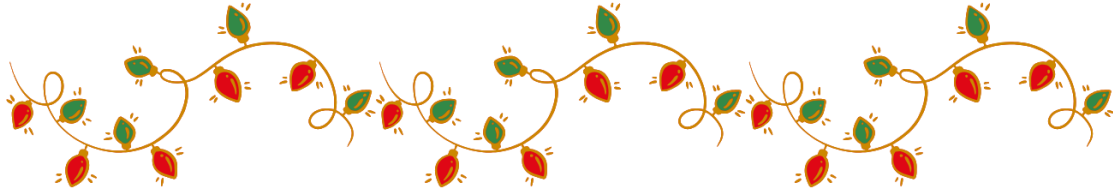
**AT ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16TH
1PM-4PM**

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

at St. John's, Shaughnessy

Sunday, December 17

10 a.m. Holy Baptism

Sunday, December 24*

10 a.m. 4th Sunday of
Advent Service

4 p.m. Christmas Eve
Pageant and
Communion

10 p.m. Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25

10 a.m. Christmas Day
Service

Sunday, December 31*

10 a.m. Christmas
Lessons & Carols

***Please note: There will be no 8 a.m. service on
December 24 or December 31**



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@sjis.net
The Reverend James Hwang, <i>Curate</i>	jhwang@sjis.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@sjis.net
Deanna Ferguson, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	church.office@sjis.net

Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, <i>Rector</i>	terry.dirbas@sjis.net
Ken Pepin, <i>Rector's Warden</i>	ken.pepin@sjisparish.net
Joan Stewart, <i>People's Warden</i>	joan.stewart@sjisparish.net
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