

ST. JOHN'S



CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE 1987

Advent is my favorite season, and though the liturgical, scriptural emphasis appeals to me greatly, it is more for meteorological reasons than for theological (at least in the narrow academic sense of the word) that it has so great a hold on my affections. Have you ever noticed the dawning of a December day? The horizon has a patina of rosy magenta, just the right shades for this violet season. It is as if all creation is working to translate into natural and awe inspiring terms the majesty and wonder of this Church Season — a season in which we wait and long, and wait and long for the coming of the Saviour.

To help us better participate in this royal liturgical feast, I'm reprinting the following introduction from our Church School Curriculum "Living the Good News":

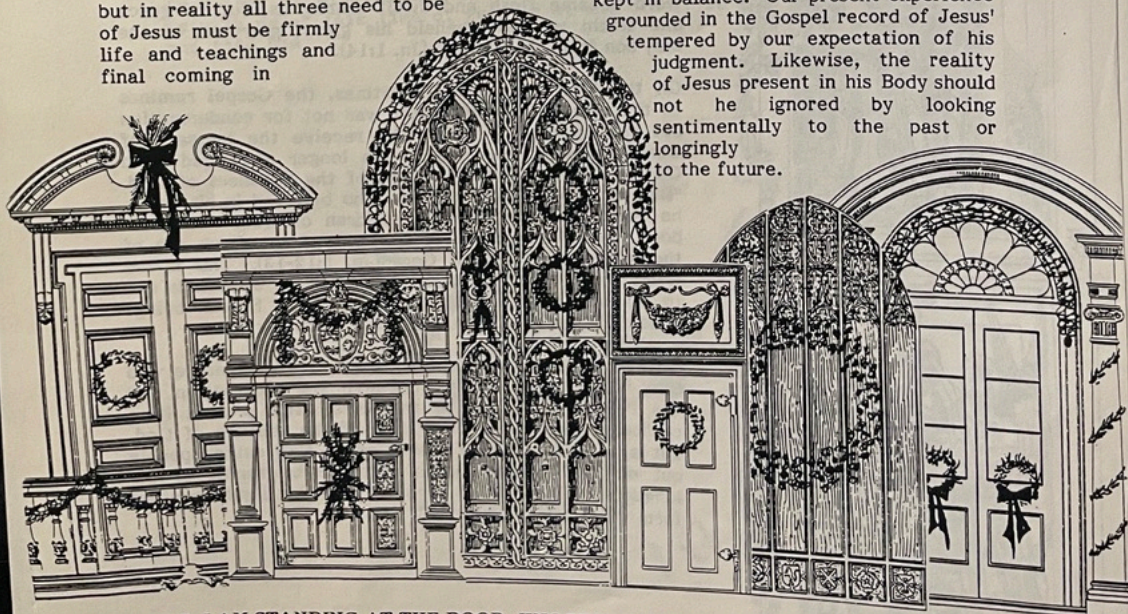
During the season of Advent the northern hemisphere grows increasingly dark, the days shorter, and the nights longer. But darkness cannot maintain its grip. With the winter solstice (December 21), darkness gives way to light.

The kingdom of God also breaks through the increasing darkness of the world. In the darkness of the Roman occupation of Palestine, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was born. It is not too much to hope that the Messiah will make his presence known today and will radiate the light of his love in a world blinded by wars and the shadows of sin. God's kingdom brings light, revealing the ugliness of human sin and guiding us from that ugliness to the path of life in the kingdom.

Advent — literally "coming" — is the first season of the Church year and the time of preparation for our celebration of the birth of Jesus our Lord. But Advent is not simply a reminiscence of past history. We also anticipate the Second Coming of the same Jesus — the great day of the Lord — when all of God's promises will find their fulfillment.

There are actually three dimensions to Advent: past, present and future. The past is Jesus' birth almost 2,000 years ago and the future is his Second Coming at the end of time. For us the most immediate yet overlooked dimension is the present. Jesus comes to us now in Word and Sacrament, in prayer and praise, in his Body, the Church. By the work of the Holy Spirit, the Jesus who was born in the past in Bethlehem and who will come in the future (Judgment Day) is present to us and in us, since we are his Body now.

It is tempting to focus on only one dimension of Jesus' coming, or perhaps two of them, but in reality all three need to be kept in balance. Our present experience of Jesus must be firmly grounded in the Gospel record of Jesus' life and teachings and final coming in judgment. Likewise, the reality of Jesus present in his Body should not be ignored by looking sentimentally to the past or longingly to the future.



LOOK, I AM STANDING AT THE DOOR, KNOCKING. IF ONE OF YOU HEARS ME CALLING AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO SHARE HIS MEAL, SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIM.



The Lord, who came into the world 2,000 years ago and who will come again to judge the world, calls the Church to be faithful to the Gospel and to bring others into a saving relationship with the One whom Jesus called "Abba".

Three themes dominate our Advent observances: judgment, preparation, and rejoicing. At first glance, Jesus' teaching about the Day of Judgment (Advent 1) seems to be negative and threatening. There is a strong note of judgment. But for Jesus' hearers as well as for the original readers of the Gospel, news of the impending day of the Lord was reason for rejoicing. Faced with the possibility of persecution and martyrdom, the early followers of Jesus waited with joyful anticipation for his coming glory. For them and for us, the Day of Judgment is not a day of condemnation but of vindication. On that day, all the world will see the promises of God fulfilled.

John the Baptist, the "patron saint" of Advent, prepares the way for the coming Lord. Even his message of judgment and repentance (Advent 2) is seen as part of the Good News: "The beginning of the gospel (literally "good news") of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). He hails Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Advent 3); rejoices to see the one whose coming he has heralded, "This joy of mine is now full" (alternative Gospel for Advent 3); and adds, in words that might serve as a motto for all followers of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Finally, the Gospel for Advent 4 gives us the magnificent annunciation scene that has inspired some of the greatest art of the Western world. The angel Gabriel announces that Mary's son "will be great" and "will be called holy, the Son of God." Mary's response is the Christian's model for rejoicing in God's will: "Let it be to me according to your word."

Having prepared for the coming of the Lord, the feast of Christmas becomes the celebration of the reality of the Incarnation in time and history. The Lord who promises to be among us has come and continues to be with us, now and till the end of the age: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" (Jn. 1:14).

On the First Sunday of Christmas, the Gospel reminds us that the coming of Christ was not for condemnation but for salvation. Those who receive the message of Christ become new people. No longer estranged from God by sin, they become heirs of the promises of God. "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will or man, but of God" (Jn. 1:12-13). This is the Good News that the angels bring to the shepherds and to all who will hear the voice of God. Human beings need no longer live in darkness; the Light has come.

Advent leads us to remember that we are a people who live "between." We live between the Incarnation and the Parousia, the day of the Lord. This present time of "betweenness" is not a time of the absence of God, but a time filled with the voice of God calling people out of the darkness of sin into the brightness of the kingdom. Those of us who live in the light together form the words of God's call.



PUTTING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The Santa Claus Parade! Downtown Toronto, 35 shopping days before Christmas, packed with people of all ages, colours and creeds. Throngs lined the sidewalks, enjoying the bands playing "Deck the Halls" and "Here Comes Santa Claus". Coloured floats, clowns, princesses and larger than life animals danced by to everyone's enjoyment. Finally, after Santa flew by several stories high on a green and white float, we left the crowd and went into a nearby mall before making our way home. In the mall of course were brightly coloured Christmas trees, Dickensian Christmas wreaths and Garfield Christmas stockings with the embroidered message "Gimme! Gimme!". After restoring ourselves with pre-Christmas goodies we boarded the subway and as we headed back home one might well ask where was Christ in any of this?

It was clear of course from the outset that Christ was not the central focus of the event, that being reserved for Santa Claus and the commercial spirit he represents. Ebenezer Scrooge was also there, as when large adults with video cameras bullied small children and families maintained their sidewalk tenancy with sullen hostility. Even Scrooge and Santa, however, could not destroy the loving spirits of the event itself. Children's faces shone with excitement as they watched the colours parade by. Parents holding toddlers on their shoulders, danced to the marching bands and when the "punks" from Queen Street started singing along to "Frosty the Snowman" the whole sidewalk joined in! Christ, it seems, was there if you were open to his grace, Christ was there all right.

Has it always been like this? Christmas was apparently a pagan festival long before Christ himself was born. To the Holy Family on that first Christmas day, the world could hardly have seemed less "secular" than today. While undoubtedly, less commercial, with no flashy electronics and mass produced toys, it was not likely a warmer or more loving place. Christ was born into a largely hostile and uncaring world. In that same world he lived his short life on his way to the cross. Yet in the world of his day lived many who heard, understood and spread his message of love. So today, that same message remains for us to hear and respond to.

How we hear and respond of course remains a personal issue. At the Santa Claus parade, and indeed in the midst of secular Christmas, we can choose to enter into many of the "pagan" elements of the feast and not feel guilty about it. However, what we need to do is to stop as often as necessary to appreciate the special presence of Christ in all the events of the season. It brings to mind Esther de Waal and her book *Seeking God*. Surely Christ is with us at this time of year as at any other! It's up to us to slow down and find him.

Jim Crummey



THANK YOU

ST. JOHN'S



CHURCH

The following items were excerpted from letters of appreciation sent to us.

Darrell Wright

I wish to thank all of you for the gift I received Sunday last. It was very generous offering from you to me which has helped considerably in the pursuit of my most addictive and most happily indulged habit, that is, enjoying books. Upon this, I would thank all of you, clergy and lay people, big people and little people for something which will last ever so much longer, that is, an opportunity to learn.

You have shared with me your gifts of love and growth; for these empowering things, I thank you. I am to be an ordained minister, I have much to do, and much to think about, and much to ask God about. The people of St. John's have helped me to engage the tasks and to form the questions.

AA

At a recent business meeting of our AA Group it was unanimously agreed that we should increase our yearly donation from \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00. Our group has grown and prospered thanks to you and the church's fine facilities.

It is difficult to describe the wonderful effects the group's relocation has created. The group has a tremendous atmosphere for people to attain and maintain their sobriety. Please convey our deep gratitude for the use of your church to all those associated with granting permission to its use and responsible for its upkeep.

STOP 103

Thank you very much for your generous support of STOP 103. The summer months are always a difficult time for us because usually donations dwindle drastically at this time, although the demand for our services continues unabated.

This summer, our staff became positively miserly as we stretched each precious dollar as far as it would go. To our great relief, we were able to struggle through without having to reduce our services or hours.



CHOIR WORKSHOP

On Saturday, November 14, the choir met for a workshop with Kelly Walker to find out about some of the new music that has been written for the liturgy. We were pleased to hear tuneful and uplifting, yet often quite simple, music for the Eucharist. St. John's reverberated to the sounds of Kelly's synthesizer which gave variations in tones ranging from pipe organ to bells and drums! In the afternoon, we used the music we had learned in a celebration of the Eucharist. The choir members (as well as assorted others!) agreed that the experience was well worth the sacrifice of a busy Saturday and agreed that it would be worthwhile inviting Kelly to do another workshop sometime.

Sandi Nemenyi

Stop 103

We are all acquainted with Stop 103 as an agency run by the Anglican Church which is a food bank for people who need stop-gap meals to tide them over for a very short time. Clients are provided with a shopping bag containing only a few necessities (e.g., 6 eggs, 1 cup of oatmeal, 175 grams of margarine, etc.). It is designed not as a permanent means of assistance, but only to help supplement the food supply until the next cheque arrives in a day or two. Stop 103 has been in existence 7 years, and depends on financial and food contributions from the public. Most of the work at Stop 103 is done by volunteers.

Members of the congregation of St. John's have been supporters of Stop 103 for a long time, by making contributions of both food and money at the church every week.

But there may be some aspects of Stop 103 which will surprise you. Only single clients are dealt with here. Families and single parents are referred to other agencies. Although clothes are not dispensed through Stop 103, vouchers are obtainable which may be exchanged for good, used clothing at certain churches around the city.

Not everyone is lucky enough to have cooking facilities. These people need tinned goods, rather than things which have to be cooked. Some people may have a hot plate which enables them to boil water and handle basic cooking tasks. We frequently encounter people without even utensils, such as knives and forks. A bar of soap is often considered a luxury item.

Stop 103 is badly in need of basic items which most of us would consider garbage. Do you throw away extra shopping bags you get at Food City or Miracle Mart? Stop 103 uses clean bags with carrying handles to pack the groceries in. How about those small juice bottles with the screw cap lids? Stop 103 fills these with cooking oil for the food parcels. Do plastic knives and forks from Kentucky Fried Chicken get chucked out with the bones? Save them for Stop 103. Small yogurt containers with lids are filled with margarine or peanut butter.

Many people would like to help by donating items, but aren't sure what could best be used. Here are some suggestions for things which can be brought to church and left by the front door for pickup and subsequent delivery to Stop 103.

Food Items

spaghetti sauce
table salt
tinned stew
tinned soup
tinned fruit
tinned vegetables
tinned tuna or salmon
powdered milk
brown beans
Kraft Dinner
oatmeal
peanut butter

Toiletries

soap
toothpaste

Non Food Items

clean shopping bags in good condition
juice bottles with lids
small yogurt containers with lids (175 grams)
plastic knives, forks, spoons
egg cartons

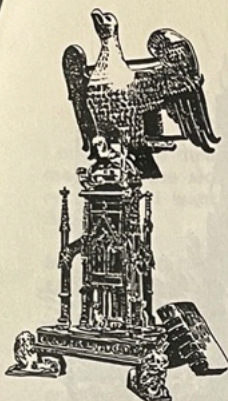
If anyone actually wants to go to Stop 103 (at Bloor Street West and Christie) and get some hands-on experience, volunteers are in constant demand to pack food, interview clients and distribute the food.

Now that we have some food for thought maybe we can come up with a good, constant contribution from St. John's; not only now when everyone's thoughts are turning to food at Christmas time, but all year round.



Jane Walker

Jane Walker has volunteered to be our parish liaison with Stop 103. She has taken a great interest in the STOP and has recently been down to introduce herself to and to talk with the staff and volunteers. We are very grateful to Jane for making this ministry hers along with her roles as sidesperson and lector.



TRAINING SESSION FOR LECTORS

On Sunday, December 6, after the 10:30 Eucharist, Brother William will lead a session on public reading in the church. Part of the reason for William's sitting in the congregation, aside from preference, is to allow him to observe the movement of the liturgy. Over the past four months he has compiled a list of helpful hints to allow us to sharpen our presentation of the Word.

Those who are interested in being a lector may join the session. Younger readers from Mr. Samaras and Mr. Mitchell's class are also invited.

WARDENS' REPORT

Fall has been a busy and fruitful time for us all at St. John's. First of all some notable welcomes and good-byes are in order. Good-bye and thanks to Kevin, our organist, who is leaving us after 2 years. Thanks for your dedicated service and sharing your gift of music with us. Best wishes go with you from all of your many friends at St. John's. Welcomes go out to all our new members and friends, too numerous to list individually. Welcome aboard. And finally, welcome back Brother William, welcome back from Africa and from your major illness. We missed you -- personally and professionally (pastorally).

Several new endeavors are underway this fall but, before we discuss these, a big thank you to all of our regular helpers; sidespersons, servers, choir members, lectors, coffee persons, ACW, prayer chain, visitors to shut-ins etc., etc., etc. Keep up the good work! Our Sunday School is continuing to grow. Welcome to the new students and thanks you to Dean Samaras and all his teachers, both old and new. Scouting and Guiding Groups are doing better than ever and Kathy Gower's new Beaver Group already has a dozen eager Beavers! Adult Christian Education is picking up with an on going bi-weekly Bible Study, the Logos Institute also sponsored one of its courses here at St. John's and monthly Adult Forums on Sunday mornings. Our Outreach Committee has been working with Glendonwynn House as a local Outreach project, which is proving mutually beneficial.

Looking to the future, we are rapidly approaching the end of the church year, followed shortly by the end to the financial year. Financially we are in our all-too-familiar position of not yet being up to budget. Please reassess your financial commitment and be as generous as you can so that we can be sure to close out the year on a positive financial note. Our musical "notes" in Advent and Christmas will be without a regular organist but Sandi and the choir are working hard on an interesting musical festive season.

Probably the biggest news of 1988 concerns the possibility of full-time day care in the church. A day care committee has met several times and is seriously exploring renovating the church basement to accommodate 64 infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers during the day. Preliminary discussions with Government and Church House have been very positive. An architectural firm has been hired to do preliminary plans so that funding applications can go out to the various funding agencies. Day care is a very needed service in our area, one that we deeply hope St. John's will be able to provide in the not too distant future.

Finally, best wishes to the entire St. John's family over the upcoming Christmas and Advent seasons. A safe and joyous Christmas to everyone.



advent

is coming ✧ he is coming ✧ he is coming ✧ he is coming ✧

MAKING AN ADVENT WREATH

Shape evergreens around any circular object about 12 inches in diameter—a circle cut from plywood, heavy wire bent in a circle, or a large round plate. Place four candle holders at equal distances around the circle, or use modeling or florist clay to hold the candles. A fifth candle representing Christ may be added to the center of the wreath; this candle is lit on Christmas Eve. Ready-made circular forms and holders are available in some religious supply houses.

Decorate the circular form with evergreens. The greens may be bound to the loop of wire with thread or, if other forms are used, bound to each other by overlapping the ends. The greens may be sprayed with a fire-retardant substance to reduce fire danger. Add candles and a bow or other simple decorations.



First week

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Second Week

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Third Week

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us, and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Fourth Week

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Christmas Eve

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the one true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

(Prayers may be said for the Church, the family, those in trouble, and for other needs and concerns.)

ALL Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

LEADER The almighty and merciful Lord,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless
us and keep us. Amen.

A SIMPLE FAMILY ADVENT SERVICE

A member of the family lights one or more candles on the Advent wreath, depending on the Sunday of Advent.

LEADER Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
ALL Thanks be to God.
LEADER Rejoice, the Lord is at hand.
ALL Come, Lord Jesus!
READER (The Reader reads the appointed passage from Scripture.)

Suggested Readings

Sunday 1 John 1:9-14, 16-17
Monday John 3:16-21
Tuesday Isaiah 60:1-3
Wednesday Psalm 43:3-5
Thursday Isaiah 58:6-9
Friday 1 John 2:8-11
Saturday 1 John 3:1-2, 7-10

Sunday 2 Isaiah 40:1-5
Monday Genesis 2:1-17
Tuesday Genesis 3:8-13, 22-23
Wednesday Hosea 11:3-4
Thursday Psalm 130
Friday Micah 6:6-8
Saturday Jeremiah 14:8-9

Sunday 3 Isaiah 9:6-7
Monday Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday Isaiah 11:1-6
Wednesday Isaiah 40:10-11
Thursday Isaiah 52:7
Friday Jeremiah 33:14-15
Saturday Malachi 3:1-2

Sunday 4 Matthew 1:18-25
Monday Luke 1:26-33
Tuesday Luke 1:34-35, 38
Wednesday Luke 1:39-45
Thursday Luke 1:46-56
Friday Luke 1:57-66
Saturday Luke 1:67-80

Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-20

READER This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL Thanks be to God.
LEADER Let us pray.

NEVER THE SAME AGAIN !
William, O.H.C.

I only lasted three and a half weeks as a missionary in the third world! The malaria I caught made me the sickest I've ever been. I am grateful for all your prayers and cards for my recovery. I want to share with you some many positive experiences I had in Ghana, West Africa.

My trip has transformed my life. I can never be the same again after what I have seen and witnessed.

Pat Jones, my travelling companion, and I arrived in Accra at night. After a three hour ride in the back of a pick-up truck dodging pot holes in the road we arrived at Philip Quaque Monastery of the Order in Cape Coast. Ghanaians are known for their hospitality and as one of the few white persons around, I never once experienced racism.

I did extensive travelling throughout the country to both cities and villages. I listened and I preached and I experienced the Church as well as the culture.

Four experiences have transformed my life. I stood in the dungeons of the Fort in Cape Coast where the Dutch held 1500 human beings to be sold as slaves many years ago. I remembered my great grandfather, a priest in Virginia, who freed his three slaves just before the civil war. I remembered my great-great grandfather who owned three hundred slaves on a plantation. My roots came out of a complicity with evil. I was proud to see in the museum a picture of Anglican Bishop Wilberforce, a leader in the abolition of the English slave trade during the last century.

Brother Samuel took me to the prison one Wednesday afternoon to preach at an ecumenical service he conducts. 150 prisoners and 15 guards joined us for an hour of hymns in Fanti, the scriptures, and my sermon. The Holy Spirit was present. Even through an interpreter I saw the face of Christ in so many of these men as well as a longing for wholeness and freedom.

One Sunday on the way to an ordination service we arrived in the town. Out of the window I saw a paraplegic with no feet crawling on hands and knees on a dirt road. I wondered where he was going. During the communion at the four hour service I saw the same man crawling to receive Holy Communion. I was in the chancel. Coming back from communion he smiled at me. There was Christ in the halt, the lame, the poor.

Another Sunday I experienced the visitation of the Bishop of Kumasi who came to a village church for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The joy and the dancing at the offertory expressed longing and hope among these village people who have very little in the way of material possessions. Again I didn't understand much of the words of the Eucharist because I was in Twee. It was powerful worship. I believe the church must make an option for the poor.

When I became ill the brothers and friends of the monastery couldn't have done more for me. KLM airlines were wonderful. The doctors and staff at the Tropical Disease Unit at Toronto General Hospital were the best I've ever experienced. The love and care given me by my Brothers in the Priory, especially Robert, as well as your concern, prayers and cards have helped me in my recovery.

My trip has changed me and I am far richer for the experience.



ST. JOHN'S TO ASSIST IN INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Beginning in December the North Room will be used on Sunday evenings by the Joint Subcommittee of the International Conference of Young People in which we will be working to bring the Conference to Toronto in 1989.

The conference will be attended by 4000 young people and it will be a privilege for our City to have the opportunity of hosting this conference. We are very proud to be taking part in this work.

outreach
group

privilege
can be



rites of passage: HOLY BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is both initiation and inclusion into the Body of Christ and participation in the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of Christ. Baptism and Eucharist are the two major sacraments of the Church and are "generally necessary for salvation".

Baptism is the "Sacrament of Commitment". It is the act whereby we publically begin our journey into Christ and participation in his Kingdom have among us. Baptism has often been called the "sacrament of discipleship" for this is where we begin "following Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior".

Baptism is not a magical rite or as often said: "being done". Baptism cannot effectively be celebrated in a vacuum - for it presupposes the Christian Community, sponsors and family who are followers of Jesus. Baptism requires preparation of the person and the family and sponsors. The appropriate time and place for the celebration of new life in Holy Baptism is in the midst of the gathered eucharistic congregation on the vigil of Easter, Sundays, especially feast days and during the visitation of the Bishop. Baptism is not a private affair but is celebrated by the whole of the Christian Community. In Baptism one is made a full Christian - the journey afterward in word and Eucharist is growth in Faith and Belief.

At St. John's there are three major symbols we see on entering the Church: the Altar; the Pulpit and the Font - Baptism and Word culminates in the Eucharist meal.

The water used in Baptism is for purification, we are symbolically buried and raised to new life in the waters of Baptism. The newly Baptised person is signed with the sign of the cross and welcomed into the Community of Faith. A light is presented to the new Christian - for our life is to be lived with the "light of Christ" which shows itself in darkness.

Whenever we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism the whole gathered community renews its own Baptismal vow. We share in the life of the newly baptised and he or she shines in our life and in the very life of Christ the Lord.

Holy Baptism is that which makes us a full Christian - it is no small act!

William, O.H.C.

EPISCOPAL VISITATION, JANUARY 24

Archbishop Garnsworthy will be in the parish Sunday, January 24 for his annual visitation, for the rite of Holy Baptism, and for Confirmation.

Confirmation or the Episcopal Laying-on-of Hands is a Sacramental action performed by the Bishop to those who seek both to reaffirm and be reaffirmed in their commitment to the church and to the living of a Christian life. Unlike Baptism which confers full membership, Confirmation is a repeatable sacrament, and may be requested by any baptized Christian in our tradition at differing and important times in their life.

For those who would like to be Confirmed a series of classes will be arranged. If you are interested, please contact the church office. Also let us know if you or a member of your family would like to be baptized.

Genesis
day Hosea 11:
day Psalm 130
day Micah 6:6-8
day Jeremiah 1:
day 3
day Isaiah 9:6
day Isaiah 7:
day Isaiah 1:
Wednesday Isaiah 4:
day Isaiah 4:
day Jeremiah
day Malachi
day 4
day Luke
day Luke
day Luke
day Luke
day Luke
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Christmas Eve Luke
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SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are well into another year of Christian Education for our church children who range in age from a few months to 12 years old.

The Good News curriculum provides a fine bases for the school content and Brother Brian provides the musical leadership.

The children will be signing a small piece of music at Christmas, performing a Nativity Play and early in the new year, on the visit of the Archbishop, signing an anthem.

All is going well. From time to time we need volunteers in the nursery. Please sign up if we sound an appeal. Thanks.

Brother Brian



ESPECIALLY FOR THE LITTLE PEOPLE
BUT FOR ALL THE YOUNG AT HEART
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20



6 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
PARTY AND PAGENT

SPECIAL GUEST: SANTA CLAUS HIMSELF



Come join me



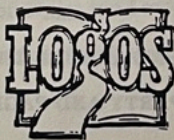


Here we come a-carolling.....

Sunday, December 13, from 2:00 to 5 pm, the choir will be going carolling in the neighbourhood and to shut-ins. We'd love to have you come along too on this joyous outreach to the neighbourhood. Following the carolling, a "warm-up" supper will be held in the parish hall. Please sign up for this event at coffee hour.

On Wednesday, January 6th there will be an evening Eucharist with Carols and other festivities to commemorate the Visitation of the Magi.

Festivities and time to be announced



LOGOS AT ST. JOHN'S

We've been hard at it for the past 4 weeks (and have 3 more weeks to go) studying Contemporary Faith Issues. During that time we have identified a few resources that can be used to help us sort through the difficult issues that challenge our faith today: Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Personal Experience. Each Tuesday evening session opens and closes with a short worship designed by members of the group. The worship binds us together and helps to focus our study so that we are more open to God's grace as we tackle the difficult faith issues we have chosen to study.

In seven weeks it would be impossible to study all of the big issues of the day. Using the consensus approach to decision making we narrowed our issues down to two: Child Care and The Environment. Participants have also been studying a third issue independently.

Discussion has been spiritual and varying opinions have emerged. We are learning to be more open to other viewpoints and realize that there are no clear answers to any of these issues.

The Logos Course curriculum gives as a useful method for thinking about the issues. The combination of private home study and stimulating group discussion brings the issues alive and with the worship setting that the Logos courses emphasize, God's grace has guided our study. The warm fellowship of the small group makes it a pleasure to tackle these challenging faith issues together.

Sheila Crummey



ADVENT, CHRISTMASTIDE, AND EPIPHANYTIDE SCHEDULE

Saturday 28 November	Choir Party
Sunday, 29 November	Advent I - Procession and lighting of wreath
Sunday, 6 December	Advent II - St. Nicholas' Surprise
Sunday, 13 December	Advent III - Full Parish Eucharist
	2 pm to 5 pm Carolling and Visits to Shut-ins
Sunday, 20 December	Advent IV - Rev. John Rye, S.O.M.C.
	"South Africa"
	2 pm Eucharist and Carols at Runnymede Hospital
	6 pm Children's Pageant and Party
	Decorating of Church
Thursday, 24 December	7:30 pm First Eucharist of Christmas
	10:30 Carols by Candlelight
	11:00 Eucharist of Christmas
Friday, 25 December	10:00 Eucharist of Christmas
Sunday, 27 December	Christmas I
Sunday, 3 January	Christmas II
Wednesday, 6 January	7:30 pm Eucharist of Epiphany
Sunday, 10 January	Holy Baptism and Eucharist
Sunday, 17 January	Dr. Sally Saunders, Addiction Research Foundation
Sunday, 24 January	Episcopal Visitation, Holy Baptism and Confirmation



RELAX. THE LORD IS KING.



St. John's Church, West Toronto
288 Humberside Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1L5



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Mr. & Mrs. D.R. Crocker
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