

Incumbent's Note

I was ordained a priest on March 3rd, 2019. It was a meaningful and joyous service, but when I look back on it, most of it feels like a wonderful blur. A blur of the faces of loved ones from all areas of my life, including many from St. Peter's, coming together for me. A blur of fantastic music, prayer and movement in the service that had been planned to a fine point. A blur of cake and congratulations after the service, at which point I was exhausted but running on adrenaline. It was a great day, but it was a bit of a blur.



What I remember clearly was the first time I ever celebrated the Eucharist. It wasn't at a big grand altar, I wasn't singing the words to the Eucharistic prayer, I wasn't even standing. The first time I celebrated the Eucharist was on the floor of a room in our Diocesan office building surrounded by children. The 'altar' was two Ikea side tables that had been pushed together and as I said the words to the eucharistic prayer for the first time, and raised the bread and the cup, children surrounded me. Some were watching what I was doing, but others were lying down on the floor, cuddled with their parents, having a juice box, or playing with their toys. It was loud, it was busy, it was different, and I remember every moment.

Lent is often a time that many imagine as penitential or solemn and, in many ways, it is as we journey towards the cross with Jesus on Good Friday. Amid this, Lent can also be full of transformation and rejuvenation. The English word "lent" is derived from another word that means spring. Your Lenten journey is just that, a journey. It is not just 40 days we move through so that we can get to the Alleluias, celebration, and eggs of Easter. Lent is a time when we can intentionally focus inward on ourselves and our relationship with God. Sometimes the journey you have been on may feel like a blur, other times we can pinpoint moments that have made an impact in our lives, either way its all part of the journey.

For your journey this year there are many ways to live out a holy Lent, and the clergy of St. Peter's are taking part in a video series through Lent to share our own reflections on what it can mean to have a holy Lent – stay tuned for videos every Monday! This Lent I embark on my 5th year of priestly ministry and as we embark on our 2nd year together at St. Peter's let us pay attention to our journey. I pray it is filled with meaningful moments that blur together and pivotal moments that continue to deepen our relationships with one another and with God.

- Rev. Roshni Jayawardena

A Note from Our Associate & Chaplain to Seniors

It seems the Chancel Guild has only just put away the Christmas decorations and we're looking ahead to Lent and Easter. Lent starts early this year – Ash Wednesday is February 14th! In order to meet the publication deadline, I am writing this in early January 2024 while Christmas and New Year's celebrations are still fresh in my mind.

Before I look ahead, I want to look back for a moment to name some of the things I am grateful for in 2023. First and foremost is Rev. Roshni's arrival as the new incumbent at St. Peter's. I love working with her, and I am grateful for the joy and energy she has brought to our parish. Her arrival has also freed me up to focus more on my role as Chaplain to Seniors.

I am now leading a monthly communion service at five different LTC & Retirement homes. The frequent cancellations this fall and winter due to outbreaks, and the return to more stringent masking protocols in these homes reminds me that for many we haven't completely left the pandemic behind us. But I am grateful for the flexibility of the groups in our parish that interact most closely with seniors, and their willingness to learn from the lessons of the pandemic: to find new ways of connecting, and to bring forward what was important about the pre-pandemic ways we did things with a heightened awareness of the vulnerability of some people to illness, and empathy for those who are isolated.

This past year I was also grateful for the continued Lent and Advent Zoom at Noon services and the rich conversations we had about scripture. We will be offering these Zoom services every Wednesday at noon in Lent beginning on February 21st. I hope that you will find time to join us for a half hour of prayer and reflection.

At our first ACW meeting of 2024 one of the members, in reflecting on New Year's resolutions, asked the question: "What are you going to let go of this year?" I thought that was a really good question – because we're often encouraged to "do, do, do" and forget to "be". But we also need to "let go of" to make space for what's really important to either continue doing or to take on. It is a good question as we begin Lent as well. Rather than "What am I going to give up?" ask "What am I going to let go of?" It could be activities that are no longer fulfilling; activities you've loved in the past but no longer can do; or it could be internal things like resentment or a grudge. Let's begin this Lenten season asking, "What do I need to let go of to open up space in my mind, heart, and soul in order to prepare for the most important season of the church year, Easter?"

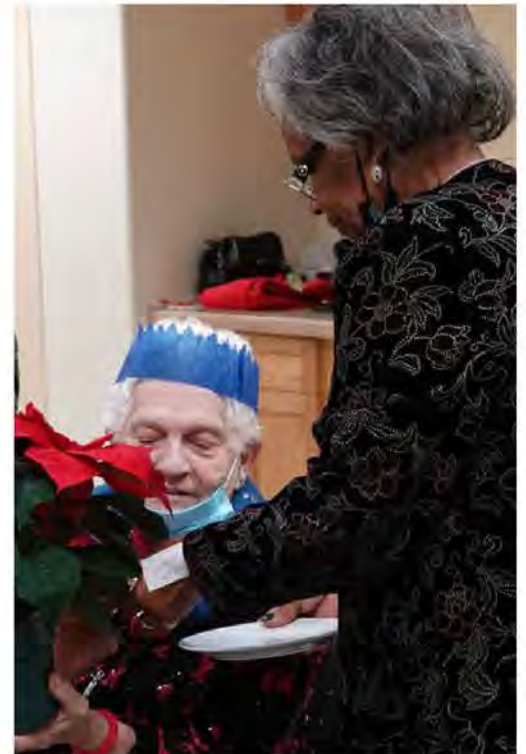
- Rev. Maria Nightingale

Senior's Christmas Tea

Though we've made changes over the years, particularly the past four with the pandemic and its aftermath, the tradition of holding a Senior's Tea remains strong thanks to Lenna McLaughlin and her team of Tea volunteers. This Christmas was no exception. We gathered in the parish hall on December 21st with retirement home residents and parishioners to enjoy worship, refreshments, entertainment, a Christmas carol sing-along, and a guest appearance from Santa Claus.

Thank you to Lenna (Senior's Tea co-ordinator), Sharmini Arulanandam (piano), Shirley Potruff (vocals), Doris Huggett and Lori Dolloff (poinsettia ornament favours), Thom Wigle (Santa), the Chancel Guild, and everyone who made treats, served refreshments, set up, and cleaned up the Hall. Live poinsettias to decorate the tables were donated by Parkland on the Glen. Looking forward to the next Tea in the Spring.

- Submitted by Rev. Maria Nightingale



Bake Sale Returns!

St. Peter's had a fantastic return of the Christmas Bake Sale in November. The community came together to help Nora Langan and the Bake Sale Committee to put on the first post-pandemic bake sale. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and delicious baking skills to a very successful event!

Advent Crafts & Carols

A fun afternoon of crafts and carols was held on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd. People of all ages filled the Parish Hall with song and participated in creating Advent wreaths and other crafts. A bingo game using candies as markers was a big hit, and everyone was a winner because at the end of the game they could all eat their candies! Hot chocolate and cookies were also popular. It was marvelous to see parishioners bringing friends and neighbours to the event and to see everyone interacting with one another. Thank you to the Engler family for their organizational skills, time, and talent that brought to fruition this great way to begin the Advent season!



Lenten Video Series

We begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday and during the service we hear these words from the presider "I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God..." This Lent every Monday clergy from St. Peter's will share a video about what it means to observe a Holy Lent through one of these practices. Together we will explore what each practice means and how it can help us observe a Holy Lent and deepen our relationship with God. We look forward to learning and journeying together as we discern how we will observe a holy Lent this year.

Mapping The Ground We Stand On Workshop

Join the St. Peter's Truth & Reconciliation Study Group for a new in-person workshop, **Mapping The Ground We Stand On**.

This workshop will explore the Indigenous presence and Settler arrival's impact on Turtle Island/Canada and will be facilitated by Ms. Cheryl Marek representing the Primate's World Relief Fund.

Please sign up at the sheet in the Narthex and/or RSVP to Jean Laduke (stpeters@stpeterserindale.ca) or Helen Baxter (helenbaxter@rogers.com) by February 16th 2024.

Saturday, February 24th, 2024
St. Peter's Erindale, Church Hall
10:30 - 2:30 P.M.

A light lunch will be provided.
Open offering donation to the PWRDF



St Patrick's Day Evensong & Dinner

This year on Sunday March 17th for St. Patrick's Day there will be an evensong in the church at 5pm, all are welcome! Following the service there will be a fundraising, St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Dinner will be prepared and served in the church hall and consist of Irish Stew, soda bread, salad and dessert. Green beer or wine will be available as well. * Gluten-free, lactose-free, vegetarian and vegan meal options will also be available. The cost per meal is \$20. If you would like to attend the dinner see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Rev. Roshni. The cut off date for signing up for dinner will be Monday, March 11th. So mark the date in your calendars and sign up for dinner before it is too late! Whether you are able to come for evensong, dinner or both don't forget to don something green and may the luck of the Irish make for a fun evening of fellowship and feasting!

Please email Thom and Mary Ellen Wigle at tmewigle@gmail.com if you are able to help with preparing the food and/or setting up the hall for the dinner. Many hands make light work!

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Services Events

Pancake Supper – February 13
6-8pm hosted by the 1st Erindale Scouts

Ash Wednesday – February 14
7pm Eucharist and Distribution of Ashes

Monday Mornings in Lent
9:15am - Facebook Live

Wednesdays - Starting Feb 21
Noon – Zoom Service

St. Patrick's Day Dinner – Sunday, March 17
Dinner at the Church Hall in the evening, hosted by the Wigles

Holy Week March 24 – March 31

Palm Sunday
8am, 9:15am, 11am

Monday
9:15am Morning Prayer on Facebook Live

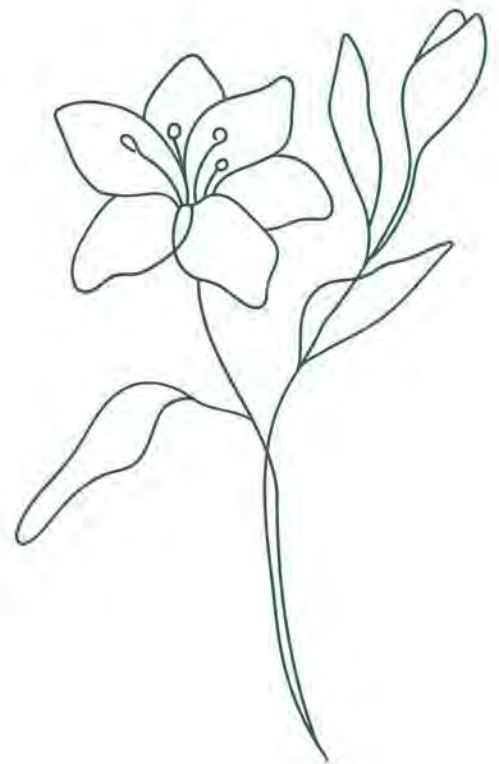
Tuesday
7pm In-person Eucharist

Wednesday
Zoom at Noon

Maundy Thursday
7pm Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday
9:15am & 11am with Stations of the Cross in between

Easter Morning
7am, 9am & 11am



Rites of Passage

Deaths

December 1, 2023

The Rev. Canon David Harold Long

January 1, 2024

Evelyn Jane Silvester

January 17, 2024

Sybil Brand



Clergy

Incumbent

The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena

Associate & Chaplain to Seniors

The Rev. Maria Nightingale

Honorary Assistant

The Rev. Canon James Ferry

Deacon

The Rev. Robert Townshend

Wardens

Rector's Warden:

Michael Davies

Deputy Rector's Warden:

Sarah Mikolich

People's Warden: Ken Baxter

Deputy People's Warden:

Natasha Bond

Contact Us

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