

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## Merry Christmas!



Rector's Message

p3



Advent Ask

p5



Upcoming Courses

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



## 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! Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.

### About Us

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 at work, at home and as they interact with their friends and family.

### What time are your worship services?

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.

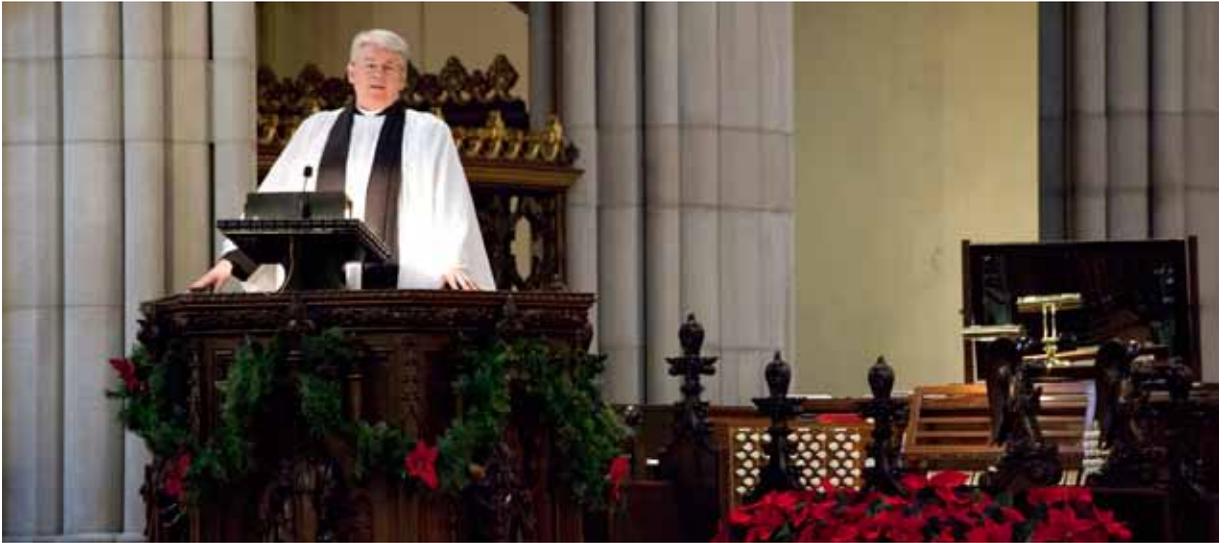
### What kind of church is St. Paul's?

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).

### How can I get involved or stay connected?

Fill out a Connection Card to let us know who you are and what you are interested in.

## Rector's Christmas Message



Dear Friends;

Two thousand years ago, economic hardship for the vast majority, political unrest, and violence were seamlessly woven into the fabric of life.

Today, economic turmoil, political turbulence and violence—far away and all too close to home—appear to be woven into the fabric of our lives as well.

For over 175 years, St. Paul's Bloor Street has testified there is more in life than economy, politics and violence. At Christmas, we gather to worship: to listen, to sing and to embrace the singular message of hope embodied and incarnated in an infant born into a fractured world. This message of hope is more than a political slogan or spiritual cheerleading. This baby is born to restore a broken relationship between creation and Creator, reconciling all of the fractured pieces of life.

All the Christmas events and services at St. Paul's point to the pivotal birth of Jesus as the hopeful lynchpin of human history. This divinely inspired rescue plan does not involve wealth, might or power. Rather, the birth of Jesus in fact involves us. We are part of God's plan to participate in God's redemptive action of love and wholeness to a broken world.

*(continued on page 4)*



A well-known Christmas Bible reading tells us:

*The Word—Jesus—became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.* (John 1:14, The Message)

God moving into the neighbourhood — that is what is transpiring here. God has moved into our neighbourhood in the person of Jesus. He calls and beckons us to serve, to give and to bless others—especially the marginalized, vulnerable and weakest in our neighbourhood.

May the living God bless you and yours this Christmastide, as you in your turn, bless others.

(The Rev. Canon Dr.) Barry Parker

## Christmas Dinner: Thank You for 50 Years



Back in 1967, the 20 and 30's club of St. Paul's decided to organize a special Christmas meal. In those days, the young men and women who came from England, Scotland, Ireland and the Caribbean often outnumbered the Canadian-born members of the group. They planned a Christmas potluck for the group and anyone they knew who might not have another place to go. In those early years

the group shopped for all the food they served. Other shoppers in the supermarket took notice as their carts were piled high with turkey and the trimmings, often asking the purpose and joining the meal. When Christmas came, there were carols, music and games after dinner.

For fifty years, a meal has marked the birthday of our Saviour. Over time, the clientele of the meal has changed. With a larger number coming since its inception, the church now buys the food and Chef Raymond at DoubleTree Hotel cooks it for us. While a few founding members of the club continue to serve, most have now retired. In addition, a number of other organizations now offer Christmas Day meals. This year marks the 50th and final Christmas Day Lunch. THANK YOU to all who have served and participated over the years. May God's blessing travel with you on this special day.

# 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. We partnered with local outreach ministries and provide much needed necessities, as well as prayers and acts of kindness, each day during Advent. Gifts for the food bank are welcome throughout the year.



**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)

## Upcoming Programs and Courses



**Alpha** - The Alpha experience involves a meal and conversation where those with little or no understanding of the Christian faith can ask questions about life, faith and God.  
*Wednesdays at 12 noon or 6:30 p.m. starting January 17.*



**Pilgrim: The Eucharist** – 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 12:15p.m. starting January 14.*



**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 30 to February 13.*



**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 January 31 to March 14.*



**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 15.*



**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 16 to April 10.*

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



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.

### Youth Group and Children's Ministry Returns in the New Year



There will be no Sunday Youth Group or Children's Ministry on December 24 and December 31. Children and youth are encouraged to join their families for the special Christmas services. Regular Sunday Youth Group and Children's Ministry will resume on January 7, 2018.

Wednesday night youth gatherings are also finished for the year and will resume on January 10, 2018.

### New Year's Eve Services



Join us on **Sunday, December 31, 2017** for one of our 3 services at 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.

### Upcoming Outreach

We offer ways to get involved on a weekly basis, as well as special occasion opportunities.

**January 27: Cornerstone Meal**  
**February 24: Coldest Night Walk**

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

### Ways to Give

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



In Person



Through our App



Online



Pre-Authorized Giving

## 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 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*

### 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 - 9:30 a.m. | *Music Room*

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

## 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*



Follow us @stpaulsbloor  
for news, photos  
and updates.



**"May the Lord bless you  
and keep you; the Lord  
make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you; the  
Lord turn his face toward  
you and give you peace."**

Numbers 6:24-26