

# St. Edward the Confessor

November 24, 2019

Feast of Christ The King



## **Thank You**

. . . very much for your support and generosity.



Last Sunday's collection amounted to \$908.75

The Helping Others Collection totaled \$825.00 and, together with the profits from the Tea and Bake sale will go to providing Christmas baskets for needy West Island families.

St Edward's weekly expenses average about \$1100.

## **Tea and Bake Sale Results**

This year's edition of the Tea and Bake Sale brought in \$1950. Which is very similar to last year's sale. Special acknowledgement to Louise Matulis and her team at the bake table who made a record \$1210 this year! The bake table is a joint effort with St John's and the money is split evenly with them. Thanks to all who helped.

## **Christmas Schedule**

December 1: First Sunday of Advent with Father Jessie

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent with Father Jessie.

Also at 7:00 pm come for The Music and Words of Christmas, a choral concert with carols and readings featuring the choirs of St John's and St Edward's. A reception in the south wing will follow.

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent with Father Mike.

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent with Father Mike.

December 24: Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00 pm. Caroling starting at 4:30.

December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Mass at 10:00 am

December 31: New Year's Eve Mass at 5:00 pm

## **Advent Bible Study**

Join Rev Steven Gillam and our friends at St John's for three weeks of bible study starting this Tuesday, November 26. We meet at noon in Rev Steve's office. Bring your own lunch.

## **Preparing for Advent Even Before It Begins.**

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply.

We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Saviour. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more we will experience Advent.

(continued from inside) **Preparing for Advent**

**Salvation:** We are about to read and pray about the expectant hope of Israel, as expressed through Isaiah. The images we will be using are about darkness and gloom - about thick clouds covering the people - and about hunger and thirst. They are images that attempt to capture a sense of what we feel when we are distant from our God. There are many images about war and conflict. They express the powerlessness and anxiety we experience when we feel vulnerable and defense-less. Most of all, there are images of a future day - a day that can only be called the Lord's - when all the tears will be wiped away, when there will be plenty to eat and drink, and when there will be no more conflict and no more war. God's salvation will be made known. God's victory will be complete.

These are very precious days for us to come into intimate contact with our own need for salvation. It is a time to make friends with our tears, our darkness, our hunger and thirst. What is missing? What eludes my grasp? What name can I give the "restlessness" in my heart? What is the emptiness I keep trying to "feed" with food, with fantasy, with excitement, with busyness? What is the conflict that is "eating at me"? What is the sinful, unloving, self-centered pattern for which I haven't asked for forgiveness and healing? Where do I need a peace that the world cannot give?

Coming to know where I need a Saviour is how I can prepare for Advent. When my heart is open, when my hands are open, when my mouth is open and ready to ask for freedom, healing and peace, then I am ready to begin Advent.