



Parish Update #36 Fall 2022

Hello friends of St. John's. As we move into the fall season, I'm sending along this update on parish programs and activities.

Worship: We continue to worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The worship is now live-streamed on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/stjohnstruro](#). You can also access this through a link on the parish website where the worship can be watched after the fact.

Covid Precautions: With regard to Covid, we are still taking precautions until we see what the fall and flu seasons bring! So, we continue to recommend masking in our buildings and ask that you continue to respect physical distancing. We are still keeping our offering at the middle of the aisle (organ side), restricting the passing of the peace to safe gestures, and distributing the wine of communion by eye-dropper onto your wafer. Greeters will continue to invite you into the aisle for communion at a safe distance. The chairs at the back of the sanctuary are for those who wish to keep a little greater distance. Thank you for your great patience with this and your cooperation. It helps to keep our vulnerable population safe!

Organ Repairs: The repairs to the wall and ceiling of our organ chamber are nearly finished. We hope to have the sanctuary back to normal within the next few weeks. Thankfully, no further organ work is necessary at this time. Thanks to John Greer who has been diligent in working with the organ technician and to Robin Phillips for coordinating the repair work with the local contractor.

Up and Coming:

Fall Retreat: We're excited about this special day together! It takes place on Saturday Oct. 22 at Whispering Spirits Farm in Hodson outside River John. We will be hosted by Karen Ewing and Carol McNutt. Our theme this year is **Christ, Community, Creation**. It is a chance to be in God's beautiful outdoors, to worship Christ and to reconnect with our parish family. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and muffins. We will share a short gathering liturgy and then have choices about how to spend our reflection time. There will be stations where you can share with others and be creative, quiet spaces for personal reflection or reading on your own and lots of trails to walk in peace. We'll brown bag for lunch and finish with another short reflection time and lastly share in the Eucharist, finishing around 2:00 p.m. We would love to have you with us. A Car pool is planned and we have good driving directions to get to Hodson which is about 55 minutes outside of town. Please indicate your interest by signing up on the sheet at the back of the church or by emailing me at llramseyis@gmail.com. Plan to bring: a bagged lunch and travel mug for warm drinks, a water bottle, lawn chair, bug spray and warm clothes! The retreat will go forward rain or shine!!!

Tuesday Noon Worship: Join Natasha for an intimate service of noon prayer in the sanctuary every Tuesday at 12:15 beginning on Sept. 27. This will be half-hour service meant as a quiet moment in the bustle of the day. All are welcome!

Synod 2022 – Our Diocesan Synod meets in Halifax from Oct 14-16. The lay delegates elected at our AGM in 2022 have all found themselves unable to attend the session. There is provision in the Canons of the Diocese for a parish council to elect others to fill those positions. So, at its meeting on Sept. 20, Parish Council elected Natasha Bejarano and Cory Lunn to serve as our lay delegates. Thanks to Cory and Natasha for agreeing to serve on short notice! Please pray for Cory, Natasha and myself on those days.

Thanksgiving Weekend: This year Thanksgiving Sunday falls on Oct 9. For the last two years we have purchased produce to decorate the sanctuary due to the Covid pandemic. We hope to return to receiving your donations for this year's Thanksgiving feast. Everything donated will go to the Food Bank after the holiday. Donations can be dropped off on Saturday, Oct 8 at 9:00. Thank you!

Parish Discernment: We continue with a process of discernment about the future ministry of the parish. Two inquirers, Cory Lunn and Natasha Bejarano, are currently moving through a process of personal discernment about the possibility of future ordination as CAPP priests. We remember with thanksgiving the ministries of our former CAPP priests Rev Dorothy Tay and Rev. Gary Yetman. We are blessed by the commitment Natasha and Cory are making to the parish and the wider church. Our parish part in the discernment process this fall takes the form of two group discussions about the shape of our current ministry and our hopes going forward. These discussions will take place by Zoom on two evenings: Thursday, Oct. 6 and Tuesday, Oct 25 both at 7:00 p.m. Please indicate your interest in taking part by emailing me at llramseyis@gmail.com. Materials for the discussion will be sent by email the week before the zoom session to those who sign up.

Blessing of Animals: After a two year hiatus, we return to our annual Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, Oct. 2, the Sunday nearest the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. The service will take place at 2:00 p.m. on the church lawn. Come and bring your faithful friends – whether furry, scaly or featured!

Sunday school: Our Sunday school is seeing some changes this fall. Due to a staffing shortage, we are reducing to one event per month for the period October – December. These dates will be Oct 18 for a Thanksgiving event, Nov. 27 for an Advent event and Dec. 11 for a Christmas event. In this changing time, we hope to have the children take part in the church service when they are not in Sunday school. There are so many ways children of all ages can take part in the service and we look forward to seeing where they may like to

help out! We are still actively seeking volunteer helpers at this time (both as doorkeepers who help the children with supplies for their work time and keep the children focused during the story time and as storytellers with training provided.) The Sunday school team will reassess in January and see where we are with volunteers and ability at that time. Please pray for the children and our leaders in this time of transition.

As we look ahead to **Advent and Christmas**, we are hoping to be able to celebrate these sacred seasons completely in the building for the first time in two years. More details will follow as the fall progresses. Look for our annual list of food items for **Christmas Index** coming up in the parish leaflet after the Thanksgiving weekend.

As we come into this new season, much that is familiar about our life as a parish family has come back to ground and encourage us. Other aspects of our life have not returned and we miss them. New things are being tried and their success has yet to be determined. As Martin Luther King Jr. has said *"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."* It feels a little like that in the church these days. In a time of transition, we need to give ourselves and each other time and grace and gentleness. And we need also to remember that God is patient with us, tending this parish garden with care and waiting to see what good fruit we will yield. May we always be turning our hearts to the One who is always with us and who calls us on into the future.

In Christ's peace,

Rev. Lori