

The Message

The Newsletter of the Parish of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill
10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4C 1T8



Newsletter Reflection by The Rev. Matthew McMillan

read, may you rejoice in all that we are able to do in God's name through our shared efforts. Our opening reflection for The Message is a story about how God is present in all things. It is a challenge and call to us too, to be open to taking time, reflecting and searching for inspiration and hope in our life's journeys. When we persevere, as you see in this story, God will be there with us and will always bless us!

In 1809, Simon Renee Braille and his wife Monique welcomed their fourth child into the world—a lively boy named Louis. They lived in a small stone house near Paris where Braille was the local harness maker. Leather working tools are dangerous, so the toddler had been instructed not to go into his father's shop alone.

But when Louis was still small, he slipped into the shop, and with curiosity started to handle all the fascinating tools. As Louis was inspecting an awl, the sharp tool used to punch holes in leather, he slipped and punctured a

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AWL FOR THE GOOD

Welcome to the Summer/Fall edition of St. Mary's parish newsletter, 'The Message.' We hope that as you read and enjoy these updates and reflections on the happenings in our busy church, that you will be strengthened in your walk of faith. As you



Summer Service Schedule

Remember from **June 24th** until **September 2nd** our 10:30 a.m. worship service time has changed to **9:30 a.m.**

Our **8:00 a.m.** service will continue at the same time as always.

Mission Statement: We, the people of St. Mary's Anglican Church, called by God and committed to Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to live and make known, in word and action, the good news of God's love in the world. Using our gifts, we worship, proclaim, learn, serve, reach out, welcome others, and develop a caring and sharing community of believers.

part of his eye with the tool. The injured eye became infected. The little boy could not keep his hands from rubbing and scratching the wound, and soon the infection spread to his other eye as well. When Louis was only 4, he became completely blind.

Louis was fortunate enough to study at the Royal Institution for Blind Youth in Paris. He excelled as an organist, and at twelve years old began asking the question "How can the blind read?" Over his summer break at home, Louis was determined to find the answer. As he moved and groped around his father's shop in search of the right tool for his task, the awl presented itself as perfect for the job. The awl would make the raised dots he had seen in the French military system of "night writing."

And with the very instrument that had blinded him, Louis worked and worked until he had created a system of dots whereby the blind could read and write, work math problems, and compose music.

What is your awl?

What is your awl — is there something that has crippled you, either by your own doing like young Louis, or someone else's? Is it a divorce, the death of someone you love, a lost career, or something else? As we enter

into these wonderful and reflective seasons of summer and fall, may we let God lead and guide our journey. When we do so, God will often surprise us, bringing us to and encourage us to enter holy spaces. And in these holy spaces we will uncover new opportunities and many unexpected blessings. Blessings that will help to reshape our lives and offer comfort to others as well. When we persevere and walk with God, His mercies and goodness will flow, and Awl the world will be blessed!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Matthew+



St. Mary's Diaconal Discernment Update

At our parish vestry in February 2018, the parish gave their consent for our church to begin a process of exploration, with regards to expanding the role of Deacons

at St. Mary's. We have presented our plans to Bishop Fenty, who has given us his Episcopal permission to proceed on this journey. This process will involve the parish discerning if our community is open to this type of ministry, as well as reviewing possible candidates, to see whether their gifts are what the community needs in its' current context. Ordained Deacons focus their ministry on leading our church in ways of serving the broader community, while also taking on leadership roles in pastoral care, education, services, and other duties as assigned. These positions, as in the past, are non-stipendiary and would be under the direction of St. Mary's Parish Priest. Our process will continue now with formal meetings and reviews from the Diocesan Community of Deacons and we will work to keep the parish informed as this process unfolds.

The Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee would like to take this opportunity to share with the congregation, information about the Committee's role and to encourage the congregation's communication with the Committee.

Our Role

Our role is to conduct Lay Pastoral Care visits and/or telephone conversations with members of our congregation who are unable to attend St. Mary's due to health and/or mobility issues, or who are suffering a loss.

During our visits we communicate St. Mary's news and offer the Bulletin, The Anglican Newspaper, a Daily Devotion publication, and Prayer Shawls. Committee members offer a kind, attentive ear, Communion, and Prayer when requested. Certain Committee members are also authorized to provide Anointing.

Our Committee members take preparatory training, obtain a Police Vulnerable Sector Check and commit to maintaining strict confidentiality, prior to being approved by the Incumbent for this Ministry. We meet often on the 4th Sunday of the month with Father Matthew to discuss in confidence any concerns regarding the parishioners we visit.

Who We Are

Initiated by The Reverend Mark Kinghan during his incumbency, our Committee is chaired by Father Matthew and currently consists of the following members:

Jan Mills, Honorary Lay Pastoral Assistant
(in her 14th year of dedicated Lay Pastoral Ministry)

Sharon Hanns

Lucille King

Elizabeth Lane

John Martin

Joe McEwen

Jenny Rogers

Ron Smit

Rhelda Stockall

In the event that you feel called to this Pastoral Care Ministry, please speak to Father Matthew.

Communication With Us

The Committee needs to know when any member of the congregation is aware of a parishioner who has been absent for a while, has been hospitalized, has had a health/

mobility issue, has suffered a loss, or is moving to long-term care. This will ensure that the parishioner is contacted and offered a Pastoral Care visit with Communion and Anointing if desired.

It is important that the parishioner is offered support from the St. Mary's family. Accordingly, please advise Jan Mills, Honorary Lay Pastoral Assistant, if you are aware of any parishioner who is experiencing any of the circumstances mentioned above.

Similarly, please also advise Helen Evans, who provides our Parish Card Ministry (which entails sending greeting cards to parishioners from the St. Mary's family). These cards cover a range of circumstances and include "In Sympathy", "Get Well" and "Thinking of You" messages. Helen's Ministry is an important one and offers assurance to absent parishioners that while they are absent, they are not forgotten by the St. Mary's family.

Thank you

The Pastoral Care Committee

Lunch & Hymn Sing
For caregivers and their loved ones

St. Mary's Anglican Church
10030 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, ON | Every Friday from noon to 2:00 PM

- 15,000 individuals in York Region have a dementia diagnosis.
- 70% live in their homes or with family.
- 55% of York Region affiliates with Christianity.
- With dementia, short-term memory diminishes, but religious rituals of well-rehearsed hymns and prayer are not affected by the cognitive decline. Why not nurture something that is already there waiting to be honored.

For more information regarding this FREE event call:
(905)876-8666

Services will be continuing throughout the summer months to be of assistance to caregivers and their loved ones. Please contact **Mona Lancaster** at **905-876-8666** if you would like more information about the Memory Lane Program.

St. Mary's Summer Student—Isha Patel Social Media & Web Content Developer



This past spring, St. Mary's was able to apply for a Canada Summer Job's Grant. This program provides community non-profit agencies, such as our parish church, the opportunity to fully fund a summer position for a returning University or College Student. There are specific programming/work objectives

that grants can fund. St. Mary's applied under the section for Social Media and Communications. Home on the Hill, a local ministry partner of St. Mary's, has also been awarded a similar grant and we have worked to combine our efforts to hire a



shared posting and offer an individual a full summers work. St. Mary's and Home on the Hill would like to announce we have recently hired Isha Patel for this position. St. Mary's efforts have been had focused by a small committee on working to refresh and update our parish website. Isha is a student at Ryerson in the nursing program and will be returning there in the fall for further studies. Please be sure to say hi and introduce yourself, as you see her around the parish this summer.



What's going on at St. Mary's?

Happenings and Opportunities to Serve!

Family Sunday — Service Update



Thank you to the congregation of St. Mary's for so joyfully and generously embracing our efforts to incorporate our Family Service into the Main Service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. This work has gone very well. Soyoung and I thank the congregation for embracing a variety of musical settings and we also thank our music leaders, Jacquelline Chang and Deanna Shorrocks. During the summer

months of July and August ,while Sunday School is out of session, there will be no family services. Our next Family Service will be on September 16th. If any individuals would like to help with our program or are able to connect us with interesting guest speakers for our services, please speak to Fr. Matthew.

Summer Family Programming

Now that summer is here, and many of us have scattered to attend to our different family and personal commitments, we are looking to create a couple of opportunities to gather and continue to enjoy some fellowship as a parish family. Our next Family Fun Night will be a Backyard BBQ on Saturday, July 21st at the Rectory, from 3:00–7:00 p.m. Pam and Fr. Matthew will be hosting this event at their home, at 100 Arnold Crescent. We'll be looking to have a bouncy castle and some colouring



and other activities in the front yard. While at the back, we will be set up for dinner and quieter conversations. Each guest/family will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert, and your own seating! Sign-up sheets will be put up in the narthex on the Canada Day Weekend, or you can call the office. Family and friends are welcome as well!

Our Family Ministry leadership team is also working on some plans for an August movie night. We are currently looking at hosting a movie night in the church one weekend in August. Please stay tuned to the WebNews or the parish bulletin as these plans come together. Both our events will be no cost, just come and enjoy yourselves!



Soup's On Program Update—running all summer!!!

Home on the Hill's "SOUP'S ON" lunch program will continue all summer. Join us Friday's at noon for a free soup lunch as you're able. A big thanks to Linda and the Home on the Hill team for all their hard work in the kitchen and their yummy soup lunches!

Summer / Fall

A/V Ministry Update

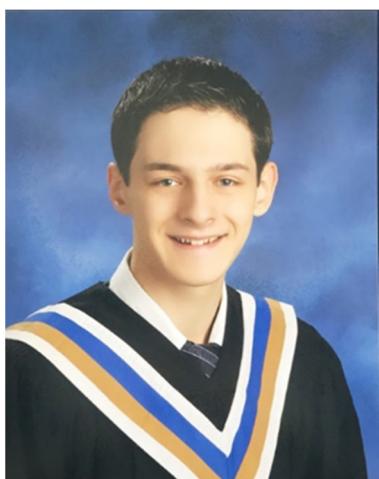
And Call for New Volunteers !!!

St. Mary's has quickly adapted to our new A/V resources in the main church, which were installed approximately one year ago this summer. Many thanks to our team of volunteers who helped to bring this resource to our



**WANT TO JOIN
THE A/V TEAM?**

parish. The Corporation and Parish Board would like to thank one person in particular for their special efforts to help St. Mary's adapt to this new addition, Riley Gervais. We want to say a big thank you to the son of Pam and Fr. Matthew for his technical expertise in running our A/V program each week. Riley will be heading to Brock University in the Fall for a Co-op Math program. We wish him well with his studies and will miss his skilled hand guiding us each week. Because of this impending absence, we will be looking to develop a team and schedule for our A/V operators each week. If you or someone you know is interested, please call the office and we will be happy to get in touch and welcome new individuals into this ministry team.





Parish Board and the Wardens wants to ensure that all the parish is aware that we have moved our 10:30 am 'Main Service' to 9:30 am during the summer months. This occurs every summer, as we do not have air conditioning in the church. This move allows us to gather in a cooler and more comfortable space for worship. Our last service at 10:30 am will be the Family Service and Parish Picnic on June 17th. From June 24th until September 2nd, we will be worshipping at 9:30 am. Our service time transitions back to 10:30 am on September 9th, when our Choir and Sunday School Classes start up again for the fall. We would encourage individuals to join us as you are able. If you arrive a little after the beginning or just in time for communion, we'll always be glad to see you!

Fr. Matthew will be away for summer holidays during the month of August. While he is away, The Rt. Rev. George Elliott and The Rev. Don Downer will be taking services. Bishop George will be leading Sunday worship on August 5th & September 2nd, while Rev. Don will be here on August 12th, 19th and 26th. During August emergency pastoral care will be looked after by Jan Mills. For any emergency pastoral care needs, please call either the office (905) 884-2227 or Jan (905) 883-3518, to be connected into our emergency pastoral resources as you need them. We pray that Fr. Matthew will enjoy a well-deserved break away with his family this summer.



Choral Scholars

we will need broad and generous financial support to make it a success. We are working to create a fund, of between \$10 – \$15,000 to help us offer scholarships to local high school students in Vocal Music Programs. Our goal is to be able to offer a \$1,250/yr scholarship to students who join the choir from September until June. Our aspiration would be to have five choral scholars to help fill out the vocal sections of our choir and expand our number of choristers. We are asking any patrons who may be interested in sponsoring this program to speak to either of us, as we would be happy to share our vision and hopes for this program. Thank you everyone for your continued support of our musical program and your singing each week too. We are in this together and to God be the Glory!! Blessings,

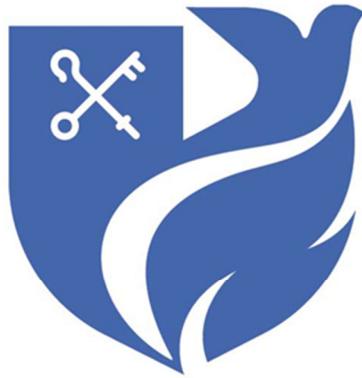
*Soyoung Shin, Director of Music & Organist
The Rev. Matthew McMillan, Parish Priest*

Summer Music Program Update

Soyoung Shin, our Director of Music and Organist will be on vacation from **July 29th to August 19th**. Sam Tam will be back to play for services during that time.

Choir practices will resume Thursday, September 6th





Diocese of Toronto

Anglican Church of Canada

The Very Reverend Andrew Asbil, rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto, was elected to replace our retiring Diocesan Bishop, The Most Reverend Colin Johnson, who will retire December 31st, 2018. Bishop-elect Asbil will become the 12th Bishop of Toronto. As the Bishop of Toronto, Bishop-elect Asbil will be the chief pastor of our diocese, which is the most populous in the Canadian church with 54,000 Anglicans on its rolls and 230 congregations and ministries in 183 parishes. Bishop-elect Asbil is a graduate of Huron College in London, Ontario and served as a parish priest in the Diocese of Niagara before becoming the incumbent of the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street, in Toronto in 2001. In 2016 he became the rector of St. James Cathedral and the dean of Toronto. His father, The Right Reverend Walter Asbil, was the Bishop of Niagara in the 1990s. "My father and I have always shared the same kind of visions for ministry, and to find myself now in the same office is a deep joy—beyond words," he said following his election. Let us keep our new Bishop-elect in our prayers this summer, as he prepares to transition into the role of being our Diocesan Bishop.

Property Update

As you read this the Wrixon Hall eavestrough will soon be finished after a long delay caused by cold weather. The old galvanized trough has been replaced with a copper trough. Much of the underlining wooden support structure has been replaced and new aluminium cladding has been installed to cover it all. A custom leaf guard has been installed to keep the trough clean. This will save money in the long run as it is costly to have them cleaned each year. The outside wall of Wrixon Hall was repaired last year so all that's left to do is repair and paint the damaged inside wall.

The repair of the flat roof over the Arnold cemetery plot area has also been started. This was delayed till the threat of snow ended. You still have a chance to donate to the Slope the Roof fund to help pay for this necessary work.



In March the eavestrough on the south side of the church came away from the fascia and had to be propped up till we could get it repaired. The fascia boards were rotten from water damage so all the boards were replaced. To prevent future damage the soffit and fascia were covered in aluminium cladding and the eaves trough replaced. The east and north eaves are in the same condition and will have to dealt with soon.

Hind sight is a wonderful thing, however, when it comes to building maintenance it is imperative that we be proactive in our maintenance rather than reactive. In the end, being proactive is usually less costly. While this report seems negative, to be good stewards of our buildings, which are being fully used by groups from the greater community, we are doing God's Work.

Colin Webb Property Chair



WHAT IS FAMILY MINISTRY?

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Family Ministry at St. Mary's

As many will be aware, St. Mary's is continuing to make Family Ministry a key hallmark of our parish identity. Some of you may be wondering, what does 'Family Ministry' mean? To the leadership of St. Mary's, focusing on Family Ministry means that we deliberately focus our energy, resources, and worship on programming that offers something to all ages. Our Family Focus means that any individual who shows up will find something for them within these events. Our aim, as your parish leadership, is to make our parish church a centre of excellence for families looking for a community of faith. A place where the adults will be fed, and the children want to be. We have worked hard over the past year to adapt, expand, and refine our Family Sundays; we have enhanced youth and young people's activities at parish functions such as the Harvest Feast and African/Caribbean Dinner. We have worked to include older teens in our A/V ministry and regularized our Friday Family Fun Nights during the school year. As our Family Ministry expands over time, we'll be hoping to also work on our social media and online platforms, to engage and expand our reach here at St. Mary's. The Parish Board is thankful for the parish's support of these programming priorities. For those who are interested in helping with this programming, please feel free to connect with the office.





Grant Application—Family Ministry Staffing Plan

When St. Mary's finished fundraising for the Diocesan *Our Faith Our Hope* campaign, many in our parish generously offered to continue their contributions and help to raise funds for Family Ministry programming at St. Mary's. The hope and aim was to set aside a pool of funds that would enable us in the near future to apply for Diocesan Grants, to multiply the effect of these funds into a longer tenured and possibly full-time position. St. Mary's has been informed by the Diocese that a pool of funds set aside for new staff grants is entering the final application phase this fall. St. Mary's has drawn together a team of 6 volunteers to draft a formal application for the grant review meetings this fall. Our parish priest Fr. Matthew has already had working meetings with Bishop Fenty about this priority for St. Mary's, and the bishop has given his blessing and support to pursue this endeavour. He has instructed us to review and further refine a formal application over the summer, which will be formally filed in September. Our proposal will be for a 5-year, full-time position. Our proposed grant submission is looking to have the parish cover roughly 1/3rd of the position and the Diocesan grant covering the rest. St. Mary's has presently set aside about \$23,000 towards this endeavour. Over the 3–5 possible years of this grant, additional funds beyond this will need to be raised to cover the full cost of this position. Thank you to all who have contributed and worked to bring this ambition forward to this point. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we enter into the final stages of this hopeful journey.

Thanks, St. Mary's Parish Board

Our first Friday Family Fun Night for the fall is scheduled for Friday, September 14th. As usual we'll be looking to meet from 6:00–9:00 p.m. for a relaxing supper with board games and activities for younger children. Our program operates on a cost recovery model, so a dollar or two for a slice of pizza, with drinks offered as well. We ask that any interested in attending call the office to register or use the sign-up sheet in church. Sign-up will begin Labour Day weekend, and we ask that people do so to help us with our food ordering. For more info, please call the office or speak to Lauren Wirtzfeld or Fr. Matthew.

A TRUE Inspiration

When I was in hospital for 9 days in late January, I received a blessing from God that was beyond many that I've had before, and I have had many... mainly, a wonderful family.



One sees many stories on TV that last 2 to 10 minutes about an individual who inspires many. My story started the first afternoon when I met my roommate, Gord. He is only 4 years older but has had a horrendous medical history over the past 5 years and more. He has had prostate cancer, his knees are so full of arthritis that he has to be helped into a wheelchair to get around, he had a mistaken diagnosis that led him to require a colostomy and he can only eat by liquid food pumped into tubes in his abdomen; and the list goes on and on. He was my roommate while he was getting 5 weeks radiation for jaw cancer.

We hit it off from day one (instant lifelong friends) and when he told me some of his friends called him the "Jolly Lama," I became the "Little Lama." We joked and poked good fun at each other for the remaining 8 days. It made my stay MUCH more pleasant. One moment I will never forget—when he yelled out in excitement because he had received a text from his daughter to say both of her children had made the 2018 Olympic Downhill Ski Team, a great reason for both of us to be JOLLY! As time went by I became more and more inspired by Gord as he was so positive and did not moan and groan about his many medical issues; a true blessing from God to inspire me !

I still keep in touch with Gord almost daily by email or phone (he is back at Trillium LT Care). He was recently diagnosed with untreatable lung cancer. I will try to visit my very own inspiration soon. Please—keep your eyes and senses open for your own inspirational person.

Trevor Kimpton

Happy 140th Birthday to the 'Bell of St. Mary's'!

A word from St. Mary's Archives

Imagine our surprise and delight to learn, somewhat by accident, that the first week of April is traditionally Archives Awareness Week in Ontario. This programme was initiated by the Ontario Heritage Trust and allows all archival institutions to plan an event and share it through their website. The event is growing across the Province, allowing for some very creative events and posts through the Trust.

In honour of that event, we visited the Sunday School in order to talk about our historic Chapel bell which is celebrating its 140th birthday this year. We covered such topics as why churches have bells, how would the bell have been used in the early days of Richmond Hill, and who was Christopher Duncumb anyway and why would he give St. Mary's a bell. At the end of the 10:30 a.m. worship, the children had an opportunity to ring the Chapel bell. We were pleased to welcome the children of St. Seraphim's Russian Orthodox Church as well for a real session of unbridled bell-ringing. I am sure our neighbours thoroughly enjoyed our 10-minute presentation—the children certainly did!

Many of you will already know that the Chapel bell was donated to St. Mary's in 1878 by Christopher Duncumb, senior and junior, nephew and brother respectively of Dr. Duncumb who offered space in his Hall across the street for our first worship services in The Hill. The presentation of this memorial is recorded in the February 28, 1878 issue of The Herald:

English Church Social

"The Social entertainment announced by the Ladies of the Church of England in Richmond Hill came off on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., and considering the extremely inclement state of the weather, was eminently successful. An abundance of good things was provided, to which all, both young and old, seemed to do ample justice; while the happy aspect of the assemblage gave evidence that all were bent on a period of enjoyment. The interest of the evening, however, clearly centred on the new Bell which stood in its frame on the platform, and was critically examined and commented upon by many who were present. After the tables had been served, the Rev. Mr. Shanklin, Rector and J.K. Falconbridge and Wm. Powell, Esqrs., Church Wardens, ascended the platform when Christopher Duncumb, Esq., read an address, presenting the Bell to the clergyman and Church Wardens. A reply was read by the Rev. Shanklin, after which the Bell having found its tongue, made loud and joyful music in response to the efforts of Mr. Duncumb"

The Address by Mr. Duncumb and a Reply by the Rev. Shanklin are also included in the newspaper article. I will share parts of these rather lengthy and elaborate speeches:

To the Rector and Church Wardens of St. Mary's Church, Richmond Hill

"It is with the greatest pleasure that I present to you and your successors in office for ever, the Church Bell now before us, to be held, owned and used by you for the benefit of the congregation of which you are representatives. This Bell has been cast expressly for you by the desire and at the cost of my father, Mr. C. Duncumb, of Beverley, Yorkshire, England; and as the inscription upon it will show, is intended as a tribute to the memory of his brother, the late Dr. Duncumb, so well-known to you all, and who was a member of your congregation from the time of its first formation to the period of his death.

We must all I think, recognize the appropriateness of this donation. In all Christian countries, and in every period of history the Bell has been associated with Church services. The "Church going Bell" has passed into a proverb, and in no country does its use more widely prevail than in the mother land of the Church. Its solemn warnings have often served to remind us of our duty. It rejoices with us in periods of festivity and triumph; and deepens our emotions as we commit remains of a fellow being to the silent tomb. The beautiful and commanding position of your church is peculiarly adapted for its effective employment and I doubt not that all the inhabitants of our rising town of every denomination, who rejoice in all indications of improvement, will feel an interest in this addition to their local attractions.

May God's blessing rest upon you as a congregation, and prosper your good work; may you and yours long remain to listen to the hallowed tones of the Church Bell; may it long announce your continual happiness and ever increasing prosperity.

To C. Duncumb, Esq., Richmond Hill

We the Clergymen and Church Wardens of St. Mary's Church, Richmond Hill desire to express to you and your father our sincere thanks for the munificent and appropriate donation which you have just made to us and to the congregation of which you are members and while thus expressing our sense of

the benefit conferred upon our church, we cannot be unmindful of the object which this offering is mainly intended to promote.

Again I thank you, Mr. Duncumb, for the interest and energy which you have displayed in the promotion of this object and, desiring you to convey to your father our deepest acknowledgements, we gladly accept, on behalf of our congregation, the beautiful Church Bell which you have here presented to us."

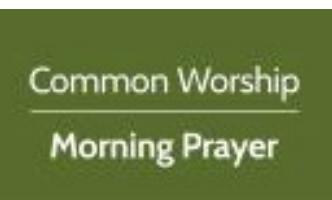
Please note, the Archives Committee are always happy to provide personal tours for those who would like to learn more about the history of our Parish. Summer is probably the best time, when use of our space decreases. As in the

past there are two levels of tours. Basic is the standard walk-around with opportunities for questions and discussion while Deluxe includes tea and homemade treats in the Memorial Lounge. Both tours move at a leisurely pace and allow opportunities to explore our buildings

Our Committee is looking ahead to Archives Awareness Week in 2019 and how we can contribute to this initiative in a meaningful way. We have been discussing the possibility of a larger community event, similar to our National Heritage Day celebrations of the past. We will also be marking National Heritage Day in February and of course we look forward to another themed visit to the Sunday School.

Enjoy the summer!

*Norman McMullen, Chair,
The Archives Committee*



With St. Mary's deep and rich music tradition, we have committed to keep the Book of Common Prayer Choral Mattins Service as one of our service offerings on a regular basis. To that end, Parish Board approved a schedule for Choral Mattins to be held on the 4th Sunday of the month, four times per year. Services of Morning Prayer will occur **September, November, February, and May** at the 10:30 a.m. service. Sunday School will occur these Sundays and will be lengthened to correspond with the service format.

Special Services This Fall...



Blessing of the Backpacks

As our 2018/19 school year begins the first week of September, St. Mary's will be looking to offer a moment in our 10:30 am service on **September 9th** to bless our Children's backpacks for the upcoming school year. Children, as they would like to participate, will be asked to bring and wear their backpacks to church. During our Kids Talk we will have a moment to bless them, and ask God to walk with our young people in their year ahead. This Sunday will also be the Sunday we resume our Sunday School Program, so come out and join us on September 9th as you're able. For more info or if you have any questions, please speak to Fr. Matthew or the office.



St. Mary's Thanksgiving Festivals

Harvest Home Sunday—September 30th / Thanksgiving Sunday—October 7th

Please mark your calendars to join us for our special Thanksgiving services this fall. On the last Sunday of September we celebrate the festival of Harvest Home, where we give thanks for the bounty of the fields, that our Lord has provided during the fall harvest. On the first Sunday of October, we celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday, a time when we give thanks for all our good blessings as a nation and as a community. Please join us these Sundays as we gather to give thanks to God for the bountiful goodness bestowed upon us, and as we pray for strength and grace, to live up to the love He has for us and all His children!

YOU CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN

...AT CHURCH?



Sunday, October 28th—Blessing of the Costumes

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us the Sunday before Halloween at our annual *"Blessing of the Costumes."* This Sunday is an opportunity for us to support our youngest members as they eagerly look to Trick or Treat on October 31st. We'll be asking our young people to wear their costumes to church, so that they can be blessed for their upcoming night time journey. Please speak to Fr. Matthew or our Sunday School leadership if you have any questions or need more information.

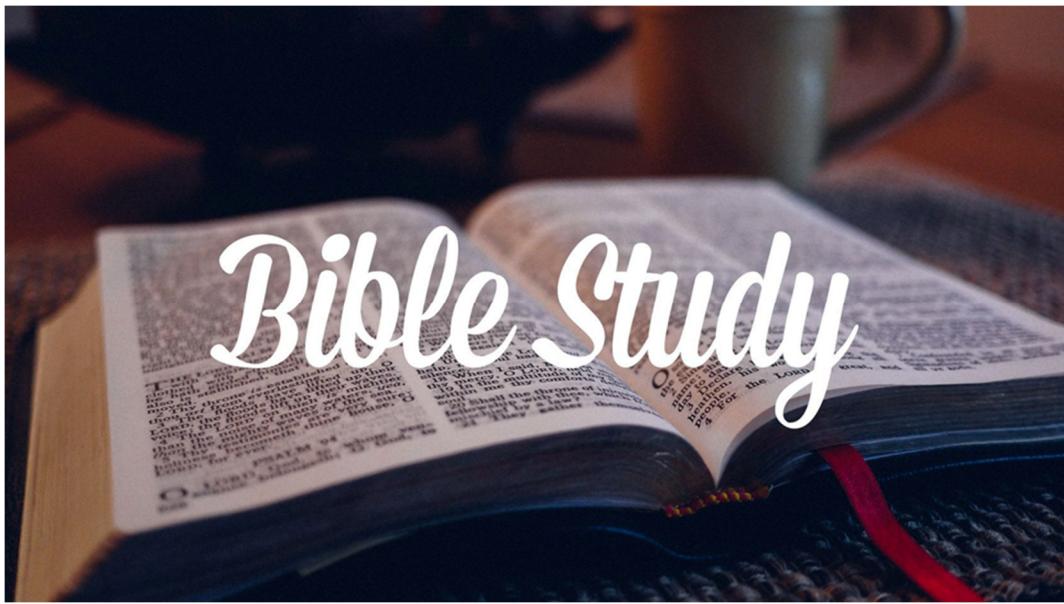


The Right Reverend Peter & Angela Fenty

Episcopal Visitation & Confirmation Service

Sunday, December 2nd

On the first Sunday of Advent, St. Mary's will be joined by our Area Bishop, The Right Reverend Peter Fenty for his formal bi-annual parish visit. While Bishop Peter is with us for our 10:30 a.m. service, we will be conducting a parish confirmation for all those who would like to participate. The service will also include opportunities for renewal of confirmation vows and moments for individuals to formally be received into the Anglican Communion from other faith traditions. Please call the office or speak to Fr. Matthew if you would like to be a participant in any of these special liturgies during our Episcopal Visit.



St. Mary's Bible Study Programs

Thank you to all who participated in our Sunday Morning Bible Study program this past year. We have currently wrapped up our programming for the summer and will look to begin again in the fall. About 8–14 individuals joined together each Sunday from 9:15 – 10 a.m.

to read and study the Sunday Lectionary. Monthly packages will continue to be provided through the summer, so individuals can study on their own. Our Fall program resumes on **Sunday, September 16th** and will conclude the Sunday before Advent, **November 25th**. Our winter session will start on **January 13th**. Some requests have been made to different committees about whether there may be enough interest to undertake a mid-week study program. If any individuals would be interested in helping with this, or if there is a parishioner that may be willing to lead, please speak to the office and let us know.

Blessings,

The St. Mary's Bible Study Group

Programs & Classes



Calling all Confirmands

St. Mary's Confirmation Classes— Saturday Mornings October & November

As we look to prepare for our upcoming Episcopal Visit later this fall, our parish will be gathering perspective confirmands together to receive instruction and prepare for their confirmation. Our confirmation classes will begin the week after Thanksgiving and will run every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until noon in the Sunday School room, beginning **Saturday, October 79th**. (*No classes will be held the week of the bazaar.*) All interested parties should register with the office. Classes may be broken up into adults and youth, to ensure that content and presentation of material is more meaningful. Please stay tuned for a formal roster of topics and classes that will come out mid-September. If you have questions about this program or would like more information, please feel free to speak to Fr. Matthew.

Special Events



Fall Parish Luncheon Dates & Speakers

September 5th, 2018

Carolyn Kim, Canadian Talking Books

October 3rd, 2018

Jan Mills, Hospital Chaplin

November 7th, 2018

Michael Cassabon , Diocese of Toronto

*Thoughts about the Vision & Future Ministry of St. Mary's
as we look towards our 150th Anniversary*

December 5th, 2018

Christmas Carols

Exploring Possible 2020 Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

Fr. Matthew shared with St. Mary's Parish Board his desire to see if there was enough interest to consider possibly planning a Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2020. Parish Board has indicated that with enough lead time to plan, they suspected there would be significant interest. St. Mary's will be looking this fall to hold an information night, to see what a trip might look like and to answer any questions individuals may have about what to expect. Fr. Matthew will be looking to setup an event mid-fall. Please watch your Sunday bulletins and the weekly parish WebNews for firm dates and times.



ACW News

Saturday, November 24th—
ACW Christmas Bazaar &
Luncheon—10:30 a.m. - 1:30
p.m. Join us for a wonderful
event of Christmas crafts, baked
goods, knitting, luncheons, music
and more! Set up day will be
Friday, November 23rd.

Sunday, December 9th—ACW Annual General
Meeting—9:00 – 10:00 a.m.



ACW
Poinsettia
Fundraiser
Starting early
October





Green Lent Update

Parish Board and the Green Team would like to thank everyone who took up our Lenten challenge of contributing towards our Green Lent Initiative. Parishioners had been challenged to set aside the funds from what they'd gone without and give to our emergency solar and battery powered light campaign. These lights will go to supply emergency response depots in the Caribbean to help communities impacted by increased tropical storms, due to global warming. \$1,242.00 was raised towards this program. St. Mary's has partnered with the Anglican Church in the Caribbean, where their electrical systems continue to deal with ongoing damage and outages caused by the increased severe weather patterns and other effects of global warming. We are currently working to ship these resources to the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba. We are blessed to be working with The Right Reverend Errol Brooks and his congregations on this important work. Thank you again to all the people of St. Mary's for your amazing support of this work!

St. Mary's Solar Energy Collaboration Project

Michael Adams, a member of the St. Mary's parish community has worked with the Wardens of St. Mary's to apply for a Federal Government 'Seniors—New Horizon's Grant,' to help engage the broader public with solar and renewable energy resources. We will be submitting our grant proposal this summer and prayerfully awaiting its

acceptance. Our project will focus on distributing free solar charging resources to the general public to spur on the use and embracing of these important and game changing technological developments. As we hear back from the Federal Government we will keep everyone posted. Stay tuned for our updates in the bulletin or weekly parish WebNews as they become available. Please read Michael's comments, found below, on the importance of this endeavour.



The meritorious and synergistic characteristic of many aspects of Biological life on Earth is a soul stirring influence. How wonderful, colourful, diverse and abundant the Lord through Mother Nature has bequeathed and gifted for Earth and its inhabitants. Let's meditate through Proverbs 21:21 and pray for our Dear Planet.

The fact that you are reading this is a testament to the conscientious and careful desire on the part of many individuals to recognize the Gifts bestowed by the Lord through Mother Nature and the balance which is required to protect and sustain such vulnerable biological organisms, small and large.

It is with tremendous hope that we can at least, at a minimum, utilize a small portion of the Sun's immense energy for the greater good. Let's allow Solar cells to do the work and give our dear Planet some much needed rest and support! Come and Join Our EcoFriendly Team and Support Solar Energy initiatives.



Looking Ahead...



SAINT MARY'S



St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Planning soon to begin!

It may be hard to believe, but St. Mary's will soon be looking to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our Parish. In 1872 the Anglican Mission in Richmond Hill achieved their goal of building their own church and being able to use it as a place for worship, fellowship and works of mission and outreach, in the name of our Risen Lord and his mother, St. Mary. As we look to this anniversary coming up in 2022, the Parish Leadership will be working on special ways for our congregation to celebrate. We are eagerly looking forward to 2022 and are hoping to develop a number of plans that will celebrate our history and give thanks for our past. While at the same time, pledging to further commit ourselves to being God's coworkers by Grace in Richmond Hill.



St. Mary's First Communion Program Spring 2019

After our confirmation program occurring in the fall, we will then begin to look towards holding a First Communion program at St. Mary's next spring. In this small program we'll look to provide some basic instructions to our younger members on the importance of Holy Communion to all Christians. We'll be looking to have

some formal instruction and also an opportunity at our May Family Service to allow for those who wish, the opportunity to receive for the first time with family and friends present. Please stay tune in early 2019 for program details and sign-up opportunities.

St. Mary's Anglican Church

Harvest Feast Dinner

Saturday, October 20th, 2018

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale beginning Sunday, September 16th!

Tickets: \$30.00

Students 10 years and older: \$10.00

Children under 10 years: Free

Variety of Games, Silent Auction

50/50 Draw

Entertainment

York Symphony Orchestra (YSO)

Holiday Spectacular

Friday, December 14th, 2018

St. Mary's Anglican Church — 8:00 p.m.



Join us for a York Symphony Orchestra tradition.
Our annual holiday concert, is filled with cheerful seasonal favourites
and audience sing-a-long.
Bring the family along for this delightful winter concert.

Tickets will be available through the church office in the fall.



Outreach & Social Justice

Committee Update

Our small committee continues to promote Loonie Muffin Sunday, in support of our two foster children. This is very popular with the congregation and we are grateful for the response from both our bakers and our buyers. Weekly coffee purchases, after the 10:30 a.m. service, also fund this initiative and we continue to use Fair Trade Coffee. Loonie Muffins will take a summer hiatus, returning in September.

In light of the upcoming Municipal Elections in the fall, we encourage you to continue to push for new affordable rental housing and initiatives to address homelessness in York Region and in particular, Richmond Hill. Letters to Mayor Barrows, Regional Councillors Brenda Hogg and Vito Spatafora will not go amiss. From the response to my letter regarding Affordable Housing & Homelessness to the Ontario Minister of Housing, it is evident that housing is being addressed, however, it does come down to the Municipality to execute based on funding from the upper two levels of government. Keeping up the pressure will not hurt.

We are continuing to explore new ways for St. Mary's to service the community i.e., ESL conversation practice, facilitation of a children's activities at David West's annual Maple Syrup Mill Pond event, and working to help providing representation on the local Ecumenical Housing Trust. We also are looking to changing the way we support those in need at Christmas by partnering with another agency already working with the community. If any of these ideas speak to you or if you have skills and/or contacts in these areas, please contact me at 905-726-4130. Please note that we are not a 'closed' group and would warmly welcome new members!

Submitted by Lyne Webb on behalf of the Outreach & Social Justice Committee

A Note from the Church Gardeners...

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful flowers around the grounds of our church. The gardeners meet most Monday mornings and this spring we have been blessed with Fr. Matthew, his chain saw, and his truck. He has done extensive pruning and in some cases removal of old shrubs. As well, delivering two loads of mulch and carted away loads of brush and garden debris. We are so happy to have Fr. Matthew's help. I think I can speak on behalf of St. Mary's gardeners when I say it is truly a joy to work in the gardens here at St. Mary's. *Submitted by Diane Robertson*



St. Mary's has a place for all to serve. We are always looking for new individuals to help in our volunteer rosters for many of the programs and activities around the church. We are looking for help on Sundays and outside of Sundays. We need help with general labour and administrative duties. There are opportunities to work with young toddlers up to

centenarians! Parishioners can help in pastoral or worship settings, in the kitchen or from the privacy of your own home. If you have an area of expertise or a particular interest in helping an area of activity at St. Mary's, please let the office know. Once you do, we'll get the corresponding coordinators in touch. After all, many hands make for a lighter load, and also, the more the merrier!

**The Lark Piano Studio
Awards Recital**

A piano recital by students of Paulette Popp will be held at St. Mary's on **Sunday, June 24th** at **6:30 p.m.** This recital will last no more than 1½ hours. Everyone is welcome—admission is free!