

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Her own set of wheels

Schools can be 4 to 5 km away from the community of Gurgaon, India. Girls are vulnerable on the long walk to school. Without transportation, many choose to drop out altogether.



Bikes for Girls

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Give girls a safe ride to school with the gift of a bike.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

St. Paul's Bloor Street

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Phone: 416-961-8116

Email: 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

 @stpaulsbloor

 stpaulsbloor

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



Advent Ask: Bikes for Girls

You may have noticed we have a new sign in the Atrium. For the second part of our Advent Ask this year we are raising money to buy bikes for girls in Gurgaon, India, through World Vision. Gurgaon is a city in the state of Haryana and is located 32 km southwest of New Delhi, the capital of India. It has a population of over 875,000 people.

One of the challenges for girls in Gurgaon is getting to school. The significant distance from their homes to their high schools means they need a reliable, safe mode of transportation. Many girls have a 4 to 5 km commute to school every morning, which is much faster on a bike.

The bikes also provide safety for the girls. They bike to school in groups and become part of the traffic flow of the thoroughfare, which is safer than the alternative of walking. They get home quicker, which means they spend less time on the roads where they are susceptible to dangers such as violence or kidnapping. This in turn gives parents a greater sense of calm and peace about allowing their daughters to attend school.



The cost to provide one girl with a bike is **\$150**. This might sound high, however there are several factors involved in the cost. First, World Vision conducted an assessment in Gurgaon and made lists of girls who would be most helped and supported through receiving a bicycle.

Second, the cost includes staff time to locally source the bikes for the best deal and best quality. Also included is the time it takes for the staff to deliver the bike to each girl. Because Gurgaon is a large, sprawling urban area, it takes time and a driver to deliver the bikes to each girl.

Third, because it is unlikely that any of these girls will have owned a bike or ridden one before, World Vision provides training. They teach the girls how to ride a bike safely, as well as basic maintenance in the event something goes wrong, such as a flat tire. World Vision wants to do more than just deliver a bike to each girl; they want to make sure each girl is going to get the best and longest use of her new bike.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to purchase 200 bikes. You can track our progress on the sign in the Atrium or on our website. If you would like to donate, mark your envelope with "Advent Ask" or donate online at stpaulsbloor.org/adventask.

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Who Is the Girl on the Sign?



**Give girls a safe ride to school
with the gift of a bike.**

15-year-old Christina Sangma (pictured above) is a sponsored child who received a bicycle from World Vision:

“Education is important. It makes us wise and knowledgeable. School is my source of getting educated. But school is very far from [my] house. It used to take me one hour, one way, to get to school. And after reaching school I was very exhausted from the walking and was unable to concentrate much due to the fatigue. Now I am grateful for my bicycle. It gets me to school quickly and all my energy is invested in studying.”

Distance from high school is one of the reasons why children, especially girls, drop out. In the community of Gurgaon, India, girls are waiting to receive bicycles which give them access to school far from their homes.

“Children are equipped with provisions like a bicycle, remedial coaching classes, along with admission fees so that they are motivated to pursue higher education and finish school,” says Adani, a Community Development Coordinator of World Vision India.

“Sponsorship has changed my life and has directed me to the right path, a path leading to progress,” says Christina.



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.

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.

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.

Read more or donate online at stpaulsbloor.org/adventask.

Ways to Give

For more information visit stpaulsbloor.org/give



In Person



Through our App



Online



Pre-Authorized Giving



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 or ext. 241.

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.**





Christmas Bake Sale

Thank you to all those who contributed their special treats to this year's Christmas Bake Sale. It was rewarding to hear the care and support in the explanations and stories of those who took the time to make and donate their wonderful handiwork.

It was equally delightful to see the looks of pleasure of those who bought the goods, and know that the level of sharing would extend to their friends and family, as they shared their purchases during this festive season.

We raised over \$1,600 to support the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which will be used to help some of the most needy people in our community.

We all share in the pleasure of knowing these acts of personal commitment and sharing will extend to the good works the Ministry Team does throughout the year to support the underprivileged in our community.



Community News



The Community News delivers 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.

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, December 4 - Advent II

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

Monday, December 5

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

Tuesday, December 6

Winchester Group - 10 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, December 7

Wednesdays With God - 12:15 p.m. | *Room 206*
Youth Group - 7 p.m. | *Youth Room*

Thursday, December 8

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:20 a.m. | *Music Room*
Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*

Sunday, December 11 - Advent III

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

Help Us Reach Our Advent Ask Goal

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

Raised: \$2270

Goal: \$30,000



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



Lasagna - \$5

Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Topic: King of Justice