

Christmas and Advent at St. Mary's

Services and Events

Dec. 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 am Eucharist Service
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer
- Monthly Potluck Lunch
- **Christmas Bake Sale**

Dig out your favourite recipes and fire up the oven. St. Mary's will be holding its annual Christmas Bake Sale and we need many contributions. Please bring cookies, squares, loaves, jams and so forth early this Sunday for sale during our monthly potluck.

And, for those who don't bake but love homemade goodies, you can purchase some to take home and help support St. Mary's at the same time! Proceeds will help fund our Children's Christmas Party and offset our operating deficit.

Dec. 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 am Eucharist Service
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Dec. 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 am Eucharist Service
- 5:30 pm Evening Prayer
- **Children's Christmas Party**

Join us in the hall after the service for a fun celebration including a kid's favourite lunch of hot dogs, chips, and pop, plus Christmas goodies and hot chocolate. This will be followed by a performance by our Sunday School, carolling led by Father Arvin, and a visit from jolly old St. Nick himself!

Please note: If you are attending with your child, grandchild, etc. it is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you indicate the child's name and age on the signup sheet at the back of the church so Santa's elves can prepare a gift bag for that child.

Dec. 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

- 10:00 am Eucharist Service observing the final Sunday of Advent
- 9:30 pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
- 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist Service

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

- 10:00 am Christmas Morning Eucharist Service celebrating the birth of our Lord

Throughout Advent

We decorate our Christmas tree at the back of the church with new, warm clothing items such as toques, gloves, and scarves - either bought or handmade. These items are then collected for distribution to help out those in need. Please bring your contributions to church throughout Advent and add them to our tree.

We will also be decorating St. Mary's with poinsettias donated by the congregation. Those who wish to contribute a poinsettia may drop them off Saturday morning between 9:30 and 10:00 when the Altar Guild is preparing for Sunday or bring them early before the service Sunday morning. Please do not leave them outside as they will not survive.

Christmas Outreach

This December St. Mary's is supporting three programs for Christmas Outreach:

- Seniors Services Society, to support their Secret Santa Program and services for seniors
- Elizabeth Fry Society, to help families in need with gifts for women and children
- St. Barnabas Church, to support their Community Outreach Programs

Please use your offering envelope to make a donation by writing Christmas Outreach on the bottom line. We need to receive your donations by Sunday Dec. 17 so that our gifts can be delivered Dec. 18 - 20. Thank you for making Christmas a happier time for others.

New! Evening Prayer - Sundays at 5:30

Also, not directly related to Christmas, but starting in December and continuing on into the New Year, St. Mary's will be adding a new service! Beginning December 3, Evening Prayer will take place every Sunday at 5:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

Please note: There will be no Evening Prayer Service on Christmas Eve as we will be holding services at 9:30 and 11:00 pm.

*From all of us at St. Mary's
we wish you and your loved ones
a wonderful and blessed Christmas!*