

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!



**Afghanistan refugee women need your help**

p 3-4



Ready, set, Bake Sale!

p2



Christmas Potluck Dinner

p5



The Star Review

p6



## 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



## Christmas Bake and Knitted Goods Sale

The annual Christmas Bake and Knitted Goods Sale will take place after each service on **Sunday, December 17** in the Great Hall. You can help by purchasing but also by donating items.

Christmas specialties are truly appreciated, though all baked goods are gratefully accepted, as well as preserves, breads, muffins and other homemade goodies. Please avoid bringing anything that requires refrigeration.

If possible, please wrap and label all goods so they are ready for sale. For instance, labels saying "A dozen chocolate-chip cookies" or "Carrot cake (contains nuts)" means volunteers don't have to guess.

#### Drop off times and locations:

**Friday, Dec. 15:** The office from 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 16:** Great Hall from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 17:** Great Hall before any of the services.

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.

## Advent Ask - Women's Empowerment Project

Around the world, the forced migration of people continues to create millions of displaced peoples. The UN estimates over 22 million refugees around the world, with 28,300 fleeing their homes every day due to conflict and persecution. More than 55% come from three countries: South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria.

In 2016, Canada welcomed Syrians who fled the long-standing civil war that continues today. St. Paul's joined the effort by sponsoring a Syrian refugee family's resettlement to Toronto. A core team provided the emotional and social support, while the congregation raised the funds needed for their first year of life here.

This year, we invite you to help Afghan Refugees who are in Teheran, Iran. Focussing on mothers and young women, Operation Mercy is offering literacy, language and skills classes to improve the lives of those displaced.

Our Advent Ask will support Operation Mercy's work. **Our goal to raise \$27,500** can change thousands of families.



\$2,500 will provide a year of computer classes for 530 people.



\$5,000 will provide a year of literacy classes for 450 people.



\$10,000 will provide a year of English Classes for 1600 people.



\$15,000 will provide a year of tailoring classes for 150 people.



By learning English, women can then read labels on products and protect themselves from unscrupulous vendors when purchasing supplies for their micro businesses.

By attending literacy classes, men not only learn to read but they also talk about social issues. They discuss ways of resolving conflict without resorting to violence and how changing world views on women's role in society can lead to new ways of treating their wives.

*(continued on page 4)*

By taking sewing skills classes, women learn tailoring skills that enable them to produce their own clothes and make an income. Tailoring is an occupation that is portable and respectable. Along the way, strategies for child rearing and budgeting are covered too.

By taking computer classes, refugees learn communication and technological skills needed to participate in the global economy.

We learned of this project through our St. Paul's Missionaries, Anders and Susan Carlen, who are serving with Operation Mobilization. As the service arm of Operation Mobilization, Operation Mercy courses provide knowledge, empowerment, self-confidence and transformation; a hope and future; to people displaced from their homeland, in the name of Jesus.



Here's how you can help:

- \$45 = 3 people receive a year of English Classes
- \$105 = 1 person receives a year of tailoring classes
- \$125 = 100 English Classes Offered
- \$180 = 100 Computer Classes offered

This Advent, give the gift of a better, more positive, and stable future to Afghan Refugees. Support Operation Mercy's educational and empowerment classes in Teheran.



**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. Pick up your Calendar at St. Paul's Central or download at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask)



**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:** Volunteer your time at the Christmas Day Lunch to serve a hot meal to those who would otherwise be on their own. Sign up at [stpaulsbloor.org/christmaslunch](http://stpaulsbloor.org/christmaslunch)

## The Pageant is Next Sunday!

Share in the joy of Christmas at our annual Christmas Pageant and Family Supper. Everyone is welcome to join the fun!

The Pageant will take place on **Sunday, December 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** The cost for the dinner is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

To sign up for the dinner, RSVP to Janet Earle at ext. 241 or [children@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:children@stpaulsbloor.org)

## St. Paul's Organ Recitals

On **Sunday, 10th December at 3:00 p.m.** we welcome one of Canada's finest Organists to play at St. Paul's! Michael Bloss will thrill us with a program of both familiar and less familiar masterpieces.

Admission is free.

Pick up a card at St. Paul's Central for more dates. For more information contact Thomas Bell, Music Director, at ext. 233 or [music@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:music@stpaulsbloor.org)

## St. George the Martyr invites you to a Christmas Potluck Dinner!

St. George the Martyr (SGtM) became a mission of St. Paul's Bloor Street this past summer. Located at 197 John Street, this church ministers to a local community at the south end of Grange Park between the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) and the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD).

As the Christmas season approaches, SGtM invites the St. Paul's Community to their annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on **Saturday, December 9th at 5:30 p.m.** There will be festive caroling, entertainment and lots of good food. If you would like to be part of this annual event, please RSVP to Sonya Dykstra at [sonya@sinkingship.ca](mailto:sonya@sinkingship.ca). Everyone is welcome!



# THE STAR

## Movie Review

By Sophie, age 11

The Star is an exciting animated adventure featuring the Christmas story from the animal's point of view. It takes one of the world's greatest stories and adds a humorous twist. It profiles Bo (a donkey), Dave (a dove), Ruth (a lamb), Mary, Joseph and many others. The Star is a great family Christmas movie. It adds other plot elements (such as a "big scary bad guy") to the Christmas story, but mostly stays true to the original.



My mother's favourite part was the music. My brother's favourite part was the comedy. My favourite part was seeing the story in a way I never had before. The Star is definitely a good reason to go to the movie theatre this advent! I would recommend it for ages 3+.



## Thank You to the Winchester Group!

In November, the Winchester Group donated handmade hats, mittens, and sweaters to the Moorelands Community Services Baby Bundles Program. Their donations will benefit infants and mothers in need this winter.



## This week we are praying for...

### World and National Issues

- Divided nations and peoples. May God give them wisdom and the abilities to repair the brokenness in their communities.
- Those in leadership, regardless of their position, to be faithful in service and exercise wisdom and justice for all people.
- The poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world. May their cries be a call to action for those of us who have so much.
- All people who are oppressed, held prisoners for the courage of their consciences.

### The Global Church

- Followers of Jesus Christ to walk in humility, always persevering towards unity.
- Christians to be prepared for persecution, remembering to love, not curse, the persecutor.
- Our prayers to be infused with biblical vision, honesty, and humility.
- The Primate, head of the Anglican Church in Canada, Archbishop Fred J. Hiltz, and all those in leadership in the Anglican Church of Canada.

### In Our Own Church

We pray for the following members of our St. Paul's community: Scott, Mary, Francoise, Peter, Judith, Olympia, Rebecca, Barry, Lydia and Dave. We pray for your love, grace and mercy to sustain them.

### **Christmas Tribute Flowers**

Remembering a loved one with a Christmas tribute flower is a wonderful way to share in decorating the church for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, complete the information on the tribute flower envelope in the pew or at St. Paul's Central. Place it on the offering plate, or in the office mailbox.

Tributes begin at \$20 per entry. Envelopes must be submitted no later than **Sunday, December 17.**

### **The Flowers Today**

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

At the High Table:  
Iris and Rhue Bertha Williams,  
given by Eltha Williams & Family.

In the Chapels:  
Robert A. Gillespie, given by the  
Gillespie family.

# What's Happening This Week

## Sunday, December 3

Pilgrim: The Creeds - 12:15 p.m. | *Room 106*

## Monday, December 4

GriefShare - 5:30 p.m. | *Library*

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

## Tuesday, December 5

Winchester Group - 10:00 a.m. | *Library*

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

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

DivorceCare - 7 p.m. | *Library*

## Wednesday, December 6

Little Sunbeams Parents & Tots - 9:30 a.m. | *Nursery*

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

## Thursday, December 7

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. | *Music Room*

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

## Friday, December 8

Music for Health - 10 a.m. | *Gym*

## Sunday, December 10

Organ Recital - 3 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

Christmas Pageant - 4:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

# 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*

*\$8 per person*

# Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

**Luke 1:26-38**

**Topic: The Birth of  
Jesus Foretold**

## 2018 Offering Envelopes

2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up today in the Great Hall. 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).

