

December 17
2009

SJWT



Dear Friends,

This weekend, bring socks or mittens for us to give to someone who is cold. And come inside and be warm!

Messy Church: Jesus' Birthday Party! *Jesus' Birthday Cake with a candle for every child as we retell the story using the manger scene. Christmas Songs with live music. Resources for parents. Especially for 2-6 year-olds and their families. We're going to be in the newspaper so dress up for our photographers! **Saturday, December 19, 3-5 PM.***

Worship with us this Sunday, December 20: Advent 4: 8:30 Early Eucharist; **10:30** Holy Eucharist; Celebrant and Sermon: The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Musician: Andrew Huang (Glory Glory Hallelujah), *guitar*; Coffee and refreshments following. **Food Drive:** Bring **NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS** - to be delivered to our local food bank, *The Stop*, on Monday. Bring **WARM MITTENS AND SOCKS** - to be given out at the Breakfast for the Homeless on Christmas Day. The Children will collect these contributions in a grocery cart during the Children's Focus!
(Please leave Gifts unwrapped)



Making it easy to be a church for all ages...

Come to the Novena: *A Novena is a 9-Day Prayer.* In Ecuador, people get together in each other's homes for PRAYERS AT THE MANGER and a simple supper. We are doing it! **9 Days. 9 Meals. 9 Prayers.** Sign up and Come for Supper. \$10/adult; \$5/child. All proceeds to the Sunday School Retreat at Camp Wanakita, June 2010.

Thursday December 17: At the Church

Friday December 18: At the Home of Sean and Dionne Watson

Saturday December 19: At the Home of Michael and Jackie Allison

Sunday December 20: At the Home of Carrie Cardwell

Monday December 21: At the Home of Tim and Trish Taylor

Tuesday December 22: At the Home of Evelyn Butler and Bill Dunford

Wednesday December 23: At the Home of Jacqueline DaCosta and Santiago Holguin

Dinner and Prayers between 6:30 and 8:30 PM. Address Details and Sign Up Sheet at the Action Desk in the Church.



Getting people to stop and sing with us in the Bloor West Village...

Make your Christmas Plans

Christmas Eve: Family Eucharist at *5:00 PM*; Christmas Carols at *10:00 PM*; Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist – *10:30 PM*. A glass of wine follows if you would like to stay!

Christmas Day Breakfast for the Homeless: Start Christmas Day by making a difference for other people. Help us serve Breakfast at St. Stephen's Church (just north of Kensington Market on College Street). Bring: Ham, Your Christmas Morning Singing Voice! Please sign up at the Action Desk so we can arrange rides together. *December 25, 6-9 AM.*



Packing the church for the Gala and Silent Auction: With your help we raised \$7500 for the ministry of St. John's Church! Thank you.

Thursday Morning Worship - Morning Prayer is cancelled on Thursday, December 24. We will be meeting for worship at 10:30 on Thursday **December 31**, followed by noon **Lunch at Fatima's** at Dundas West and Clendenan. *It is not a large restaurant, so let us know if you want to be counted in our reservation!*

Announcements & Events

Book Study

Next Book: *The World Needs Your Kid: How to Raise Children Who Care and Contribute* by Craig and Marc Kielburger. Let's teach our children the 3 C's: compassion, courage and community. From the Publishers: "Inside this guide to parenting is a profound philosophy that encourages children to become global citizens. Drawing on life lessons and success stories Marc and Craig Kielburger demonstrate how small actions make a difference in the life of a child and ultimately change the world... Craig and Marc Kielburger are the founders of Free The Children. Their work has been featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, BBC, and The Today Show, and in Time and The Economist." **Tuesday, January 19, 6 PM Dinner; 7 PM Discussion.**

Youth Group Movie Night

Hang out with your friends for a movie on the Big Screen in the Church: \$5 pizza supper; **Sunday, January 10, 5:30 PM.**

Screening for a Safe Church

For those in active ministry - whether volunteer or employed - every three years we update our understanding of boundaries for a safe church, as required by the Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Diocese of Toronto, our church's insurance policy, and because we want to give our best welcome to EVERYONE to St. John's. If your role gives you access to people or our church's confidential financial information, your role is "high risk" and requires the training plus a police records check. A "medium risk" role requires the training evening. And to learn more about good boundaries, anyone who is interested is welcome. Mark your calendar for one of **Monday, January 11, 7:30 PM or Thursday, January 14, 7:30 PM.**

Primate's Visit

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada will be preacher and celebrant at St. John's on Sunday, January 17! Worship with us. Hear a vision for the whole church.

Great Upcoming Music!

December 20: Andrew Huang, *praise band*; December 24, 5:00 & 10:00: Douglas Millar, organ; December 27: "Spirit in the Sky."



Get dressed up with us!

This Week on the Spiritual Path

Any spiritual path involves practice and preparation. Practice makes the path more satisfying and meaningful, whether it is yoga, or Buddha, or Jesus! How do we practice? We live the values of the Christian life. We cultivate our relationship with God. We worship together, and we *prepare ourselves* to 'meet God' in worship. Here are my suggestions for this *your practice* this week.

1. **Read:** Sunday readings in advance: Micah 5:2-5a; **Luke 1:46-55**; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55. What are the main ideas that seem important to you? Predict: What will the sermon be about? (Gary is preaching at both services).

2. **Think:** Notice the reversals in Mary's Song as she greets Elizabeth. The text of Mary's Song is "inspired" by Hannah's Song as she rejoices in her pregnancy (See 1 Samuel 2:1-10). It is also full of reversals, eg. "*Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.*" Have there been some reversals for you? Were you poor but now have received gifts? (poor in health, poor in self-esteem, poor in affording what you needed...) Were you rich and feeling entitled but now you have come down? What do you really need? Find out about the [Advent Conspiracy: The Season is not about Stuff!](#)

3. **Pray: What do you really need?**

"...with the bread we need for today, feed us..."

4. **Act:** Do you know someone who has come through a great reversal? ...been up there...gave it all up (lost it all)... been on the streets...now working and a roof overhead... How is she? How did he get through it? Ask for the story and listen.

Worshipping as a community is a very important! You will get more out of it, and have more to give of yourself if you work at your practice of the Christian Life.

Gary

P.S. I hope you find it helpful to get an update like this from St. John's Church, West Toronto. If you would like something listed in the announcements, or if you know someone who would appreciate receiving this, please contact me. If you would prefer not to receive news from St. John's in this way, please also let me know.

Best wishes, Gary+

Check our website. www.sjwt.ca

And remember this!

We are not a Building!

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight and gay. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenge of our daily ministries. We call on all who will to come and join us.

