ANNOUNCEMENTS



Readings For Next Sunday's Service:
* First Reading, Isaiah 40:1-11
* Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
* 2 Peter 3:8-15a
* Gospel, Mark 1:1-8

Five Weeks of Giving - Week 3

On the Third Week of Giving
To help less fortunate friends,
Jean said, "Bring in **UNDERWEAR**!
Spend whatever you can spend!

New panties, briefs and boxer shorts,
They need all styles and sizes.
Tank-tops, bras, and tshirts are also welcome,
Basic needs can be happy surprises.

Our annual donation drive continues in support of the Lookout Shelter, North Shore Crisis Services, Mission to Seafarers and those in need around our community. There is no better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus than to help those who cannot help themselves. Whether you bring in one item or a bagful, you are helping people on the North Shore stay safe, healthy and warm this winter.

Jean's Box collects all year long, and you are always welcome to bring in other new or like-new clothing items and toiletries.

Still Accepting:
Week 1 - Socks
Week 2 - Toiletries

Soup and Buns and Conversation - Wed. December 2 -

at 11:30am in the downstairs lounge. Please feel free to invite friends and family. While it is a drop-in program, please let Donna know if you plan to come and how many might be coming with you. (email the office at stjohnnv@telus.net or call 604-986-1151). We look forward to seeing you.

"Christmas at Sea": Cards for Seafarers

On Reign of Christ Sunday, Chaplain Peter Smyth said the following in his sermon: "Seafarers are just like the rest of us and appreciate a kind word of love and support, to know that people care. Christmas cards (bought or made) by you and given to the seafarers in the Port of Vancouver at Christmas can bridge the gap between land and sea and lift the spirit when loneliness and the absence of loved ones on distant shores prevail."

My own experiences visiting ships certainly resonates with Chaplain Peter's words. Even a few words on a card can mean a lot. At this time of year, those of us who visit ships will often try to put a couple of cards in each of the regular "care packages" that we bring on board.

Beginning on Advent 1 and running through this season, there will be a bag left in the Narthex labelled "Christmas at Sea." If you wish to leave a card (or two, or three :)) for seafarers at any time during the season, simply put it in the bag as you come into the church. I will make sure that they get into the seafarers' hands. As I have mentioned before--when I am on a ship, I often point to the North Shore to show them the approximate location of this church. Together, we can continue to be a lighthouse at this time.

- Father Shawn

Guidelines for Christmas Cards:

Cards can either be made personally by hand, or you can use standard pre-made Christmas cards, and add a note to them. Notes should express wishes for a merry, joyful, blessed Christmas season, and can include assurance of your prayers for the seafarer and for their family. And you can thank the seafarers for their hard work that helps us and our country in so many ways. Be creative and say what comes from your heart. The message doesn't need to be long – keep it simple and meaningful.

You can express that "I" keep you in prayer. But be sure to not share any personal contact information – at most share only your first name.

Note: we will have cards available in the Narthex or at the Welcome Table, for you to inscribe and drop off - while supplies last.

Advent Study Opportunity with Archbishop John

Mountains and Valleys: Preparing for Advent with the Sermon on the Mount

"Blessed are the poor in spirit," are the first words of the Sermon on the Mount, come and explore how these and other challenging and inspiring words can help us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Archbishop John will examine highlights of the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7 along with the lectionary texts for Sundays in Advent. Please read the sermon in advance a few times to get familiar with its themes and come ready to reflect and discuss together this foundational sermon. Guest presenter, Professor Ron Dart, will join the series for the fourth session.

To register, see our post on St. John's website, or contact the office for details.

Tuesdays in Advent beginning Dec.1st 7:00pm-8:15pm

Many Thanks! We are thankful for everyone who gave of their time, their talents and their treasures to bring the Christmas Fair to life! We could not do this without you!

Quote of the Week

Here is this week's quote that provides food for thought or inspiration, or, better yet, both.

"At this Christmas when Christ comes,
will He find a warm heart?
Mark the season of Advent by
loving and serving the others
with God's own love and concern."
- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

As the days grow shorter and the darkness seems endless, Advent brings us hope, peace, joy and love. In this quote, instead of focusing on the lights and decorations and merriment of the season, Mother Teresa asks us to do for others as Jesus would do. To give of ourselves in God's name. What is Jesus calling you to do this Advent?

Family Christmas Tree - Visit the Welcome Table and put your name & the name of loved ones on cards which will decorate the Family Christmas Tree. Use Star ornaments for the names of loved ones no longer with us.

The Coming Week At St. John's

Sunday, Nov 29 **** Coffee, Tea and Fellowship - Today (Lounge) After the service - 12:15pm * AA Group (Lounge) 6pm-9pm***

Monday, Nov 30 **** Church Office is Open 9am-12pm * AA Meeting (Sanctuary) 7pm - 9pm***

Tuesday, Dec 1 **** Church Office is Open 9am-12pm * Alanon Meeting (Lounge) 7pm - 9pm***

Wednesday, Dec 2 **** Church Office is Open 9am-12pm * Soup & Buns & Conversation (Lounge) 11:30am *Never Alone Meeting (Lounge) 6:30 - 8:00pm ****

Thursday, Dec 3 **** Church Office is Open 9am-12pm * Mother Goose Program (final) (Lounge) 10:30-11:30am * AA Meeting (Lounge) 7pm- 9pm * Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:45pm***

Friday, Dec 4 **** Church Office is Closed * Chair Yoga with Andrea (Lounge) 10am * Private party (Lounge) 4pm-10pm***

Saturday, Dec 5 **** Church Office is Open 9am-12pm***