



Dear Parish Family,

I write this letter inviting you to take part in our parish's Advent/Christmas activities and services for this year. Advent is a time for new beginnings, new life and the renewal of hope and light within each of us and for the world. It is a time to discover or rediscover the gifts God has given to each of us, to help bring new life to all God's people. It is also a season of anticipation, a reminder that there is more to come, that we are on a journey to a new reality; a new way of being.

As a parish, this new beginning will bring a new rector and a second half-time position. For me, it will bring a new chapter in my life, **retirement**, and what that will hold for both Wayne and me. As with all new things there is the unknown, fear, uncertainty but also wonder and great joy. As each of our journeys opens before us, I pray that we will be open to all the possibilities that lie ahead, to pray and embrace where the Holy Spirit is leading us. I thank you for the past eight years. It has surely been a blessed and sacred ministry to have been a part of all the joys and sorrows, the challenges and opportunities, and the ebbs and flows of parish ministry.

Our theme for this Advent is ***Walking with Jesus***. As Genesis 17:1,7 states "*I am God almighty: Walk before me and be blameless ... I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.*" As we walk with Jesus, I ask that we give God's generous gift of creation, hope and life to those we meet on this journey. We will light our Advent Wreath each week as we reflect on the words; *Hope*: (Matthew 24: 36-44), *Peace*: (Matthew 3:1-12), *Joy*: (Matthew 11:2-11) *Love*: (Matthew 1:18-25). Advent is a time for waiting. Let us take this time from our busy lives to light our own candles and to reflect upon the scripture.

This year, for our ***St. Margaret's Boat Advent Outreach Project***, we are collecting women's items for **Iris Kirby House**. Iris Kirby House provides a safe and secure refuge for women with or without children who are experiencing domestic violence. The items needed are: drug store gift cards; women's slippers (all sizes); women's pajamas (all sizes); towels; grocery gift cards; pillows; shampoo; conditioner, and body wash. The boat will be placed in the side foyer on November 13. Please ensure you have your items dropped off by **December 11** as they will be presented at the 11 a.m. service on that day.

Our ***Christmas Hamper Tree*** will be set up on November 27. Please remove a tag or two from the tree and bring the unwrapped items in no later **Monday, December 12**. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. In past years, parish families or businesses have sponsored families, supplying the gifts and food for a full hamper. If you or your business would like to do this, please contact Nickie Butler at nickie12312@gmail.com for further details.

Our *Tree Lighting and Carol Sing* will take place **outside on December 18 at 6:30 p.m.** You can come to the front parking lot of the church in your cars and participate or listen as the choir sings many of your favourite carols. Pledge sheets are included in this package. Please return them to the office by **Wednesday, December 14.**

This year, we could not source Advent folders. Attached is an envelope to make an *Advent Donation*. Please ensure you **complete the information on the front of the envelope and add the amount of your donation.** Thank you.

Also enclosed are all the dates and times of our *Advent and Christmas* services and activities. Please mark the times and dates. We look forward to seeing you. For those who are unable to attend, please join via live-stream on Facebook or YouTube.

I pray these services and outreach initiatives will be a comfort to you as we wait to receive the good news of the coming of our Saviour into the world.

On behalf of the Vestry, our Ministry Team, and our families, I wish you a blessed Advent and a joyous Merry Christmas.

Blessings,

Canon Lynn

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children." Revelation 21:5-7