

The Beacon



*“But ask the animals what they think, let them teach you; let the birds tell you what’s going on. Put your ear to the earth, learn the basics. Listen, the fish in the ocean will tell you, their stories. Isn’t it clear that they all know and agree that GOD is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand. Every living soul, yes, every breathing creature? Isn’t this all just common sense, as common as the sense of taste? Do you think the elderly have a corner on wisdom, that you have to grow old before you understand life? **Job 12:7-12, The Message***



For the next few months, various parishioners will share their faith Stories. Why is faith important, and why is the church important to them? For November, we thank George Duma for sharing his faith.

Discussing one's faith can be a difficult thing to do for many, me included, and so very easy for some. I have always considered my faith to be a very personal thing, a pact between the Lord and me. I have always been reticent when it comes to discussing my faith. I have a great deal of admiration for those pairs of people that stand in King George Park across from the Legion or along the canal ready to engage in discussions about faith and their views on the subject. I'm simply not one of them.

I grew up in a Roman Catholic home in Toronto's west end, the son of post-war Polish immigrants. We dutifully went to Mass every Sunday at St. Kazimir's Church, a 15-minute walk from our Parkdale home. I attended the local Catholic elementary school two blocks from home, St. Vincent de Paul, but only attended St. Vincent church during school functions. St. Kazimir's is the neighborhood's Polish church and served the area's huge Polish immigrant community. Growing up Catholic in the late '50s and early '60s meant Mass was delivered in Latin before it switched to English in the '60s. I hated going to church as a child. I understood not a word and

the entire Mass was an exercise in rote - habitual repetition - until we finally had English Mass. I mention all of this as an explanation of the fact that the God of my childhood was not a loving God, but a God to be feared. That was Catholicism back then. The threat of Hell loomed over us as the nuns would march us over to St. Vincent de Paul church every couple of weeks for confession. We six-, seven-, eight-, nine- and 10-year-olds would have to confess our “sins” to Monsignor Kirby, who in our estimation had to be 110-years-old at that point. He would then sternly deliver our punishment, a few Hail Mary’s with a few Our Fathers thrown in for good measure. We would kneel at the altar and say our prayers, and our penance.

At times, we would make stuff up, not knowing what our actual “sins” were. I recall one time telling the Monsignor I stole something from the local Kresge’s store when, in fact, I hadn’t. Such was the life of a Catholic schoolboy back then. The first chance I had, I left the Catholic church. I eventually discovered my loving God was not a God to be feared and would take Sunday morning walks in nature settings to commune with my Lord.

Fast forward many years, about eight and a half years ago, I found myself in Port Colborne without a church and came to St. J&B at the suggestion of a dear friend. I met Rob, we went out for coffee a couple of days later and talked for about two hours. I had found a church home and, I soon discovered, a church family that welcomed me and embraced me, warts and all. I can’t overstate the importance of my church family in my life and the love I have for all of them. It is one thing to have faith, but to be able to share it with a “family” is,

for me, an indescribable joy. So, there it is, my spiritual journey to arrive where I am at this point in my life. There is, of course, so very much more but space here is limited, and, as I said at the outset, discussing my faith is difficult for me. It really is a personal journey, except when it isn't. I hope that makes a little bit of sense. By George Duma

Day Light Savings Time Again





LEARNING CAFE @ THE GUILD HALL

72 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Thursday, November 3rd

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

"What You Need to Know About Selling Your Home"

Guest Speaker:
Nicki Lumsden
Niagara Association
of Realtors



- ~ Bring a Friend
- ~ Refreshments
- ~ Door Prizes

RSVP to Sandi Marr
☎ 519-616-0930
email: rsmarr@bell.net

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St. James & St. Brendan Anglican Church

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St. James & St. Brendan Anglican Church's

Christmas House Tour

SATURDAY

NOV 25 2023

Tickets are \$25 for the House Tour & Refreshments

& are available by calling 905-834-3184

Begin your tour from The Guild Hall @ 72 Charlotte St.

***11 am where you will pick up your House Tour Map &
Shoe Bag. Stop back at the Hall for a beverage & goodie,
included in the price of your ticket, anytime until 4pm.***

***Do some holiday shopping at our Silent Auction
and be sure to get tickets for our 50/50 Draw***

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Thank you to Nicole Ebert and her team of amazingly wonderful people who made all the Tourties! They were incredibly delicious!!

Thank You to Robynn and Lowell for leading a great Parish retreat.
A great time was had by all.



Thank you to Donna, Barb, Kathy, Nicole and all the Vendors and helpers of the Craft Show. It was a great day!



St. J & B Men's Fellowship Fish Fry

On Saturday, September 23, a number of the men of St. J & B and 2 guests (16 in all) gathered at the lakefront home of John & Marie Butt for a Northern Ontario-style "shore lunch" - a fish fry prepared lakeside by Bill Rivers and his fishing buddy of almost 40 years, Bill Johnston. As with every fish fry Bill has put on here in Niagara, Gary Hoyle worked alongside to keep the guys well-fed.

Hopefully, the gathering served to get the guys from the 8:30 and 10:30 services better acquainted, encourage new friendships and affirm every man that his faith is shared and strengthened through fellowship as well as worship and prayer.

The fish (more than just 2) - walleyes that Bill & Bill "the Other" brought home from the North - were served along with Nancy's baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, beefsteak tomatoes, rolls, and big chocolate chunk cookies.

The fish fry was received enthusiastically, and the conversations centered around (of course) sports and politics, but all those present agreed that a men's ministry/fellowship at St. J & B is something worth building - together - in and out of the church and not just on Sundays. Already, the planning for another fellowship gathering before December is underway.



Parish Council

There will be no Parish Council in November as
Rev. Jody is away.



*This year's **Order of Niagara Recipient** for St. James
and St. Brendan Anglican Church is **Robynn Bliss**.
Please come and celebrate Robynn at Christ's Church
Cathedral 252 James St N, Hamilton, ON L8R 2L3 on
Sunday, November 12th at 4 pm.*

*Please let Pat Davis or Leslie Kennedy know if you wish
to attend.*

Church Chuckle



THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Phil Keane





Obviously, I am no longer going to Israel for my vacation. However, I am still on Vacation from November 5th until November 24th. During this time, I will be spending some time away in Scotland.

Rev. Ian Chadwick will be here on the 3 Sundays I am away. November 5th, November 12th, and November 19th. All three Sundays will be Eucharistic Services.

If you have a Pastoral Emergency, please call the Rev. Jim Powell at 905-354-2809.

Every Tuesday at 9 am there will still be Morning Prayer led by Wendy Saunders.

Every Thursday at 10 am Prayer Service with Communion led by Larry Peyton.



On Sunday, November 26th we will be having a Special Vestry to discuss a new contract that the Corporation has negotiated with the City. We will be having only one service that Sunday at 9:30 a.m. 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 a.m. July and August

Taize

Third Sunday of the Month

The next Service is on November 19th.

Followed by a Pizza and Wine in the Guild Hall

Praise and Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of every month.

The next Service is November 26th, 2023.

At the Pub with God

Fourth Sunday of every month after the Praise and Worship

Service at the Belmont @ 5:15 pm.

November 26th, 2023

Service for Peace

The next Service is Wednesday, November 29th.

12:15 pm.

God Answers Prayers (G.A.P.)

Wednesday, November 15th, 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

55 Charlotte St.

Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C9

Phone: 905-834-3184

Email: 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.*

