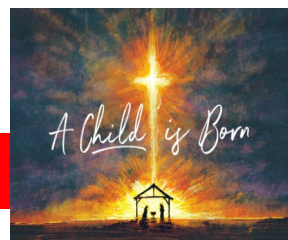


South Dundas Anglican

ANGLICAN PARISH OF SOUTH DUNDAS



Dec. 2025

Symphony performance dazzles packed church



Again this year, St. James was the site on December 7 of a wonderful symphony concert presented by the young musicians from the Montreal area who make up the Orchestre Symphonique des Jeunes de la Monteregie. The group appeared in Morrisburg last year but has grown to its pre-pandemic size of 70 musicians, up from 50 last year. Under the direction of Georges-Etienne d'Entremont, the group dazzled the packed church with a variety of classical and more contemporary Christmas music, and accompanied our own mezzo-soprano, Margaret Whisselle who sang two solo numbers.

The symphony was introduced by Isabelle Delage [photo at left] representing Tilted Steeple Productions and presented in collaboration with our parish. Thanks to a number of generous donors, all transportation and meal costs for the group were covered, leaving the proceeds of the event to be given to charity. Bob Ruddock a member of the organizing committee reported that \$500 will be going to Community Food Share with the balance of the proceeds going towards parish outreach activities.

Christmas services in the Parish

Advent 4: December 21 - 10:30 am – Theme: Love

Christmas: A time of celebration of the birth of Christ

Christmas Eve: December 24 –

4:00 pm – Family service with Eucharist

7:30 pm – Evening service with Eucharist

Christmas Day: December 25 - 10:00 am at the Hartford

Christmas 1: December 28 – 10:30 am

A Service of Intentions.

As the Magi brought gifts to the Christ child, so we are invited to offer up our spiritual intentions for the new year. For example, some may offer an intention to be more intentional in practicing things like patience, kindness, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, self-control and/or commitment to regular prayer and/or ministry.

Epiphany: A time of making Christ known

Epiphany: January 4 - 10:30 am - The Magi arrive.

Baptism of Jesus: - January 11 - 10:30 am - live streamed



A message from the Rector

Dear South Dundas Anglicans and friends,

It is my prayer that this letter finds you in good health and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is an extraordinary time of year. Although we are reminded to be of good cheer, the truth of the matter is, that there are many challenges during the Christmas season. Whatever those challenges may be, my prayer for you is that you will find hope and healing during this Christmas season.

When I think about the political, economic and social forces that shape our individual lives and communities, I am reminded how relevant the Gospel is today. Some of you may be profoundly blessed in all that you have and all that you are able to share; others may be struggling this year. May I remind you that God shows up in the middle of the storms of life and that God is able to bless you despite your current situation. It is entirely possible that you are balancing work, family, community, friends, and faith this Christmas. In the midst of it all, may I encourage you to be gentle with yourself. Sometimes the answer is, 'let go and let God'.

Over the last two thousand years or more, many things have changed but many things have remained the same. Mary and Joseph were travelling, not because they wanted to, but because of a government census and registration. They were a new couple just getting started on their new adventure together, and perhaps it was their faith that kept them moving forward despite all the challenges of the times and their situation. We too are encouraged to keep moving forward, trusting that God has a plan beyond our imagination. Indeed, God's plans unfold, not despite life's obstacles but in the midst of them. Like Mary and Joseph, you may be travelling this season...please take your time and enjoy the ride, for the joy of the season is discovered in each moment, not necessarily in the destination but in the journey itself.

I am encouraged by the Christmas story that God shows up for the shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and the wisemen. God not only inspires them but equips them to meet the challenges at hand. May I encourage you to wait, watch, wonder, and wake up to God's blessings in your life this Christmas season. Our Lord is seeking you this Christmas...He wants to deepen His relationship with you. The King of Peace is among us and wants to touch your life with hope and healing. May you experience the hope, joy, peace and love of Christ this Christmas season and may you share them with all whom you encounter.

We have many opportunities to bring these Advent themes to one another and to our community. Think about supporting Martha's Drop-in or Martha's Closet. Or donations to the Mitten Tree, donations to the Community Food share, donations to Centre 105 or the Madagascar School Project. Or giving to the Angel Tree or the Community Christmas Baskets, or our own Community Christmas dinner. Or supporting any of the Diocesan Ministries. Or just giving your time to volunteer with one of these or many other worthy causes in our community. These ministries do not survive without your hope, peace, joy and love.

Jesus gave us the example in how he lived and cared for all those whom he encountered. It is by loving God and loving our neighbor that we might be examples of the hope, peace, joy and love that this world so desperately needs right now. I pray we live into example of Christ so as to bring these Advent themes to so many who are anxiously searching for it. May God move you to action this Christmas.

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Our Pipe Organ is 100 years old

One would think that something as large and complex as a pipe organ would not be portable enough to move. But that is not the case, because they come apart easily and can be moved and re-assembled from place to place.

The Casavant pipe organ in St. James began its life in St. David's Anglican Church, in one of the Lost Villages inundated by the St. Lawrence Seaway project. It was the gift to that congregation of a local businessman and entrepreneur, L. G. Wert, who purchased it in 1925 from the Casavant company in St. Hyacinthe, Que. The Casavant Freres organ company has been in business for over 140 years and has built more than 400 instruments which can be found all over the world.

As a child, I was privileged to have my first organ lessons from my Aunt who was the organist of St. David's in the 1950s. She taught me well and I have played that same organ in all three of its locations over the years.

The organ remained in Wales until 1956 when the church was demolished for the Seaway and it was subsequently re-installed in St. Peter's Anglican Church in Ingleside, a replacement church for the smaller communities of Wales, Aultsville, Osnabruck Centre and Gallingertown, all of whose churches were closed and demolished.

The organ stayed in Ingleside until 1988 when St. Peter's was closed and then it was transported to St. James, Morrisburg, to replace an old Warren tracker organ which was at the end of its life. This 1925 Casavant was upgraded with modern electronic action and a new blower so it is good to go for another 100 years.

So here's to the many pipe organs still in use after decades and even centuries. There is nothing like them to support strong congregational singing which is at the heart of our Anglican tradition.

Rev. Deacon Peter Cazaly

Message from the Rector - *continued from Page 2*

We are a very busy parish running and supporting many various ministries. We are also exploring critical building renovations and possible expansion to run these ministries. We count on your support with your time and your talents to make these things happen.

And we continue to depend on your generosity. As you are able, please offer a special Christmas offering above and beyond your regular offerings to support the work of the Parish and to ensure that the faith we hold so dear – that God loves this world – will continue to be evident throughout the coming year. If you feel so called, there are several ways you can offer your financial gift: pre-authorized remittance (PAR), a boxed set of envelopes, email transfer to the parish office (stjames072013@gmail.com), or simply mailing in (or dropping off) your gift in the seasonal envelope.

God is doing amazing things in this parish and in our community through amazing people like you. Our church continues to look for opportunities to ensure that the light of Christ will always shine in the darkness, and that the hope and peace and joy and love that Jesus gave us will always shine through us, as we find new and caring ways to love our neighbours and grow God's kingdom!!

Wendy and I wish you peace, comfort, and the resolution to be kind to yourselves by setting aside Holy-time during this Holiday season. We pray you find time to rest and (re)connect with God Incarnate. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with you and your families during this holiest time of year.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

Reverend Mark+

Parish helps fill hampers for Christmas Exchange

Once again, this year, our parish helped Community Food Share and the local Christmas Exchange in the creation of Christmas hampers for those living alone in our community. Since the fall, boxes have been set up at the back of the church to accept donations of toiletries, mitts, treats and other items to supplement the food items provided by the Exchange and the food bank. These will be handed out on the 18th to folks living on their own who might not have a visit from Santa.



Cemetery Decoration Day well attended

St. John-the-Baptist Cemetery Decoration Day June 2025 was a success!

It was great to see the turnout for the event at St. John-the-Baptist Anglican Cemetery in Iroquois. Mother nature held off with the rain and the wind died down so we just carried on. Thanks to the Lions Club of Iroquois for the use of their huge tent!

People enjoyed the presentations, cleaning the headstones and meeting friends again.

Many thanks to Reverend Mark Lewis for the prayer/liturgy service.

Kudos and thanks to the following people for their presentations and Q&As:

- * Erin Stone of Stone Restoration,
- * Kevin Allen of Eastern Ontario Cemetery Memorials, and
- * South Dundas Township Councillor Tom Smyth who heads up the municipal cemetery committee.

Lastly, many thanks to our dedicated volunteers (the Planning Team) who hosted the event:

Doug B., Stephen L., Stephen McD., Laurie McD., Chris S. and Erin S.

See you next June!

Submitted by Stephen McDonald, Member, South Dundas Anglican Cemetery Board



Playhouse lunches prove popular and profitable

Following last year's successful fund-raising activity of providing a once-monthly lunch to a group of visitors who are in the village to attend an afternoon performance at Upper Canada Playhouse, our parish stepped up again. In the summer of 2025, lunch was served on one Thursday per month, as well as during the December run of A Christmas Carol at the playhouse.

The arrangement works to the benefit of both the church and the playhouse and our guests enjoy a wonderful meal with service provided by a attentive wait staff. All ticket sales and money are handled by the playhouse with a guaranteed number of meals for each occasion. A dedicated team, under the direction of Bob Ruddock, Wendy Lewis and Shirley Alguire prepare and serve the meal and handle the cleanup. The number of diners ranges from 20 to 40.

The most recent meal was served on Thursday Dec. 11 and featured tortiere and all the trimmings. The tortiere was part of the nearly 100 pies made during a two day work party as a fund-raising project with many sold to family and friends of parishioners.



Tortiere baking and preparation were handled by these two groups.



A few words from Holy Trinity

Submitted by Isobel Tuttle, *Chapel Steward*

Holy Trinity has been a hub of activity this fall, with a lot of much-needed repairs and cosmetic work completed. Our one and only remaining fence post which supports the pedestrian gate beside the lych gate has been rebuilt and the gate actually works again!

We had the front doors and Vestry door painted as well as some of the basement windows that were in bad shape. All of the air vents in all of the outer protective windows have also been replaced and/or installed where necessary. There is still some work to be completed, but Mother Nature put a stop to it for now.

The highlight of the past month would have to be the performance of our recently formed music group singing "O Valiant Hearts" a cappella on Remembrance Sunday. I'm sure there weren't too many dry eyes in the building. Mine certainly weren't. What a moving tribute to our fallen soldiers! Such wonderful talent we have in our dedicated congregation.

Thank you to Maria Crosby, Gwen Langlotz and Carole Walsh for joining me to spend two hours preparing our building for the Advent season yesterday. Tomorrow, Sunday the 7th, we will celebrate with Rev. Mark joining Peter 2.0 in the driver's seat and then enjoying a pot luck lunch and some fellowship.

Our Mitten Tree is now up at the back of the church ready to receive the usual load of hats, mitts, scarves and socks to be donated to Centre 105. This is always a well-received part of our on-going ministry with the Centre.

We are blessed to be in this beautiful place!

St. James brass will gleam at Christmas

The extensive brass work at St. James received a pre-Christmas polishing on Dec. 3. This photo shows the team hard at work. [left to right] Brenda Millard, Shirley Alguire, Linda Krug.



Apple Fest Pancake breakfast another success



We seem to have perfected the recipe for a successful pancake breakfast. Again this year the men of the parish hosted a free pancake breakfast as part of Iroquois Apple Festival. Perfect weather and a location in the newly improved plaza park and parking lot brought out a crowd for the entire day. They began the day with a great breakfast of pancakes, sausage and maple syrup and coffee, all offered for only a free will donation. See you again next September. Come hungry. At left, Nick Lee, Wally Baker, Jack Barkley and Tim McLaughlin work on the secret batter.



Rev. Mark was invited to participate in the Lessons and Carols service at the cathedral on the first Sunday of Advent. In this photo, he and the other clergy from the diocese who participated are seen in their Advent finery.

Here's how to reach us:

Southdundasanglicans.ca

Or on Facebook

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