303 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1L4 | stjames.bc.ca

# ST. JAMES'
## ANGLICAN CHURCH

**2025**
PARISH PROFILE

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> At St. James' Church, we acknowledge that we worship together on the ancestral unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.


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# who we are

St. James' embraces a Christ-centred sacramental life rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, offering reverent liturgy that proclaims the Gospel and celebrates the Holy Sacraments.

We are a diverse community, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. The beauty of our worship fosters a warm, inclusive community, allowing individuals to grow in faith at their own pace. We understand that worshiping Christ also means serving others, which is why mission is central to our vocation.

We engage in outreach within Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES), an area impacted by poverty and addiction. As social services have expanded, our role is shifting to one of presence and witness—not only for our neighbourhood but also for a wider, disordered world.

St. James' provides a space for those seeking rest, healing, and vocational discernment. As our congregation undergoes a generational shift, we face challenges common to many Anglican churches, including changes in giving and service.

Our mission, "To be a beacon for all within our sight," continues to guide us as we carry the light of Christ, inviting others to know this light as well.

*Above Image: Communion at the Altar Rail*

# st. james' speaks

*Carillon at St. James'*



"As we take this journey together in the search for a new rector, St. James' parishioners were offered a variety of ways to share their thoughts, experiences and views, including through a survey, town hall meetings and whiteboard discussions.

Participation was enthusiastic with several common themes emerging as summarized here."

## On Spiritual Growth at St. James

Our parishioners comprise a vibrant spiritual community, fostering personal growth and faith through music, homilies, sacraments, and pastoral care. Rooted in Anglo-Catholic tradition, the church centres on the Eucharist while extending outreach to the local neighbourhood. Welcoming all, St. James' offers a sacred space for reverence, transcendence, and deep connection with God, as an integral part of the global Church.

## Our Hopes for a New Rector

We seek a rector who is a devoted preacher and teacher, guided by a clear vision and a deep commitment to the Anglican tradition and its sacred music. As a compassionate and dynamic leader, they must be passionate about evangelism and fostering a sense of community. They should

excel in communication, both in listening and speaking, and empower others to grow in their faith. A caring pastor, they must be genuinely invested in the well-being of the community, with a keen understanding of issues like addiction and mental health. With a personable, approachable demeanour, they should bring energy, spiritual maturity, and empathy to every interaction. Open to continual learning, culturally sensitive, and grounded in theology and liturgy, the rector must embody both strength and grace, guiding others with wisdom and compassion.

## Where we see Growth

Our parishioners hope to see St. James' grow through deepening our community ties, fostering spiritual formation, and expanding outreach. Prioritizing theological instruction, prayer, and the Stations of the Cross, we aim to nurture discipleship and evangelism. Local families may be engaged through initiatives like the St. James' Music Academy and family masses, should they be reestablished. We aspire to include a healing space that supports those in recovery. Emphasizing lay leadership, environmental stewardship, and pilgrimage, St. James' wishes to enhance spiritual connections and outreach efforts. We hope to see virtual services continue, as well as to film in-person services as a way to increase visibility and raise funds. Strengthening local partnerships





and leveraging neighbourhood growth, St. James' is committed to renewing its mission and welcoming an engaged congregation.

*Carillon Image (p2): The bells were given to the church by the Rev Fr Robert Grange Harker, Fifth Rector of St James' from 1920 – 1921.*

*Fr Harker's gift of the bells was meant to be anonymous, but it was a poorly-kept secret. He was said to be delighted with the inscription written by Fr Whitehead, which is concealed on the small treble bell – very much in keeping with the mediæval custom of punning inscription. It reads : "God Bless the Music of These Bells, and Trebly Bless the Harker."*

*Fr Harker believed that it would be difficult to find competent bell-ringers on the 'remote shores' of Canada, and had the eight bells made into a carillon.*

*The 'player piano console' that is in the ambulatory behind the high altar has a player role that allows for these bells to be rung in the English-style change ringing*

# our neighbourhood

*St. James' Anglican Church Community*



Our neighbourhood in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside is often perceived negatively due to high poverty levels, noise and other distractions. Many confuse feeling uncomfortable with being unsafe.

With abundant social resources nearby, our focus is on spiritual and pastoral care, building relationships alongside partners who provide physical aid. While they address corporal needs, we offer spiritual works of mercy that honour the dignity of everyone in our parish. St. James' serves as a quiet space for contemplation and rest, benefiting both the community and outreach workers in nearby non-profits.

The neighbourhood is also vibrant, with year-round workshops, art festivals, and markets. Its ethnically diverse population fosters a strong sense of community. Our parish also extends into other parts of East Vancouver, like Strathcona, which has different demographics, such as more families. As a church dedicated to serving the entire parish, we are exploring ways to reach out to these new communities.

> "St. James exemplifies the practice of putting the Christian faith into action through its welcoming and its inclusive environment and its outreach."

*Right Image: Easter - The Gospel Reading*

# worship

*Easter Vigil*



St. James' embraces the beauty of holiness through a Christ-centred sacramental life rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Our liturgy, including the principal Solemn Mass on Sundays with sacred ritual and music, proclaims the Gospel and celebrates the Holy Sacraments. Low Mass is also celebrated daily, with two Masses on certain days.

Music is central to our worship, with a choir of volunteers and professionals performing Gregorian chant, Mass Ordinaries, and motets by composers such as William Byrd and Marcel Duruflé. St. James is one of the few places in western Canada to offer this high-quality music within its traditional liturgical context.

In addition to in-person worship, St. James has a robust online community, with daily and Sunday services, including the Liturgy of the Word, homily, and Spiritual Communion, available via Zoom. The Daily Office is also said each day online.

> "It is a constant that helps me keep stable when all the world is a jumble."

# our ministries

*Palm Sunday parade*



## Street Outreach Initiative (SOI)

For over 20 years, St. James' Father Matthew Johnson has led this Diocesan initiative, which is financially supported by us. The SOI plays a key role in St. James' engagement with the Downtown East Side (DTES), valued by the entire diocese as seen in synod discussions and parish fundraising. The initiative includes walkabouts, pastoral care for residents, and advisory services. Volunteers assist Father Matthew on the streets and in training future clerics and street workers across North America. The SOI supports around 700 individuals who are dealing with homelessness, addiction, PTSD, mental health issues, and complex interactions with law enforcement. While independent, it is governed by a Support and Advisory Group reporting to the diocese, with crucial support from St. James' Rector, Trustees, and parishioners.

> "I love that we have a parish keeping the Anglo-Catholic tradition alive."

## Indigenous Reconciliation and Outreach

The DTES has a large Indigenous population, and St. James' has long been home to many Indigenous parishioners who are central to both the parish life and reconciliation efforts. Indigenous Elders join Father Matthew Johnson in street outreach, offering guidance. The Rector also ensures space for Indigenous participation in services, such as hosting ceremonies on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour victims of residential schools and cultural genocide.

## Other Outreach

The St. James' Outreach Committee provides annual grants to support humanitarian efforts through Alongside Hope (formerly Primate's World Relief Development Fund) and local community organizations. We also collaborate with our companion parish, St. Benedict's, in the Northern Philippines.

## St. James' Music Series

Launched in 2017, St. James' popular concert series enhances culture in the DTES by offering diverse performances from renowned artists. It provides a venue for musicians and attracts a wide audience, who can enjoy both the church's imposing architecture and excellent acoustics. Past events have featured international choirs and virtuoso musicians from around the world.

## Narthex Guild

The Narthex Guild welcomes newcomers and parishioners to the church, counts attendees, and ensures a safe, respectful environment for services and events.

*Music Series : The Gesualdo Six*





## Worship Ministries

In recent years, the guilds that St James' has traditionally relied on have changed significantly in participation and service.

## Servers' Guild

St. James' glorious Anglo-Catholic liturgy relies on a dedicated team of altar servers who assist in roles such as Master of Ceremonies, thurifer, torchbearers, crucifer, and acolytes during various services including Solemn High Mass, Evensong, and Benediction.

## Sanctuary Guild

Working closely with the Servers' Guild, the Sanctuary Guild supports St. James' Anglo-Catholic worship by preparing the vestments and vessels needed for daily services at the high altar and in the chapels.

## Readers' Guild

The Readers' Guild, comprised of parishioners, reads the lessons and intercessions at services, both in-person and online, highlighting the importance of Scripture and symbolizing the congregation's role in worship.

# st james' music academy



## St. James' Music Academy

The St. James' Music Academy (SJMA), the parish's major tenant, offers free music instruction to 150 children from low-income families through junior (grades 1-4) and senior (grades 5-12) programs. The academy brings children from four east-side schools for lessons in orchestra, music theory, choir, marimba, guitar, piano, music therapy, bells, and Orff, taught by 20 instructors and three music therapists. SJMA fosters strong ties with local schools, holds performances at schools and community centers, and invites families to observe. Students perform at events like the Heart of the City Festival, and the Spring and Christmas concerts celebrate their achievements. Many graduates continue their education at the postsecondary level.

> Our family involvement with St. James' was instrumental in our nurturing of good human beings

*SJMA Executive Director Sarah Godoy writes:*

> *Saint James Music Academy is deeply grateful to St. James Anglican Parish and the Anglican Diocese of Vancouver for its critical role in making SJMA possible. By generously sharing your spiritual home with the music school, you have provided the children and families of this community with a place of safety, comfort, stability, beauty and belonging. Our staff truly value our partnership with the Parish and we are most grateful for your support of our work. We look forward to continuing this journey with you, as we have the honour of making music - and so much more - accessible to the young people in the Downtown Eastside.*

## Finances

As of March 31, 2025, the Parish held $8.5 million in investments with a reputable firm across seven accounts, some of which are restricted. These funds cover the shortfall in income from donations, rentals, and other sources. In 2025, $574,728 (66% of the operating budget) will be transferred from investments to balance the budget. Annual giving has remained steady over the past five years, while rental income declined during the COVID-19 pandemic. A copy of the 2025 budget with income, expenses, and inter-fund transfers is included in the appendix.

## Attendance

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

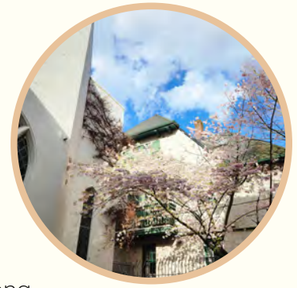
| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 121 | 103 | 69 | 105 | 98 | 95 | 101 |

*Above: A graph of annual parish statistics, including parish roll numbers, baptisms, marriages, funerals, average attendance, and budget figures from the past five years, is included in the appendix.*

## Buildings

St. James' Anglican Church, one of Vancouver's most beautiful buildings, enriches the DTES. Designed by Adrian Gilbert Scott and consecrated in 1936, the church offers a luminous space for worship. A Casavant Frères organ and a choir loft take advantage of the superb acoustics. Renowned architect Arthur Erikson praised its architectural excellence as one of Vancouver's most thrilling church entrances.

The original church, Vancouver's first Anglican church, was destroyed in the 1886 fire. A temporary structure served the parish until 1925 when a Parish Hall was added, followed by a Clergy House in 1927. In 2019, the Clergy House was converted into a Parish Centre, now serving as the social hub for activities and housing administrative offices.

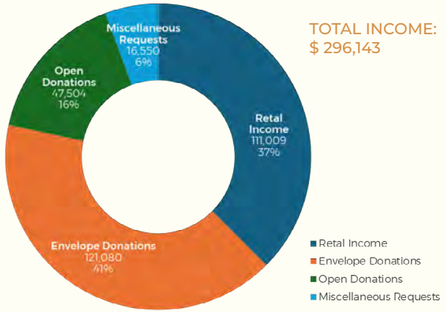


St. James' is also a popular film location, with proceeds supporting the church's maintenance. Ongoing and planned renovation projects, along with a capital campaign led by the Rector, will ensure the building's continued upkeep.

# Saint James's Parish Proposed 2025 Budget

## Income

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Envelopes Donations | 121,080.00 | 13.9% |
| Open Donations | 47,504.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Bequests | 16,550.00 | |
| Rental Income | 111,009.00 | 20.1% |
| TOTAL INCOME | **296,143.00** | **34.0%** |




TOTAL INCOME:
$ 296,143

## Expenses

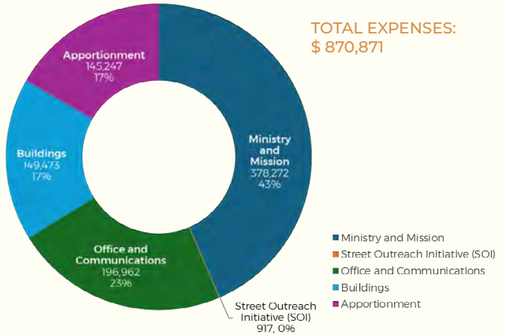
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MINISTRY & MISSION | | |
| Clergy | 256,357.00 | |
| Music | 96,345.00 | |
| Guilds/Missions | 25,570.00 | |
| Street Outreach Initiative (SOI) | 917,00 | |
| | **379,189.00** | **43.5%** |
| OFFICE & COMMUNICATIONS | | |
| Accounting & Auditing | 40,000.00 | |
| Banking | 3,000.00 | |
| Communications | 4,000.00 | |
| Computer | 7,100.00 | |
| Printing and Postage | 14,900.00 | |
| Insurance | 52,272.00 | |
| Office Expenses | 69,620.00 | |
| Security | 3,500.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 2,570.00 | |
| | **196,962.00** | **22.6%** |
| BUILDINGS | | |
| Church & Clinton Memorial Hall | 144,473.43 | |
| Parish Centre (former Clergy House/Rectory) | 5,000.00 | |
| | **149,473.00** | **17.2%** |





## Expenses (cont'd)

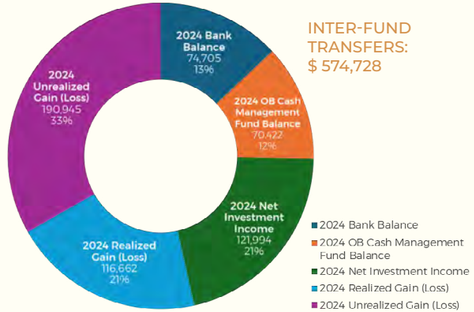
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| APPORTIONMENT | | |
| Diocesan Fair Share Assessment | 145,247.00 | |
| | **145,247.00** | **16.7%** |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | **870,871.00** | |
| SURPLUS (LOSS) | **(574,728.00)** | **66.0%** |




TOTAL EXPENSES:
$ 870,871

## Inter-Fund Transfers to General Fund

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| less: 2024 Bank Balance | 74,705.00 | |
| 2024 OB Cash Management Fund Balance | 70,422.00 | |
| SUB-TOTAL | **145,127.00** | |
| INTER-FUND TRANSFERS REQUIRED | **429,601.00** | **5.1%** |
| plus: 2024 Net Investment Income | 121,994.00 | |
| plus: 2024 Realized Gain (Loss) | 116,662.00 | |
| plus: 2024 Unrealized Gain (Loss) | 190,945.00 | |
| plus: 2024 Capital Encroachment | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| 2024 INTER-FUND TRANSFERS | **429,601.00** | **49.3%** |




INTER-FUND TRANSFERS:
$ 574,728

# Appendix B

## Annual Parish Statistics

| PARISH STATISTICS | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Number on Parish Roll | 189 | 186 | 169 | 275 | 217 |
| Identifiable Givers | 185 | 96 | 110 | 124 | 118 |
| Baptisms | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Marriages | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Confirmations | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Funerals | 7 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 7 |

**Photography :**
*Sean Birch*
*Christine Hatfull*
*PJ Janson*
*Joanna Lam*
*Christopher Loh*
*Peggy Smith*