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## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### St. Paul's Bloor Street

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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

# *Invite a Friend to Celebrate Christmas at St. Paul's With You!*

## Today

4:30 p.m. | Christmas Pageant and Family Supper

## 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



## The Pageant is Today!

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 **tonight** from  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Cody Hall.

By Barry Parker, Rector (Senior Pastor)

Shortly after I arrived at St. Paul's many years ago, we were short two pastors and the ministry workload was overwhelming. A friend, recently retired whom I greatly respected, offered to come to Toronto to help where he could. The Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson arrived and none too soon. Tom was of invaluable help, blessing us with his wisdom, caring presence and great preaching. What I remember most though was our daily ritual. Every morning Tom would quietly come into my office and stand in front of my desk. In his affected thick east coast accent he would ask: "How may I serve today my son?" Every day for months, Tom intoned this offer and then followed through—serving not only me, but this congregation with a love for Jesus and for His people. He did anything and everything to serve the greater good. That is imprinted on my soul to this day.

We have just come through another Toronto Star Christmas Carol Concert. We have very full Sundays with over 800 people a week, mid-week events, massive Christmas services and outreach endeavours. With all that is happening at St. Paul's in the coming days, weeks and months we have a need for everyone to stand together and echo Tom by simply saying—"**How might I serve today?**"

I thank God for the hundreds of folks who faithfully and willingly serve in such a variety of capacities here at St. Paul's Bloor Street. So many of you are willing to help in small and large ways. As we relentlessly move through the great seasons of Advent and Christmas—I thank you for your past service and your willingness to serve into the future. It is a great adventure we are on at St. Paul's as we seek to follow Jesus together. Thank you for serving on that journey!

A blessed Advent and Christmastide to everyone.

*"For even  
the Son of  
Man did  
not come to  
be served,  
but to serve,  
and to give  
his life as a  
ransom for  
many."*

*Mark 10:45*



## Advent Ask: Time

Over the past two weeks we have focused on Gifts and Money. The third aspect of our Advent Ask is **Time**. As in previous years, we have asked for volunteers to give of their time by serving at our annual Christmas Day Lunch. This year we had an overwhelming response and have already filled all the available positions. If you were hoping to serve, we are asking you to consider a commitment to serve at St. Paul's in one of the many other roles we have available.

This commitment could be as simple as serving once at a Cornerstone Dinner, or it could mean signing up to serve once a month as a Greeter. You do not need to be an expert or have previous experience. Here are a few of the many serving opportunities available:

### **Cornerstone Dinner**

Volunteer to serve at the next Cornerstone Dinner on **Saturday, January 28**. Volunteers are needed to help with serving and clean-up from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Greeters**

Every Sunday our Greeters work behind the scenes to make the service run smoothly. They greet people, hand out bulletins, usher, collect the offering and assist at communion. This is an easy way to get involved at St. Paul's and contribute to the worship service.

### **Communion Administrants**

Communion Administrants assist by serving the wine during Communion.

### **Children's Ministry**

Children's Ministry Volunteers help once a month telling Bible stories, serving snacks and having fun getting to know our children. You don't have to be a Bible scholar or a trained teacher – simply a willing volunteer.

### **Youth Ministry**

Youth Ministry offers fun and easy ways to serve, either on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. Spend time in the gym! Get to know our young people and youth leaders as we seek to strengthen our community of disciples.

Service is an expression of worship. It is part of how we follow Jesus in a multitude of ways. We ask you take a moment to pray about how you can get involved in our ministries and outreach programs throughout the coming year.

To find out how you might serve, complete a **Connection Card** and check the "Ways to Serve" box. A member of the Ministry Team will contact you.

# 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:** Create a Reverse Advent Calendar that 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. Calendars can be picked up at St. Paul's Central or downloaded at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask).

**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. 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

## Worship at St. Paul's



On Sunday, December 4, we held a town hall for the Bridge Community, one year after moving our 9:30 a.m. Sunday gathering from the Great Hall to the Sanctuary. We are grateful for the wonderful input, questions and comments. During the Town Hall it was acknowledged that everyone, not only the Bridge community, has been affected by the move. One of the positive contributions noted was that the Bridge and 11 a.m. communities are now mingling more and getting to know each other.

One of the themes of the Town Hall was a feeling of loss of intimacy and relational connection in the bigger space of the Sanctuary. We know the challenge of building relationships in that glorious space. In response we are challenging everyone to take the following four steps:

- 1)** Help fill the space by inviting someone to our Christmas services. Ask a family member, work colleague or friend to join us this Christmas. We have numerous services to attend and the invitation cards are at St. Paul's Central, our information hub, located in the Atrium.
- 2)** As you enter on a Sunday, please don't sit in the aisles. If someone is coming in a few minutes late it is difficult to get into the empty middle of the pews. Make room for fellow worshippers by moving to the centre of the pew as soon as you arrive.
- 3)** Try sitting closer to the front. There is lots of room there. This will also enhance that sense of connectedness.
- 4)** Make a concerted effort to intentionally look for those you do not recognize, welcome them and introduce yourself.

This Advent and Christmas, we have an amazing opportunity to build community in a world that is starving for genuine human connectivity. All of us can be a part of this counter-cultural act of hospitality.

### WiFi



To connect to our free WiFi, look for the network called "Sitting\_with\_Jesus" and enter password: "StPaulsAlpha".

To donate and to download bulletins visit [stpaulsblood.org](http://stpaulsblood.org). Link to our app at [stpaulsblood.org/bulletins](http://stpaulsblood.org/bulletins).



## Service of Light

With candlelight, music, a message of hope, Holy Communion, and the option of individual and confidential prayer, this Christmas service invites us to pause and reflect as we centre in on the beautiful gift of God given to us in Jesus.

The Service of Light will be held on **Wednesday, December 21 at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Come for a time of worshipful rest and reflection.

For more information contact Mark Regis, Associate Priest, at ext. 230 or [mregis@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:mregis@stpaulsbloor.org).



## Christmas Memorial Flowers Due Next Week!

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 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. Memorials begin at \$20 per entry. Donations must be submitted no later than **Sunday, December 18.**



2017 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up today on the tables outside Cody Hall. To request envelopes, contact Patricia Budimir, Financial Assistant, at ext. 242 or [pbudimir@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:pbudimir@stpaulsbloor.org).

# What's Happening This Week

## Sunday, December 11 - Advent III

Pilgrim: The Lord's Prayer - 10:45 a.m. | *Office Meeting Room*  
Pilgrim: The Lord's Prayer - 12:15 p.m. | *Room 106*  
Christmas Pageant - 4:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

## Monday, December 12

ESL Cafe - 7 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

## Tuesday, December 13

Winchester Group - 10 a.m. | *Library*  
Holy Communion - 12:10 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*  
Christian Meditation - 1 p.m. | *Room 206*

## Wednesday, December 14

Dealing with Depression - 7 p.m. | *Library*  
Youth Group - 7 p.m. | *Youth Room*  
Youth Parents - 7 p.m. | *Dalton Room*

## Thursday, December 15

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

## Sunday, December 18 - Advent IV

Service of Lessons & Carols - 9:30 & 11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

## Listen Again Online

All Sunday sermons are posted online. Visit [stpaulsbloor.org/sermons](http://stpaulsbloor.org/sermons) or download our app.

## Help Us Reach Our Advent Ask Goal

We are raising money to provide Bikes for Girls in Gurgaon, India.

**Raised:** \$6,135

**Goal:** \$30,000

See the December 4 issue of the What's Happening for more details.



## 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



Beef Stew - \$5

## Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

Isaiah 9:1-7

Topic: King of Peace