ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

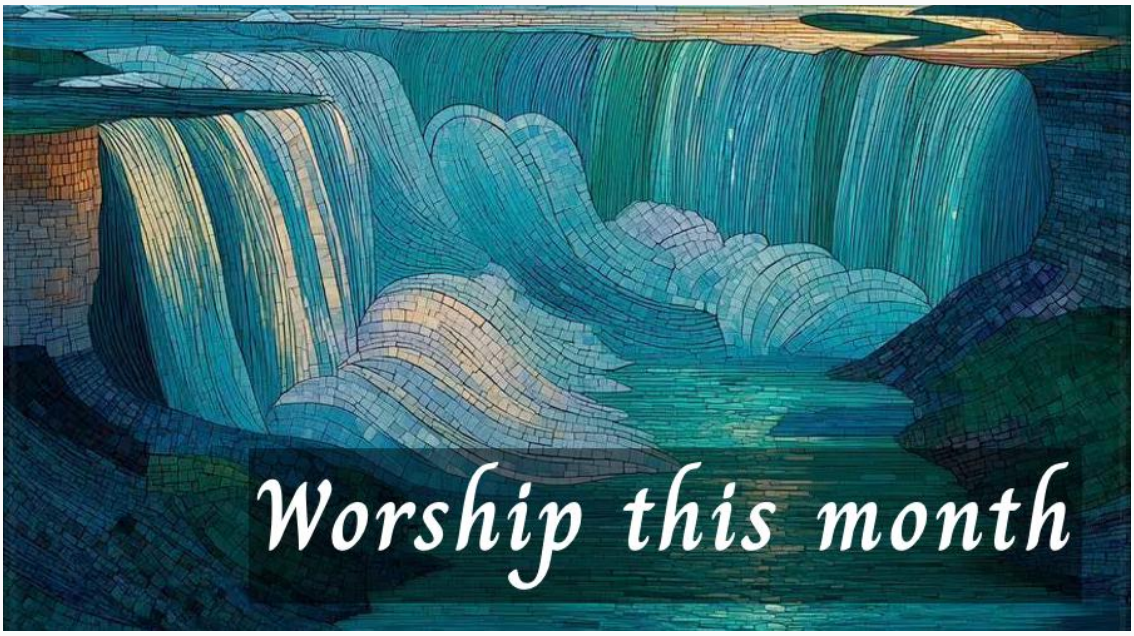
Niagara Falls

1820 2020



A warm welcome to St. John's and Holy Trinity's new Parish Administrator, A'Isha Adams!

A'Isha began her orientation at both churches the week of November 9th. Please take the time to read a message from A'Isha included in this edition of the E-news.



Advent

As the days grow shorter and the world outside begins its frantic rush toward the holidays, the church invites us to step into a different kind of rhythm. Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year - a sacred four-week season of quiet preparation, hopeful waiting and joyful anticipation. The season begins on November 29th. Each Sunday, as we light another candle on the Advent wreath, we watch the light slowly conquer the darkness. We invite you to reflect on the core themes of the season as we journey through the weeks together. Let's use these weeks not just to prepare our homes, but to prepare our hearts. May this advent be a time of renewal and quite joy for all.

Wednesdays - 7 p.m. Service Time

Midweek Eucharist continues on Wednesdays evenings. Beginning Wednesday November 25th the service time will return to 7 p.m. Please join us! Tea and conversation to follow.



Congratulations to St. John's Order of Niagara Recipient: Noreen Spicer



On Sunday November 22nd at Christs' Church Cathedral, our very own Noreen Spicer was inducted into the Order of Niagara. Established to recognize lay members of the diocese, the Order celebrates those who have demonstrated outstanding, long-term service through volunteer ministry in their parish, the diocese, and the wider church. Please join us in congratulating Noreen!

Outdoor Planter Workshop

St. John's fourth annual outdoor plantar workshop is scheduled for **Saturday November 28th from 10 am** Registration is required as spaces are limited. Click here for more details.

Next Step in Our Discernment Process

Please save the date and plan to attend church on **Sunday November 29th at 11 am,** as we welcome guest homilist Dr. Emily Hill, Parish Development Missioner, Diocese of Niagara. After the service, Emily will join us for a light lunch in the parish hall and a time to gather and get to know us. All are welcome to the service and the luncheon too. Please let us know if you are able to attend, so we can plan the food. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church or let the church office know. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Advent Giving Tree

Beneath the small Christmas tree at the back of the church, you will begin to see a growing display of generosity for our neighbours in need. Each week of Advent will feature a different collection theme to support our local food bank and community partner organizations. Watch the space beneath the branches fill up with love and practical gifts as we prepare our hearts - and our hands - for the coming of Christ.

November 29th - non-perishable food items, gift cards to a local grocery store
December 6th - non-perishable food items. gift cards to a local grocery store
December 13th - hygiene products
December 20th - warmth (toques, mittens/gloves, blankets, scarves and more)

Walk the Labyrinth

Join us for a labyrinth walk in the parish hall on **Saturday December 5th between 10am and 12pm**. At our monthly labyrinth walks this year, Stephanie Wilton-Duncan will lead us through Henri Nouwen's book, Life of the Beloved.



Another Goodbye

Dear friends of St. John's: most of you are aware that I have been dealing with some health challenges over the last several months. I am sorry to say that I am no longer well enough to continue at St. John's and have had to take a sick leave rather unexpectedly. I want to tell you how much I have enjoyed my time with all of you.

St. John's and Holy Trinity have together brought me so much joy. Your diverse cultures, your mix of people from many walks of life, and your commitment to caring for one another drew me in from the beginning. Your beautiful grounds filled me with a sense of grounding and peace. Your collaboration with Bee Montessori gave me hope for a future in which the church becomes a community hub, engaged with the neighborhood in a

diversity of ways.

I arrived last October just after you had decided to not have a Christmas bazaar because you didn't have the capacity. I was impressed by your ability to set limits for yourself and recognize the need for rest. My prayer for you in this new season is that you each will take hold of the particular gifts God has given you and lean into those strengths. If you are called to lead, have the courage to do so; if you are best at washing dishes, jump in and do that. Most importantly, do not take on more than you can manage: say "no" when you need to, ask others for help, and prioritize worship and rest.

You, my friends, are a beautiful community with the ability to be a beacon of belonging in your neighborhood. These are uncertain times for the Church, and being without a priest once again will not be easy. Please be gentle with one another, and know that the Spirit remains present among you. Listen to her urges, and know that you are not alone.

Much courage and peace,
Allison+

Chapel Space Renewal
We are getting closer to having the Chapel space ready for worship. A portable ramp has now been purchased for use when required and preparations for use of the space continue. We can't wait to share Wednesday evening worship in the space!



Hello New Friends!
Hello new friends of St. John's! My name is A'Isha and I am happy to join your community

as the new Parish Administrator. I feel very blessed and excited to join this wonderful church community, and I look forward to getting to know each of you along the way.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the parish in this capacity and to contribute to the important work being done here. I believe that a church is more than just a building, it is a family built on faith, fellowship, love, and a shared commitment to serving God and one another. I hope to meet many of you, hear your stories, and become a familiar and welcoming face around the parish.

Thank you sooo much for the warm welcome so far! I am looking forward to this new chapter and all that God has in store. :)

With gratitude and blessings,

A'Isha - your Parish Administrator



In Our Community

Loving God, you weave our lives together, calling us across every distance to be one vibrant body in your Spirit. We bring our hearts together to lift up the community of St. John's, offering you our collective hope, faith, and grace.

We hold close everyone on our parish prayer list. You know every name, every unspoken worry, every quiet hope, and every challenge. Wrap them tightly in your healing presence. Being them comfort, and let them feel the warmth of a community that carries them in spirit every day.

We pray for those in our parish cycle of prayer. Breathe fresh life into their homes, their daily routines, and their unique journeys of faith. May our life together as a parish be a source of strength and renewal for them.

We give thanks for the hands building your kingdom. We lift up the organizations where our parishioners pour out their time, energy and gifts. Bless these groups as they nurture and care for your creation. Fuel every volunteer with joy and stamina, reminding us that whenever we serve our neighbours, we are serving you. Amen.

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer
We pray for 855 dioceses and 42 provinces of the Anglican Communion. Download the rotation of prayers here.

The Niagara Cycle of Prayer
In our Diocese, we pray for local ministries and parishes. Find this rotation and other prayer resources here.