

March 5, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,

Spring? Spring your clock forward by one hour on Saturday night so you can be with us on Sunday. Easter is very close, and Daylight Saving Time brings Spring with it!

Worship with us this Sunday, March 9: Lent 5: 8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Ken Whiteley, blues guitar. Refreshments following.

Announcements & Events

Lenten Program

St. John's will host a shared Lenten program with Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wednesday evenings, March 12 & 19, 7:30 - 8:45 pm. The program will be held at St. John's. Bob Shantz will present his new book, "Windows on our Souls" along with artist Sarah Hall and art historian Peter Larisey. Learn about art, the early Christian catacombs, stained glass, and theology (Bob's writings!). The evening will include reflections, concluding with Lutheran Evening Prayer, Musician: Barry Short.

Great Upcoming Music

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. sharp - March 9: Ken Whiteley, blues guitar; Palm Sunday: David Jones, piano and organ; Maundy Thursday: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; Good Friday: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion, and Jayne Smiley, soloist; Easter Sunday: Dorothy DeVal, organ and Susanna McCleary, violin and vocal soloist; March 30 and April 6: Freedomize! From the downtown twenty-something church Freedomize: Andrew, guitar; Leah, vocals; Mike, drums.

Midweek Worship Services

Thursday March 6, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation. During Lent, Tuesday Morning Prayer begins at 7:00 a.m.

Writing Cheques to St. John's

Our bank has tightened its rules about cashing cheques written to St. John's. Our official name for banking purposes: "St. John's Church, West Toronto".

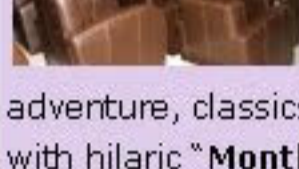
Annual Vestry Meeting

The Wardens propose that the Annual Vestry Meeting be held Sunday, March 9th following the 10:30 service. This is a change from the original announcement to allow time to prepare our plans incorporating your responses to the Every Member Visit and Commitment Sunday.

Leadership Team Meeting

The next Leadership Team meeting will be Monday, March 17, 7:30 p.m. These meetings are where the St. John's community coordinates our Events Calendar and provides support to the people organizing and leading Events. It is also a great place to bring new ideas for our community.

Movie Day



Come to the Movies on Saturday March 29 from 12:30 pm to 11:00 pm.

We'll have a great blend of excitement, adventure, classics and action. Join us for some good laughs with hilaric "Monthy Python & the Holy Grail", classic "Casablanca", some French Cuisine "Ratatouille", action with "The Bourne Ultimatum" and the beautiful "La Vita è Bella". All of this right in the local High Park Village private movie suite!

This brand new private cinema provides us with a Commercial quality 60inch screen with full Dolby Pro Logic surround sound and theatre style viewing for 12 in comfortable leather seating. The cinema is located on the lower level of 66 Pacific Avenue (High Park Minto Buildings).

We have limited seating so select your favourite movie from the attached Movie Schedule and buy your tickets now! All proceeds will go to St. John's. All movie tickets are \$5 per movie per person. Please purchase your tickets after the 10.30 services.

During "Casablanca", traditional Moroccan Couscous will be served. Popcorn & soda available for a suggested donation fee of \$2.

For more information or to buy tickets, please contact Frans & Marilyn at 416-551-1990 or info@marilynklusens.com

PS—Read more about the movies in the attached .pdf document



Cy Weston



Evelyn Butler

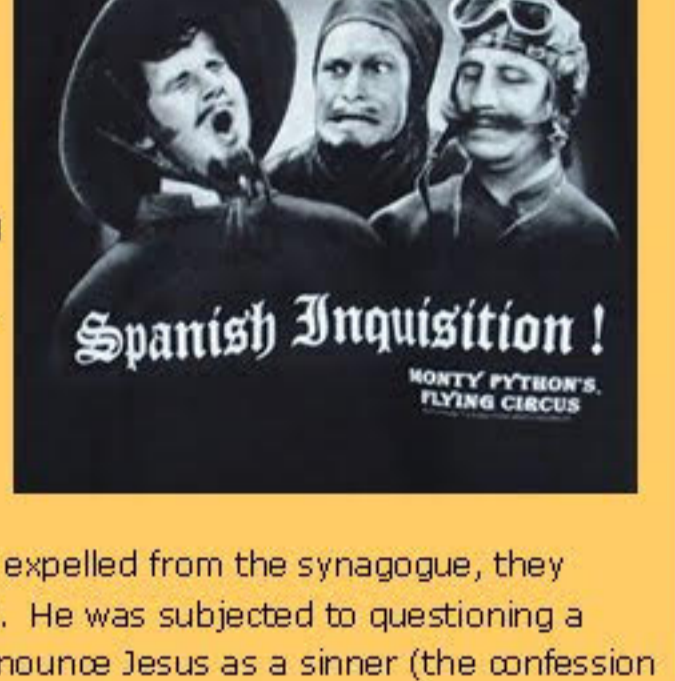
Holy Week at St. John's
Sunday, March 16: Palm Sunday. 8:30 Eucharist. 10:30 Palm Sunday Liturgy. Musician: Barry Short.
Monday, March 17: Leadership Team meeting at the church 7:30 pm
Tuesday, March 18: Holy Eucharist at 7:00 am.
Wednesday, March 19: Field trip to St. Mary Magdalene's Church for Tenebrae at 8:00 pm. St. Mary's is located at 477 Manning Avenue (intersection with Ulster).
Thursday, March 20: Maundy Thursday. Supper, Footwashing, Eucharist, and Stripping of the Altar, begins at 6:00 pm. Musician: Jaroslav Czerwinec.
Friday, March 21: Good Friday. Child-Centred Good Friday Worship at 10:30 am. Solemn Liturgy at 2:00 pm. Music: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion, and Jane Smiley, vocal soloist.
Saturday, March 22: Easter Eve. Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm. The New Fire, Candlelight Vigil, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and Celebration of the First Eucharist of Easter. This year's host is the Anglican Church of St. Mark and Calvary, 21 Blackthorn Avenue, just north of St. Clair.
Sunday, March 23: Easter Day. 8:30 Eucharist. 10:30 Eucharist. Music: Dorothy De Val, organ, and Susanna McCleary, violin and vocal soloist.

Thanks:

Thanks to Tom Gehrels for his beautiful photos from last Sunday. Thanks to Brian MacIntyre for the meditation below.

He didn't expect the Spanish Inquisition

Having been healed of his blindness, the man in this Sunday's gospel lesson might have been expected to be able to begin to lead a relatively normal life, no longer the object of pity and charity; no longer an embarrassment to his parents (as possibly representing the consequence of their sins). However, as John tells it, his healing instead fed into the growing controversy around Jesus, and ultimately led him to be ostracized from his community. He was brought before the Pharisees (not all of whom were hostile!) and closely interrogated. Then his parents were questioned; but because they feared being expelled from the synagogue, they referred their questioners back to their son. He was subjected to questioning a second time, and because he refused to denounce Jesus as a sinner (the confession that some of the Pharisees wanted), was himself expelled.



Jesus went to find him, and then took him on as a follower. And to be a follower of Christ in the early decades wasn't necessarily easy. Perhaps he was subjected to further arrests and interrogations as the years passed; after all Jesus had made it clear to his disciples this was what they could expect. (Centuries later it was the Church itself that became the feared interrogator, but that's another story.)

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say 'We see', your guilt remains." Jesus is saying again quite emphatically that those with disabilities are not to be treated as pariahs. But what does he mean by the second part of the statement? In what sense did the Pharisees say "We see" and why does that make them guilty? Perhaps in the sense that these Pharisees considered their knowledge of the divine will so complete that they could pass final, condemning judgment on others, as they did to the formerly blind man and to Jesus himself; theirs was a closed system of values that could not be challenged. If they had acknowledged that there was much that they didn't know, that they might actually be wrong about some matters, then they might have been alive to the possibility that divine revelation was happening in their midst.

Blindness in this sense may be a good thing. When people "know all the answers" they tend to be intolerant of those who disagree with them, and consequently insufferable. I have followed the controversy in the Anglican Communion (as in, "the clear teachings of scripture") in the statements of certain bishops and archbishops. (I'll leave you to guess which ones.) On the other hand, people who acknowledge that they are often in a state of confusion, or doubt, or despair, about life; and are only searching for something (for healing, for love, for truth, for meaning, for God), not claiming to have already found it - these people tend to engage my sympathies readily, because I find I am in the same place. .

Oh God, I am blind, I am lost. Please be my guide . Amen.

Brian MacIntyre

For meditation and reflection in the coming week, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, March 9, 2007 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent: Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45.

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.

