

## The Beacon



*'The Great Spirit loves this world of human beings so deeply he gave us his Son - only Son who fully represents him. All who trust in him and his way will not come to a bad end but will have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony.  
John 3:16 First Nations Version*



My Dearest Siblings,

Once again, we are entering into one of our many beautiful seasons. It is the Holy Season of Advent. What is Advent? Well, the simple answer is that Advent is a period of preparation. We spend the next four weeks preparing to celebrate Jesus's birth. It is also when we prepare for Jesus' second coming. Advent is a spiritual journey. However, if we do not know what Christmas means, we will fail to understand what Advent is for.

So, what does Christmas mean to you? During the First Sunday of Advent, Jesus talks about the world and the Last Judgement when He comes in glory. Jesus encourages us to be ready and remember that we never really know when he will return; therefore, we should always be prepared. One might think it strange to begin Advent by focusing on the end of the world and the second coming of Jesus. However, it is Jesus' second coming that we always need to prepare for, and what better way to start the new year than by reminding ourselves of that and reflecting on how we can improve our lives? Christmas is not just a day that reminds us of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem; it is also a day to prompt us and prepare us for our final encounter with Jesus.

In the Book of John's Revelation, we read, ***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me."*** Rev.3: 20

Are you listening for the knock on the door? How are you preparing for Christmas? For many of us, it is

about buying presents, decorating the house and family get-togethers. Please hear me when I say there is **nothing** wrong with any of this, as long as we remember the spiritual part of Christmas and not allow it to get lost in all the festivities. Over the next four weeks, I invite you to reflect on:

- ❖ How much God loved you.
- ❖ What does it mean to you that God sent His own Son to be born for each of us? To feel pain and love just as we do.
- ❖ What does it mean to you that Jesus came to show us the face of God through his death and resurrection?

***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16***

When we reflect on God’s love for us, we are encouraged to reply to God’s love, and the best part is that we do not have to struggle with an answer, for Jesus told us how to respond when he said:

**I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13:34**

When we can Love our neighbour as Jesus has loved us, then we can demonstrate our Love for God, and when we can show that love, we are living according to what James says in his letter.

*So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:17*

Faith is found in action, words and deeds.

Jesus made it clear that for us to love each other, we must remember to **“Feed the hungry, give the drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger and visit the sick and imprisoned.”** Mt 25, 35-40.

As siblings of God's family, it is our responsibility to remember all the least of these....all of you are poor, homeless, underprivileged, refugees, and all those suffering throughout our world because of wars and natural disasters. God does not close their eyes to our needs; therefore, we can not close our eyes to the needs of those around us.

In March of 2020, our world changed forever. No one can say that the Pandemic did not affect them somehow. We all suffered because of it, and some are still suffering because of it, whether it be financially, emotionally, psychologically, or physically. We live in uncertain times, and we must continue to try our best to help those who need our help and support. There is a light at the end of the tunnel; it is there. Squint your eyes, and you can see it. However, the world is different now, and we must be different. We need to change, and we need to stop trying to recreate the past and look at how we can create a bigger and brighter future. Change is hard, but everything that has changed despite the Pandemic can help us. Help to understand and experience the message of Advent. The message of Advent tells us of God's love for us. It reminds us of our

blessings and how we need to do all we can to care for others and prepare for the moment when we enter fully into the loving arms of the Blessed Holy Trinity.

May the Blessed Holy Trinity watch over you this Advent and Christmas Season, and may you always know their love and grace.



Rev. Jody+



# Giving Tree

Last year for the first time we had a Christmas tree at the back of the church with well over 80 Christmas tags on it. The tags were for gifts for babies, kids, teens, and adults. The response from this parish was overwhelming. The gifts went to Port Cares, one of the Grade Schools, and a Women's Shelter. All three places were overwhelmed by our generosity. I do hope that you will be willing and able to participate again this year.

Another way to donate at Christmas. You Might have seen this on Facebook. I thought it was brilliant. I hope that you think about this. It invites you to donate to the local food bank. I would invite you to donate to our actual *Blessing Box or the Blessing Box reserve which is in the narthex.*

# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



# PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief  
and Development Fund

One final way to donate and make a difference at this time of year. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund has a variety of ways that you can help a person in need. Please take a look at the webpage.

<https://pwrdf.org/>

## **A Gentle Reminder**

Especially when you come to any service.  
We ask that you be fragrance free.



A variety of people have allergies and we wish for everyone to be able to come and enjoy the Service. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.





# Advent Prayer Stations

*Sunday, December 3rd - 12pm to 4 pm*

*Monday, December 4th - 7am to 7 pm*

**The Guild Hall,  
72 Charlotte St.**



*Come experience prayer in a very different  
and personal way*

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**Join us in Mariners Park for**

Corner of King & Charlotte Streets

# Christmas in the Park

**2** DEC  
2023

START AT **12:00 AM**  
CRAFT / HOT CHOCOLATE /  
FOOD BY LEMAYZZ MEATS

**SANTA & MRS. CLAUS WILL BE  
JOINING US AROUND 1:00PM**

This event is sponsored by the Parish of  
St. James & St. Brendan Anglican Church

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**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
12:00 noon until 2:30 pm**

# Learning Cafe @ The Guild Hall

72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 7th

## "Pursuing Hobbies as We Age"



*Guest Speakers:*  
*Ron & Pat Greenwood,*  
*Retired Teachers*



- \*Bring a Friend**
- \*Refreshments**
- \*Door Prizes**

RSVP to:  
Sandi Marr  
519-616-0930  
email: [rsmarr@bell.net](mailto:rsmarr@bell.net)

Canada Funded by  
The Government of Canada  
"New Horizons for Seniors"  
in partnership with

St. James & St. Brendan Anglican Church

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**Lessons in Carols** on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am. **Said Advent Service**

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. **Praise & Worship Christmas Eve Service**

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm **Choral Christmas Eve Service**

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am. **Said Christmas Day Service**

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am. **Choral Christmas Eve Service**



### **Office Open**

Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**Closed Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Open**

Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Back to regular hours the week of Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
2024

# PASTORAL VISIT REQUEST

Rev. Jody has already started to book Christmas Pastoral Visits. If you would like her to come for a Christmas Visit, please give her a call at 905-414-4860. She would love to come for a Christmas Visit.



Thank you to Leslie, Kathy, Barb, Donna, and Nicole for planning and organizing this year's Christmas House Tour. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. We could not have done it without you. The tour was a great success!!!! The winner of the 50/50 was Shelley Dorsey for a grand total of \$256. Congratulations Shelley!



# Parish Council

There next Parish Council is on January, 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## *Church Chuckle*



12-22  
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**“Joy to the world,  
the Lord has gum ...”**

# ANNUAL **VESTRY** MEETING



On Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Annual Vestry. We will be having only one service that Sunday at 9:30 am. It will be a sung service. We will meet in the Guild Hall after our service for coffee and our meeting.

## **Voting Rules for Vestry**

In every congregation within the Diocese of Niagara there shall be a Vestry composed of all the baptized members of such congregation of the full age of 16 years, who for at least six months preceding the holding of a **Vestry meeting have been identifiably involved with that congregation, through worship, fellowship, and financial support to that congregation**, subject to the certification and appeal procedures outlined in 1. (b), (i) and (ii). (amended, 1986)

**If you are unable to attend Service, nor do you not  
have internet, please listen to the Gospel and the  
Sermon on your Phone.**





# **Everyone is Welcome to All Our Services**

## **Tuesday Morning Prayer**

9:00 am.

## **Thursday Morning Healing Eucharist**

10:00 am.

## **Bible Study**

Every Thursday Morning

10:30 am.

## **Sunday Eucharist**

8:30 am & 10:30 am. September to June

9:30 am July and August

## **Taize**

Third Sunday of the Month

The next Service is January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Followed by a Pizza and Wine in the Guild Hall

## **Praise and Worship Service**

Fourth Sunday of every month.

The next Service is December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service

## **At the Pub with God**

Fourth Sunday of every month after the Praise and Worship  
Service at the Belmont @ 5:15 pm.

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **Service for Peace**

The next Service is Wednesday, January 31, 2024

12:15 pm.

## **God Answers Prayers (G.A.P.)**

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:00 am

**Places to Find Us:**

<https://www.portcolborneanglican.org/>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesandstbrendan/>

**YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamesandStBrendanAnglicanChurch>

**Instagram**

[stjamesandstbrendan](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesandstbrendan)



**St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church**

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Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C9

Phone: 905-834-3184

Email: [anglicanoffice@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanoffice@gmail.com)

**If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact anyone on the Corporation.**

**Rector:** Rev. Jody Szoke

**905-414-4860**

***rectorstjamesandstbrendan@gmail.com***

**Warden:** John Hogan

**Warden:** Kathy Kairies

**Deputy Warden:** Brian Abbott

**Deputy Warden:** Jennifer Main

***Vision Statement:***

*To Live as Christ Lived, Loving Everyone!*

***Mission Statement:***

*To invite, welcome, educate, and support people into the  
Community of St. James and St. Brendan and into the  
Life of Christ.*

