



December 17, 2017

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### St. Paul's Bloor Street

227 Bloor Street East  
Toronto, ON M4W 1C8

Phone: 416-961-8116

Email: [mail@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:mail@stpaulsbloor.org)

#### Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Sanctuary Hours

Sundays: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

#### Parking

Parking is free on Sunday mornings at the Manulife building located on the north side of Bloor Street at the top of Ted Rogers Way. To gain access to Manulife's parking, press the intercom button and inform the security attendant you are attending a service at St. Paul's.

Charitable Number  
119194942RR0001

[www.stpaulsbloor.org](http://www.stpaulsbloor.org)

 @stpaulsbloor

 stpaulsbloor

## Happening Today!

### Submit your Christmas Tribute Flowers Today!

Remembering a loved one with a Christmas floral tribute is a wonderful way to share in decorating the church for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, complete the information on the memorial flower envelope in the pew or at St. Paul's Central. Place it in the offering plate or the office mailbox. Tributes can also be completed online at [stpaulsbloor.org](http://stpaulsbloor.org). Simply click on the "Donate" button at the top right corner. Be sure to include the names you wish to remember. Tributes begin at \$20 per entry. Donations must be submitted **today**.



### Christmas Bake and Knitted Goods Sale

The annual Christmas Bake and Knitted Goods Sale will take place **today after each service in Cody Hall**. Proceeds from the baked goods will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The Winchester Group will also be selling lovely knitted items with proceeds going to The Pikangikum First Nations fresh water initiative.



# An Invitation to a Service of Light

**Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm**  
Chapel of the Good Shepherd



**There will be prayer time  
following Communion.**

The Christmas season can bring an extra dose of feeling our losses in life. Perhaps the many memories of family celebrations with happier times loom large and cast a shadow over this year's celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever your pain may be, this Service of Light offers you hope at this difficult time. Join us for this reflective service of Holy Communion where we recognize the hope we can have in Jesus Christ.

We will light candles to bring the light of Christ into our lives. We will seek a safe place to put our pain at the foot of the cross and rise to meet each new day with enlivened faith that God sees all, knows all, and wants us to prosper.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7*



# *Celebrate at St. Paul's this Christmas!*



## **December 21**

7 p.m. | Service of Light - A Reflective Encounter of Christmas

## **December 24**

11 a.m. | Christmas Communion

4 p.m. | Christmas Eve Service for Families and Children

7 p.m. & 10 p.m. | Christmas Music

7:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. | Classic Communion Service



## **December 25**

11 a.m. | Classic Communion Service

## **December 31 - New Year's Eve**

8:15 a.m. | Quiet Service

9:30 a.m. | The Bridge - Relaxed Service

11 a.m. | Classic Communion Service



## **No Communion Service on December 26**

There will be no Communion Service at 12:10 p.m. on Tuesday, December 26, 2017.

Communion Service will resume as usual on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

# Advent Ask

**Gifts**


**Money**

**Time**




## Replacing Consumption with Compassion

This Christmas season we are challenging everyone to participate in our Advent Ask in one of three ways – or all three.



**1) Gifts:** The Reverse Advent Calendar gives back. Join us as we partner with local outreach ministries and provide much needed necessities, as well as prayers and acts of kindness, each day during Advent. If you have not done so already, **please return your red gift bags this week.**



**2) Money:** There are millions of disadvantaged Afghan refugees in Iran, especially mothers and young women. Donate to Operation Mercy's Women's Empowerment Project to provide education and training to enable these women to have a better, more positive and stable future. Our goal is to raise \$27,500. Donate online at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask)



**3) Time:** Donate your time by committing to serve on Sunday mornings or volunteer for one of our outreach programs throughout the year. Read more on our website at [stpaulsbloor.org/serve](http://stpaulsbloor.org/serve)

For more information or to donate online visit [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask)

# #AdventWord 2017

Check out some of the photos we've shared on Twitter for #AdventWord!



"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid." Psalms 56: 3-4



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Joyeux Noël. Buon Natale. Feliz Navidad. How do you say Merry Christmas in your language?



"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me." Malachi 3:1



"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.'" Isaiah 40:3



"Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18

#AdventWord is the world's first crowd-sourced global Advent Calendar that asks Christians to pray over a word and meditation and respond with an image on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Follow us on Twitter [@stpaulsbloor](https://twitter.com/stpaulsbloor) each day to see our #AdventWord photos!



## Community News



The Community News email delivers the latest news and updates to members of the St. Paul's community. Would you like to subscribe? Fill out a Connection Card and check the email newsletter subscription box.

## Singing for Christmas and the New Year

This season is full of wonderful music to sing, from the loveliest carols to traditional masterpieces such as Messiah. If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir community as we prepare our music for Christmas you are most welcome.

Similarly the opportunity to participate in our rewarding music-making exists after the holidays in the New Year. Please contact Tom Bell, Director of Music at [music@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:music@stpaulsbloor.org)



## 2018 Offering Envelopes

2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up today in the Atrium. Be sure to check for your envelope alphabetically, as some numbers may have changed. To request envelopes, contact Patricia Budimir, Financial Assistant at ext. 242 or [pbudimir@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:pbudimir@stpaulsbloor.org).



## The Flowers Today

The flowers in the Church are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:

At the High Table:

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brown, Veronica, Lea, Winfred & Christopher  
given by Rudy Brown & Family

In the Chapels:

Pearl & Art Holland given by Sharon & Don

# What's Happening This Week

## Sunday, December 17

### Worship Services

8:15 a.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

9:30 a.m. **the bridge** | *Sanctuary*

11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

Nursery - 9:15 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

Children's Ministry - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

Youth - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *Youth Room*

Prayer Ministry - 10:20 a.m. & 12 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Prayer Group - 10:20 a.m. | *Room 7*

Prayer Group - 10:50 a.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Community Lunch - 12:15 p.m. | *Great Hall*

Bake and Knitted Goods Sale | *Cody Hall*

## Tuesday, December 19

Holy Communion - 12:10 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

## Thursday, December 21

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*

Service of Light - 7 p.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

## Sunday, December 24

Christmas Communion - 11 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service for Families & Children - 4 p.m.

Christmas Music - 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Classic Christmas Eve Services - 7:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

## Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Christmas Day Communion - 11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

Christmas Day Lunch - 12:30 p.m. | *Great Hall*

# Returning in January

Tuesday Communion - *January 2*

Nursery - *January 7*

Children's Ministry - *January 9*

Youth Group - *January 7*

Sunday Lunch - *January 7*

Winchester Group - *January 9*

Christian Meditation - *January 9*

Wednesdays with God - *January 10*

Wednesday Night Youth Group

- *January 10*

Choir Practice - *January 11*

CBS Women's Bible Study - *January 11*

ESL Café - *January 15*

Alpha Experience - *January 17*

Money Course - *January 30*

Marriage Course - *January 31*

## Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

Luke 2:1-7

Topic: The Birth of Jesus



“Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.”

Psalm 96: 1-2