

### From the Rector

What a wonderful Christmas celebration we have had at St. John's, Shaughnessy! I am so grateful to each of you for being part of the joy we've shared in this holy season. I'd like to especially thank all those who decorated the church so beautifully; those who served in the liturgy as readers, acolytes, greeters, intercessors, and more; our amazing choir and musicians for their offering of their time and talent to draw us into the beauty of holiness; and to the clergy and staff at SJS for putting in so much hard work throughout the season of Advent.

As the season of Christmas draws to a close, we look forward to the celebration of Epiphany this Saturday. Though we will not have an Epiphany mass here, I encourage you to mark the day in your own way at home. You might find a parish that has a mass that evening (you are welcome to join us at the Church of the Holy Trinity in White Rock, Saturday evening at 7 p.m.; St. James' also has a spoken 4 p.m. mass on Saturday—enter by the chapel gate on East Cordova). Alternatively, you might simply read the Scripture and move the wise men to your crèche at home. You can find the Epiphany readings [here](#) (Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12). On Sunday morning, the children and I will also be blessing chalk at the children's focus, which you will be welcome to take home to mark your doors as a house blessing. (More info about that on Sunday!)

Finally, I'd like to share this year's Epiphany proclamation with you. Traditionally this is chanted at the Epiphany mass (to the same beautiful tone as the Exsultet, which begins the Easter Vigil), as a way of announcing the important dates of the liturgical year. Since many of these dates are determined by the date of Easter, it was necessary to announce them to the faithful at the beginning of the year. Although we now have the benefit of liturgical calendars in print and online, the Epiphany proclamation



*Adoration of the Magi* by Bartolomé Esteban Morillo, c. 1655

provides a wonderful connection with the Church throughout history, as well as a lovely expression of the nature and significance of the rhythm of the liturgical year.

Blessings to you all in this new year!

Mother Terry+

### **The Epiphany Proclamation for 2024**

Dear friends in Christ, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation. Let us recall the year's culmination, the Paschal Triduum of the Lord: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising celebrated between the evening of the twenty-eighth day of March and the evening of the thirtieth day of March, Easter day being the thirty-first day of March.

Each Easter – as on each Sunday – the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the fourteenth day of February. The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on the ninth day of May. Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the nineteenth day of May. The feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, on the second day of June. And this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the first day of December.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Dear Abbey,*

*Now that the presents have been unwrapped and the baking is done, I was wondering, when is the right time to take down my Christmas decorations?*

*Sincerely,  
Tinsel Tied*

Dear Tinsel,

There are probably as many opinions about when to take down Christmas decorations as there are about when to put them up. I have a family member whose custom it was to take down Christmas on December 26. Tree, garland, nativity scenes, Santas . . . Poof! All gone! I would guess for most people that is a bit extreme.

Many Anglicans leave their homes decorated through the season of Christmas, until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. However, there is also a medieval English tradition that maintains Christmas extends to the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), February 2—exactly 40 days after the birth of Jesus. As such, it is entirely acceptable to keep your houses and churches adorned throughout January! In fact, the English Heritage Society recently posted, *“After an especially tough year, English Heritage is encouraging the public to do as their medieval ancestors did and leave up their festive adornments until Candlemas on 2 February. This opposes the theory that leaving decorations up beyond Twelfth Night is bad luck, which is a modern take on the tradition.”* (<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about-us/search-news/leave-your-decorations-up/>)

Personally, will be leaving my tree up until February 2 this year, simply because the light helps add cheer to my home during this dark time of year. This probably isn't practical if you have a fresh Christmas tree, but I know at least one parishioner who keeps Christmas lights up in her home throughout the winter for the same reason. The truth is, while we commemorate the incarnation in the Christmas season, we are forever living in the reality of that union of the divine and human. That revelation is one we should never pack away for another season. Instead, we should live in it daily. If keeping your decorations up longer helps you do that, then go right ahead!

Merry Christmas!

Abbey

*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](mailto:terry.dirbas@sjs.net). All questions will remain anonymous.*



**AND NOW  
SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT**

**14 JAN.  
2024**

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE**

**MICHAEL DIRK**

**ORGAN CONCERT**

Canadian Memorial United Church  
Corner of Burrard and 15th, Vancouver

Start At 1:30 PM



Tickets online or at the door!



## **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](mailto: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@sj.s.net](mailto:church.office@sj.s.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

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