



*“Together we are walking with our Lord and celebrating the spirit of St. Francis on a journey of worship, service, fellowship and peace”*

March 2020

03/2020 ~ Issue 1



**St. Francis of Assisi  
Anglican Church  
Meadowvale**

# The Franciscan

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## Sometimes Faith is a Little Bit 'Messy'



## Weekly Programs

**Sundays**  
8:30am Said Eucharist

10am Holy Eucharist with Sunday School, & Choir

**Mondays**  
11am-12 Line Dancing with Sunny ~ \$5

**Wednesdays**  
10am Communion and Prayers

10-11:30 Yoga with Margaret ~ \$5

**Thursdays**  
7:30-9pm Choir Practice

February 29 wasn't just a celebration of Leap Year, but also another day to have fun at "Messy Church". This program (designed for children and families) helps us worship God in a less formal and 'messy' way. There were 17 children attending and lots of other family members to help our leaders. The theme was Growing in Gratitude and there was lots of things to be thankful for including stories, craft time and food. Visit the St Francis Kids Facebook page for more photos.



## From Glory, Unto Glory

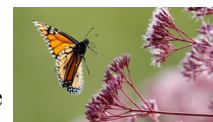
Father Jeff

Back in the day, by which for me, I mean the 70's, one of my favourite musical groups was Seals and Crofts. They had some very interesting and I would also say popular music. One song, which wasn't one of their hits always caught my attention whenever I would spin the vinyl. It was called "Hummingbird". Strange little song but I was intrigued because it referenced the Hummingbird, a bird which has always fascinated me. I would love going to my Aunt and Uncle's cottage on Georgian Bay and we would often see the Hummingbirds come and feed from the nectar globe that was hanging from the porch. Of course, I had to pay close attention because they would fly in fast, hover for a moment and then zoom away! Occasionally they would linger for a little longer and I could get lost in the beauty, colour, their tiny size and the moment of their presence. In my life I would often wonder about the Spiritual significance of such a sighting. I have looked into the study of the spirituality of birds in particular and discovered that the Hummingbird is a sign of happiness and joy. It is a symbol of all good things that exist. They represent a strong independent spirit that adapts well to any situation and perseveres with positive energy in the midst of calamity, bad news or disaster. One day at my Aunt and Uncle's cottage I was walking by the bushes and something shimmering caught my eye. I looked down and lying in the grass was a tiny glittery green Hummingbird, which wasn't moving. I called my cousin, MaryLynn and we picked it up and placed it on a paper towel. It was so tiny, so motionless and its' life was gone. I cried like a baby seeing it so vulnerable. I was 15. I looked for the joy again and waited for the moment when I would see the other Hummingbirds come to the nectar globe and bring the happiness back to me. I think of the Hummingbird whenever I face some difficult moments in my life and sometimes find that old album of Seals and Crofts and play the song. I try to persevere through the difficult moments and focus on the positive parts of my life that remind me of how good things really are even in the midst of trouble.

At this time of year in Lent, we, as the community of faith, are called to do some self reflection. Where have we been, what have we done, who have we become are some of the questions we might ask ourselves. We also reflect on the things that have taken place in our lives, either to ourselves or to those we love. Perhaps there has been a diagnosis concerning our health or the health of a loved one. Perhaps we have experienced a death in the family or of a close friend that has hit us pretty hard. Perhaps, we have lost a job that we have been counting on for income, that we have given a significant number of years to. Perhaps, we have lost a relationship that we thought would last forever. The list can go on and on with the challenges and heart aches that we sometimes face. Our faith in Jesus who faced some difficult times in his life and ministry calls us, in my opinion to Persevere! Scripture tells us that those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Also the Apostle Paul speaks to us about suffering in his letter to the Romans chapter 5 and verse 3-5. "Suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character and character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us because God's love continues to be poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Amen! Our Lord Jesus endured suffering even to death on the Cross and God through his infinite love and mercy raised him up on the third day! Even in the midst of death all is not lost.

This brings me to the next creature of God that I draw strength from every time I see it. That is the beautiful Butterfly. This amazing insect floats in and out of our lives with the simple breath of the wind. Unlike the Hummingbird, the Butterfly hangs in the moment as if waiting to be captured, flitting and floating on air suspended above the flowers and bushes inviting us with our nets as if just waiting to be caught. It says look at me, learn from me. And then floats away. As children we learn all about the Butterfly at an early age. We learn about the complete cycle of Metamorphosis. We learn about the four stages from egg to larva (caterpillar) to pupa (chrysalis, cocoon) to adult Butterfly. What an amazing Easter image. The possibility that the Transformation of our lives is not only possible but a natural, beautiful process! If the Butterfly's growth happens in stages then perhaps our personal and spiritual transformation happens in stages too. My favourite part of this process is the Cocoon. A seemingly dormant stage where nothing is happening, where it might become too painful to wait for the outcome, where frustration and anger might set in, where hope might seem to disappear, but the most amazing thing is about to happen. We will experience change. Just as Jesus is placed in the stone cold tomb and for the disciples all seems lost, the stone is rolled away and Jesus bursts through the bonds of death and is Risen! So, too, for ourselves when all may seem lost the presence of our loving and compassionate God reveals the love of Jesus to us in amazing ways. I think that this miracle of God's love comes to us mostly through other people in our lives. Doors are opened, clarity of purpose is identified, a new direction may be revealed and new refreshing possibilities for our lives appear before us. We begin to make life changing and positive life giving choices for our lives. This is Resurrection! This is the strength of the Butterfly in our midst and it is glorious because what can come to us from our life giving God is always more than we can ask for or imagine.

May this Lenten journey to Easter cause us to reflect on the places in our lives that may need attention and may we be resilient enough to bear up during the difficult times and be hopeful for the evidence of the transforming love of God to find its expression in all that we face, in all that we say and in all that we do.



Blessings for Lent and Easter,

Father Jeff



## Bishop Jenny's Visit



It is always a special treat when we get to worship with our Area Bishop in our own church. And this past January was no exception. Bishop Jenny joined us on the Feast of Epiphany. She made a special bond with our children as she talked about the wise men and their journey to find the baby Jesus. Later in our worship she baptised two new members into the Christian family—Sophia Similoluwa Taiwo and Eli Christopher Detablan (above) and started what might be a new tradition of the children joining in the blessing of the water and selfies with the servers! Til next time, Bishop!

## My Sabbatical

Father Jeff



As you may know from Bishop Jenny's announcement when she came to the Parish on January 5<sup>th</sup> and also from Vestry, I will be going on a Sabbath Pilgrimage from Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> through to Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 inclusive.

I am very thankful to both the Bishop, the Wardens and of course the members of St. Francis Parish for this amazing opportunity. Bishop Anderson will appoint a Priest to cover the first six weeks and our Lay Readers Tric Glover, Tessa deNully, Jim Spencer once and then again with the help of Jen Jones will lead Morning Prayer.

The Rev. Vernal Savage will Celebrate Communion on July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>. I will return on August 4<sup>th</sup> and regular 8:30 and 10 am services will resume on August 9<sup>th</sup>. My intention is to explore the roots of Anglicanism at the heart of it all in Canterbury, England. I hope to come back to you Rested, Refreshed and Renewed! Please keep me in your prayers during this time.

*Father Jeff*

## ACW NEWS

ACW stands for Anglican Church Women and is not just active in our parish, but in Anglican communities around the world. The ACW is both a fellowship community and a ministry that affirms the gifts of all Anglican women and gives them an opportunity to contribute through worship, learning and service. Membership is open to all Anglican women. If you are new to our parish, or have not yet joined us for a meeting, please feel welcomed. Speak to Father Jeff or a warden if you are unsure who to speak to for information.

Our February meeting was held on the 24th and was a chocolate themed movie night hosted by June Bennett. We watched the movie *Chocolat*, shared chocolate goodies and enjoyed a few door prizes. This was a change from the usual February meeting of Valentine Bingo and an excellent pre-Lent gathering.

The March 23 meeting will be an Irish themed night with an Irish themed meal at Vanna Boghossian's home. It will be a fellowship evening. Look for more information closer to the date.

The annual Spring Bake Sale is planned for after the Palm Sunday 10:00 service on April 5. It will feature banana bread, lemon loaves and other breads. It was a huge success last year. Please support this fundraiser by either baking or buying.

April 29 is the annual ACW Corporate Communion service at St Francis at 7:30 pm. This year our guest speaker is Ashley Porter-Grieco. She is a nurse at Trillium Health partners in Quality Management and she volunteers her time to the Period Purse Campaign. She will be speaking about this campaign that is held several times a year. Purses are filled with feminine hygiene products and distributed to shelters in our community.

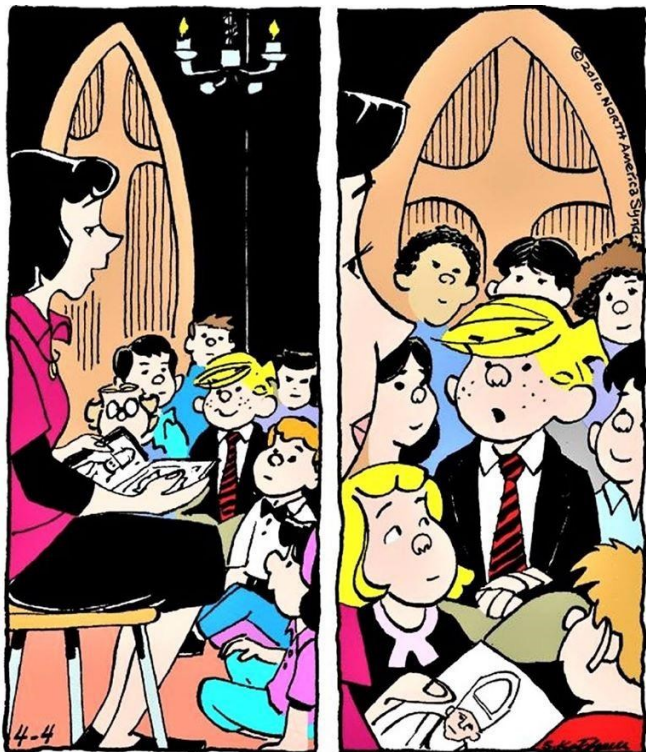


Look for further updated information in the weekly St Francis bulletin.



## Bishop Andrew Asbil

Our Diocesan Bishop, the Very Reverend Andrew Asbil will join us at St Francis In Sunday March 22. Bishop Andrew was elected Diocesan Bishop in 2019. Prior to his election he served as the Dean of Toronto and Rector of St James Cathedral since 2016. Fun Fact: Andrew's father is a retired Bishop of Niagara. Mark your calendars now !



"ANYONE KNOW WHAT A BISHOP DOES?"

"I THINK HE MOVES DIAGONALLY."

## Financial Update



Thanks to everyone who made it out to our annual Vestry meeting on February 23, 2020. It is our Annual General Meeting at which we discuss the past year and look forward by passing the new budget.

Bishop Andrew's letter to vestry included these uplifting words.

*"Sometimes we can focus only on what we don't have at our annual vestry meetings, not enough money, not enough time, not enough people, not enough... Sometimes we can spend too much time only thinking about how on earth we are going to balance the budget. That's not to say that balancing the budget isn't important...it is. Rather, consider the words of Jesus in John 15. In the face of a future that doesn't always seem very clear, lift up your hearts. Reach out and grow in Christ."*

For those of you who could not make it out, here are a few financial highlights.

From an expense perspective, our assessment to the MWCC has increased. We are contributing an extra \$1,000 per month to build up the reserve fund for more needed building repair. We are in need of a new office computer and accounting package and cannot put it off another year. We will also be responsible for visiting clergy while Father Jeff is on sabbatical (approx \$4,000).

From a Revenue perspective, we anticipate over \$39,000 in rental income this year. Additionally, we are planning three fundraising activities in 2020; our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Afternoon Tea this Spring, Our Annual Walkathon in August and a Gala in October to celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The fundraising goals are high – so make sure you invite family, friend and neighbours to our events. As you hear each May in our Stewardship Campaign, we are also counting on all parishioners to prayerfully consider your contributions to our parish – in Time, Talent and Treasures. Are you able to raise your monthly givings? Can you commit to going on PAG? Have you considered Memorial and Thanksgiving gifts to the church (Letters are sent to the people honoured or their families).

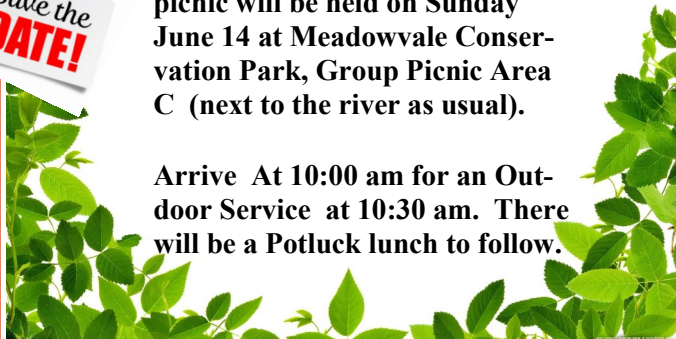
We must continue to be diligent in making our operating expenses each month. Please keep those who manage the church finances in your prayers throughout the year.

## Save the Date ~ PICNIC

Save the DATE!

This year, the annual Church picnic will be held on Sunday June 14 at Meadowvale Conservation Park, Group Picnic Area C (next to the river as usual).

Arrive At 10:00 am for an Outdoor Service at 10:30 am. There will be a Potluck lunch to follow.



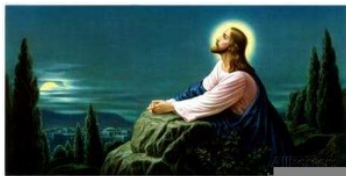


## Meditation in the Garden

For many years, we have held a Gethsemane Watch where parishioners have been invite to ‘stay awake with Jesus all night from following the Maundy Thursday service til the morning of Good Friday.

In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to fill the overnight spots. This year, we will try something new. Instead of a watch, we will keep the church open for a few hours after the Thursday night service for a time of Meditation in the Garden.

You are still asked to sign up for hour periods, but the last time will be 12 midnight – 1 am. This will be a quiet time for you to sit in the garden and feel the presence of Jesus. Talk to God, as Jesus did – bare your heart. Light a candle and let the smoke carry your prayer to heaven. Read a psalm or a passage of scripture. Or just sit quietly and listen. The sign up sheet will be available later in March.



## Lenten Food Challenge

At St Francis we have regularly collected food items for our local Foodbank – Eden Food for Change. Recently, we have targeted two focussed drives – one at Thanksgiving and one in Lent.

Once again this Lenten season, we will be offering the congregation the opportunity to participate in our Lenten Food Challenge. This is a very tangible form of Outreach to the working poor in our community. It can be a focussed part of your Lenten journey by helping you consider the needs of others and take action to assist. Each week in Lent we will post a ‘theme’ for food/non perishable collection. These theme areas will be taken directly from the ‘most needed’ items list at Eden.

Check the Facebook page, your email and bulletins each week for items to bring in.



## Afternoon Tea

Our Fundraising Committee will coordinate our second Annual Afternoon Tea. How does it work? Parishioners sign up to host a table of 8 or 10 guests. They invite and sell tickets to fill their table, then prepare and serve an afternoon tea menu. Every table is different thanks to the variety of hosts. Last year we had chamber music and a comedian but the Committee is still working out the details for this Spring’s event. Stay tuned for more details as they become available. Start thinking about your guest list!


**Tenebrae**  
**April 8**



The word ‘tenebrae’ is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. Our Joint service with readings and the snuffing of candles to move us into the shadows starts at 7:30 in St Francis


**Maundy Thursday**  
**April 9**

Our Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 includes foot washing. In this act, the priest is an example for the Christian community of Jesus’ self-giving and humbling act of love for his friends. The service ends in darkness with the stripping of the altar.



**Good Friday**  
**April 10**

As is our recent custom, we will have a neighbourhood walk and Stations of the Cross at 10 am. There will also be a three hour service with readings, music and drama starting at noon. (Come for all, or just a part as you are able)



**Easter Vigil—Holy Saturday**  
**April 11**

At the 7:30 pm service, we welcome Easter for the first time with fire and light. The service begins outdoors as we prepare and light the Pascal Candle and we move the light into the church to celebrate the Risen Lord. Note there will be incense used at this service.





## Christmas Pagaent

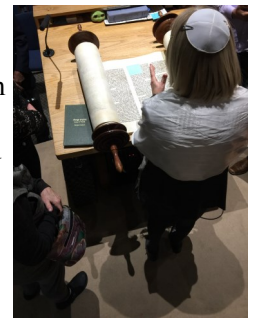


The 2019 Children’s Christmas Pagaent was another amazing success—a joyful noise unto the Lord in the middle of our Advent preparation. Once again, our children were asked to tell their version of what happened at Christmas during Sunday School and their words became the basis of the script once again this past season. It is delightful to hear that the wise men followed the star because they didn't have a GPS or that all the hotels were full.

Sincere thanks to the Sunday School team who coached and directed and dressed our young actors and to the parents and grandparents who helped out. “From the mouths of babes” nothing resonated more clearly.

## Solel

The congregation of Solel Synagogue in Erin Mills opened an invitation once again to a special Sabbath ‘Neighbourhood’ service. This was an opportunity to rejoice in the multi-faith community by sharing the traditions of their Jewish faith with family and friends. The service was instructed by the rabbi—so that all guests could understand the ‘whys’ behind the parts of the service. It was celebrated in both Hebrew and English. What was most fascinating was to see parts of our own liturgy like phrases in prayer that we have carried on from our own Jewish roots. It was a welcoming and educational evening



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*“Make me a channel of your peace.”*

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:**

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ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH, MISSISSAUGA



## Mark Your Calendar!



Mar 1 ~ April 5	Lenten Food Challenge. 5 Sundays in Lent & Palm Sunday	
Mar 4 ~ April 1	Lenten Study—Various Locations	7:30 pm ~ Sign up sheet at church
Mar 22, 2020	Bishop Andrew Asbil Joins Us	10 am service
April 5, 2020	Palm Sunday—Bless and receive palms ACW Bake Sale	8:30 am & 10 am
April 8, 2020	Joint Service of Tenebrae with White Oak	7:30 pm in St Francis
April 9, 2020	Maundy Thursday with Foot Washing & Meditation in the Garden	7:30 pm
April 10, 2020	Good Friday Walk 3 hour Service	10 am 12 noon ~ 3 pm
April 11, 2020	The Great Vigil of Easter	7:30 pm
April 12, 2020	Easter Day Services including Outdoor Sunrise Service (6:15 am) The Lord is Risen, Indeed	6:15 am, 8:30 am 10 am