

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## Advent Ask

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DECEMBER											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
27	29	30	1	2	3	4					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25					
26	27	28	29	30	31						

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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

## Baptism Sunday

Today we celebrate three baptisms. These milestones are significant in the lives of these individuals and our entire community. Join us in praying for them and their families as they embark on this important step in their faith journeys.



### Please pray for our Baptism Candidates

Elinor Rose Gyverson  
Ethan Robert Jelley  
Caleb Bradley Speirs



### Today at 12:15 p.m. in the Dalton Room

If you are new or still finding your place in the parish, please come to the Newcomers Luncheon! At this relaxed and informal event, you will be able to share a meal, find out more about the church, ask questions and get to know others in the community.

RSVP to Sandra Seaborn, Associate Priest, at  
[sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org) or ext. 226.

A blue banner with white snowflakes of various sizes scattered across the top. The text "Advent Ask" is written in a large, white, serif font, and "Replacing Consumption with Compassion" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

# Advent Ask

Replacing Consumption with Compassion

Advent is the perfect time to step back and remind ourselves of our priorities. This Christmas Season we are challenging everyone to participate in our Advent Ask in one of the three following ways, or all three.

**1) Gifts:** We have created a Reverse Advent Calendar that gives back. Instead of receiving a gift from an Advent calendar, you can give a gift each day to someone in need.

Over the first three weeks of Advent (November 27 to December 18) fill your bag with the items listed on the calendar. Return your bag to St. Paul's starting on Sunday, December 18. During the final week of Advent, focus on acts of kindness, sharing God's love with the people around you.

We will distribute your contributions to our local partner outreach organizations early in 2017. Calendars can be picked up at St. Paul's Central or downloaded at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask).

**2) Money:** This year we are raising money to provide bikes for girls in India. In many countries, girls are forced to drop out of school because they live too far away or risk dangers such as violence or kidnapping on their walking route.

These bikes will provide safe, speedy transportation, and help open the door to a new future for girls. Each bike costs \$150. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 which will purchase 200 bikes. Donations can be made online at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask).

**3) Service:** Volunteer your time on Christmas Day to serve lunch to those who would otherwise be on their own. Since 1967 St. Paul's has provided a place of hospitality,

community, music and food for those with no where to go or no one to be with on Christmas Day. Each year we serve over 150 people a full Christmas lunch.

The lunch takes place on **December 25 at 12:30 p.m.** right after the Christmas Day Communion Service. If you would like to volunteer to help serve at the Christmas Lunch, sign up online at [stpaulsbloor.org/christmaslunch](http://stpaulsbloor.org/christmaslunch).

## Rector's Update



By Barry Parker, Rector (Senior Pastor)

It is still unseasonably warm as I write this. We are enjoying the last gasps of warm weather. We know winter is on the way. So too is Christmas. There are some things to share about the next season at St. Paul's Bloor Street as we head toward Christmas.

The great season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 27. This is a four week period where the Church prepares for the birth of Jesus. Our theme this year is "The King is coming!" Yet, you might ask: "So what? What does it matter?" Join us and find out more.

\* Advent annual events include our Children's Ministry Christmas Pageant (December 11) and our Lessons & Carols services (December 18).

\* Our Annual Advent Ask begins on November 27. There will be a three pronged approach—the gifts of goods (new this year—a Reverse Advent Calendar), money (Bikes for Girls—a very exciting initiative!) and time (serving at our annual Christmas Day Lunch). You can find more information on page 3.

\* See the following page for a list of our Christmas services. Why not invite a friend, a family member or a colleague to one of our services. This promises to be a wonderful season of celebration. Pick up an invitation from St. Paul's Central to give to a friend.

\* Due to both Christmas Day and New Year's Day falling on a Sunday, we will have only one service at 11 a.m. on both December 25 and January 1.

\* Both the Alpha experience and the Pilgrim course have been great formative experiences this fall season. The Pilgrim course re-starts Sunday, January 8 and the Alpha experience on Wednesday, January 18. More information can be found at [stpaulsbloor.org/programs-courses](http://stpaulsbloor.org/programs-courses).

For centuries the Christian Church has been very intentional about this season of preparation—Advent. It has gone so far as to see great arguments as to when it is 'allowable' to sing Christmas hymns. That is in stark contrast to malls where Christmas music seems to begin the day after Canadian Thanksgiving. Regardless, we need now more than ever to practise preparation. Many of us are feeling over-extended at a number of levels and some overwhelmed. In a world with such political upheaval, extremism, economic instability and violence—hearing and experiencing what the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings brings to our world will be a balm for your soul, a blessing in your life. Take the time to join us in this Advent season and over Christmas. Your life will thank you.



**Sunday, December 18**

9:30 a.m. | Contemporary Service of Lessons & Carols

11 a.m. | Classic Service of Lessons & Carols

**Wednesday, December 21**

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

**Saturday, December 24**

12 p.m. | Christmas Eve Communion

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

7 & 10 p.m. | Christmas Music

7:30 & 10:30 p.m. | Classic Christmas Eve Service

**Sunday, December 25**

11 a.m. | Christmas Day Communion

## Truth and Reconciliation Process Forges Connections



By Anne Keyes

Author Joseph Boyden has described Truth and Reconciliation as a long, slow process that is going to be painful, but needed to address the imbalance between First Nations and the general Canadian population. This is a growing conversation within the Anglican Church. Here at St. Paul's a commitment to learn more began with a five-part Truth and Reconciliation series earlier this year.

In October a group of over 30 people from downtown churches, including four from St. Paul's, visited the Woodland Cultural Centre on the Six Nations Reserve and were invited to a Thanksgiving Service at Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks, St. Paul's on the reserve. The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, the Anglican Church of Canada's National Indigenous Bishop, preached at the service.

The Woodland Centre is a vibrant museum and art gallery complex, situated next to The Mohawk Institute Residential School Building. It provides an in-depth and historically significant insight into the residential school system, offering a distinctive look into First Nations and Canadian History. The Mohawk Institute is being restored, with a reopening date planned in the first half of 2017.

This visit was another step in our collective learning along the path to reaching out and achieving reconciliation and understanding with First Nations peoples. Another visit to Six Nations is being planned to coincide with the opening of the Mohawk Institute next spring.

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### Christmas Bake Sale

The annual Christmas Bake Sale will take place after each service on **Sunday, November 27** in the Great Hall.



We are looking for all kinds of baking contributions, with an emphasis on Christmas goodies - cakes, cookies, candy, pies, etc. Baked treats can be dropped off on Friday, November 25 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the office; Saturday, November 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Cody Hall; and Sunday, November 27 in the Great Hall before each of the services. Proceeds will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, to assist members of our congregation in need.

# Volunteer at the Toronto Star Christmas Concert



The annual Toronto Star Christmas Concert will be held at St. Paul's on **Saturday, December 3**. We are looking for volunteers for the 3 p.m. concert. If you are able to help, sign up at St. Paul's Central or contact the office at 416-961-8116 or [mail@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:mail@stpaulsbloor.org).



## Christmas Memorial Flowers

Remembering a loved one with a Christmas memorial flower 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 on the offering plate, or in the office mailbox. Memorials begin at \$20 per entry. Envelopes must be submitted no later than **Sunday, December 18**.



## St. Paul's Organ Recital

Join us for the last in our fall 2016 series of organ recitals. This free one-hour concert will provide an opportunity to listen to wonderful music and reflect on God.

**November 27 at 3 p.m.**

**Thomas Gonder**

Organist and Director of Music at  
St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact

Tom Bell, Music Director, at  
[music@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:music@stpaulsbloor.org) or ext. 233.

# What's Happening This Week

## Sunday, November 20 - Baptism Sunday

Pilgrim: The Lord's Prayer - 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. | *Room 106*  
Newcomers Luncheon - 12:15 p.m. | *Dalton Room*

## Monday, November 21

GriefShare - 5:30 p.m. | *Library*  
ESL Cafe - 7 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

## Tuesday, November 22

Winchester Group - 10:00 a.m. | *Library*  
Christian Meditation - 1 p.m. | *Room 206*  
Divorce Care - 7 p.m. | *Library*

## Wednesday, November 23

Wednesdays With God - 12:15 p.m. | *Dalton Room*  
Youth Group - 7 p.m. | *Youth Room*  
Prayer Time - 7 p.m. | *Room 7*

## Thursday, November 24

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:20 a.m. | *Music Room*  
Alpha Prayer Time - 6 p.m. | *Room 212*  
Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*  
Alpha - 6:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

## Sunday, November 27

Christmas Bake Sale | *Great Hall*  
Pilgrim: The Lord's Prayer - 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. | *Room 106*  
Organ Recital - 3 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

## Notice

Please note our Tuesday Holy Communion Service held in St. Paul's Chapel is cancelled this coming **Tuesday, November 22.**



# Every Sunday

## Worship Services

8:15 a.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*  
9:30 a.m. **the bridge** | *Sanctuary*  
11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

## Nursery

beginning at 9:15 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

## Children's Ministry

9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

## Youth Group

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

## Prayer Groups

10:20 a.m. | *Room 7*  
10:50 a.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

## Community Lunch

12:15 p.m. | *Great Hall*

# Community Lunch



Garden Soup with  
Crustless Quiche - \$5

## Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Topic: What about the  
Church?