
November 29

2009

SJWTS



Dear Friends,

Advent is here, and we anticipate the coming of Jesus. Join us for Community Sunday.

Worship with us this Sunday, November 29: *Be Part of our first St. John's "Community Sunday" - despite busy schedules, let's all try to be together on the SAME Sunday.* Advent 1: 8:30 Early Eucharist, coffee and breakfast following; **10:30** Holy Eucharist: Sermon: "*Are you on a Mission?*" The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: The Rev. Bob Shantz; Musicians: Anne Lederman, *fiddle*; Tom Leighton, *keyboard*; "*Spirit in the Sky*": Catherine Laird, *vocals* and Adrian Knaud, *guitar*; and The St. John's Ensemble (*All of you who play instruments or enjoy leading*

singing!); Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**; Luke 21:25-36; Children's Program: *Our first "Messy Church on Sunday."* **Bring and share a Potluck Lunch and enjoy a Recital by the Children of the Sunday School.**



Come to the Gala!

Join us for our first Formal Gala. Silent Auction with Fantastic Services; live jazz music, wine and hors d'oeuvres. **Tickets \$25; [contact Lynelle!](#) Next Friday, December 4, 7:30 PM.**

Make your Christmas Plans

Christmas Pageant: We invite everyone to come in costume (adults included) for Palestine in the Year Zero; We are meeting at "The Little White Inn." Sunday, December 13, 10:30. Rehearsals, directed by Robert Shipman and Catherine Laird: *Sunday, December 6, noon; December 12, 9 AM; December 13, 9 AM (Dress Rehearsal).*

Christmas Caroling: Meet at Runnymede Library, Glendonwynne and Bloor and we will sing and walk westward, concluding with a pub visit; *Friday, December 18, 7:00 PM SHARP.*

Messy Christmas Party: Our monthly "Messy Church" (especially for 2-6 year old children and their families) will be a celebration of **Jesus' Birthday Party.** *Saturday, December 19, 3-5 PM.*

White Gift Sunday: Bring contributions for our Food Drive. The Children will collect your contributions in a *Shopping Cart* during the Children's Focus, and we will deliver them on Monday to *The Stop (Please leave Gifts unwrapped); Sunday, December 20, 8:30 & 10:30.*

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.*

Thursday, December 3, 10:30 AM - Morning Prayer. Midweek services are followed by visiting over tea and home-baked refreshments. All are welcome.

Announcements & Events

Book Study

We are reading *Jesus Today*, by Albert Nolan. Nolan proposes the spirituality that Jesus lived - intimacy with God - as nourishing and worthy of our imitation. ***Tuesday, December 1, 6 PM Dinner; 7 PM Discussion.***

Youth Group Movie Night

Hang out with your friends for a Christmas movie on the Big Screen in the Church: \$5 pizza supper; ***Sunday, December 6, 5:30 PM.***

Bob and Alison - Thanks

Dear St John's Friends, Alison and I want to thank you for your loving response to my mother's illness and death – for the flowers and card, for praying for her every Sunday, for the prayer shawl, for those of you who could be present at her memorial service, for your kind and thoughtful words of comfort. We have been surrounded by and upheld in your loving arms. We thank God for the Spirit at work in you. *Bob Shantz and Alison Smiley.*

Holly Tea – Thanks

Our leader, Joan Devitt thanks to everyone who helped make the Holly Tea a great success. We thank you, Joan! Congratulations on offering wonderful neighbourhood outreach!

Christianity 102 – Thanks

We have completed the second edition of our own Introduction to Christianity as we Practice it at St. John's. Thanks to our presenters: Brian MacIntyre, Sheila Crummey, Sean Watson, Marilyn Kluyskens, Gary van der Meer, Tim Taylor, Evelyn Butler, and Archbishop Fred Hiltz. If you missed any of the sessions and would like to catch up, we will arrange a catch-up session!

Great Upcoming Music!

December 6: Ken Whiteley, Guitar; December 13: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; December 20: Glory Glory Hallelujah, praise band; December 24, 5:00 & 10:00: Douglas Millar, organ; December 27: "Spirit in the Sky."



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** the Sunday readings in advance: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; **Thessalonians 3:9-13**; Luke 21:25-36. What are the main ideas that seem important to you? Predict: What will be sermon be about? (Gary is preaching).

2. **Pray**: Notice two themes from Thessalonians: *Joy and Love*: "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?" Who makes you feel this way? How does *Love-For-Each-Other* grow? Who and How... Pray about these things.

3. **Act**: Contact some people you feel this way about. You could use Christmas Cards, or some other method that fits who you are. Thank them.

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.

