

From the Rector



The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, Fra Bartolomeo, 1516

Tomorrow is Groundhog Day. Many people throughout Canada will eagerly await the appearance of Wiarton Willie (or their other local favorite mammal or shellfish) in hopes that his shadow (or lack thereof) will predict an early spring. We've been in winter for about 6 weeks now and we're getting a bit tired of the dark and the cold. Day by day the light increases, ever so slightly, as we long for the spring, the new growth, and the life which comes along with it.

February 2 is also the Feast of the Presentation (which, by the way, has been observed much longer than Groundhog

day). This feast celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the temple 40 days after his birth. As recorded in Luke's Gospel, Joseph and Mary bring Jesus into the temple in Jerusalem, and they are immediately greeted by Simeon, who is filled with Holy Spirit. Simeon takes the child in his arms and declares that Jesus is the light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of God's people. He testifies to the truth that God's light, which came into the world, shines in the darkness, and that God's light will lead all people to salvation. God's light fulfills God's promise to restore and redeem all creation.

As we continue through what remains of winter, longing to see the brightness of the sun, it is good for us to remember that the one true light, the son of God, is always shining brightly. The light of Christ shines in all places, at all times. And, if we allow it, the light shines in and through us so that we might bring the warmth and love of Christ's presence to all whom we meet. With the light of Christ as our source, we can be the mechanism of new growth in the world.

Those who believe the folklore of the groundhog will be pleased if Willie does not see his shadow. They will celebrate if, in fact, the fact that light does not shine on him. Yet, we know and celebrate the truth that light shines on us all! And what's more, we celebrate that no matter circumstances we find ourselves in, bright and sunny or gray and gloomy, God is with us, and the light of Christ will guide us.

So as we continue in this season, especially in the dark days that make us wonder if spring will ever come, let's remind one another of Christ's ever-present light, and let's eagerly look toward the shining brightness of God's kingdom.

Love,
Mother Terry+

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@sis.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 around the corner!

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!



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, *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, *Deacon (Retired)*
The Reverend Pitman Potter, *Deacon (Retired)*
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Trustees

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