



St. Mary's
KERRISDALE

Winter

2023-2024 *Programming*



We acknowledge that St. Mary's Kerrisdale is located on the unceded ancestral land of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish Nations. We give thanks for the shared land of the Coast Salish Peoples, on which we gather to pray and worship.

Greetings!

We hope this program will serve as an open door, welcoming you in, and inviting you to share in all the wonderful things that are happening here at St. Mary's over the next few months.

Advent and Christmas are busy times in many lives, and we offer opportunities for people of all ages to gather for both uplifting, beautiful worship as well as fun celebrations throughout the season. There are also many opportunities to help our various outreach ministries (like the community meal, Christmas Tree Fundraiser, Neighbourhood Pantry, refugee sponsorship to name just some) with donations of time, money, or resources. We encourage you to look through this program and see what might be of interest to you. There is something at St. Mary's for everyone!

When we journey together, God journeys among us, and it's here that community, support, and encouragement can be found. We hope you'll join us for some of these opportunities to gather, worship, grow, play, and pray together!

Sincerely,

St. Mary's Clergy, Staff, and Leadership Team

KEEP UP TO DATE BY SUBSCRIBING TO:

Messenger

To sign up, scan the QR code, or visit our website and fill out the form, or email the office.

Scan for QR Code
for sign-up form



Worship with Us

Iona Prayer

Please join us for a beautiful liturgy and a chance to try something a little different. Iona worship is offered on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Our upcoming services are **December 17th, January 21st, and February 18th** at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Spirit Sundays

A new way to join together as church family of all ages. On Spirit Sundays our 10am liturgy is shorter, simpler, and accessible for people of every age. We creatively cultivate space to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church. This regularly leads us to explore different themes and spiritual practices based on the readings and season. Then, together, we are emboldened to go out into the world where the Spirit is guiding us. Upcoming dates include: **December 3rd, January 7th, February 4th.**

Coffee with Clergy



Thursdays 9:15am-11am
Grandmama's Cafe
(on Balsam St.)

Winter Dates:

Now till December 14th. Resumes January 11th.



Stop by for a visit and chat with Rev. Lindsay and/or Rev. Roberta, and others. Make a new friend or two! No appointment is necessary - just swing by, grab a drink and sit for a bit!



Join Worship this Advent & Christmas

*During this season, for all services, a **children's soft space** will be available in the sanctuary (front right) where children can play and colour. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day **activity bags** will also be available.*

All service will be offered in-person and online. To join online, see our website for Zoom links and information.

4pm - Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 3rd

This will be a beautiful service of music and readings for Advent. Where gospel and prophecy collide, we can bear witness to the great story arch of God's redeeming love. Together, we journey with the prophets towards Bethlehem.

2pm – Senior's Christmas Eucharist & Tea

Dec. 13th

Start off your Christmas season at St. Mary's by marking your calendars to attend the Seniors' Christmas Eucharist and Tea, on **Wednesday, December 13th** at 2:00 pm. Plan on joining us, and perhaps bring along a friend. This will be a festive service with the familiar hymns we love and Eucharist, then we will gather in the Parish Hall to enjoy a special afternoon tea (and coffee) with friends old and new. This is always a lovely start to our Christmas celebrations at St. Mary's. Please reach out to the Church Office to RSVP or receive a Zoom link for the service portion. These services are designed for those who find it difficult to attend our weekly services for any number of reasons.

Accessible features include:

- Larger print service bulletins
- Altar positioned to avoid stairs
- Assisted hearing devices available

Please let us know if you have any additional accessibility requests - we will do our best to ensure that everyone can comfortably attend!

7pm - Longest Night Service

Thursday, Dec. 21st

Christmas is generally celebrated as a time of joy and fun. But many of us struggle during the holiday season. The Longest Night service (also sometimes called Blue Christmas) gives an opportunity to acknowledge the struggle with darkness and grief we face in our life because we are mourning the death of a loved one, or are feeling lonely or isolated, or are struggling with the pain, need, and suffering we see in the world around us. This quiet, beautiful service will offer opportunities to acknowledge our grief and pain as well as to focus on the promise of hope found in Christ.



Christmas Eve – December 24th

3pm – Family Christmas Eucharist & Pageant

Everyone - the young and young at heart - are all welcome to participate in the pageant. No rehearsal required! Costumes will be available in the Narthex. After the pageant, we'll further celebrate Jesus' birth by having a simplified communion together (the bread and/or the wine). This service is great for families with little ones, or for those who love participating in a Christmas pageant and seeing a Nativity tableau.

7pm - Christmas Eucharist

This service will feature contemporary language, along with carols, choir, and candles as we welcome the Christ child! This lively service is great for those wishing to participate in singing familiar tunes and prayers, with all the magic of Christmas Eve.

11pm - Festive Choral Eucharist

Embrace the beauty, mystery and awe this Christmastide. Our Festive Choral Eucharist will feature traditional choral music, a chanted Eucharist, traditional language, and candlelight. This elegant service will suit those nostalgic for a Christmas midnight gospel.

Christmas Day... and beyond

10am - Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25th

This Christmas morning, at 10am, there will be a beautiful and simple Holy Eucharist to celebrate and share in the joy and peace that come with Jesus' birth. *(There will be no 8am service on this day.)*

10am - Feast of the Holy Name

Monday, Jan. 1st

We are delighted to welcome **Rev. Dr. Rob James**, Associate Professor at VST, as our presider and preacher for this service. Traditionally January 1st (which is 8 days after Christmas) is celebrated as the feast of the Holy Name to commemorate the naming of the baby Jesus. The gospel of Luke tells us at the end of eight days he was circumcised and called Jesus - the name given by the angel before he was conceived.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Friday, Jan. 5th

Come, share a final Christmas feast – in this case, a feast of words and music, marking the completion of our Christmas season. Outside, the carols may have stilled and the bustle now focused on Boxing Week sales, but inside the church we are still celebrating the Incarnation.

JOIN IN OUR MISSION, VOLUNTEER WITH US!

There are many ways you can get involved in helping at St. Mary's. If you have a skill or gift you would like to offer, **please contact Jean in the office** to help discern with you the perfect fit for your time and talent!

jjames@stmaryskerrisdale.ca



Christmas Fundraisers



Wreath-making Workshop

Do you ever admire the lovely Christmas wreaths that some people hang on their doors in December? Well, you could have one too! **For \$40 we will provide you with lunch and all the materials needed and help you make a lovely wreath for your own door, or to gift to someone for their door!**

Laura Groos, a member of the Friends of the Garden, will teach us to make live greenery wreaths and will give advice and help. This fundraiser will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 2nd**, from 9:30am-2:30pm.



To register & pay, scan the QR code or visit www.stmaryskerrisdale.ca

CDC Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Each year, the Community Donations Committee (CDC) selects two charities to support with a special appeal.

We encourage parishioners to make a donation either:

- **online** – visit our website, click the donate button
- by **e-transfer** – please note 'CDC' in the memo line
- or **in person**

Each donation is then represented by an ornament on our Christmas Tree in the Parish Hall. **We want to cover the tree with decorations!** This year's fundraiser will be up and running during Sunday Coffee Hour on **December 3rd, 10th, and 17th.**



This year we have chosen Coast Mental Health and the Lookout Society as our two charities.

Coast Mental Health provides essential housing, support, and employment services for people with mental illness, so they can find their meaningful place in our community - a place to live, a place to connect, and a place to work. (coastmentalhealth.com)

The Lookout Society provides housing and a range of support services to adults with low or no income who have few, if any, housing or support options. The Lookout Society operates many warming shelters around the city, and will be running the one at St. Mary's this winter. ([**lookoutsociety.ca**](http://lookoutsociety.ca))

Free Neighbourhood Pantry

The Free Pantry is now up and running. This is located just outside the office entrance. Parishioners (and all community members!) can put dry/non-perishable food goods, sunscreen, period products, etc. in it, and anyone can take what they need at no cost.

We are inspired by the Marpole Free Pantry's vision of "no policing, no shaming" of anyone using the pantry, in the recognition that an important goal of mutual aid & community support is to "build [...] and retain dignity."

This project is meant to be self-sustaining and build both connection and community by serving as a meeting place.

The SMK Free Pantry can accept:

- Dry goods, non-perishable food
- Period products – pads, tampons, liners
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes, soap, and other general hygiene items
- Sunscreen, bottled water, and other products that help keep people safe in extreme weather conditions.

*For safety reasons, the pantry **cannot accept** open, expired, or perishable goods.*



Christian Formation

Anglican People Talking (APT)

Anglican People Talking is a weekly bible study and discussion group that meets Mondays at 11am both at St. Mary's and via Zoom. APT will take a break for Christmas, last meeting Dec. 18th, restart Jan. 8th.

To learn more about this ongoing group contact Nichola Hall (ranhall@telus.net) or Diana McHardy Schmidt (dmschmidt@shaw.ca)

[Meeting ID is 885 1149 0076. Passcode is the year parish was established 1911]

Advent Quiet Day

The weeks leading up to Christmas are often very busy, so, we invite you to start Advent with a quiet, meditative, and reflective day to refresh you in body and spirit, on **Saturday, December 9th**, Contact Rev. Roberta for more info. (rfraser@stmaryskerrisdale.ca)



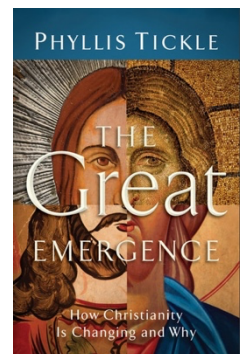
Advent Study Group

We will be offering a 3-week Advent Study series on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm from **December 5th to 20th**. Contact Rev. Lindsay for more info. (lhills@stmaryskerrisdale.ca)

Epiphany Study Group

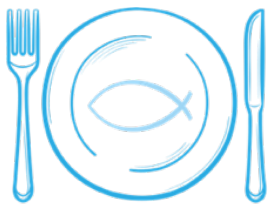
For the six Wednesdays of the Season of Epiphany (**January 3rd to February 7th**) we will offer a video/discussion group on "Embracing Emergence Christianity".

The series includes short weekly videos by Dr. Phyllis Tickle and group discussion too, explore the changing face of Christianity and culture. We will review the changes that have happened in Christianity over the last 2000 years and the implications of the cultural and spiritual changes that are happening now. Contact Rev. Roberta for more information. (rfraser@stmaryskerrisdale.ca)



Fellowship

Saintly Supper Groups



We are offering Saintly Supper Groups in the new year. What are Saintly Supper Groups you might ask? These groups are small groups of people who commit (1) to gathering over a meal once a month and (2) claiming a saint as your group's "mascot". Groups can take turns hosting at different people's homes, have a potluck at the church, a picnic at the beach, donuts after church - your group decides what works for you! This is a chance to grow deeper in relationship with others.

Supper groups will meet in February, March, April, and May. Once people have signed up, parishioners will be broken into small groups. Reach out to Rev. Lindsay for more information or to sign up!



NEWCOMERS EVENT

Sunday, December 3rd

Are you 'new' to St. Mary's? Or are you returning after a long time away from the church? Or did you join St. Mary's over the past three years and don't feel like a 'newcomer' but have never been officially 'welcomed' to the parish?

Then YOU are invited to join us for one of the Newcomer Events!!! December 3rd we are offering an afternoon brunch event for newcomers to meet/talk with the clergy and some of the parish leaders, have a chance to ask those questions that we all think about but never get around to asking, and enjoy some social time and lovely food as a welcome to the parish. We will be sending out invitations to those of you we have identified as 'new' but it's so very easy to miss people when trying to make a list like this. So, if you are new (or a 'returning' parishioner) and would like to receive an invitation to come to a newcomers' brunch, then please do contact us so we can add you to the list! Contact Rev. Roberta or Rev. Lindsay or email the office to join the list.



Family Ministry

If you are interested in any of the ministries and/or events below, you can contact Kingsley (kingsley@stmaryskerrisdale.ca)

Family Advent Retreat

On **Saturday, December 2nd from 9am-2pm**, explore the Season of Advent together as a family through stories, games, and activities. Lunch will be provided. You'll get to make an advent wreath to take home. **It's all free!** **Just please register** so we can prep the right amounts of materials and food for you.



To register, scan the QR code or visit www.stmaryskerrisdale.ca



Advent Wreath Making (Intergenerational)

If you don't get a chance to join us at the Family Advent Retreat, but still want to make an advent wreath, you'll have your chance at coffee hour after church on **Sunday, December 3rd**.

Early Communion (Introduction Class)

Are your young children curious about communion/eucharist? Perhaps they ask you: why it is called communion or eucharist; why there are always bread and wine at church; what do all the prayers mean leading up to communion; when can they have some?

We can explore all these questions and more if you attend our Early Communion Introduction Class as a family on **Sunday, January 21st** immediately following church. Contact Kingsley if interested.

Youth Volunteer (“Mission”) Trip

This year our youth will plan and partake in a **Volunteer Trip**. With Kingsley and Rev. Lindsay’s supervision, they will plan the whole thing, what volunteer work we will do, where we will travel, how we will get there, etc The planning and team building in advance of this trip will replace youth group this year. Contact Kingsley if interested.

Save the Dates – specific to Family Ministry

- Family Advent Retreat **Dec.2nd – 9am-2pm**
- Advent Wreath Making **Dec.3rd – after 10am service**
- Christmas Pageant **Dec.24th – 3pm**
- Early Communion Introduction Class **Jan.21st – after 10am service**
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party **Feb.13th**
- Family Lent Retreat **Feb.10th**
- Family Pentecost Retreat **May 18th**



Outreach and Social Action

Community Meal

Every Tuesday we offer a community meal to anyone in the community who would like to attend.

Contact Regan Gorman by email at KCM@stmaryskerrisdale.ca if you are willing and able to help with any of the many aspects of this important ministry. No prior experience necessary, full training will be given.

Dates: December 5th, 12th, 19th (Christmas special).

Please note there will be no lunch on Dec. 26th and Jan 2nd.

Refugee Sponsorship Update

Update on the Siddiquis, our Afghan refugees

Freshta has now finished her 6-month contract with the law firm and is looking for another job. This is particularly pressing, as our financial support for Freshta and her mother, Adela, officially ends at the end of December, and they will be on their own.

Any connections or ideas that you might have for available positions for which Freshta could apply would be very gratefully received. She has four languages, a degree in Business Administration from the American University of Afghanistan, has worked on a contract for the European Union, and her qualifications have been accepted in Canada. Her resume is available upon request.

The lease for the apartment that we have been renting for Freshta and Adela is renewable on March 1st. We want to help them with the extra 2 months' rent to take them to the end of February. **We are therefore appealing for further donations towards this, with immense gratitude for all the support you have offered up until now.**

Freshta and Adela are so grateful to St. Mary's for our support – a recent message said they “would like to thank God for blessing me with family members like you guys”.

Update on our Palestinian Family

The Palestinian refugees whom we have agreed to sponsor - Ahmad and Mirna Bader - are still waiting for their papers for coming to Canada. They are currently in Dubai and Ahmad has found a new job, working as a graphic designer for a real estate company. A small amount of furniture has already been received and is in storage, and some has been offered as is being held by the donor until the Baders' arrival. When we DO hear of their imminent arrival (which could be with as little as two weeks' notice) we will be sending out an urgent appeal for help with finding somewhere for them to live - even on a temporary basis.

DONATE TODAY & HELP US SUPPORT THESE FAMILIES

- To donate by credit card please visit our website and choose “Give to St Mary's Refugee Resettlement Sponsorship- Siddiqui/Palestinian Family” from the drop-down menu.
- To donate by cheque, use the collection plate and put Afghan or Palestinian refugee in the memo line.

All donations to our refugee sponsorship are tax receiptable. Thank you.



Holiday Office **CLOSURES**



**The Office will be closed from
Monday, December 26th to Wednesday, January 3rd**

We know (and appreciate!) that many parishioners like to make year-end financial gifts. St. Mary's often holds Dec. 31st office hours to allow people to turn in such donations but this year there is a regular church service that day! Accordingly, **end-of-year gifts can be made either at church that day (Dec. 31st) or through one of our other methods.** Please note these key tax receipt cut-off dates if you are aiming for a 2023 tax receipt:

- **Mail** - must be postmarked December 31st or earlier.
- **E-transfer** to office@stmaryskerrisdale.ca or by credit card through our website – transaction must be completed by 11:59pm on December 31st.
- **Cheque or cash** - must be received in the offertory plate or secure drop box by 11am on December 31st.

**Please note that envelopes left on the Office counter, etc. will be counted as received on the date that we locate them.
(This may be in January.)**



Visit our Website
DISCOVER ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

To visit our website, scan the QR code, or visit
www.stmaryskerrisdale.ca

Save the Date

Actually, lots of dates!

Early Communion Class ~ January 21st
Family Lent Retreat ~ February 10th
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party ~ February 13th
Ash Wednesday ~ February 14th
Lent Quiet Day ~ February 24th
VESTRY ~ February 25th
Parish Clean up ~ March 16th
Lent Study Group ~ Wednesdays during Lent
Holy Week ~ March 24th -30th
Easter ~ March 30th
Seniors Easter Eucharist ~ April 3rd

Look out for more details in the Messenger.

St. Mary's Kerrisdale

VESTRY 2024

will be held in the Parish Hall, after the 10am service on

Sunday, Feb.25th

PARISH LEADERSHIP

<i>Rector</i>	Rev'd Lindsay Hills	lhills@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Rev'd Roberta Fraser	rfraser@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Deacon</i>	Rev'd Christine Wilson	cwilson@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Building Manager / Verger</i>	Regan Gorman	rgorman@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Parish Coordinator</i>	Elisabeth Donnelly	elisabeth@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Family Ministry / Cmns</i>	Kingsley Genaille	kingsley@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Finance / Volunteer Coordinator</i>	Jean James	jjames@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Director of Music / Organist</i>	Kirkland Adsett	kadsett@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Rector's Warden</i>	Deborah Spafford	dspafford@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>People's Warden</i>	Robert Macdonell	rmacdonell@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Associate Rector's Warden</i>	Dave Howard	dhoward@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Associate People's Warden</i>	Anna Gebauer-Morden	agebauer@stmaryskerrisdale.ca
<i>Treasurer</i>	David Wood	treasurer@stmaryskerrisdale.ca



St. Mary's
KERRISDALE

In Christ, we are a welcoming and inclusive community that knows and shares the love of God and serves those in need.



A Parish of
The Diocese of
New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



The Anglican Church of Canada

stmaryskerrisdale.ca ~ 2490 W. 37th Ave
(604) 261-4228 ~ office@stmaryskerrisdale.ca