



**Dear Friends,**

**With God's grace, we're casting away the works of darkness and putting on the armour of light: The season is changing!**

**Worship with us this Sunday, November 30: 8:30** Early Eucharist; **10:30** Main Eucharist: Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Musician: Glory Glory Hallelujah, praise band; Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9, Mark 13:24-37; Baptism of Evelyn Margaret Tindall. Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; Refreshments following.



**Midweek Services: Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 AM** - Morning Prayer; **Thursday, December 4, 10:30 AM** - Holy Eucharist with ministry of Anointing. Midweek services are followed by visiting over tea and home-baked refreshments. All are welcome.

## **Make your Christmas Worship Plans**

**Christmas Pageant:** We invite everyone to come in costume (adults included) for First Century Palestine. Sunday, December 14, 10:30. Rehearsals, directed by Robert Shipman: Today in Sunday School, next Sunday, December 7, during Sunday School; December 14, 9:15 AM.

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

**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!

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## Announcements & Events

### Holly Tea

Come to the Holly Tea! *Hang out and Meet the Neighbourhood* - last year we enjoyed so many visits with neighbours who appreciated hanging out in a church. To be prepared for the day, we are asking for baked goods, sandwiches, pourers of tea, knitters, sewers, painters, and crafters of any sort, people to help with the setting up and cleaning up. And we hope everyone will come and meet the neighbours! **Saturday, November 29th, 2- 5 pm.**

### Book Club



The Book Club has chosen **Payback, this year's Massey Lectures by Margaret Atwood**. Consider debt in our households, our world, and our church... Margaret even considers the theology of Jesus' death as "payback." **Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 Supper; 7:00 Discussion; 8:30 Depart.** *Sign up at the Action Desk.*

### Advent Wreaths

For those who have signed up and prepaid, this is a reminder that we Advent Wreath-making will be held this **Sunday November 30th between 9:30 and 10:30 AM.**

### Lecture by John Dominic Crossan



Travel with us to Newmarket for **John Dominic Crossan's lecture "The First Christmas?"** The lecture is based on his recently published book. Learn more about how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. The Christmas story is far richer and more challenging than people imagine! Lecture sponsored by

Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket. Tickets \$20. For more details contact the Rev. Bob Shantz, [bobshantz@rogers.com](mailto:bobshantz@rogers.com). **Friday, December 5, 7:30 PM, Sir William Mulock Secondary School, Newmarket.**







### **Glory Glory Hallelujah Christmas Concert**

Andrew, Leah, Mike and Laura invite their friends for a Christmas Sing-Along. They are playing Christmas Carols, and introducing a few songs from their new album! **Saturday, December 6, 7:00 PM - here at St. Johns!**

### **TIME OUT for ADVENT:**

An Advent Quiet Morning to step out of the busyness of the season and notice the Season. Let's refresh our souls. Prayers, readings, quiet, refreshments. Join us. You'll be glad you did! Questions: Evelyn or Lynda. **Saturday, December 13, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**

### **Sunday School Ginger Bread House Raffle**



The children will be making two gingerbread houses which will be raffled off **Sunday December 14**, at coffee time following the 10:30 service. Please note that this is also the date set for the **Christmas Pageant**. There will be three Sundays to buy tickets: November 30, December 7, and December 14. Fundraising supports the Sunday School camping retreat .

### **Breakfast for the Homeless**

We are now assisting in the Breakfast Program at St. Stephen's on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month until the beginning of February when we will re-evaluate. Our St. Stephen's Dates: **December 21 and December 28**. We invite volunteers to serve **Christmas Day Breakfast. 6:00 AM**. Please complete the Sign-Up Sheet at the Action Desk. We would like to take some Christmas Baking with us - Bring something to the Christmas Eve service.

### **Sacraments of the Church**

Please pray for those who have participated in Christianity 101 as part of sacramental preparation:

*Baptism:* Frans Altena, **Sunday, January 11**

*Confirmation:* Dominic Allison, Jamie Christakos, Brad Christakos, Tom Gehrels, Julia Miller, Frans Altena, **Sunday, January 18**

*Reception into the Anglican Church:* Catherine Laird, **Sunday, January 18**

### **Robbie Burns Tickets**

Tickets make a fabulous **Christmas Gift - only \$30 each**. Purchase them from Evelyn Butler or Sue Ferguson. There are only 150 tickets for sale. The dinner will be held in the Banquet Room of the Grenadier Retirement Home, Bloor & Clendenan; Parking is available, \$2.75. **Saturday, January 24th, 2009.**

### **Great Upcoming Music!**

**November 30: Glory Glory Hallelujah, praise band** (Baptism of Evelyn Tindall);  
December 7: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; December 14: Allison & Gerald, southern gospel (Christmas Pageant); December 21: Dorothy De Val, organ; and Susanna McCleary, violin and vocal soloist.



Have a look at the **new cross** in the church: Thanks to Marilyn Kluyskens for coordinating our final session of Christianity 101 - and producing the beautiful collaborative mosaic. When you are at the Font this Sunday, take a closer look at this cross's words and pictures!

## 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 also prepare to 'meet God' in worship. Here are my suggestions for this your practice this week.

1. **Read** the Sunday readings in advance: **Isaiah 64:1-9**; Psalm 80;1-7; **1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**, Mark 13:24-37. (*Hint: Concentrate on the Bold texts!*) What are the main ideas in these readings? How might they be good news to us? Make a guess what the sermon will be about next week!
2. **Pray**: Choose one of our outreach initiatives, and *pray for the people served*.
3. **Act**: This week, try to Show Kindness to one person who tends to annoy you. What does "Love your Neighbour as yourself" look like - with this specific person?

*As we enter the Season of Advent, it is surprising how quickly time passes. The last few months have flown by. When I look at my own life, some of it was 'busyness.' There were also some challenging things, and some real blessings. It is challenging to be reflective in Advent, but Christmas actually does mean more to us - with preparation, even moments of preparation. The Spiritual Path might be a few moments: Try to notice how God's love is working through specific people you know. Try to notice how you are a channel of God's love.*

**Gary**

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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.sjw.t.ca](http://www.sjw.t.ca)

**And remember this!**

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## **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.

