



November 27, 2016

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## Reverse Advent Calendar p 3-4 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Advent Week 1</b>  <i>Pray for those whose home is outside, that they may find shelter and hope.</i>            (Partner: Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>Nov. 28</b>            Pair of Socks</p>	<p><b>29</b>            Adult Mittens or Gloves</p>	<p><b>30</b>            Warm Hat</p>	<p><b>1</b>            Tim Horton's Card - \$5</p>	<p><b>2</b>            Scarf</p>	<p><b>3</b>            Adult Underwear or More Socks!</p>
<p><b>Advent Week 2</b>  <i>Pray for those who are hungry, that they may be able to celebrate the feast of Christmas.</i>            (Partner: Daily Bread Food Bank)</p>	<p><b>Dec. 5</b>            Canned Tuna</p>	<p><b>6</b>            Peanut Butter</p>	<p><b>7</b>            Pasta</p>	<p><b>8</b>            Chicken Noodle Soup</p>	<p><b>9</b>            Granola Bars</p>	<p><b>10</b>            Canned Fruit or Vegetables</p>
<p><b>Advent Week 3</b>  <i>Pray for those who are lonely and suffering, that they would find community.</i>            (Partner: Youth Unlimited &amp; Toronto City Mission)</p>	<p><b>Dec. 12</b>            Toothbrush &amp; Toothpaste</p>	<p><b>13</b>            Coloured Marker Set</p>	<p><b>14</b>            Travel Size Shampoo &amp; Soap</p>	<p><b>15</b>            Eraser &amp; Pencil Sharpener</p>	<p><b>16</b>            Lip Balm &amp; Dental Floss</p>	<p><b>17</b>            Construction Paper</p>
<p><b>Advent Week 4</b>  <b>Please return your bag starting today!</b></p>	<p><b>Dec. 19</b>            Give out hugs &amp; smiles today</p>	<p><b>20</b>            Write a thank you note</p>	<p><b>21</b>            Bring your neighbours cookies</p>	<p><b>22</b>            Pray for each person you meet today</p>	<p><b>23</b>            Give thanks for the gift of Jesus!</p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>Merry Christmas!</b></p>

## What's Inside!



Christmas Bake Sale

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New Sermon Series

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Lessons & Carols

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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)

## Today at St. Paul's...

### 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.

**Today 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.

### Christmas Bake Sale Today

The annual Christmas Bake Sale will take place after each service today in the Great Hall.

### Toronto Star Christmas Concert Did You Request Tickets?

You can pick up your pre-ordered tickets for the Toronto Star Christmas Concert today at St. Paul's Central, or at the office during the week. Tickets must be picked up by Thursday, December 1.



## Reverse Advent Calendar

We are trying something new and different this year as part of our annual Advent Ask. It is called the Reverse Advent Calendar. Instead of receiving gifts from an Advent calendar, you can give a gift each day to someone in need.

“One of the goals of the Reverse Advent Calendar is to encourage giving and generosity” said Janet Earle, Children’s Minister. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, we are encouraged to think about others. One way we show love for others is by thinking about other people’s needs rather than our own.

The calendar was designed to be something people can contribute to on their own, or together with family and friends. It is a way for children and adults alike to give back to the community.

The first three weeks focus on donations of food, clothing and school supplies. The items on the list were chosen with a broad range of recipients in mind and are meant to benefit people of all ages.

The fourth week suggests different acts of kindness we can do for our friends and neighbours. This is to emphasize that there are ways to show love other than shopping and buying things for people. We need to remember to show love through acts of service and caring.

When planning the calendar, it was important to do something beneficial for our local community. Our vision as a church is: “By the power and grace of Jesus Christ, we seek to be a transformative community for the city.” There are many people right here in Toronto who are in need of food and clothing, especially as winter approaches.

With this in mind, we are partnering with three Toronto organizations. The first is Sanctuary, which aims to be a “healthy, welcoming community in which people who are poor and excluded are particularly valued. This community is an expression of the good news embodied in Jesus Christ.” Sanctuary will receive the items of clothing given during the first week of Advent.



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The second local organization is the Daily Bread Food Bank, a charity that is fighting hunger in our community. Daily Bread provides food and support to almost 200 food programs across Toronto and is the largest provider of food relief in the GTA. All non-perishable food items we collect will be donated to Daily Bread.

Our third partner is Toronto City Mission (TCM), whose mission statement is: "Through God's transformational power, we build loving relationships to bring hope to children and families impacted by poverty." Items listed on the third week of the calendar will be given to TCM.

### **How to Participate:**

If you would like to get in on the action, pick up a calendar and red gift bag from St. Paul's Central, or use any bag and download the calendar online at [stpaulsbloor.org/adventask](http://stpaulsbloor.org/adventask). The calendar starts today, the first day of Advent, and ends on December 24, the last day of Advent. Over the first three weeks (November 27 to December 17) 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.

There are many different items on the list. The ones on the calendar are suggestions only. Feel free to substitute or only give a few of the items. We would be happy to receive whatever you can give.

Our youth group will be participating by sorting through the gift bags and getting them ready for delivery. We will distribute all contributions to our local partner outreach organizations in early 2017.



### **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**.

# *The King Is Coming*



By Barry Parker, Rector (Senior Pastor)

The great season of Advent begins today. This is a four week period where the Church prepares for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Our theme this year is "The King is Coming!" Yet, you might ask—So what? What does it matter? What does a King have to do with me?

For centuries the Christian Church has been very intentional about this season of preparation—Advent. 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 King of Kings brings to our world will be a balm for your soul, a blessing in your life.

Our themes each week will speak deeply into the hearts of all of us as we consider the King of Nations. The King of Justice. The King of Peace. The King of Healing. Finally, on Christmas Eve and Day—the King of Hope!

Take time to join us in this Advent season and over Christmas. Your life will thank you!

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

**Sunday, December 11**

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 Coming!**

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 11**

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

**[children@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:children@stpaulsbloor.org)**

or ext. 241.



## Lessons and Carols: December 18

Whether you love the music during the Christmas season, or quicken your pace as you hear yet another version of Feliz Navidad while navigating the overcrowded shopping malls, it is impossible to ignore the music at this time of year.

Christmas is all about celebration, and what better way to celebrate the news of *God With Us* than with music. Perhaps it is not surprising the angels were singing and worshipping God immediately after the birth of Jesus, "Glory be to God on high."



We will be telling the Christmas story with music and readings on **December 18**. Both the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. service will use services based upon the traditional service of 'Lessons and Carols'. This was started at Truro Cathedral, England, late in the nineteenth century and has captured the imagination of every generation since then. It weaves the most important message - that God is with

us - through a compelling sequence of readings and music that captivates the hearer. Both the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services include familiar carols, allowing everyone to lend their voice to our celebration of Christ's birth. Lessons and Carols is the perfect opportunity to invite friends or family to St. Paul's. We look forward to seeing you.

### Listen Again Online

All Sunday sermons are posted online at the beginning of the week.

Visit [stpaulsbloor.org/sermons](http://stpaulsbloor.org/sermons) or download our app.

# What's Happening This Week

## Sunday, November 27 - Advent I

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*

## Monday, November 28

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

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

## Tuesday, November 29

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

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

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

Divorce Care - 7 p.m. | *Library*

## Wednesday, November 30

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

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

## Thursday, December 1

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, December 4 - Advent II

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

## Shoeboxes

The shoeboxes have been collected and taken to the distribution centre.

Thank you for your contributions!



## 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



Chicken Pot Pie - \$5

## Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

Isaiah 2:1-5

Topic: King of Nations