



# ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

## DECEMBER 2024

Volume 19, Issue 3  
December 2024



*Welcome to the Church of St. James', Orillia  
Whether you are a follower of Christ, or on a spiritual  
journey, all are welcome to this Holy and Sacred place.*



### FROM THE DESK OF ARCHDEACON JOHN

Dear Friends in Christ,

#### Advent is Upon Us

*God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation: make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.*

I remember that when I first started to go to St. Thomas Anglican in Shanty Bay, a visitor told me that she liked coming to an Anglican church at Christmas and Easter because we did it so well! Being new to church, I really did not know what that meant. However, I quickly learned and began to live out the Anglican traditions and liturgy, which magnify the themes of Advent and Christmas. Perhaps it is in the Advent Candle Lighting, the gathering prayers like the one I have cited above for Advent II, the Lessons, and Carol service, or all the wonderful music selections that come at time of this year.

Growing up, my parents did not go to church, and as such I missed out any type of church traditions. We didn't even go to church Christmas bazaars and ham suppers, which for many people are touchstones of the Advent season. I say this with regret because I have come to see and feel that these Advent traditions shape us to be better people. We feel the presence of the Holy Spirit when we stand for the Hallelujah chorus in Handel's Messiah. We are reminded of the rich tapestry of the Christian and Jewish traditions in the Lessons and Carol service, but also that we are part of a cosmic story of salvation and that God is always present with us. As we make our way through each Sunday of Advent to Christmas Day, as many of you have done for years, we are astonished once again that we are enthralled as we wait and say, "Lord Jesus Come Soon".

The lighting of the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, followed by the Christ candle, all while singing an Advent Candle Lighting hymn, is an important tradition for both adults and children. This simple ritual gathers us together as a faithful community. Each time we light a candle, we walk into the Christmas story again and again. We are reminded that as Christians, to live with hope, peace, joy, and love, well, that is a far better way to live one's life each day.

My friends, take delight in this season of Advent. Invite a friend or a family member and come to St. James' each Sunday. Step into the close presence of God felt in all the traditions that we offer, whether it be in prayers, hymns, candle lightings, anthems, or our rich history. You will be filled with joyful expectation and feel the holy joy as we eagerly await the coming of Jesus.

Yours in Christ, Archdeacon John

Our Vision - A strong faith community, reflecting God's Love to those around us  
Our Mission - To serve and share Jesus Christ  
Our Values - Faith, Compassion, Integrity, Respect



## THE WARDENS' CORNER



Greetings from your Wardens!

As one church year finishes, and a new year begins, we hope that you can take time from the seasonal hustle and bustle to give thanks for the birth of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. It is awesome to know that the birth of this tiny baby changed the world forever! As we enter into Advent, let us reflect on our many blessings as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Saviour!

We would like to thank the countless people who have so generously contributed to St. James' with their time, talents and treasures. The number of volunteer hours given is truly amazing. We could not keep St. James' and its various outreach programs going without you.

A special thank you to Joyce and her team of remarkable volunteers at Pennywise! We often hear that we have the nicest thrift shop in Orillia! The staff are friendly, and the shop is clean, well laid out and the prices are excellent! Congratulations on 35 years of outreach to our community!

Kudos to the members of the property committee who have fearlessly dealt with the fixing of the boiler, leaky pipes and all the other issues arising in an older heritage building. What would we do without you?

It is wonderful to see many people continue to return to the in-church services. We are also delighted to see some new faces joining us! We hope that you will introduce yourself and that you feel welcome here at St. James'! If you are watching us on-line, and are able, we invite you to come back to reconnect with your loving, supportive church family as we praise God together in word and song.

We enjoyed a sample of the wonderful music of the Quire on Sunday, November 17th. This group includes some members of our own church choir! We hope that you were able to attend the presentation of the Quire on Saturday, November 23rd! This was a performance not to be missed!

We look forward to the many events taking place in December. We prepare for Advent with an online teaching series which is being presented by our bishops for four weeks, Tuesdays from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m., beginning November 26th. Come and join us in the Upper Room at St. James' but please let the office know so we have an idea of the numbers. You may also register via the Diocesan website to join online.

Advent begins with the Parish family Ham Supper on Sunday, December 1st which will be prepared by a fantastic group of men lead by Andrew Hill. Past experience tells us this meal will be delicious! Please bring a plate of cookies to share. Archdeacon John will be tasting the cookies to decide which is the best!

St. Nick's Day is on December 7th. This is a wonderful time for children under 12 to do their Christmas shopping with the help of Santa's elves in the Auditorium while their parents shop for baking and crafts in the Parlour, with coffee in the Church.

The Lesson and Carol Service will be held on the second Sunday in Advent, December 8th. Come and let the wonderful music inspire you! There are 3 Wednesday noon-time performances planned in December with more outstanding seasonal music. These events are always well received.

Please join us on Christmas Eve for carol singing at 7:30 p.m. and the Holy Eucharist at 8 p.m. Thank you to Nancy Hammond and her family from St. David's parish for offering to host the Community Breakfast from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. on Christmas morning! Our service will begin at 10 a.m. Come and be nourished both physically and spiritually!

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas!

Your Church Wardens, Dean, Julia, Polly and Leslie





Sunday November 17th.

ACW Sunday Panel with  
"Quire" singing at our  
service



## A REFLECTION FOR ADVENT

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the Church's calendar. During the next four weeks, we prepare our hearts for the first major festival: Christmas, the birth of the Christ child.

This time, we are called to reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, and how each of them points to life experiences that lead us to appreciate God's gift to the world and us in Jesus.

We hope to make space in our own hearts for the Christ child to be born anew; we prepare to embrace the peace of Christ within our relationships in our community, around the globe, and in ourselves; we open ourselves to joy as embodied in Mary and her accepting God's invitation to bear God's Son; and knowing in our whole being the love of God in all Creation, for all peoples in our global village and for each of us as individuals.

I pray each of us will be enriched in this season of Advent and to be transformed as we embrace the Christ child in our hearts and our homes.

Blessings, Rev. Carol+

*Star of Wonder, Radiant Goodness,  
today I turn to you as the Source of Love.  
I remember your light dwelling within me,  
Keep me mindful of your transforming presence.  
Shine this goodness lovingly on each person  
with whom I come in contact this day.  
draw me to your irresistible love.  
I open my whole being to you.  
I send your love forth into our world.  
May all those who suffer find solace in you.  
May all of creation know your peace.*

A prayer written by Joyce Rupp

### WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?





It's that time again! A time for generosity and hopefulness accelerated by our seasonal reminder of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and the remarkable gifts and influence his birth continues to have on the Christian world- including a continuous concern for the well being of our fellow humans.

This year the Social Justice and Mission Committee have selected a national focus, not only because there is a need but because we have a strong connection through our St. James' families. The focus is the **Fox Lake, Alberta Indigenous community** and especially the students of the elementary school in that community. You may already know the area was severely decimated by wildfires and, although families have returned to the village, many continue to live in tentlike structures and have little beyond the bare necessities of life.

School children have almost nothing to play with or occupy their time beyond classes at school. This can lead to problems of mischief, depression, petty crime etc.

We hope to send the local school principal some funds to purchase some recreational equipment like games, sports gear, etc. The principal has been a most reliable manager of any contributions we have made to the community in the past.

In addition, Sean Davidson and his wife - long time members of this parish (son of Linda Davidson and Grandson of Audrey and Ken Lee) - are teachers in that community and are very committed to the people of Fox Lake. We get reliable reports from them regularly.

Hopefully you will find a few extra dollars (however small) to contribute to the Advent Conspiracy for 2024. Visit the display in the church and follow directions for making your contribution OR just drop your contribution into the church office, marking it as an Advent Conspiracy donation. Thanks for considering this need.  
Rosemarie Freeman, Social Justice and Mission Committee

*“Hope doesn't have to make sense. It can be tiny. The smallest, most fragile glimmer in the darkening sky. It just has to get you to the next moment.”*  
Nanea Hoffman

## ADVENT FOR EVERYONE: SEASON OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

AN ONLINE TEACHING SERIES WITH OUR BISHOPS TO WHICH EVERYONE IN THE DIOCESE IS INVITED. ( 7:30 - 8:30 ) BUT WILL BE HOSTED BY OUR ORILLIA PARISHES AT ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN IN THE UPPER ROOM. THERE ARE FOUR SESSIONS:

NOVEMBER 26 - BISHOP ANDREW  
DECEMBER 3 - BISHOP KEVIN  
DECEMBER 10 - BISHOP RISCYLLA  
DECEMBER 17 - BISHOP ANDREW



YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO REGISTER VIA THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE.  
[HTTPS://WWW.TORONTO.ANGLICAN.CA/EVENTS/ADVENT-FOR-EVERYONE/](https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/events/advent-for-everyone/)  
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING  
PLEASE EMAIL [OFFICE@STJAMESORILLIA.COM](mailto:OFFICE@STJAMESORILLIA.COM)

Christmas Services

Quiet Christmas, Sunday December 22  
@ 7:00 p.m.  
celebrated by Archdeacon John at St. Athanasius

Family Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24  
@ 4:00 p.m.  
celebrated by Archdeacon John at St. David's

Christmas Day Wednesday December 25  
@ 10:00 a.m.  
for all our Anglican Churches @ St. James'

*You Are Invited  
To Our Worship Services*



Sunday December 1 - 10 a.m.  
Advent 1  
with Susan Smith, Harpist

Sunday December 8 - 10 a.m.  
Advent 2 - Lessons and Carols  
St. James' Choir & Marta  
Sokek, Cellist

Sunday December 15 - 10 a.m.  
Advent 3  
Randy Hoover & Brass Quartet

Sunday December 22 - 10 a.m.  
Advent 4 - Contemporary  
Service  
Alex Andrews, Violin

Tuesday December 24  
Christmas Eve  
Carol Sing 7:30 p.m.,  
Choral Eucharist 8 p.m. with  
St. James' Choir & Guests with  
Brian Lewis & Peter Corbasson,  
Trumpets

Wednesday December 25-10 a.m.  
Christmas Day

*Christmas Music, Stories & Carols*

*Wednesdays*  
12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

December 4th  
Alan & Sophie Cooper - Musicians  
& Susan Charters - Storyteller

December 11th  
Rebecca Campbell & Faith Roe-  
buck-Shergold soloists, Vox  
Femina group of singers from  
Midland with Kate Ward  
accompanist

December 18th  
Susan & John Smith—Musicians  
with Mae Cox Storyteller



Hot Cider  
provided.  
Free will  
offering.

See you in  
the Church,  
all are  
welcome

**ST. NICK'S CHILDREN'S SHOPPING DAY**



SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 7

10 A.M. - 12 NOON

*St. Nicholas Day*

For Children 12 & under ONLY. Little ones will have an "elf" to assist them. All items are \$3.00 & under. With a Mini-Bazaar & Bake Sale for Adults to shop while waiting for the children.

CHRISTMAS  
*family movie night*

PRESENTED BY ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH

THE POLAR EXPRESS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14TH  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM  
MOVIE STARTS AT 6PM  
ENTER THROUGH OFFICE DOORS

• HOT CHOCOLATE • popcorn • CHRISTMAS CRAFT •



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Please contact Christine Blair or Anne Thompson

#### All Sundays

Help set-up for the coffee hour before the church service (15 min.)  
Serve coffee after the service (45 min.)  
Clean-up after the coffee hour (15 min.)

#### St. Nick's Children Shopping – Dec 7

Help set up for the sale on Dec. 6 from 1:00 -3:30 p.m.  
Working behind tables while children shop from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Teenagers needed to help the youngest children shop 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Dinner - Dec. 1

Bring a plate of Christmas Cookies to share.  
Cookie Contest judged by JOHN!  
Help set-up lunch tables immediately after Communion.  
Help clean-up after the dinner.



## ACW CHRISTMAS PROJECT

### If you haven't donated yet...

The St. James' Family Christmas Project is still accepting donations to buy gift cards for children's presents and for grocery gift cards, too. Because the ACW organizes this, any donation must note that it's to go to the ACW. Cheques should be made out to St. James' but have "ACW Christmas Project" on the memo line, please.

Donations may be put on the offering plate on Sunday given to Mae Cox or Anne Thompson, or turned into the office Tuesday-Thursday.

Any money received too late for this year's cards will be held in reserve to help families during 2025 and/or to be a "start-up fund" for buying the gift cards for next Christmas. We're up to 92 people now, with at least a few more sure to come! Thanks for any help you can give! Mae Cox

## 2024 DIOCESAN OUTREACH CONFERENCE UPDATE

Unfortunately, Chief Turtle of Grassy Narrow's opening plenary was aborted due to internet and telephone connection problems. Instead, several videos were offered for audience review: Thirsty for Justice > Thirsty for Justice and First Nations leaders back at Queen's Park to push Ontario Premier Ford to end mining activity on their land | CBC News.

Another interesting session focused on accessibility and poverty issues. If you are interested in this topic, please consider helping us tackle improvements within our church.

All conference sessions are available on the Outreach Conference website. 2024 Outreach & Advocacy Conference - YouTube We encourage readers to listen to fascinating workshops on various justice and advocacy subjects.

Our 2025 committee, which focuses on education and advocacy, will examine root causes and solutions. We hope to schedule an advocacy workshop and welcome your involvement.

Updated-Parish-Outreach-Guide-2021-1.pdf  
up practical tools for advocacy workshop.pdf



## PENNYWISE THRIFT SHOP - A BRIEF HISTORY OF 35 YEARS



Tucked into the basement of the auditorium at St. James' Church, at Peter and Coldwater Streets, there lives a friendly thrift shop, a treasure trove of bargains for everyone in the Orillia area. The shop has been operating for some 35 years this November 2024 under the management of some amazing St. James' volunteers.

Originally (1989) the shop was under the auspices of the Orillia branch of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, an organization that no longer exists in Orillia. Then the shop management became an outreach of the church led by devoted volunteers like Mary and Ken Davis, Marion Wallis, and many others. In 2013 Doug and Julia Nicholls began to manage the shop. In 2019, Joyce Hird, a member of St. James', bravely agreed to become the shop manager. Several physical and operational changes have since resulted in a clean, well-organized shop and efficient service much appreciated by our customers. They regularly tell us we have the best prices in town and our merchandise is clean and in great condition. It is a joy to come into the shop!

When the shop moved to its current location under the parish auditorium there was more space and areas for sorting and receiving donations. Many volunteers have become involved in the shop, most of whom come from the Orillia community. The volunteers universally describe the shop as a great place to work in an atmosphere of friendliness, cheerfulness, and good service to others. They work variously in sorting, customer service, online sales service, managing jewelry donations, setting up displays, etc.

The shop profits have become a major source of income for the various outreach projects provided by the church such as weekly Loonie Lunch and Sunday Morning Breakfast, and mission projects in Kenya, Fox Lake Alberta, and around the Diocese.

The shop's philosophy is to reuse, repurpose, and support those in need. Orillia is generous in its donations of usable items, and our volunteers do a fantastic job of sorting, organizing, pricing, and selling them. When people purchase lightly used articles from Pennywise, they are contributing to a more environmentally sustainable future.

At Pennywise we offer stylish clothing for all, gently used footwear, all sorts of small household items, books, décor elements, seasonal treasures, and accessories. The inventory changes daily with new donations. You never know what you will find!

Anyone who finds him/herself in need but low in cash can request a purchase voucher once monthly to select much needed items for themselves or household. No reasonable request is denied.

All things considered, this little shop plays a very important role in the Orillia community and in the promotion of social justice in our midst.

Customers can visit our shop on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and the last Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You may also join us on Facebook at Friends of Pennywise-Orillia. We would love to see you!

Rosemarie Freeman



**NEW  
OFFICE HOURS**  
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 25

**TUESDAYS TO THURSDAYS**  
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.  
CLOSED 12 NOON TO 1 P.M.

**CLOSED MONDAYS**  
**CLOSED FRIDAYS**



SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST AT 5 PM

**Church Members**

**Christmas Dinner**

*Ham Dinner with all the trimmings. Please bring a plate of Christmas Cookies to share. Cookie Contest judged by John! Sign up sheet in hall or contact office to register.*




**A Journey to  
Spiritual Renewal starting  
Wednesday September 4th**

Please join me on the journey to spiritual renewal. One avenue for this enriching communion with God is our prayer life with scripture.

Sign up on email with me for a guided lectio reading, and prayer every Wednesday morning.

My email address is [ammacar12@gmail.com](mailto:ammacar12@gmail.com)

**CENTERING PRAYER AND MEDITATION**  
TUESDAY AT 12 NOON in person in Choir Room



George Sanders leads the group. For more info contact [office@stjamesorillia.com](mailto:office@stjamesorillia.com) or 705-325-2742

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY**  
First Sunday of every month



**Our Green Bags** are located in the narthex for your use. Fill them with any items listed here. They will be delivered to The Sharing Place Food Bank. Thank you!

**TOP NEEDED ITEMS**

- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Meat and Fish
- Shelf Tite Canned Goods
- Rice
- Sugar
- Flour
- Tea Bags
- Instant and Ground Coffee
- Whole Grain, Low-Sugar Cereal
- Cooking Oils
- Spices / Bouillon Cubes
- Toilet Paper

**FündScrip**

*Where Shopping is Fundraising!*

**A Great Way to Support St. James' While Giving to Others!**

**WHAT:** Gift card program that gives a percentage to our Church

**WHO:** Meet major retailers and more! (gas, groceries, entertainment, etc.)

**WHERE:** Across Canada

**WHEN:** Night now! Great way to budget for household shopping

**WHY:** To support St. James' Church

**HOW:** Pick up Order Forms by calling the church office; Place order the **FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**; Pick up gift cards the following Sunday



**FREE SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**



**ALL ARE  
WELCOME**

**Every Sunday  
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.  
in St. James'  
Auditorium**

*A joint venture with St. David Anglican-Lutheran, St. Athanasius Anglican, St. James' Anglican & Community Members. Our goal is to provide food and fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**ANGELS  
AMONG  
US??**





## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL EVENTS

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES

#### Sunday December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Community Breakfast

#### Tuesday December 24

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

#### Wednesday December 25

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Community Breakfast  
8 and 10 a.m. Christmas Day

#### Tuesday December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

12 noon Centering Prayer  
12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

#### Wednesday December 4, 11, 18

10 a.m. Bible Study  
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10: 30 a.m. to 12 noon Loonie Lunch  
12 noon - 1 pm. Christmas Carol Sing  
12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

#### Thursday December 5, 12, 19

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

#### Friday December 6, 13, 20, 27

11:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl

#### Sunday December 1

Food Bank Sunday  
FundScrip Sunday  
5 p.m. Parish Christmas Dinner

#### Tuesday December 3

7 p.m. ACW Executive Meeting

#### Saturday December 7

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. St. Nick's Children Shopping Day

#### Monday December 9

10 a.m. Book Discussion

#### Sunday December 15

11:30 a.m. Worship Committee Mtg

### Become a Kettle Bell Volunteer



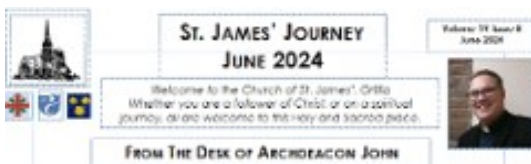
All locations indoors - 2 hour shifts - Seats provided  
For more information call 705-345-2601

## FOLLOW ST. JAMES' ON INSTAGRAM!

You can now follow St. James' on Instagram – Here's how:

1. Go to Play Store and download Instagram app.
2. Once downloaded "open" the app
3. Create your account and choose your username.
4. Set up your profile with a picture, bio and links.
5. Choose the more suitable type of Instagram account.
6. Customize the notifications that you want to receive.

Then in the search tool look for stjamesanglicanorillia and follow us.



## Newsletter Sponsorship

Did you know you could sponsor our monthly parish newsletter in memory of a loved one, for a special birthday or anniversary? A donation of \$100.00 each month pays to produce our internet copies, the paper copies, and their mailing. Please contact the office 705-325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month. **There are no sponsors for 2025 as of yet.**

*(There are no newsletters for the months of January and July)*

**Your Ministry Council**

Anyone interested in reading the current Ministry Council minutes may contact the Church office for a copy. A copy is also posted on the Bulletin Board in the Hall.

**Are you ill? In the Hospital? Now in a nursing home?**

If you or someone you know from our congregation is ill, in the hospital or has moved to a nursing home, please let us know by calling the church office. **We have no other way of knowing**, as the hospital and nursing homes are no longer permitted to give this information out due to the Privacy Act.

**Hospital Pastoral Care**

Beth Morum is a Pastoral Care Visitor for OSMH now as well as Mae Cox. If you know anyone from our Parish Family who is in Soldiers, please notify the Church Office so a visit can be arranged.

**Newsletter Sponsorship - Presently we do not have any sponsors for 2025**

Each month we ask for a sponsor to support the publication of our parish newsletter. Many of our family receive it via the internet but many still enjoy receiving the paper copy and/or they might not have access to a computer. The donation of \$100.00 each month pays to produce our internet copies, the paper copies and their mailing. Please contact Shannon in the office at 705-325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month.

**The Next Newsletter**

If you wish to place a submission, announcement, prayer, pictures etc. into any future newsletter, please contact Nancy at [nancynoakesmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:nancynoakesmorrison@gmail.com). Please provide any submissions for the February Newsletter by **Wednesday January 22, 2025**

**FundScrip**

The FundScrip deadline is **Sunday December 1**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' church) can be dropped off at the Church office. Pick up will be **Sunday December 8**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.



**December Birthdays**

J.A. Code, Sophy Cooper,  
Anderson Charters, Rosemarie Freeman,  
Nynka Greer, Arlene Meakins-Dawe,  
Leonora Mason  
Doug Nicholls, Julia Nicholls,  
Kristine Preston, Peter Schuepp,  
Robin Windrem

**December Anniversaries**

Stephen & Lori McClelland,  
Doug & Julia Nicholls

**January Birthdays**

Ruth Bark, Shirley Bromley,  
Wendy Caston, Karen Hart,  
Jen Hill, Vic Howarth,  
Jo Levasseur, Ellie MacPhail, Sylvia Smith



**FUNNY CHURCH BULLETINS**

- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- When Mary heard she was the Mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

*ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH*  
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