

# ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL



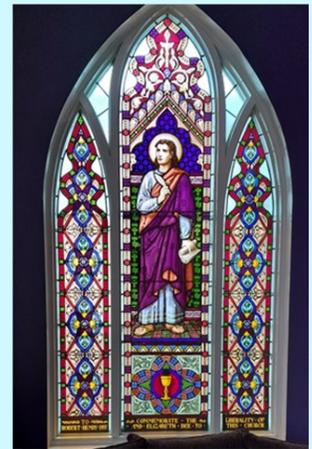
St. John the Evangelist (Stamford) est. 1820

DECEMBER 2022

December 1, 2022

My Siblings in Christ,

In our chapel at St. John's there are two windows from our original building. One of the windows was given by Robert Henry and Elizabeth Dee who also donated the land on which the first building is built. The other striking point about the window is it is given to "commemorate the liberality of this church." The window is well over 100 years old and speaks of the liberality of St. John's! In Robert Dee's day he likely meant something different than we might but all the same it points to a wonderful heritage that is ours at St. John's. Ours is a faith marked by liberality of spirit, open and welcoming to all who might join us, excluding no one. A faith able to embrace a diversity of viewpoints, while holding to the apostolic faith of our forebearers. A faith tradition with room even for you and me.



The pandemic has been difficult for the church at St. John's and well beyond. In the process of dealing with the effects of the pandemic to our lives many folks have reassessed their lives and commitments. The Wardens and I are extremely thankful for your continued support of St. John's.

Christmas is a time of wonder at God's willingness to come among us in the person of Jesus. The baby we greet on Sunday morning changed our lives beyond measure. I don't think it is possible to imagine our world without the influence and continued presence of Jesus. As we have since 1820, we will gather as Anglicans at St. John's to celebrate the birth of Jesus into our world and our lives. On the 11th of December at 7:00 p.m. we will gather to sing the carols of Christmas and hear the story told once more. On the 24th of December we will gather for worship at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. And on Sunday the 25th we will meet for worship at 9:00 a.m. Your participation at worship is a gift to us all and I hope to see you. Let me conclude with this prayer for Christmas; "Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen." May you know God's presence this Christmas.

Your friend in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark" with a small cross at the end.



## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2022**

<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Lessons &amp; Carols—a joint Service with NF Christian Ministries</b>
<b>Dec. 17</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Decorate the Church for Christmas</b>
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Children &amp; All Ages Worship</b>
	<b>8 pm</b>	<b>All Ages Worship—a joint Service with NF Christian Ministries</b>
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>9 am</b>	<b>in Chapel. BCP service</b>
<b>Jan. 1/23</b>	<b>8 &amp; 10:30</b>	<b>regular services</b>



## Advent Giving Tree 2022

Beginning on Advent I, Sunday, November 27 we will once again do our special Advent Appeal, collecting new, unwrapped items under our Advent Giving Tree.

**Nov. 27:** Warmth - hats, mittens, socks, scarves, blankets, pajamas.

**December 4:** Personal Products - soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, razors, feminine hygiene products, diapers & wipes etc.

**December 11:** Toys & books for girls and boys of all ages.

**FINAL DAY FOR DONATIONS - December 18:** Food – non-perishable items such as pasta, canned fruit & vegetables, peanut butter, canned meats & fish, and items that come in small packages such as granola bars, cheese & cracker packets, juice boxes, beef jerky, etc.

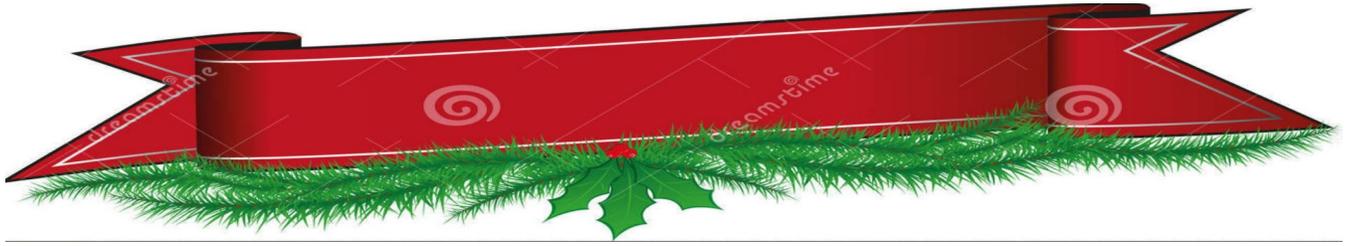
We will accept donations during the 2 Sunday services, or call the office at 905-354-1227 to arrange a time to drop off your donations (*Tuesdays-Thursdays 10am-2pm*).

Cash or cheques (made out to "St. John's Anglican Church", with "Project Share" or "Grace Emergency Food Pantry" in the memo line) are also gratefully accepted and will be passed on.

All donations will be shared between PROJECT SHARE and GRACE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY for free distribution to those in need.

*The gathering of donations this year  
will be from a partnership between  
St. John's Anglican Church,  
Bee Montessori Niagara, and  
Niagara Falls Christian Ministries.*





# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

## DECEMBER

### Readings (Year A – complete)

#### December 4—ADVENT 2

Isaiah 54: 1-8

Psalm 113

Hebrews 11: 8-13

Luke 1: 5-17, 24-25

#### December 11—ADVENT 3

Ruth 4: 11-17

Psalm 78: 1-8

Galatians 4: 1-7

Matthew 1: 1-16 (alternate)

#### December 18—ADVENT 4

Susanna 31-44

Psalm 34: 1-9

Titus 3: 4-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

#### December 25— CHRISTMAS 1

Isaiah 26: 16-19

Psalm 68: 4-13

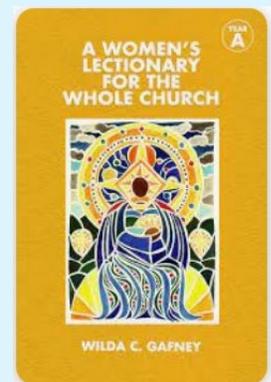
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Luke 2: 1-14 or 2: 1-20

## Sunday Scripture Readings

Once again we will delve into the scriptures on Sundays, this year using Wilda Gafney's new "A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church-Year A".

What does it look like to tell the good news through the stories of women who are often on the margins of scripture and often set up to represent bad news? How would a lectionary centering women's stories, chosen with womanist and feminist commitments in mind, frame the presentation of the scriptures for proclamation and teaching? Year A features the Gospel of Matthew and John.



The author is an Episcopal Priest and Professor.

## ADVANCE NOTICE—

During the first week of January, the school and the church building will be CLOSED. All floors are being re-done (hallways, gym floor, etc.), so no one will be allowed in the building.

The office will be 'open' as Mark and Val will work from home.



## CHRISTMAS MARKET

THANK YOU EVERYONE

for another successful Event!

The winner of the Gift Basket Raffle was Gail Jeacock of Niagara Falls! Congratulations!

## Christmas

### Memorial Flowers



Envelopes are available in the Church for you to make a special donation for Christmas memorial flowers. Just include a cheque or cash in the envelope, and fill in the information on the front of the envelope.



A special list of these names will be added to the Christmas Eve bulletins.

## All annual Reports

are due into the office

by January 31, 2022.



These are required by each group, ministry, and event that uses our building.



**Advent Sermons for  
Wednesday Nights  
@ St. John's - 7pm with  
our  
Mid-Week Eucharist.**

We will watch a short sermon by the based on the Sunday Revised Common Lectionary texts for Advent. The 12-minute, pre-recorded sermons for Ad-

vent I to Advent IV will feature Brs. Todd Blackham, Jack Crowley, Jim Woodrum and James Koester of the Society of St. John the Evangelist - an Anglican religious order. They describe themselves as: a community of men giving our whole selves over to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rooted in the ancient monastic traditions of prayer and community life, and critically engaged with contemporary culture, we seek to know and share an authentic experience of God's love and mercy. We live a common life shaped by worship, prayer, and our Rule of Life.





**GRACE PANTRY**  
*(Emergency Food Bank)*  
A Shared Ministry between Niagara Falls Christian Ministries and St. John's.

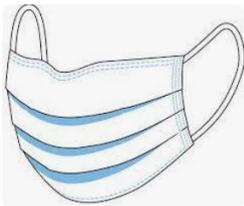
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**  
Thursdays – 6pm-9pm  
Sundays – 1230-330pm  
Call Christine at 905-356-5634  
Or Darlene at 289-686-3406

Bring non-perishable items or grocery store gift cards any Sunday in October or November.

Recommended:  
Kraft Dinner – Cookies – Cake Mixes – Pastas – Pasta Sauce – Juice Boxes – Granola Bars – Canned Soups – Formula Milk – Diapers – Small Soaps – Women's Hygiene Products – Peanut Butter.  
See Pastor Rose for more info, or call or text at 647-464-3774 or 289-296-1212.

### Breakfast Club Need

We continue to collect red jam for the breakfast program at St. George's in St. Catharines. They provide a take-out meal for sixty to ninety guests every day. We are their 'red jam provider';



**Masks Memo:** Ontario and the Diocese of Niagara removed mandatory masking requirement for most settings. However, at this time **masks will continue** to be an essential part of our suite of protections in place for indoor ministry activities, in

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