

MESSAGE FROM ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



Newsletter for November 2022

Rev. Daniel's Message

We are heading into a season of Remembrance – All Saints Day with its celebration of God's faithful people and remembering we are part of this "great cloud of witnesses", All Souls Day with its sombre remembrance of loved ones who have entered into their rest, but whose lives have left a lasting legacy on our own; Remembrance Sunday with its opportunity to give thanks for the sacrifices made for peace and to recommit ourselves to freedom from war and violence and finally, to the Reign of Christ, when we recall who ultimately rules in our church and who should rule in our own lives.

It is tempting to make this a season of nostalgia – especially as we approach Christmas - simply looking backwards at who *used* to be here, at how our lives *used* to be and how things *used* to go.

There's nothing wrong with a fond backwards glance from time to time. In the scriptures, God often calls the people of Israel to remember where they've come from, what they've been through, and how God has blessed them in the past – but the purpose of this isn't to create a longing for "how things used to be" but to give them courage to move forward, to take the next step, and to trust that God will be with them today and tomorrow, just as God has always been there before.

As we approach the beginning of a new Church Year (November 27th, the First Sunday of Advent), I ask you to join me in giving thanks for how God has blessed us these past few difficult years: with new ways of reaching out and sharing our worship and ministry online; making it possible to reconnect with members who could no longer make it regularly to on-site worship and connecting new members, many from thousands of miles away. We give thanks for the faithfulness of parishioners who have continued to gather for worship, supporting our ministry with their time, skills and financial contributions and for a wonderful group of new faces in our church each Sunday, including new children. New life. New growth. Thanks be to God!

Although life at St John's is beginning to look more "like it used to" in our worship and in the return of certain events, I see this not as a "return to what was" but as God's invitation to go forward – to approach old ministries with a new focus on renewed faith formation, fellowship between long-time and newer member and service to the community beyond our own walls.

Let us return – to worship of God, to gathering with our church family, to daily personal prayer and to serving our community through the ministry of our church, but with hearts not set on "what used to be" but open to what God is doing among us **now**, that we may continue journeying together into the future God has planned for us.

Daniel +

SERVICE INFORMATION:

Remembrance Sunday

The church will be holding a Remembrance Day service on Sunday, November 6th at 10am. We welcome Stuart Laughton (of Canadian Brass) who will be providing trumpet music in this solemn observation of Remembrance. We have a poppy box available at the church for people to make donations to the Legion Poppy Fund.

The legion will be holding their own Cenotaph service on Remembrance Day, Friday November 11th at the cemetery cenotaph. Please arrive by 10:45a, Fr. Daniel will preside.

All Souls Requiem

This service is planned as a time of reflection and remembrance of loved ones who have died. It will take place in the Magnolia Room at the cemetery on Sunday, November 6th at 4pm. If you are interested in attending, please call the cemetery office at 905-566-9403 to reserve your place and to give the names of those you wish remembered. Due to the large number of people expected to attend we are accepting only two names per family for remembrance.

Morning Prayer

During Fr. Daniel's leave, it became clear that there is a shortage of clergy available in the diocese to cover parishes without priests. Throughout August, lay members led a form of Morning Prayer, providing reflections in the place of sermons. These services received much enthusiastic support from both 8am and 10am congregations.

In the event that Fr. Daniel must be away or is sick, we want the community to be familiar and comfortable with leading Morning Prayer without him. Therefore, we will be holding Morning Prayer services at 8am and 10am services on Sunday about every 8-10 weeks. Fr. Daniel has prepared Orders of Service for both congregations – using the Book of Common Prayer at 8am and the Book of Alternative Services at 10am.

Trained Lay-readers will lead these service and provide reflections – even though Fr. Daniel will be present. Our next Morning Prayer Sunday will be November 13th with Joanne Lubbock leading the 8am service and Edith Davis leading the 10am service.

Advent Vespers

We will be holding Advent Vespers on-site this year. These services will be held on Wednesdays: November 30th, December 7th, 14th and 21st at 7:00 p.m. These services are a time of quiet reflection helping us to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. They will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person and available on our YouTube Channel.

Lessons and Carols with Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18th (4th Sunday of Advent), 10am service will be our Lessons and Carols service. Bring family and friends to hear the story of the Nativity, told in nine readings, with carols sung by choir and congregation, and scenes enacted by the children of our Church School.

Christmas Week: Dec 24- Jan 2

Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Both services will be a candlelight Eucharist with choir. The 7:30 pm service will include a children's program and the assembly of the crèche.

Christmas Day at 10am we will hold a Eucharist with a soloist.

New Year's Day – Sunday, Jan 1st we will have only one service at 10am. It will be a Eucharist with Fr. Daniel presiding. There will be no 8 a.m. Communion service on this Sunday. Let's begin 2023 worshipping together as one congregation.

Between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, the office will be closed. There will be no other services or meetings at the church this week.

EVENTS INFORMATION:

Christmas Dinner

Plans are underway for a Christmas dinner for our whole parish community. It will be held Saturday December 3rd, with a reception beginning at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering for this event there is a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall or you can call the church office (905) 277-0462 to be added. Our Churchwarden Bobby Briones will be heading this group.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Mississauga Services for Seniors

St. John's is pleased to partner with the Mississauga Service for Seniors, to offer them space in the Church Parish Hall to hold events. Starting on January 2nd, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 to 1:30 p.m. weekly events will be held in the Parish Hall. They do require a membership to their organization to participate in the events. Some of the planned things at the church are games and cards, yoga, chair exercises, Writer's craft, Health and Wellness, Story Telling, Movie Day and Craft Group. Full details will be available closer to the date. A calendar of events has been posted in the Parish Hall. We have also packages about joining the organization available at the church for pick up.

Giving Tuesday

This is the world's largest generosity movement where you give to charities that mean the most to you. This year it happens on Tuesday, November 29th This movement was developed in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. We at St. John's want to remind you that our church is a charity. St. John's believe it is our community responsibility to give back to the community we live in. The church itself gives back by hosting at no charge to organizations such as, six Girl Guides groups, two Scouts groups and one Senior Group twice a week. All these groups use our facilities, and we pay for heating and cleaning. We also recently purchased expensive equipment in order to accommodate our livestreaming of our services for all to enjoy when unable to attend in person. We ask that you remember us during this day of generous donations. You can donate through Canada Helps or if you are in Canada we would appreciate an e-transfer so that we don't incur service charges. You may e-transfer to church@stjohnsdixie.com.

Open Door

On the first Sunday of each month, we are collecting for either the Open Door or the Mississauga Food Bank. Each month we alternate between the two. **November is Open Door Month.**

The Open Door is now collecting personal hygiene items for men, women, and children, not food. They are also collecting cleaning supplies and **seasonal** clothing for all genders and ages. There is no storage available so please bring in clothing appropriate for autumn and winter seasons only.

Layette Program

Ethel Reid was able to deliver a number of layettes to Queensway Trillium Health social service department. We thank Ethel for continuing to organize this important ministry and to all who have so generously contributed.

Flower Listing for 2023

We will be accepting requests for memorial flowers for the upcoming calendar year. If there is a specific date, you would like to have the memorial flower in honour of someone or an occasion, please contact the church office by phone at 905-277-0462 or by email at church @stjohnsdixie.com. Please note the flowers are being delivered by a local florist, we can not request specific flowers or colours. The cost for the memorial flowers will remain at \$50.00.

Calendar Sales 2023

We are selling church calendars again this year. The calendars are being sold for \$10.00 each this year. Costs have required us to raise the price from previous years. If you are interested in purchasing one, they will be sold at both services. Or you can contact the church office to arrange a time to pick one up.

Beginning in 2023

St. John's Auxiliary

We look forward to beginning a new Auxiliary Group for St. John's, co-led by Jean McQuaid and Rosemary Birch. We had started plans for this group in 2019 before the pandemic put everything on pause. This group is open to anyone of any gender who would like to be part of a group dedicated to serving the needs of our parish. If you're interested you are invited to attend an initial meeting on Saturday, January 21 at 10:30am to discuss and share ideas, and to make new friends! More information will be provided as we approach our launch date.

Centre for Spiritual Growth

Fr. Daniel is currently in discussion with members of the Centre for Spiritual Growth, a ministry begun by Wendy Passmore, to those seeking faith community outside the traditional forms of "Sunday worship" about developing opportunities at St John's for contemplative prayer, meditation, alternative worship and educational workshops on spirituality. There is a deep hunger for community and faith formation among those who do not feel fully nourished by or welcome in more established forms of "church". We are looking at ways of providing space and opportunity for such people to be ministered to at St John's. We plan to announce new programs of this ministry in January.

LINKS TO PROGRAMING ABOVE:

St. Johns Church website

www.stjohnsdixie.org

YouTube Sunday School link:

<https://bit.ly/3ah5XpW>

Online Coffee Hour Zoom Link: Zoom Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83962667012?pwd=UGljbnZ2WUIMaVkzNIRtU0Q5SmxxZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 6266 7012

Passcode: 112233

Online Bible Study Zoom Link: (Zoom Meeting only Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82570649568>

Online Prayer Group – Thursday at 10 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86710167010>

The Rev. Daniel D. Brereton, B.A., MDiv. FSJ
Incumbent Priest
St John the Baptist (Dixie), Anglican Church
719 Dundas St. E Mississauga, ON L4Y 2B5
905-277-0462 (church office)
416-527-7932 (mobile)

***Sabbath Day: I am not available Mondays**



719 Dundas Street East

Mississauga, ON L4Y 2B5

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