

Parish Update - St. George on Yonge – December 24, 2021



“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”

Clement Clarke Moore

To our St. George on Yonge Parish Family and Friends,

DO YOU KNOW?

- 1) **Who** submitted a memory of St. George’s?
- 2) **What** is a Christmas tree’s favourite candy?
- 3) **When** is our special New Year’s Coffee Hour?
- 4) **Where** can you find Bishop Andrew Asbil’s video message?

Did you find all the answers? Congratulations! Now you know!

HOW TO JOIN ST. GEORGE EVENTS ON ZOOM

To join by computer, tablet or smart phone – Go to the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/5482169827> You may have to download Zoom. Passcode: 1922

To join by phone – Call **647-374-4685**. When prompted for the Meeting ID number, enter 5482169827 then press #. If prompted to enter a participation ID, press # again and stay on the line. Passcode: 1922

Please find included this week

- The bulletins for Sunday December 24th, 25th, and 26th services
- Bishop Andrew Asbil Shares A Video Message For Christmas. Full text is attached. Link to video is below.
- Bishop Robinson – Pastoral Letter to Clergy – December 2021
- COVID vaccine information from the City of Toronto

BISHOP ANDREW ASBIL SHARES A VIDEO MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS

<https://youtu.be/XN39IMnC4s>

***Please join us ...**

In-Person Worship

We are happy to welcome people back to our in-person services. This Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

CALENDAR OF CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

Dec 24	Christmas Eve - Eucharist	In-person and Facebook Live	8:00 p.m.
Dec 25	Christmas Day - Eucharist	In-person only	10:00 a.m.
Dec 26	Christmas I – Eucharist	In-person and Facebook Live	10:00 a.m.
Dec 30	Evening Prayer	By Zoom	7:30 p.m.

2022			
Jan 2	The Epiphany - Eucharist	In-person and Facebook Live	10:00 a.m.
Jan 6	Evening Prayer	By Zoom	7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL SERVICE

The in-person services for December 24th and December 26th are also being streamed live on the St. George on Yonge Facebook page at **10 a.m. ET**: <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeonyonge/>

The entire video will also be available on the page immediately after. If you are not planning on attending in person, please invite your friends and family and let's watch, pray, sing and react together while apart!

*The bulletins are attached.

* You can continue to access the service at <https://stgeorgeonyonge.ca/sermons>. Services for previous Sundays can be accessed from the website by clicking on *Sermon Archive*.

* You can hear the sermon by calling the church phone number and choosing option 8.

2021 DONATIONS

A reminder that in order to receive income tax receipts for 2021 donations, they must be received by Thursday, December 30 so that they can be included in the deposit for 2021.

TO PARISHIONERS WITH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:

The boxes of offertory envelopes are available for pick up at the Sunday services. If you're not attending in person, please contact the Church office – office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca or 416 225-1922 – to make alternate arrangements.

Anne Baillie, Envelope Secretary

416-225-2570 or family.baillie@sympatico.ca

MEMORIES OF ST. GEORGE'S



In 1972, when my late husband, Nigel, was Rector's warden for Canon John Thompson, he was asked to host a dinner party for Bishop Hunt. We had three small children at that time so they were looked after at my parents' house. We had never entertained anyone that important and I was a nervous wreck. Canon Thompson brought a gift for our family consisting of four large Christmas elves and three smaller ones. They have brought us a lot of pleasure over the last fifty years as we use them every Christmas for decorating. We usually hang them on our lamp shades. A few years ago Kathy made two of them doing the flying trapeze. This year she made one into a scuba diver. Christmas would not be the same without our elves and the memory of Father John Thompson.

Anne Baillie

Please note we have elves but ours do not sit on a shelf or spy for Santa. Ours just enjoy the holiday season and put smiles on our faces. That's just what elves should do.

Kathy

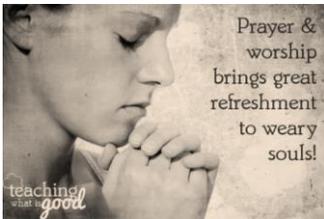
**VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR – Save the date – January 2nd at 1:00 p.m.
Special New Year's edition**



Coffee is optional

Come and join us for our virtual Coffee hour on Sunday, January 2nd at 1:00 p.m. Even though we have our services in person now, social events won't be allowed for quite some time and we need to avoid congregating in the narthex after the service. In order to connect and share stories, tales of what we are up to, etc. we would like to continue our virtual social events and hope to have more people join us. Come and share a special Christmas memory. Join us for the hour; join us for a few minutes. All are welcome. Use the Zoom link at the beginning of this update.

EVENING PRAYER WITH THE PARISH FAMILY



Join us for evening prayer by Zoom.

Thursday evenings – next service is on – **December 30th**

Time 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

An opportunity to invite family and friends interested in evening worship.

Interested in being a reader? Please respond to this weekly update or call Rev. Leonard at 416 225-1922 x515.

Use the Zoom link at the beginning of this update.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY



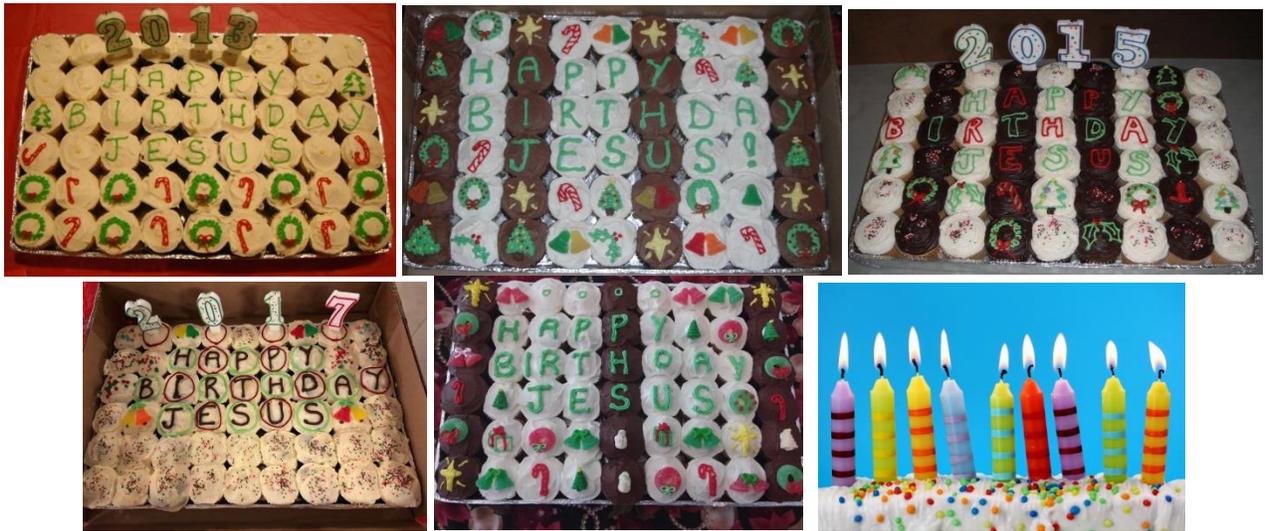
Calling all **children**. We are taking a pause for the holidays. For the 6-11+ year olds we will be resuming our weekly lessons on Sunday, January 9th at 12:30 p.m. for our 30 minute Zoom session. For our 3-5 year olds, please stay tuned for information on those sessions starting back up in the new year.

Any children attending the in-person services must remain with their family. Activity bulletins will be available but we ask you bring your own pencils/markers with you due to COVID protocols we are not allowed to share these items at this time.

You can reach me at:

Kathy: fambail@hotmail.com

PHOTO GALLERY

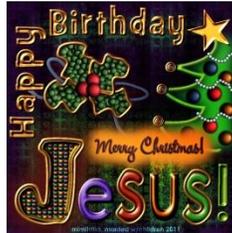


Just a few cupcake cakes from over the years that we have had at the end of the Christmas Eve services to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Please take some time to remember that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and sing him "Happy Birthday".

Do you have any pictures of interest that we could share? Please submit them to the office for consideration.

* * * *

CELEBRATIONS



December 25th – Happy Birthday Jesus

Any birthdays coming up in January? February? Any other special celebrations coming up?

Just let the office know so we can wish you blessings on your special days.

SMILE OF THE WEEK!



In these times, things that make us smile are very important. Do you have something that could make someone else smile? Please submit anything you have to the office for consideration.

* * * *

We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .

Congregation Cycle

Deborah T
Izunna U
Yaowei W
Norma W
Maxwell & Anne W
Kay Y & Kira L



*"to you is born this day in
the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."*

Luke 2:11

ONGOING REMINDERS

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is the Land Acknowledgement that has been adopted by St. George on Yonge:

The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee (ho-den-oh-show-nee) and Anishinabek (ah-nish-nah-bek) Nations, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase. Today, Toronto is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in this community, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

STEWARDSHIP

'Tis the season for giving. Many of us have bought gifts for family and friends, and responded to requests for support from charitable organizations. And at this time of year, we remember the greatest gift of all, the baby born on Christmas Day more than 2,000 years ago. That baby's impact on the world, at the time, through the ages, and even today, is huge. The Christian church has been a major force for good throughout the world

Close to home, St. George on Yonge is also a force for good, and throughout the pandemic has maintained worship services (sometimes virtual, sometimes in-person and both at the moment), and provided pastoral support and programs that people rely on. This has continued in spite of a sharp drop in income. Our churchwardens lie awake at night worrying about the big gap between income and outgo. Essential repairs can't be done because of the lack of funds. Our Priest, Administrator, Music Director and custodian continue to deliver 120%.

Please think about your gift to St. George in an intentional and prayerful way. The note below on 'Donation Options' has some very useful information to help you with your decision.

DONATION OPTIONS

- If you are not already donating using PAR, please seriously consider using this method of intentional giving, using safe, secure and automatic debit; it's very flexible, you can change or withdraw your commitment at any time. Commit to a manageable amount, and top it up with an additional offering if you experience a windfall. Regarding PAR or any other form of donation, please contact Envelope Secretary Anne Baillie at family.baillie@sympatico.ca or 416-225-2570 and she will be happy to give you more information and assist you.
- Cheques can be mailed or dropped off at the Church in person. The Office Administrator is here on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during office hours; just phone or email first to set up a time for the drop off. If you're able to drop off in person, we also accept good old-fashioned cash – even coins (but please no pennies).
- At the Sunday services the collection plate will be at the back of the church. Due to COVID protocols it won't be passed around. Please deposit your donation as you enter the Sanctuary.
- Donations can also be made online with a credit card through CanadaHelps (even though there is a 3.75% charge to the parish, all donations are gratefully received).



VACCINE POLICY FROM THE DIOCESE

On September 17, 2021 the Diocese issued a new policy, for the protection of all individuals who enter the church buildings, including any church property outside as well, or, who come in contact with church staff carrying out activities on behalf of or representing the Anglican Church in the Diocese at this time.

This policy applies to every bishop, priest, deacon, and lay person under the jurisdiction of the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto engaged as an office holder, Employee, service provider, or Volunteer. For further clarification, it applies to those appointed or hired to work in the Church, and Volunteers at all levels of the Diocese before they can be allowed to start their activity or duty.

Proof of vaccination can either be shown to a warden in person at the church, or over Zoom. Please do not email us your vaccination certificate as proof, as it is not a secure form of communication.

Thank you in advance for doing your part to keep everyone safe by complying with the diocesan policy.

Aili Maki and Doug Heyes



OLD EYE GLASSES TO DONATE?

Do you have old eye glasses lying around that no one is using and don't know what to do with them? We have your solution. If you drop them off at the church Doug Heyes has a location that takes donated glasses. After they sanitize the glasses they are donated to developing countries. You can bring them to church once we resume in-person services, or drop them off in the mail box by the Yonge street entrance. Please put a note with them that they are being donated. Thank you for the **many pairs of eyeglasses already donated**. If the desire to support those in developing

countries continues, more deliveries will be made, so **keep them coming**. **60** pairs to date have been donated!

HOW TO BOOK A COVID-19 VACCINE



<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>

Vaccines save lives. Let's all do our part. This link is for anyone needing a first or second dose or a booster for those eligible. Thank you.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD ONTARIO'S NEW COVID-19 VACCINE PASSPORT OR QR CODE

To access the QR code, go to Ontario's **COVID-19 vaccination record site**, enter your health card information, date of birth and postal code. When you get to the next page, select 'proof of vaccination'. Then, select 'Download your enhanced vaccine certificate'. This should be followed by another screen pop-up that will display the QR code. The code will be labelled with your full name, date of birth and the dates of your vaccinations as well as the types of vaccines you received. You can print out the QR code document if you prefer carrying it physically, but make sure not to fold or crease the QR code portion as it may become difficult to read. You can also store the code in your smartphone as a PDF by emailing it to yourself.

If you're an iPhone user, you can save it to your Apple Health app by opening your camera and hovering over the QR code. When your phone scans the code, it'll open up the document that you can save on your app.

If you received one or more of your doses of the COVID-19 vaccine outside of Ontario, the government says you must contact your local public health unit for proper documentation. The province says that "proof of vaccination may also include a vaccination receipt from another jurisdiction that shows the holder is fully vaccinated against COVID-19."

If you aren't vaccinated or are only partially vaccinated, Ontario says you won't be able to enter businesses and organizations where proof of vaccination is required. This includes indoor dining at restaurants, gyms, theatres, sports and entertainment venues and other non-essential businesses. The same site for downloading your enhanced vaccine certificate can also be used to book your vaccine appointment.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SAVE GOD'S CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL



With the necessity of wearing masks, if you are using disposable ones, please cut the elastic/ribbons before disposing of them properly; some ribbons can simply be pulled free of the mask. Animals, birds, fish, etc. can get caught up in the elastic. Don't forget to cut the plastic rings of can holders too. Please say no to plastic straws... there are many alternatives out there now. And please use reusable bags when possible.

If you have the opportunity to share this message, please do so. The more people we make aware of this, the better off God's creatures may be. Thank you.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

In these COVID-19 times, anyone needing to be at the church, for any reason, must sign in and out of a log book as required by public health directives for contact tracing. People must inform Rev. Leonard, the Office Administrator or a Churchwarden, before visiting St. George.

OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is officially closed to the public at this time because of COVID restrictions. We will be checking emails as well as phone messages so please don't hesitate to reach out when needed.

The church phone number is **(416) 225-1922**.

Office Ext. 501

office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca

Rev. Leonard Leader Ext. 515

leonard.leader@stgeorgeonyonge.ca

Michael Leach Ext. 504

Prayer Requests – Margie Lyttle 416-512-6265

mmlyttle@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT LINKS

For regular updates on COVID-19 from Toronto Public Health, or for updates on the impact of COVID-19 on City services, please visit www.toronto.ca/covid19. This link will also connect you to Provincial and Federal information.

For information and updates from the Diocese, please visit www.toronto.anglican.ca

ANSWER TO What is a Christmas Tree's favourite candy? Orna-mints! LOL



