

Our courtyard is all lit up!



Photo by Helen Norman

2

Message for Advent

Patricia Bays helps us to begin the Season of Advent with a thoughtful theological reflection.

6

Feast of Saint Nicholas

On December 3, our parish celebrated the Feast of Saint Nicholas and had a special guest -- Bishop of Myra who later became the original Saint Nicholas.



5

Westboro Region Food Bank

Advent Calendar of Giving has our community stocking up for the needy.

4

Worship Schedule

Keep this list handy to know when our special worship services will take place.



All Saints' Tree of Faith

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11: 1-3)

The Jesse Tree is a way of telling the story of God's plan from the beginning of time to redeem His people by sending a Saviour. It follows the lineage of Christ's family and key people in the Old Testament that God uses to tell His story from Creation through Christ's birth. It is a countdown daily to Christmas with the telling of a story, and an ornament that acts as a symbol and visual reminder of the story.

Our church school children will be decorating and collecting smaller versions of the ornament to create a Jesse Tree at home. We hope to provide story-reading of each ornament's Bible story for our children to check out as they decorate and celebrate along with us.

The Jesse Tree in Steacy Hall are full of ornaments already and there is still lots of room to add your faith stories to create our shared narrative as a faith community. You can receive a small paper plate from the Parish Office to put to it your symbols that represent your faith story or a photo of your family. We hope that by Christmas Eve, we will have a tree filled blossoms!

Source: <https://jessetreeproject.com/what-is-the-jesse-tree/>

Message for Advent



Each year, in following the lectionary, we read from a different gospel. During the past year we have been reading from the gospel of Matthew. Starting on December 3, we began to read from the gospel of Mark. Although it comes second in the New Testament, Mark was the earliest gospel to be written. Matthew and Luke in fact draw heavily on Mark for their own gospels. About 90% of Mark's gospel is also in Matthew. Mark wrote his gospel for both Jews and Gentiles, probably a community in northern Galilee or Syria; often he takes time to explain some Jewish customs to gentile Christians. It is thought that the gospel was written around the time of the Jewish revolt against Rome, around 70 C.E. (Paul's epistles are the earliest books of the New

Youth make an impact with fundraiser



Usually, youth dinners are filled with borden ball, chatting over a homecooked meal by our lovely Julie Newlands. This year, there was a great enthusiastic leader, Aaron Leach, who has inspired the youth to plan for a fundraiser to support our community projects.

So they put their heads together and came up with supporting the Youth Services Bureau with an apple crisp sales. With \$400, the funds will be put towards supporting a youth shelter room at one of their two shelters. The Youth Services Bureau has families

and businesses who sponsor rooms each year, as well as community and faith groups and individuals who collaborate on sponsoring a room.

We are so proud of this initiative from our younger saints!

(Message for Advent, continue from page 2)



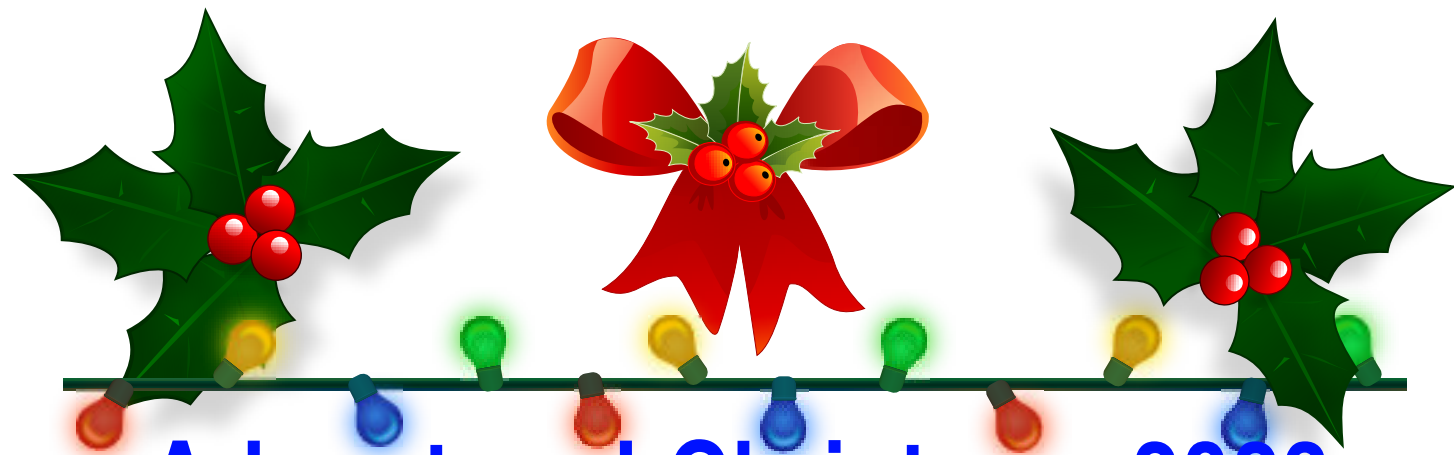
Testament, written some 20 years earlier, around 50 C.E.)

Mark is the shortest of the gospels. It might be useful to read it through at one sitting (about 2 hours) to get a sense of the sweep of the story. More than half of the gospel is the story of the last week of Jesus' life.

The gospel does not begin with the birth narratives but tells the story of Jesus' ministry beginning with his baptism by John and the call of the disciples. In the Christmas season, then, we will read the birth stories from Matthew and Luke. In Mark's gospel, the story is told with urgency. Mark frequently uses the

phrase, "and immediately" or "at once." The time is short to get Jesus' message across. This gospel does not have long passages of teaching, or many parables, but recounts events in Jesus' life especially his final journey to Jerusalem. Mark does not show Jesus as proclaiming his identity as Messiah openly. Frequently Mark reports that Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone about miracles they had seen. Mark does not have any stories of the risen Christ, but ends abruptly with the empty tomb.

By Patricia Bays



Advent and Christmas 2023 at All Saints' Westboro

December 17th - Advent 3 (Third Sunday of Advent) - JOY

- 8:00 am Said Eucharis
- 9:30 am Sung Eucharist
- 4:30 pm Lessons and Carols

December 20th

- 10:30 am Mid-week Eucharist

December 24th - Advent 4 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) - LOVE

- 9:30 am Sung Eucharist (Advent 4)
- 4:00 pm Family Service
- 10:00 pm Sung Eucharist with Candles and Carols

December 25th - Christmas Day (Monday)

- 10:00 am Sung Eucharist

December 27th (Wednesday)

- 10:30 am Mid-week Eucharist of the Holy Innocents

December 31st - Christmas 1 (First Sunday after Christmas)

- 8:00 am Said Eucharist
- 9:30 am Sung Eucharist

Westboro Region Food Bank Advent Calendar of Giving

Please bring donation as soon as possible to Parish office
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

December

- 03 Tin of tuna
- 04 Honey
- 05 Tooth Brushes
- 06. Dried fruit
- 07. Canned fruit
- 08. Chocolate Chip cookies
- 09. Nutella
- 10. Tin of Salmon
- 11. Jam
- 12. Box of Chocolates
- 13. Cereal
- 14. Tooth paste
- 15. Oatmeal
- 16. Shampoo
- 17. Shortbread cookies
- 18. Body Soap
- 19. Chocolate bars
- 20. Tomato Sauce
- 21. Deodorant
- 22. Applesauce
- 23. Nuts
- 24. Peanut butter



***Celebrate the Spirit of Saint Nicholas and
fill the shoes of another with goodness and abundance!***

Give as you are able. We are grateful for all of your gifts.



Belong Ottawa

An Anglican
Community Ministry



Tree of Giving: collecting warm clothing for Diocesan community ministries

For the weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas Eve, we will be collecting warm socks, undergarments (new in package), mittens/gloves, scarves, and hats for people who need to stay warm while surviving this winter without permanent shelter. We can collect coats and boots also. New or gently used please. We will have an undecorated tree in Steacy Hall awaiting the draping of these gifts of love that will be brought to Belong Ottawa locations to warm the bodies and hearts of our

neighbours in Ottawa.

A message from Belong Ottawa:

The demand for winter gear has increased as the temperatures drop. Our three Belong Ottawa locations are in need of winter gear to ensure our participants are warm and safe this season. This would include mittens, gloves, warm socks, hats, scarves, coats, and boots. Items can be new or gently used.

Please drop off all donations to Belong Ottawa at The Well, located at 154 Somerset St W, between the hours of 8:00AM and 2:00PM from Monday to Thursday. Please ring the doorbell and one of the staff

members would be happy to assist you.

Please visit our website to learn more about our programs belongottawa.ca or, reach out to me if you would like a copy of our pamphlet to distribute within your parish.

Thank you for your support.

Kimberly Latka
Volunteer Coordinator and
Office Administration
kimberly@belongottawa.ca
613-235 4351 ext. 225

Belong Ottawa
454 King Edward Ave,
Ottawa, ON K1N 7M8
belongottawa.ca



A Visit from Saint Nicholas

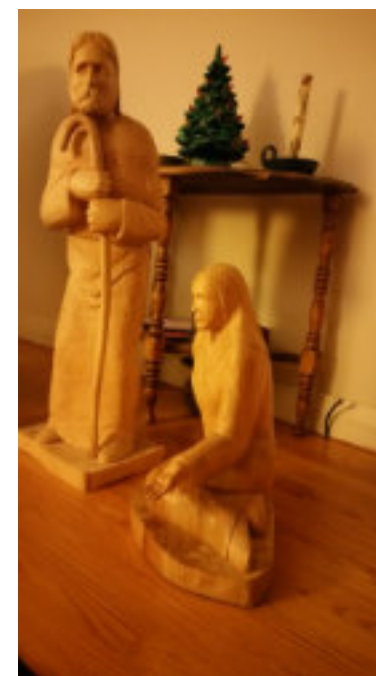
On December 3rd, Dr. Patricia and The Right Reverend Eric Bays brought to life for the parish during Children's Talk the story of Saint Nicholas -- the original one, who was the Bishop of Myra and one who embodied a spirit of giving that is important for the Season of Advent and Christmas.

Bishop Eric (retired) handed the children small sacs of gifts including a candy cane representing the crozier of a bishop,

chocolate coins recalling his generosity to the community, and a prayer card that tells a little of the Feast of Saint Nicholas.

The festivities continued into the refreshment time where freshly baked waffles' aroma filled Steacy Hall and children filled tables to make mitres and ornaments.

Most importantly, the children helped fill other gift sacs for clients of the Westboro Region Food Bank. Let the spirit of generosity continue to shine!



Las Posadas

Will you be an Innkeeper? Las Posadas ("the Inns") will take place throughout Advent.

Started on the first Sunday of Advent on December 3, one family received the Las Posadas figures out of the church to spend the first night at their house. Then each volunteer "Inn" will welcome the holy family into their home, also inviting an occasion of fellowship with the previous family who is bringing the Las Posadas figures.

For the upcoming days, Mary

and Joseph will be needing lodging for one more or two, until they return back to All Saints' on Christmas Eve.

If you wish to host the holy family more than one evening, go for it! The sign up sheets are at the back of the church. Remember to take down the names of the people you are going to meet up. You can also contact the Parish Office in case you need help.

Thank you for taking up the task of radical hospitality to make space for Mary and Joseph.



Branches of Hope



The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa's PWRDF Working Group is giving away several hundred trees to be planted across the diocese in spring 2024. These native trees will be counted as part of the Communion Forest initiative and will add to the health of local communities for generations to come.

The Branches for Hope initiative also involves an opportunity to work with a PWRDF partner to help fund tree planting,

along with other reforestation and sustainability initiatives in Uganda. Donations made through this page will help St. Jude Family Projects plant trees in the region of Masaka, Uganda.

For more information about Branches for hope, or to arrange to receive a free tree to plant in your community, please contact Patrick Stephens at: thereverendpatrickstephens@gmail.com

Donate to Branches of Hope to support local projects like St Jude Family Projects to plant trees in the region of Masaka, Uganda.



**All Saints' Westboro fundraising page:
<https://bit.ly/Branches2023>**