

MESSAGE FROM ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Announcements for November/ December 2025



Parishioner Without Housing - Update

On Sunday, Oct 26th, Fr. Daniel shared with the congregation an announcement concerning one of our parishioners who has been experiencing homelessness. Due to an ongoing refusal to observe proper hygiene and take advantage of the resources available to her, she was told that for the safety of others, she would not be allowed to continue attending services or make use of the church's facilities until she addressed this. This was in keeping with the decision of a local shelter to also not allow her back into their facilities until she was willing to observe the same rules.

As of this week, she has been given a space at Cawthra shelter, has showered, washed and changed her clothes and is continuing to observe their hygiene regulations. She attended our midweek service and Bible Study without incident. Therefore, beginning Sunday, Nov 16th, Fr. Daniel is allowing her to attend Sunday services again, under the stipulation that she continue to follow health and hygiene protocols.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to get a Justice of the Peace to sign off on a Form 2, which would have compelled her to receive medical and psychological assessment. It was cited that "there is lack of evidence that she is unable to make her own decisions regarding care." Fr. Daniel has been in touch with the family to inform them of this. He is currently working with her social worker at the shelter to see what more can be done for her.

Fr. Daniel is asking parishioners not to "enforce rules" regarding his person. If she is in the building, please assume it is with the permission of the clergy and wardens. If there are concerns or questions, please address them to Fr. Daniel, Rev. Jim or one of the Churchwardens (Bobby Briones, Melanie Powell, Uche Obi or Maggy Farnell). Fr. Daniel or the Churchwardens should be the ones to address any problematic behaviour and only they are authorized to ask anyone to leave. At all times, we are to model gentleness, graciousness and compassion in our dealings with one another.

Director of Music

Surinder Mundra's last day with us was on Sunday, November 9th. We thank Surinder for his time with us and his work with our music program and wish him well in his future endeavours.

The Corporation will be reviewing the music program and will begin the search for a new organist/ choir director. Currently we have substitute musicians scheduled for all services until the end of January, by which point we hope to have made a permanent appointment to the position.

Discretionary Fund

Members of our congregation are struggling financially. We have a large homeless community in our area, supported by several nearby shelters. Many individuals come to us seeking assistance. The need is always greater during the Christmas Season. Although we prefer to provide gift cards rather than cash, cash donations are also appreciated for urgent needs such as rent, medical supplies, and bills. If you wish to donate gift cards, please consider cards for Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart or No Frills grocery store.

E-Transfer / Canada Helps

If you are local or live within Canada, please consider making donations by e-transfer, as the church receives the full amount. Donations made through Canada Helps are subject to a 4% admin fee. When donating by e-transfer, you will receive an acknowledgment and a year-end tax receipt.

Donating to the Church

You may donate by e-transfer to church@stjohnsdixie.com, through Canada Helps, or by mailing offerings to:

St. John's Anglican Church
719 Dundas Street East
Mississauga, ON L4Y 2B5

PAR Program

If you are not already enrolled, please consider the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) Program. Forms are available by email or in the office. The amount is deducted on the 20th of each month and can be changed anytime with a simple phone call or email to the church office. This allows the church to depend on regular income and greatly stabilizes our financial situation over the course of the year.

SERVICE & EVENTS INFORMATION

Ordination Service

The Rev. Dr. James Leatch will celebrate his ordination to the priesthood on Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00 p.m. Bishop Kevin Robertson will preside, and a reception will follow in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend and show their support to Jim and his wife Sandy.



December 7th Eucharist

Fr. Daniel will be away on December 7th. Rev. Dr. Jim Leatch will celebrate Holy Eucharist in his absence.

Advent Vespers

Advent Vespers will be held Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, and 17. This year's theme is "Angels from the Realms of Glory". Each week will consider the role of angels in key stories from scripture and how they shed light on our own responses to God. Services will be livestreamed. All welcome.

Nov 26 – Jacob: Wrestling with God

Dec 3 – Daniel: Trusting in God

Dec 10 – Mary: Saying Yes to God

Dec 17 – Peter: Set Free by God

Lessons and Carols with Pageant

Our annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. Our Children's Minister, Sharon Ochawa is working with Fr. Daniel on a pageant to be presented by the Sunday School during this service.



Christmas Services

This year there will be **one service on Christmas Eve, held at 7pm** (rather than the usual 7:30pm.) We have found it difficult to find musicians who are available and willing to play a late service on Christmas Eve and the attendance at this later service has continued to drop year after year. Therefore, we are going to reduce the number of services to one Christmas Eve and one Christmas Morning.

Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 pm with full choir.

Christmas Day Service: 10:00 am with soloist.



Senior's Luncheon – January 14th

After a successful first luncheon in October, we are pleased to announce our next Senior's Luncheon will take place **Wednesday January 14th at 11am**. There will be a mid-week Eucharist at 10am but no Bible Study that day. Guest speaker to be announced later. If you are able to assist with set or serving, please contact Penny Oliver or speak with Fr. Daniel.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Open Door

November collections support The Open Door. Items needed include winter coats, boots, sweaters, blankets, thermal wear, hygiene items, and children's books.



Toronto Star Santa Boxes

St. John's is hosting the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund distribution, offering our Parish Hall for storage and delivery. Boxes arrive Friday, November 21st. Distribution is Saturday Nov 22 with most of the boxes delivered by Sunday. We are always happy to support this most worthy project

Mississauga Food Bank



December collections will support the Mississauga Food Bank. **Donations will be accepted until December 21st.** Please check expiry dates on all donated items.

Church Office – Christmas Closure

The office will be closed December 24th to January 4th, reopening January 5th. Voicemail will be monitored for emergencies.

ONLINE LINKS

Website: www.stjohnsdixie.org

YouTube Sunday School: <https://bit.ly/3ah5XpW>

Online Coffee Hour (Sundays 11:30 a.m.): <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83962667012>

Online Bible Study (Tuesdays 7 p.m.): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82570649568>

Online Prayer Group (Thursdays 10 a.m.): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86710167010>



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Incumbent: The Reverend Daniel Brereton

If you would like to receive this Newsletter by email, please call 905-277-0462 or email church@stjohnsdixie.com