

Dear Friends in Christ,

As our season of expectation and preparation moves toward its conclusion, we have come to the final Sunday of Advent, and we look toward the celebration of the nativity of our Lord on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our worship schedule in the coming weeks offers a variety of ways to experience the beauty and holiness of this season.

On Christmas Eve at 4 p.m., we will hold a worship service for all ages with a Christmas pageant, caroling, and Holy Communion. All children are welcome to participate in the pageant. (We ask that children arrive by 3:30 p.m. to find a costume.) This is a heartwarming service that invites us to enter into the beauty of the nativity story through the eyes of our young ones. Whether you have children or grandchildren or simply enjoy their wonder and excitement on Christmas Eve, you are welcome!

At 10 p.m., we will observe a traditional solemn “midnight” mass, at which we will rejoice in God’s love for us, made known in the incarnation. Our choir will offer beautiful music, and our worship will be enhanced by the presence of a string quartet. The musical prelude will begin at 9:40 p.m. Please note that this service will include the use of incense.

On Christmas morning, we will celebrate Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. This service is anticipated to be more intimate, but no less joyful. We will sing traditional carols and share Holy Communion together as we give thanks for the Word made flesh.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we are invited to hear, once again, the good news proclaimed to the shepherds watching over their flocks. The greatest gift of Christmas is the salvation that has come to us in Jesus Christ. It is a blessing that comes to us not by our own striving or merit, but solely through the grace and mercy of God. As we respond in gratitude, we are called to follow the example of the shepherds, sharing that same Good News with others.

In that spirit, I encourage you to invite friends and family to join you in worship this Christmas. Did you know that 83% of visitors to church attend because they were personally invited by someone they know? Christmas is a wonderful time to bring a guest to church with you. And if you notice unfamiliar faces, please make sure to greet newcomers and encourage them to join us again after the holidays.

Finally, you will find special offering envelopes in the pews this weekend. I encourage your prayerful consideration of a Christmas contribution in gratitude for God's presence in your own life, and in support of our parish's call to share the good news of God's love with our community and the world. Your gift can be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office. As always, I am grateful for your generosity and your support.

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

Merry Christmas,
Mother Terry+

Bishop John's Advent 2023 Video Message

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

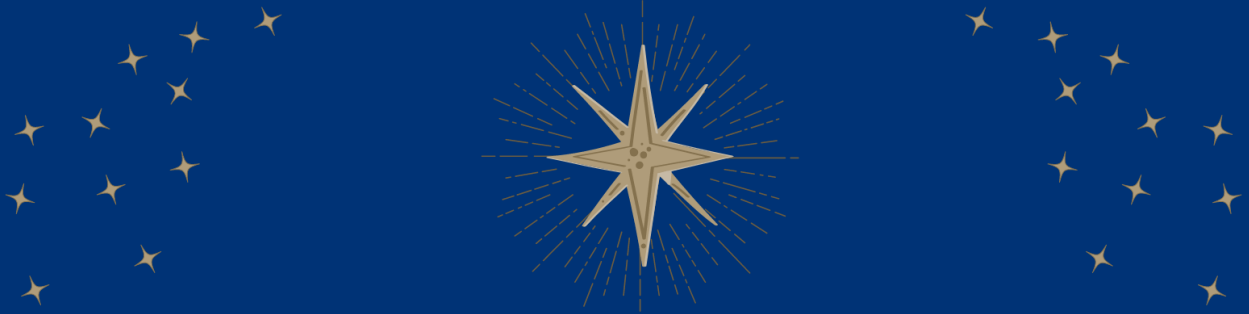
Christmas Church Decorating

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.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 4pm Christmas Pageant & Communion
10pm Solemn Choral Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10am Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN'S SHAUGHNESSY 1490 NANTON AVE.



Christmas Eve NATIVITY PAGEANT AND HOLY COMMUNION

December 24 @ 4 p.m.

All children are welcome to participate!
(Arrive by 3:30 p.m. to get a costume)

RSVP: rector@sjs.net

St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church
1490 Nanton Ave.



First Christmas in Canada

The Refugee Support Committee is putting together a Christmas hamper for the Kandeel Family, the young Palestinian/Syrian Family who the parish sponsored. The parents have made great progress in their English classes and the children are settling into their new schools and making friends easily, but it would be lovely to spread a bit of Christmas cheer.

Contributions of gift cards, fruit baskets, home baking, toys for boys 6 & 9, a girl aged 13, Mum and Dad - all welcome. Please bring to the parish office by Dec. 22.

The Committee will be taking them to the Festival of lights at Van Dusen Gardens to celebrate.

Winter Solstice Express Concert

Michael Dirk invites any parishioners who'd like to see what our neighborhood looks like from the public elementary school perspective. Next Thursday December 21 at 2 pm is their Winter Solstice Express Concert: featuring seasonal favourites as well as a Magic Flute since half the school attended Vancouver Opera's dress rehearsal, as well as celebrating Disney's 100th and Frozen's 10th complete with Elsa flash mob choir! Shaughnessy Elementary School gym- no admission.



Labyrinth is Open

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

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

at St. John's, Shaughnessy

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**



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*
Dr. Graeme Langager, *Choral Director* graeme.langager@sjs.net
Michael Dirk, *Principal Organist and Artist-in-Residence* organist@sjs.net
Deanna Ferguson, *Parish Administrator* church.office@sjs.net

Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, *Rector* terry.dirbas@sjs.net
Ken Pepin, *Rector's Warden* ken.pepin@sjsparish.net
Joan Stewart, *People's Warden* joan.stewart@sjsparish.net
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