

Christmas Services



Christmas Eve (December 24th)

4:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist

7:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist ❖

10:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist ❖

(Please note time change from past years)

Christmas Day (December 25th)

10:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer ❖

The Feast of Stephen (December 26th)

8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist ❖

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

St. John the Evangelist (December 27th)

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

5:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist

Holy Innocent's (December 28th)

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

The Second Sunday After Christmas (January 2nd)

8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Carols and Lessons ❖

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

❖ **Proof of vaccination will be required to attend these Services.**

(Unvaccinated children 12 & under are welcome with vaccinated guardian- masks required)



St. George's Church is a downtown spiritual center where traditional Anglican liturgy, parishioners and the needs of our community are valued.



St. George's Anglican Church

The Most Reverend David Edwards- Bishop

The Reverend Canon Chris VanBuskirk - Rector

51 Church Street Moncton NB E1C 4Z3 855-5209

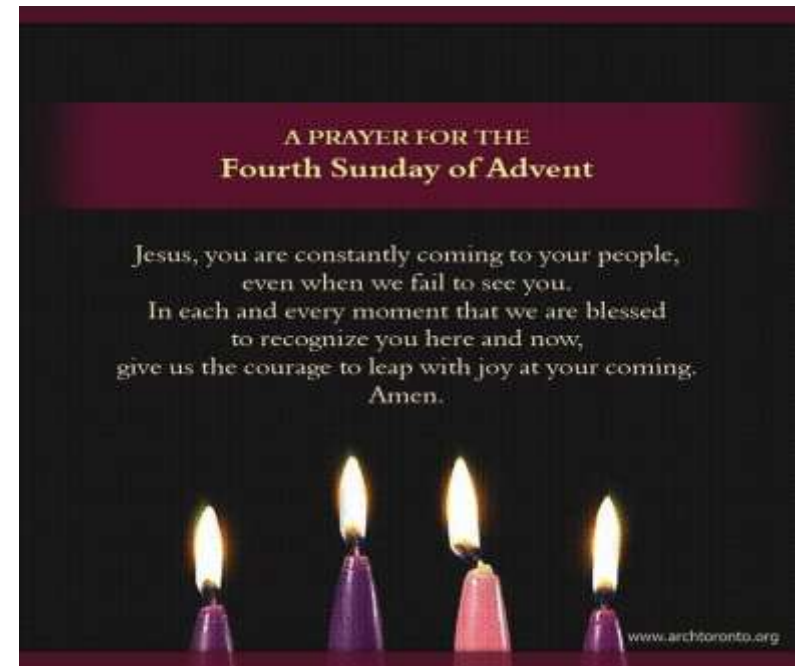
Email – office@stgeorgesmoncton.ca

Website: www.stgeorgesmoncton.ca

Jesus Christ the same, Yesterday, Today and Forever

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021



Parish Prayer Chain: To pass a message on to the Parish Prayer Chain, from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. please the Office. After Office Hours, please contact Cathie @ 855-7969 or cdingwell@gmail.com

Wardens:	Sheila Searle	856-9419
	Kelly VanBuskirk	
Honorary Assistant	Rev. Dr. Dan Goodwin	
Deacon	Rev. Norm Dupuis	386-1324

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021

The Gloria in Excelsis is not used during the Season of Advent

8:00 A.M. - HOLY EUCHARIST

Introit Psalm: 19. 1-6	p. 67
The Collects	p. 351
The Epistle	p. 102, p. 95
Gradual Psalm: 145. 18-22	p.102
The Holy Gospel	p. 517
	p. 103

9:15 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER

Psalm: 33	p. 367
First Lesson: Isaiah 30. 8-21	(Pew Bible page 584)
Second Lesson: Revelation 14. 13 – 15.4	(Pew Bible page 1001)

10:00 A.M. – HOLY EUCHARIST

Introit Psalm: 19:1-6	p. 351
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The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Collect: *O Lord, we beseech Thee, incline Thine ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of thy visitation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The Litany	p. 30
The Summary of the Law	p. 68
The Collects	p. 102, p. 95
The Epistle	p. 102
Gradual Psalm: 145.18-22	p. 517
The Holy Gospel	p. 103
Homily	
Confession, Absolution	p. 77
Thanksgiving and Consecration	p. 82
Music during Communion;	
The Lord's Prayer and Blessing	p. 85

5:00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER

Psalm: 25	p. 358
First Lesson: Isaiah 40. 1-11	(Pew Bible p. 591)
Second Lesson : Luke 1. 26-45	(Pew Bible p. 821)

The Sanctuary Lamp burns today to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Ed Beaver, Archdeacon Alexander

“Let us remember before God the faithful departed.”

Ruth Arnberg, Betty LaKing, Carl Manderville

This Week in the Parish

The Daily Offices of **Morning and Evening Prayer** will be prayed at **8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.**. Please note the Christmas week Services on the back of the bulletin- other events are:

Today	Greening of the Church	3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Holy Communion (Camden)	10:00 a.m.
	Holy Communion (St. Thomas the Apostle)	5:00 p.m.
Thursday	Holy Communion	10:00 a.m.

Please note that the Church Office will be closed from December 24th until January 4th, however, phone messages will be checked daily.

This afternoon, the ‘greening’ of the Church will begin at 3:00pm. **Evening Prayer will follow at 5:00pm**; and following that, we will go **Christmas Carolling** in the neighbourhood, following the public health protocols. Please bring a snack if you require something to ‘tide you over’!

Service timings for **December 24th through January 4th are posted on the web-site**. Please note that a ‘Procession of Light’, will **follow the 4pm Service on Christmas Eve**, going from St. George’s to the **Nativity Set at City Hall**. We walk with candles and sing Christmas carols. Everyone is welcome but no one is obliged!

God willing, **Nicholas Saulnier**, will be our **Preacher next Sunday, December 26th** for the Feast of Stephen.

The Order for Compline will be prayed by candlelight throughout the **Sundays of Advent at 8:00pm**. Join by live-stream or come in person. Compline will also be prayed on **Wednesdays at 8:00 PM** on ZOOM. Please contact the Office to receive the link.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
St. John 3. 16

The Rector's Corner

Bethlehem

Beth – lehem means 'House of Bread'. "Beth" means "house" and "lehem" means "bread". Not surprisingly, it was God's choice as the location for the birth of His Son, "the Bread of Life". As the crow flies (according to Google), Bethlehem is 8, 219 km from Moncton. But anyone can go to Bethlehem because it is more than a geographical location.

We say in the Nicene Creed that we believe in "all things visible and invisible". In other words, we believe there is more than the material side of life – like the true Bethlehem. By faith we are transported from our limited perspective to the eternal possibilities of God; from earth to Heaven; from Moncton to Bethlehem; from the finite to the infinite. As St. Paul put it, from "corruption to incorruption"; from "dishonour to glory", from "weakness to power"; from "the natural to the spiritual"; from "mortality to immortality" 1 Corinthians 15. 42-44).

Over the last two weeks I have appreciated and enjoyed seeing the Nativity scenes in your homes. They are a testimony to all who enter your house of your belief in the true Bethlehem and in Christ, the Bread of Life. Audrey Lotherington and I spent a few minutes studying the one in her area at the Spencer Home. It is constructed from alder branches, cut as miniature logs. The main front roof 'beam' is a long branch with an upward curve in the middle – like a gothic arch – above the Manger. Attached to the right side of the stable there is an empty stall, and on the left, a small shed. A dim light at the back illuminates the Baby and the blessed Virgin.

Gilles, who has been sleeping under one of the overpasses on Wheeler Blvd, commented on our Nativity scene in the Church Hall. He said, "They were outside too, like me."

At the Manger or the Cross, we see the humility of the Son of God – humility unto victory, not defeat. Although physically He was a tiny Babe, He was at the same time King of the whole universe. What struck me from Gilles words were that Christ did not insist that He was entitled to more. He came to serve, not to be served. With sacrificial love, He denied Himself. There was no room for Him in the inn.

Likewise at the Cross, He could have called on the armies of heaven (Matthew 26.53) in order to avoid suffering; but the kingdom of God is not of this world.

Bethlehem is a place accessible to every humble heart, but it can still be difficult to find, for the rich and for the poor – even for the homeless. It is a lowly place, not a place of power. It is the House of Bread, not a platform on which to assert my rights. To go there, I must be prepared to lay down my wants, and empty myself. I cannot feed upon His Bread if I am full of the world's stuff.

Every celebration of the Holy Eucharist is an invitation to go to the House of Bread. And, there cannot be a true Christmas without going to Bethlehem. Jesus said, "Come unto Me, "all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you".

Daily Bible Readings

A modified schedule from the Prayer Book's Table of Lessons

Sunday	Isaiah 43:14-44:5	Mark 11:1-26
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-23	Mark 11:27-12:12
Tuesday	Isaiah 44:24-45:13	Mark 12:13-34
Wednesday	Isaiah 45:14-end	Mark 12:35-13:13
Thursday	Isaiah 46	Mark 13:14-end
Friday	Isaiah 47	Matthew 1:18-25
Saturday	Isaiah 42:18-43:13	Acts 6

A big '**THANK YOU**' to everyone who has assisted with the **Christmas Outreach** program: to those who contributed financially; to those who delivered gifts to shut-ins; to the Willing Workers for all their work purchasing, organizing and addressing the gifts, and for their financial assistance; and to all who have upheld this outreach in prayer – your kindness, generosity and time is truly appreciated. May all of our efforts be to the glory and praise of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN!**

2022 Offering Envelopes are in the Main Entry. If you would like envelopes or find out more about **PAR** (pre-authorized remittance) please contact the Office.

2022 **Calendars** are available in the Entry for \$8.00.

December 2021 Vestry Meeting Briefs

- The Finance Committee reported that revenue from January 1 to November 30, 2021, was \$201,290 with expenses totalling \$224,844. Vestry is thankful to all parishioners who have continued with their weekly donations. Vestry is hopeful that Christmas donations will help lower the current deficit.
- Since the front-page article in the Times Transcript concerning our Outreach Program, financial (breakfast program etc.) and other donations have been forthcoming daily. Suddenly, our tri-community is aware of our efforts to help our community friends.
- Our Beaver, Cub, and scout groups, albeit small in numbers have persevered through COVID protocols and have remained active. Vestry extended a heartfelt thank you to our group leaders.
- The outdoor lighting of the church has been improved with repairs to fixtures and LED bulbs.
- The church roof lost shingles in the windstorm, and they have been replaced with no water damage reported.
- The major portion of the meeting was devoted to the 2022 budget. Many issues were discussed including the deficit, the use of investment funds, the Memorial Fund, Church insurance, Capital Projects, and the need for a balanced budget. The budget, to be presented to the AGM, will be finalised at the January meeting.
- The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Monday January 10, 2022 at 7pm.

Canadian Blood Services is in immediate need of blood donors, and are looking for help filling appointments around the holidays and in January. **The Moncton Blood Donation Center is open Mon & Thursday 3- 8, Tuesday & Wednesday 10-3 and Fri 9-2. Special Holiday hours on Friday December 24th, and 31st. Please visit blood.ca for more information and to book an appointment.**

The Service of Christmas Carols and Lessons will be held on **January 2nd** **Readers are needed** and may sign for their Lesson in the main entry, please. Thank you!

The **Feast of our Lord's Epiphany** will be kept on **Thursday, January 6th** with a celebration of the **Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.** Please note, that in keeping with the Wise-Men's gift of frankincense, incense will be used.

St. George's Outbound: if you are interested in going **cross-country skiing** with a small group of 'St. George's Outbounders' (when a little more snow arrives) please leave your name and contact info at the Church Office.

We are **six months into the daily breakfast outreach program** (which includes showers, clothing, etc.) and are getting a better understanding of the number of **volunteers required each day**, with the necessary 'jobs':
-3 people to pack the breakfast bags; then, 2 to hand them out and in to pour coffee
-1-2 people to sort and re-hang clothing, and to do laundry;
-1-2 people to make muffins using the muffin mix we have at the Church
-1 person to answer the telephone and the door bell during the Christmas Season. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Esther at the Church Office.

The Prayer Book Society has overhauled its website. You can see it at '**prayerbook.ca**'. The Society is also developing a Facebook page which can be found at '**facebook.com/pbscanada**'. You may also like the **Common Prayer Canada mobile app** which automatically generates the full Services for every day of the year, including the Psalms, Bible lessons, and Collects. It is simplified and streamlined for a user-friendly experience. Just press "Pray"!

Christmas Cards - the major fund-raiser for the **Karing Kitchen** - are available in the office. These cards allow donors to share their blessings with the less fortunate in our downtown community. Each dollar donated represents a full single meal serving at the Kitchen. Christmas donations may be made in the names of family or friends and income tax receipts will be issued, upon request, for donations of \$10 or more.