

March 12
2010

SJWTS



Dear Friends,

Spring Forward! Put your clock ahead on Saturday night. See you in the morning with a smile.

Welcoming the Neighbourhood
for St. Patrick's Family Day



Irish Stew: We had an Irish Stew cook off to decide on the best recipe!
Irish Songs
Irish Drinks
Irish Humour.

Saturday, March 13, 4-7 PM.

St. Patrick will be with us! Will you recognize him?

Worship with us on this Sunday, March 14

8:30 AM Early Eucharist ♦ **10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3;11b-32 (*This is the story we call the "Prodigal Son" - about the Father who always welcomes us back.*)

Music: Ken Whiteley, *blues guitar*



Worship Leaders: Gary van der Meer, *celebrant*; Bob Shantz, *sermon*; Brenda Stewart, *children's focus*.

Lent Program: Focus on "Mission"



What is **Mission**: *Worship ½ hour + Reflection ½ hour (Celtic Evening Prayer).*

Fourth Session, Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. What motivates us to reach out to others? Let's identify personal needs that motivate us to reach out.

Fifth Session: Tuesday March 23, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. "Service" guides our understanding of mission. To be of service... To be a servant ...as a "calling" - is it a full time or part time calling? The importance of self-care. What are the needs of the one we serve?

*Candlelight, beautiful evening hymns,
being calm on holy ground, invited into thinking...*

Thursday Morning Worship - Every Thursday 10:30 AM followed by visiting over tea and home-baked refreshments. Fourth Thursday of the month is Holy Eucharist with Ministry of Anointing for Healing.

Announcements & Events

Drop in for Tea

Feel like a walk? What's on your mind? Do you have a thought or question that would be worth a conversation? Drop in for a chat. A cup of tea, cookies, fresh fruit... **The church is open every Wednesday afternoon from 1-4 PM.**

Breakfast for the Homeless

We offer Breakfast at St. Stephen's Church (just north of Kensington Market) on the Third and Fourth Sundays of Each Month (plus Christmas Day and sometimes the Fifth Sunday). Be part of the First Shift (begins at 6 AM) or the Second Shift (begins at 7 AM). Contact Tom Gehrels to be part of it: 416-656-9111, mariengehrels@yahoo.com. This Month: **Sundays, March 21, 28.**

Book Study

"An Altar in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor. *How spirituality happens in everyday experiences, and learning to notice.* **Wednesday, March 24, 6 PM Supper, 7 PM Discussion. Potluck sign up sheet at Action Desk.**

Messy Church

Worship for 2-6 year-olds and their Families and Friends. Theme: *What is Easter: How we talk about Easter with Children.* **Saturday, March 27, 3-5 PM.**

Youth Lunch

This Sunday after Church, we will head over to the Purple Onion on Dundas Street and get a table together. Some things to think about: How does it feel to do readings in Sunday worship? Are you interested helping serving breakfast as a group? Suggestions of activities for the camping retreat in June. Questions for Gary about God and faith. Estimated cost for brunch: \$10. **Sunday, April 11, 12:30 PM.**

Great Upcoming Music!

March 14: Ken Whiteley, *blues guitar*; March 21: Jaroslaw Czerwiniec, *accordion*.

Thanks to our Photographers

Each week, we enjoy pictures and get to know names in the bulletin, powerpoint and this e-newsletter. *This week: Thanks to Frans Altena.*

Children and Youth Program Evaluation

We are in the process of evaluating our programs for children and youth, including Messy Church, Sunday School, Youth Group movie nights, and the Family Camping Retreat. We care about growing faith among children in our community, and we want to match our programs to the needs of parents and children. We invite your input in an informal visit and interview. Gary and Marilyn will conduct the interviews. Your input is important, and we will share the results with you, keeping individual responses confidential. **For any questions, please contact Marilyn at marilyn@marilynklusens.com or 416-551-1990.**



This Week on the Spiritual Path: Holy Week in the Christian Year

An Overview

In Christian worship, each year revolves around three cycles of readings and themes: Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

The Christmas Cycle begins with the Advent in late November, 4 weeks of readings about God's Chosen One coming to initiate the a new order of world in harmony with God's love and with one another. Christmas makes this hope specific by celebrating the birth of Jesus as the Presence or Child of God. This is followed by 6-8 weeks known as Epiphany. Epiphany focuses on how God "breaks in" to human life with holy encounters that change people. While the centre of this cycle is the birth of Jesus, the focus is actually on God, who loves us enough to take action and be close to us.

The Easter Cycle begins with Ash Wednesday and Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we recognize that we fail at our best intentions to be good, and that since we all die, we have limited time to "get it right." We ask God's forgiveness and God's help to work good through us. During the 5 weeks of Lent, we might take on personal disciplines that keep in mind our commitment to do better and be better. Palm Sunday and Holy Week feature Jesus' journey to death. We try to be in solidarity with Jesus, to experience awe at his integrity, and to know that God sees beyond our imperfect attempts to live like Jesus. The stories of Jesus alive after this horrible death become the ultimate miracle of God. The five weeks of the Easter Season show Jesus giving instruction that strengthens his early followers to live with conviction and passion, then leaving them to carry on the integrity and transformation of God's vision for the world.

The Pentecost Cycle begins with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. Think of the Holy Spirit as God working inside each of us as energy and passion. This is the longest season, and it includes a review of how we think of God (the Trinity), a focus on creation (Earth Day and outdoor activities, Harvest Thanksgiving), stories that get us thinking about how we live life, including a celebration of our nation, and the celebration of people who are special examples to us (Remembrance Day, All Saints). This season concludes with the Reign of Christ, a renewed vision of the a peaceable and loving world as God intends it.

The Centre of the Easter Cycle is **Holy Week**, the recounting of events leading up to Jesus' Death, *with opportunities to participate every day over the course of the week*. On Palm Sunday, we recall with Palms and great music that the crowd welcomed Jesus before they turned against him. Come and be part of a joyful Palm Sunday at St. John's. Monday through Wednesday, we have "Worship Field Trips" to share the journey with other churches. Thursday through Saturday are known as "The Triduum" (Latin, "The Three Days") includes some of the most moving re-enactment we do in worship: the final supper Jesus shared, his death, and awaiting his resurrection. Easter Sunday brings it all to a dramatic conclusion.

Here is our St. John's Plan for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday	<i>Palms and Celebration, St. John's, 8:30 & 10:30 AM</i>
Monday in Holy Week	<i>Stations of the Cross, St. Martin's Church 7:30 PM</i>
Tuesday in Holy Week	<i>Blessing of Oil for Healing, St. James' Cathedral, 10:30 AM</i>
Wednesday in Holy Week	<i>Tenebrae, St. Mary Magdalene's Church, 8:00 PM</i>

The Triduum: Maundy Thursday *The Final Supper with Jesus, St. John's, 6:30 PM*
The Triduum: Good Friday *Children's Good Friday, (told from the Stained Glass Windows) St. John's, 10:30 AM*
Solemn Liturgy, St. John's, 2:00 PM
The Triduum: Easter Vigil *Awaiting the Resurrection*
Shared by 9 local churches
hosted by St. Martin's Church, 8:30 PM
Easter Sunday *Joyful worship at St. John's, 8:30 and 10:30 AM*

Next Week: A Description of each of these worship times.

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.ca
And remember this!

Building up from God

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.

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.

