

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!



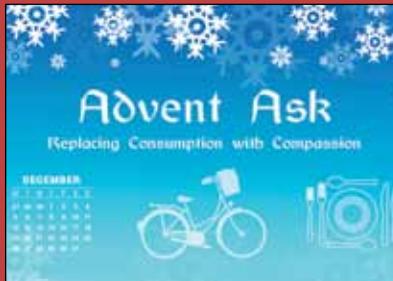
*The King Is Here*

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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](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsbloor)

## St. Paul's Bloor Street



### Welcome to St. Paul's

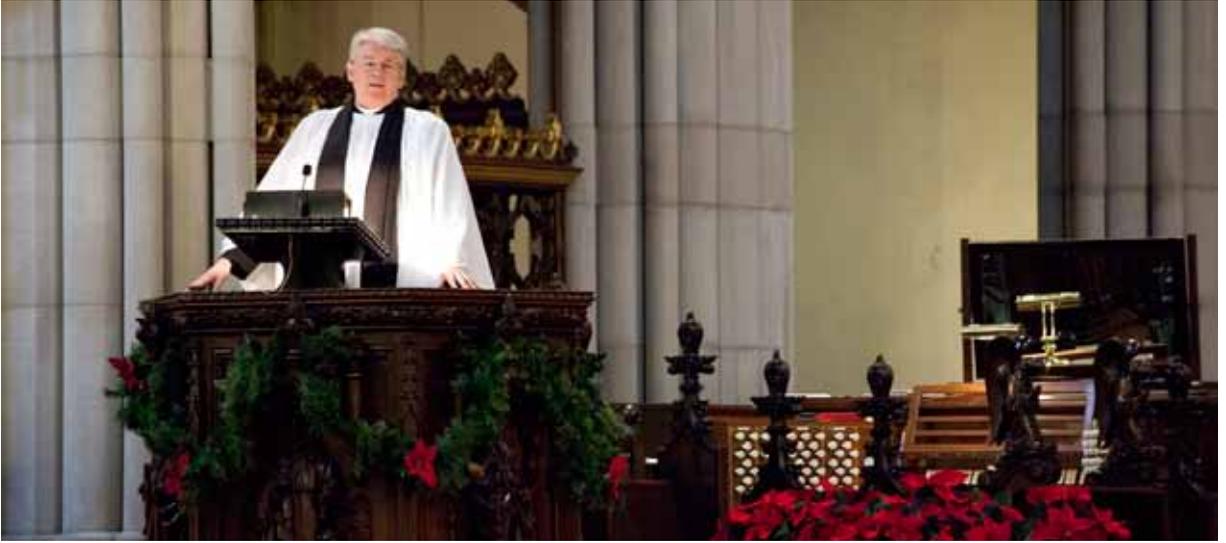
We are glad you have decided to join us this Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the King!

We are a dynamic and growing church based in a historic building. Throughout the week our members live out their faith across the city, learning how to live as followers of Jesus in their places of work, in their homes and as they interact with their friends and family. We gather every Sunday for services at 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to connect with one another and worship God.

St. Paul's is an Anglican church, which means we value and celebrate the historic Anglican expression of the Christian faith. Learn more about us and our many ministries online at [stpaulsbloor.org](http://stpaulsbloor.org).



## Rector's Christmas Message



Whether you are here with us for the first time or have been coming to St. Paul's for years, we are happy you have joined us this Christmas. Together we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The King is Here!

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (*John 1:1-5*)

These words have been shared at Christmas for generations. They are powerful because of who they point to. This Jesus, the King, whose birth we celebrate is so much more than a cute, little baby. The birth of this infant, this God in the flesh, changed human history and more human lives than any other birth.

This wasn't a birth only located in time 2,000 years ago. Jesus existed in the beginning with God, everything was created through him, Jesus gave life to all. What an astounding, overwhelming reality. It is hard to comprehend.

In the world we live in it is easy to focus on the darkness. We have just passed the darkest day of the year and all forecasts point to a cold, harsh winter. There are parts of our world that are beset by the evil darkness of murderous civil war, bombings, and all sorts of tragedy. And yet, we still long for the happy, innocent perspective on

Christmas many of us experienced as children. The warmth of family and a deep sense of blessing prevailed. So how do we reclaim that?

Focus on the light!

In this time of darkness, we are reminded this infant Jesus is in fact THE light. He is the King of glory, a light that cannot be extinguished. He is a gift for all people—not just some.

The light that Jesus, the King, brings into the world is the love of God that pervades our dark world. And nothing can separate us from this love or this light.

I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8:38-39*)

This Christmas, look to the light. See the glory. Lean into that future that is grounded in the birth of Jesus. The King is Here!

In Christ,

(The Rev. Canon Dr.) Barry Parker  
Rector (Senior Minister)

*If you would like to learn more about this King Jesus or have questions about life, faith and God consider joining us on Wednesday, January 18 for our next Alpha experience. This is an opportunity to ask questions in a relaxed atmosphere where all questions are valued and received. If you are seriously considering Alpha in the New Year, we would like to give you a gift of the booklet "Why Christmas?" by Nicky Gumbel. This will give you a sense as to what happens when we ask questions about hope, meaning and purpose. Please ask for one at St. Paul's Central, the information hub in the glass Atrium.*



# Advent Ask

Replacing Consumption with Compassion

## DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
27	28	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		



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

- 1) Gifts:** This year we created Reverse Advent Calendars that give back. We partnered with local outreach ministries and provided much needed necessities, as well as prayers and acts of kindness, each day during Advent. Calendars can be downloaded at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask). Gifts for the food bank are welcome throughout the year.
- 2) Money:** Donate to Bikes for Girls. In Gurgaon, India, 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. Your donation will provide girls with safe, speedy transportation and help open the door to a new future. This is a perfect last minute Christmas or hostess gift. Our goal is to raise \$30,000. 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)

Read more or donate online at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask)

## Ways to Give

For more information visit [stpaulsbloor.org/give](http://stpaulsbloor.org/give)



In Person



Through our App



Online



Pre-Authorized Giving

# About Us

## Worship

St. Paul's is a community with room for everyone, and all are welcome. Join us in the new year for our new preaching series, Moses - The Long and Winding Road. You are invited for services every Sunday.

8:15 a.m. - Quiet | 9:30 a.m. - Relaxed | 11 a.m. - Classic

## Children & Youth

Children and youth of all ages know they matter at St. Paul's. We offer children and youth programs during both the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. At each service you will find friends, relevant Bible teaching, fun activities and outstanding leaders.

## Small Groups

Small Groups gather to ask questions, discuss the Bible and pray together. Understanding the Bible is not a prerequisite and you are welcome no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

## Outreach

We offer ways to get involved on a weekly basis, such as our ESL Café, as well as other monthly and special occasion opportunities.

For more information visit [stpaulsbloor.org](http://stpaulsbloor.org)



## Upcoming Programs and Courses



**Alpha** - The Alpha experience involves a meal and conversation where those with no understanding of the Christian faith can ask questions about life, faith and God.

*Wednesdays over dinner at 6:30 p.m. from January 18 to March 29*



**Pilgrim: The Commandments** – The Pilgrim course explores life as a Christian. It unpacks the basic message and teaching of the faith, and shows how to pray and live like Jesus.

*Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and 12:15p.m. from January 8 to February 12*



**The Money Course** - This is a great place to learn the skills required to manage money. The course teaches budgeting and a simple, cash-based system. It is free and designed for everyone.

*Tuesdays at 7 p.m. from January 31 to February 14*



**Marriage Course** – A very practical course, giving married couples or those preparing for marriage the tools to build a strong and healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime.

*Wednesdays over dinner at 7 p.m. from February 15 to March 29*



**GriefShare** - If you have lost a loved one, this 6-week series offers support and fellowship through the grieving process. The series is a biblical approach to the deep hurt from the finality of death.

*Mondays at 5:30 p.m. from January 23 to February 27*



**Divorce Care** – If you are suffering from the pain of separation or divorce, this 13 week series is designed to support you through the trials and traumas in the aftermath.

*Tuesdays at 7 p.m. from January 17 to April 11*



**ESL Café** – Learn English through casual conversation at ESL Café. Lessons build friendship and language skills for those learning English at any level.

*Mondays at 7 p.m. starting on January 16*

*To register, or for more information about our courses and programs visit our website at [stpaulsbloor.org/programs-courses](http://stpaulsbloor.org/programs-courses)*

## Regular Weekly Events

### Sundays

Worship Services

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

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

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

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

Prayer Time - 10:20 | *Room 7*

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

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

### Mondays

ESL Cafe - 7 p.m. | *Great Hall*

### Tuesdays

Winchester Group - 10 a.m. | *Library*

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

Christian Meditation - 1 p.m. | *Room 206*

### Wednesdays

Wednesdays With God - 12:15 p.m. | *Room 206*

Youth Group - 7 p.m. | *Youth Room*

### Thursdays

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:20 a.m. | *Music Room*

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

## 2017 Special Events

### January

- 8** Pilgrim: The Commandments  
10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
- 17** DivorceCare (*13 week course*)  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- 18** Alpha | 6:30 p.m.
- 23** GriefShare (*6 week course*)  
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 31** The Money Course (*3 week course*)  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### February

- 15** Marriage Course (*7 week course*)  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- 26** Pilgrim: The Beatitudes  
10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
- 28** Pancake Supper | 6 p.m.

### March

- 1** Ash Wednesday Services  
8 a.m., 12:10 p.m. & 7 p.m.

### April

- 9** Palm Sunday Services  
8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
- 13** Maundy Thursday Service | 7 p.m.
- 14** Good Friday  
Service | 11 a.m.  
Children & Youth Program | 11 a.m.
- 16** Easter Sunday Services  
8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

