

# ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL



**St. John the Evangelist (Stamford) est.**

**FALL 2022**

## **MARK'S MESSAGE**

**Welcome Back!** The official new years maybe on January 1<sup>st</sup> but practically speaking for many September, after Labour Day, marks the beginning of a new year. It certainly is for students of every age and it is for us at the church; even though the church “new year” is officially the first Sunday of Advent which arrives this year on the last Sunday in November. By then we will all be worried about Christmas!

With some good fortune and your faithful stewardship of St. John's we have survived the pandemic without taking on any debt which is a wonderful accomplishment. And we have even made upgrades to our kitchen and needed repairs to the building and heating systems! As we move into the future, however, our revenues will have to increase from the current levels if we are to keep our commitments as they now are. For that to happen we'll need to see as many folks as possible return to Sunday worship. If you haven't been in a while, please know we will all be glad to see you!

The Diocese has lifted the majority of the pandemic restrictions on our gatherings. We have made the decision to still ask people to wear masks on Sundays; and with that and the sacrament given only in one kind we feel that it is as safe as it can be to attend church now. We will also restart our nursery program on the first Sunday in September and we welcome Ashley Van Der Kley into our midst to run this ministry. Ashley works for Bee Montessori School here during the week so she's very familiar with the building.

*...continued ion back page...*

**St. John's:**

**3428 Portage Road**

**Niagara Falls, ON**

**L2J 2K4**

**905-354-1227**

**Fax: 905-354-1767**

**[stjohn@cogeco.net](mailto:stjohn@cogeco.net)**



## **In This Issue:**

- Sunday readings
- New for our children
- Photos and humour
- Christmas Bazaar help
- Our water usage
- Wed. Night Church
- Community services
- MAP meeting results
- Welcome Back Potluck & BBQ



## Fall Readings

*Taken from the Year W Lectionary by Wilda C. Gafney  
(except Oct. 9)*

### **Sept 4 — PENTECOST 13**

1 Sam 25: 14-19, 23-25, 32-34, 42-43  
Psalm 37: 1-2, 7-11, 16, 35-40  
Galatians 5: 13-21  
Luke 19: 1-10

### **Sept 11 — PENTECOST 14**

1 Sam 27: 1-3, 8-12  
Psalm 94: 1-15  
James 2: 8-13  
Mark 7: 14-23

### **Sept 18 —PENTECOST 15**

1 Sam 30: 1-8, 17-19  
Psalm 71: 1-6  
2 Corinthians 1: 8-11  
Matthew 6: 9-13

### **Sept 25 —PENTECOST 16**

2 Samuel 1: 17-27  
Canticle Mater Tua Leana (from Ezekiel 19)  
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18  
John 16: 16-22

### **Oct 2 —PENTECOST 17**

2 Samuel 11: 2-15  
Psalm 32: 1-7  
2 Peter 3: 1-4, 8-9  
Matthew 5: 21-26

### **Oct 9—HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11  
Psalm 100  
Philippians 4: 4-9  
John 6: 25-35

## Continued...

### **Oct 16 — PENTECOST 19**

2 Samuel 20: 1-3, 14-22  
Psalm 50: 14-23  
1 Corinthians 6: 1-6  
Mark 6: 1-6

### **Oct 23 — BAPTISM & PENTECOST 20**

2 Samuel 21: 1-14  
Psalm 58  
Revelation 6: 9-11  
Luke 6: 43-45

### **Oct 30 —PENTECOST 21**

1 Kings 1: 1-5, 11-18, 29-31  
Psalm 90: 1-10, 12  
Colossians 2: 9-14  
John 7: 37-44

### **Nov 6—ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS**

Isaiah 25: 1, 4a, 6-10a  
Psalm 67  
Romans 15: 7-13  
Matthew 27: 50-56

### **Nov 13—REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Isaiah 65: 17-25  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13  
Luke 21: 5-19

### **Nov 20— THE REIGN OF CHRIST**

2 Kings 24: 8, 11-17  
Psalm 47  
Hebrews 1: 1-9  
Matthew 27: 11-14, 27-37

*[\(Nov. 27 is Advent 1\)](#)*



## New Nursery Coordinator – Ashley Van Der Kley

Ashley will begin working in the Nursery during the 10:30am Church Service, beginning September 4. She will look after children aged 4 and under. She is a Registered Early Childhood Educator, and currently works here at St. John's at the Bee Montessori Niagara school. Previously she has worked with YMCA, A Child's World, & Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara. Welcome Ashley!

**\*\*New\*\***

**Sunday  
School**

**Curriculum**

**for this Fall**

### A JOYFUL PATH, YEAR 1

Spiritual Curriculum for Young Hearts and Minds,  
The Inner Wisdom Series



"The great need in the Christian church is for a Sunday school curriculum for children that does not equate faith with having a pre-modern mind. The Center for Progressive Christianity has produced just that. Teachers can now teach children in Sunday school without crossing their fingers. It is the best I have ever read.

It is not religious pabulum, but offers a critical approach to scripture. I endorse it wholeheartedly."

— Bishop John Shelby Spong

At last, Sunday School lessons for which no apology is necessary.

— James R. Adams, Author of "So You Think You're Not Religious and From Literal to Literacy"

**A little medical & religious humour for your day! Thanks, Dr. Dec, for the submission!**

## **From the ICU to Heaven**



In a hospital's Intensive Care Unit, patients always died in the same bed, on Sunday morning, at about 11:00 am, regardless of their medical condition. This puzzled the doctors and some even thought it had something to do with perhaps God's will. Maybe the Good Lord directed these individuals to this particular hospital ICU at this particular time, for their journey to heaven!

No one could solve the mystery as to why the deaths occurred around 11:00 am Sunday, so a worldwide team of experts was assembled to investigate the cause of the incidents. The next Sunday morning, a few minutes before 11:00 am, all of the doctors and nurses nervously waited outside the ward to see for themselves, the circumstances around the phenomenon. Some were holding wooden crosses, prayer books, and other holy objects to ward off the evil spirits or perhaps to see heavenly angels. Just when the clock struck 11:00, Pookie Johnson, the part-time Sunday sweeper, entered the ward and unplugged the life support system so he could use the vacuum cleaner.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHURCH



Beginning Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will do this seven week video series from The Work of the People:

### **MATERIALITY AS RESISTANCE NEIGHBORLINESS AND THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH.**

It features Walter Bruggemann and is based on his book by the same name. Here is a quote from the introduction:

*Materiality as Resistance is a textured teaching about who we are called to be in the world through the lens of loving God, loving ourselves, and loving our neighbor. Throughout his new book and this film series, Walter opens a discussion with us about how Christianity (its beliefs and efforts) have evolved and shifted from a center of “we” or “us” cooperative body of people to a privatized, personal Jesus for “me” or “you”. We focus on our personal salvation, our personal work, our spirituality, which is not wrong, but only part of the maturation of faith. So here, Walter discusses faith and our responsibility to one another, and how churches can model collaborative social structure, and goes so far as to invite individual believers and church leadership to start considering making decisions with the neighbor and neighborhood in mind.*

### **Best Foot Forward Fundraising Campaign.**

Rev. Mark and the Wardens sent parishioners a letter in early April, speaking of the special

fundraising campaign just begun. It is aimed at providing funds for kitchen and nursery renovations, repairs to 2 windows at the front of the Church (Sanctuary), and the roof flashing over the Chapel and offices. The total expense for these projects is \$25,000.00. Thanks to those who have contributed in big and small ways already. So far, we have raised **\$11,784.00**. All future donations greatly appreciated!



# Welcome Back Potluck & BBQ:

welcome back



B  
B  
Q

Sunday, Sept. 25

after the 10:30am service.

Bring a salad or dessert to share.

Hamburgers & Hotdogs provided.

*Here is a bit of interesting information about our monthly water usage at St. John's.*



Hello There!

Today we'd like to tell you what your Flowie has found over the past month.



**24K**  
LITRES



**3.5**  
PEOPLE



**13%**  
RUN TIME

Your property used 24K litres of water. That's the equivalent of 49K bottles of water.

Based on the average person's water use, this is enough water for three and a half people.

## Preparations for the Christmas Market November 12

**Knitting** – We are looking for donations of NEW knitting and sewing for the Knitting table. Thanks in advance for your help and creativity!



**Jewelry** .... As thoughts of preparation for this year's Christmas Bazaar begin, Pat Niven is looking for donations of jewelry, bits and pieces of jewelry that can be repurposed into new creations, and individual jewelry boxes. Please bring your donations to the church. Thank you!

**Preserves, Canning** ... As we welcome the arrival of 'local fruit and vegetable' season, if you are a canner and could set aside a jar or two or more of this season's homemade jam, preserves or canning for donation to the Christmas bazaar, it would be greatly appreciated! These items are always a great seller. Thank you!



## Services to our Community

**Support for a New Outreach Program in Niagara Falls** – A parishioner has shared information on a new outreach program where those searching for housing can go to access housing help, have a nap, clean up and pick out some clothes to get ready to meet a potential landlord. There will also be snacks offered so these folk don't go to an interview hungry; and this is **where St. John's can help!**

**We will collect donations of bottled water, juice boxes, granola bars and individually wrapped cookies for this outreach program. There is a special box at the back of the church for this.**

A labelled collection basket is available at the back of the church for the donated items. Thank you for your support!

**Project Share Support**— We continue to support our local foodbank, both financially and with food donations and drives throughout the year, with a special initiative during Advent with our Advent Tree weekly themed donations. A bin in at the back of the church for drop-offs every Sunday.



### **Moon Time Sisters Menstrual Period Products needed again!**

This campaign continues through to October (*after which northern roads and waterways can become impassable*). Moon Time Sisters Ontario has been partnering for the last 5 years with over 30 northern Indigenous communities in Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories to supply people who menstruate with free period products. They are looking for donations of pads, tampons, cloth pads, and menstrual cups.

All other hygiene items that are not sent north are given to an Indigenous based family shelter and a women's healing lodge in Toronto. More detailed information can be found at their website: <https://truenorthaid.ca/mts-on/>



**Breakfast Club Need** – from Eleanor Frost. During this pandemic, the breakfast program at St. Georges (*St. Cath.*) has been soldiering on, providing a take-out meal for sixty to ninety guests every day. Not surprisingly, the cost of providing this service has DOUBLED. One of the more expensive items is jam. THANK YOU to everyone who has already contributed red jam. The need continues, so please remember to grab some extra jam to donate when you get your groceries. We are now their unofficial 'red jam' donor!



ty



Holiday camping with the Spicers and their family.

Thanks for sharing the photos!

Some of the children from Bee Montessori Niagara going on their daily walk.

Perhaps they are walking over to their new playground area at the back of the parking lot?

It is a joy to hear their voices in the halls.



Gardens have been lovingly tended by Lil Booth and Karen James.

Garden Photos in this Journal were taken by Karen James.





### ***Continued from the first page...***

Wednesday Night Church will resume on September 7<sup>th</sup>. You'll find more information in this newsletter about the video series we will be using for the first few weeks. In short, it provides us with some theological context for our bishop's and the wider churches emphasis on "mission" these days. We gather in the church for Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. followed by a coffee break and then the video series. You're most welcome to become a part of this gathering.

It continues to be my honour and privilege to be your priest at St. John's, we are blessed with excellent leadership in our Wardens, a beautiful worship space and building, and a committed group of people who are faithful to their parish. We now have an action plan to provide us some guidance and direction over the next few months and we will work our plan to the best of our abilities and trust in God and one another that our faith and community will grow.

See you in September!