

From the Curate

As Mtr. Terry mentioned in her homily, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is ending today on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. I think it is very appropriate and proper to hold a special time for Christian Unity between the Feast Day of the Confession of Peter and the Conversion of Paul. As we know,



Peter and Paul are from different socio-economic background; one is a fisherman, the other a pharisee. Their mission and ministry attended to different groups; one to the Jewish, and the other to the Gentiles. One became a stone upon which Jesus built His Church, and the other spread the Good News like a wildfire throughout all different regions. And here we are -- thanks to all these holy people who dedicated their lives to bringing Christ's light to the world -- existing as one of many branches of one magnificent tree.

Then what does Christian unity mean? And why does it matter?

We all know that the church has been split for many different reasons throughout history. Sometimes the church had failed to live a Christian life, and a new group of people tried to retrieve what they believed important. Other times, there was a new idea that the church grappled with, or there were different opinions that could not coexist. Each time, from the old branch, a new branch shoots out and grows. And now, we have many different Christian denominations that witness faith in God and practice their belief.

However, if you studied the history of the protestant movement or experienced the split within our own church, you know it was accompanied by painful struggle and messy fights. Many times, there grows hatred, not mercy; self-righteousness not understanding of the other. Even after, there is no effort to reconcile, but there remains only bitterness or negligence toward each other. Nonetheless, I believe, as we hold onto our faith where we are, the Holy Spirit will still make it work while turning difference into diversity, holding branches together connected to common roots.

As each branch is reminded of the truth that we are all parts of one tree, we will be able to bear the same fruits. Instead of fighting or pointing fingers, we will be able to cooperate and hold hands with one another. Just like each branch fills different parts of the sky with the same kind of fruits, what each Christian community embodies will reveal God's will and blessing for the world. Because God is good, His goodness is found everywhere in everyone. And this work of the Spirit uniting us in one begins from our own life. We start growing into unity by living out faith out of love, recognizing the good works in others, and trusting God's guidance in humility.

Fr. James

Return of Palm Crosses

Palm branches from last year will be collected January 28 and February 4 in preparation for making the ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday.

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 their donations that go out to folks living on the street. At the moment we are especially in need of the following items:

- Socks (thick socks are good, but please not so thick that folks cannot get shoes on over them)
- T-shirts (medium size and up is best)
- Pudding cups
- Simple wipes (or an equivalent brand) for hands/face/body in small packets
- Handwarmers
- Toothbrushes individually wrapped
- Disposable shaving razors

We also welcome donations of the following items that are continually needed:

- Warm tops (hoodies, sweaters)
- Sweat pants
- Travel size toothpastes
- Mini unscented soaps (like you find at hotels)
- Meal replacement drinks (e.g. Ensure/Boost)
- Juice boxes with straws
- Fruit caps
- Canned tuna or similar (check that it has a ring pull)
- Soft granola bars (not hard or crunchy)

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.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13 at 6 p.m. Trendell Lounge

This year, we will celebrate a traditional pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. More information coming soon.

We could use a few volunteers to help plan decorations and logistics, as well as some folks to flip pancakes. If you'd like to help us put on one last good party before we begin the season of Lent, please contact Mother Terry.

Lent is just a month away!

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. As we approach this holy season, please note our service times and share them with friends.

More information about Lenten formation opportunities is coming soon!

A graphic for Ash Wednesday services. On the left, a hand is shown applying grey ash to a forehead in the shape of a cross. On the right, the text reads: "Ash Wednesday February 14", "Service Times", "Noon Quiet Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes", "7pm Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes", and "St. John's, Shaughnessy 1490 Nanton Ave."/>

**Ash Wednesday
February 14**

Service Times

Noon	Quiet Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
7pm	Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

**St. John's, Shaughnessy
1490 Nanton Ave.**



Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
& Liturgy for the Burning of
Palms

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Noon Spoken Ash Wednesday Service
7 p.m. Choral Ash Wednesday Service

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

After the Annual Vestry Meeting
10 a.m.
Service

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

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

Trustees

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



1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2
(604) 731-4966
www.sjns.net