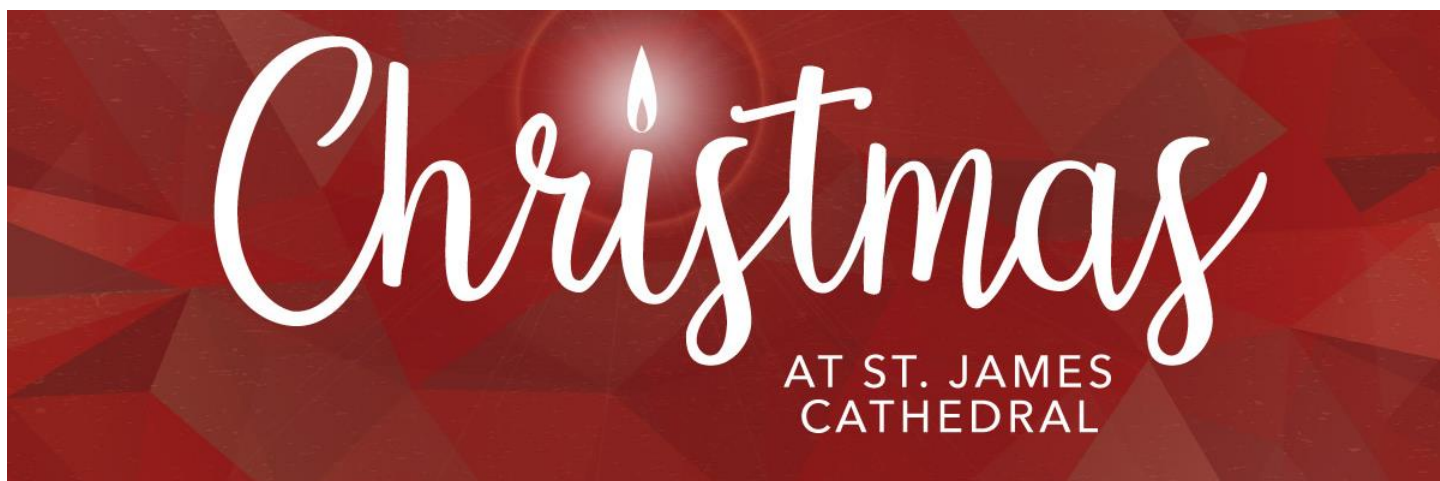


ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL-CONNECTIONS

Monday, December 25, 2023

CHRISTMAS DAY



It is no accident, it seems to me, that the early Church, discovering, as it did, over a couple of centuries, how to 'keep' the Feast of the Incarnation ('Christmas', to most of us...) settled eventually on the dark time of the year, all the better to celebrate the Light of Christ, which comes into the world to lighten each one of us. Darkness in December is something with which we have a lot of experience – we have just marked the winter solstice in which we here in the northern hemisphere have had our 'shortest' day. There equally seems no shortage of darkness around us – horrific acts of war and violence which assault us every day, long entrenched hostilities, and mistrust that we observe from a distance (sometimes not much of a distance...) and simply cannot begin to comprehend. There is more than enough darkness even here in our community over inequity, injustice, and a lack of opportunity which leaves us wondering just what to do.

How comforting and uplifting, therefore, to be surrounded and infused by the gift of light at Christmas – to stand in awe at a manger, long ago, and witness a miraculous birth, in circumstances simply beyond our comprehension. And as we witness, so we proclaim.

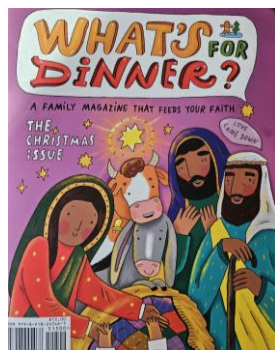
We proclaim peace, understanding, new birth, hope, peace, and love. We stand in awe and risk being deeply moved by this child who came, yes, to change the world, but, even more importantly, to change us – you and me – to be the carriers of that precious light and the bringers of that wondrous peace.

May that gift surround, enliven, and support us in these dark but brilliantly lit days!
A joyous and hope filled Christmas to you all.

The Very Reverend Peter Wall
Interim Dean & Priest in Charge

WE COUNT ON YOU

Christmas resources available for families



Help children know the true reason for the season with some colourful, engaging, interactive resources. These Christmas books for children and families will help tell the Christmas story:

Christmas Ornament Book (\$2); What's for Dinner Family Magazine (\$10) and Christmas Family Time (\$5).

For more information:

Karyne Whalen our Minister of Children, Youth, and Families at kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca

St. James Cathedral Photo Directory

Please send your **current photo** with your name **by this Sunday, December 31** to wardens@stjamescathedral.ca. Sending your photograph means you consent to it appearing on appropriate Cathedral platforms. Thank you!

Christmas Food Drive: St. Bart's Food Bank needs our help

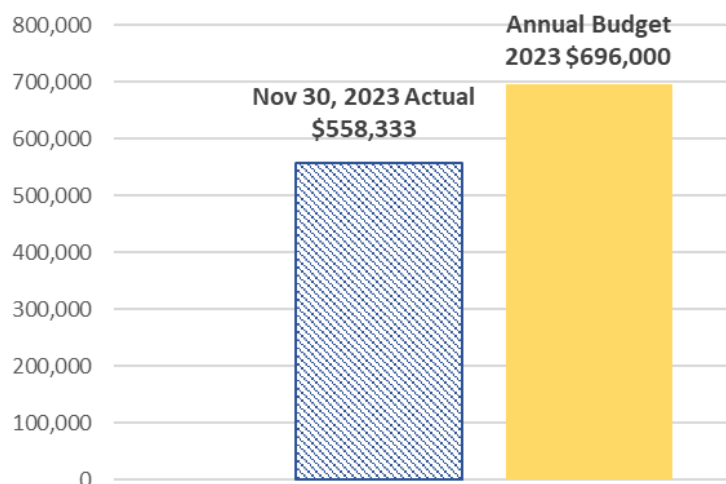


Please donate non-perishable food items in the **red bin** located in the **Cathedral** (King Street entrance) **by Sunday, December 31**.

At St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church: Donations may be made to designated "Food Bank," either by cheque or by e-transfer to stbartstoronto@outlook.com. **Contact St. Bart's:** 416-368-9180 509 Dundas St E, Toronto - <https://stbartstoronto.ca/>

This is the giving season

Stewardship Offering



We thank you for your generous support throughout the year.

As of November 30, our stewardship contribution is 20% behind budget. We will need an additional donation of \$137,667 to make our budget this year. Your donation helps ensure the continuation of our vibrant ministries.

If you would like to make a year-end donation, please do so by December 31 to receive a tax receipt for 2023.

LOOKING AHEAD – 2024

Monday, January 1, 2024: New Year's Day & Bishop's Levee:



12:15pm: Said Eucharist

3:00pm: Festive Music*

3:30pm: Choral Evensong with the presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto*

*Services will also be live-streamed on the Diocesan YouTube channel at youtube.com/anglicandioto

Sunday, January 7: Dean Peter's Farewell gift and celebration



On **January 7, 2024** we will say goodbye to the Very Reverend Peter Wall, our Interim Dean and Priest-in-Charge. On behalf of our St. James community, we are sincerely grateful to Dean Peter for his ministry. **If you would like to contribute** to Dean Peter's farewell gift, you can make your gift at the Sunday offering - *specifying it is for the Dean's farewell gift*-, online through Tribute & Memorial Offerings *indicating it is for the Dean's farewell gift* - or drop it off at 65 Church St. Please **join us after the 11:00am service on January 7, 2024** to celebrate Dean Peter and his ministry at St. James Cathedral. Thank you, Dean Peter!

Sunday, January 14: Installation of the New Dean of Toronto and Rector of St. James Cathedral



On **January 14, 2024**, we will welcome The Very Rev'd Dr. Stephen Hance. He will be installed as Dean of Toronto and Rector of St. James Cathedral on Sunday, January 14, 2024, and begin this ministry on January 15, 2024. Dean Stephen will become the 14th Rector of the Cathedral Church of St. James and the 9th Dean of Toronto. Please welcome him and Jacqui with warmth and joy as we all begin a new ministry together in this place.

Please **join us after the 4:30pm service on Sunday, January 14.**

Sunday, March 10: Vestry 2024



Our 2024 Vestry Meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 10, 2024, in Snell Hall after the 11:00am service**, chaired by our new Dean the Very Rev'd Dr. Stephen Hance. A light lunch will be offered.

Look for more information about open positions and the nomination process early in the new year.

Information about the deadline for reports and where to send them will also be sent out in early 2024. The Wardens

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

Online Morning Prayer at 8:30am
will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024
via the Cathedral YouTube channel

Holy Eucharist at 12:15pm
from Wednesday, December 27
to Saturday, December 30
In the Cathedral - St. George's Chapel.

***The Cathedral Offices will be closed** from Monday, December 25 to Monday, January 1.

***The Cathedral** will be closed on Tuesday, December 26.

***From Wednesday, December 27 to Saturday, December 30:**

The Cathedral will be open from **10:00am – 3:00pm** with a 12:15pm Holy Eucharist on these days.

***FRIDAY:** The **Drop-In** will be celebrating **New Year's Day on Dec. 29 at 1:30pm.**

***SUNDAY:**

***Children & Families:** Our Sunday Children's Program meets at both the 9:00am and 11:00am services.

***Coffee Hour:** Following 9:00am & 11:00am services in Snell Hall.

***TUESDAY:** Our Organ Recitals will be back on Tuesday, January 9 at 1:00pm.

***WEDNESDAY:** Our Scripture Circle will be back on Wednesday, January 10 at 11:00am.

Ways to Give Make a special end-of-year gift!

We are all so blessed in God's economy and have the joyous opportunity of sharing our blessings with others. Please make a special end-of-year gift in four different ways:

***E-Transfer:** to gifts@stjamescathedral.ca If you require a tax receipt, please provide name and address in the message. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$20 or more after year-end. If you have questions, please contact gifts@stjamescathedral.ca

***Online:** <http://stjamescathedral.ca/donate>

***In-person:** If you would like to drop off an offering to the secure mailbox which is mounted in the Church Street vestibule at the entrance of the doors at 65 Church Street. **Please make donations by December 31 to receive a tax receipt for 2023.**

***By mail:** to St. James Cathedral, 65 Church Street, Toronto, ON M5C 2E9. **(Cheques must be post-dated no later than December 31, 2023)**

The First Sunday of Christmas – Sunday, December 31

8:00am: Said Eucharist

9:00am: Sung Eucharist

11:00am: Choral Eucharist *(also live-streamed on the Diocesan YouTube channel at [youtube.com/tordio135](https://www.youtube.com/tordio135)).*

(There is no Choral Evensong on Sunday, December 31).

Readings for December 31:

The First Sunday of Christmas

Is 61:10-62:3

Ps 148

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:22-40

St. James Cathedral: Facebook: [stjamesto](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesto) / **Instagram:** [stjamesto](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesto) / **YouTube:** [stjamescathedraltoronto](https://www.youtube.com/stjamescathedraltoronto)

For any inquiries: (416)364-7865 / info@stjamescathedral.ca / www.stjamescathedral.ca