

THE ANCHOR

*Learning
to follow
Jesus Christ.*

January 21 — January 27

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

[Click here to register
before 8AM Monday](#)



JESUS' FIRST SERMON WAS ABOUT
ANXIETY, FORGIVENESS, WEALTH,
ANGER, HUNGER, HYPOCRISY,
MOURNING, AND BLESSEDNESS.

2000 YEARS LATER, A FEW OF US
ARE GIVING IT ANOTHER LISTEN.
COME JOIN US.

JAN. 25-FEB. 22



OMG TUESDAYS
VIA ZOOM

EARLY EDITION: 1-2 P.M.
EVENING EDITION 7-8 P.M.

Small Groups at St. Clement's

Our parish strategic plan calls for *“developing small groups as a vehicle for prayer, study, and belonging.”* Those are your words, not mine. Over and over again, in the development of our strategic plan, when asked where you felt **most spiritually alive, connected to God and one another**, you responded that it happened in small groups. Places to know and be known beyond the big-ness of Sunday morning.

This past fall, **40 of your fellow parishioners** took the step to participate in a small group for 6 weeks. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, with 84% saying they hoped not only to continue but also to do so with the same group.

As your priest and pastor, I see and hear your sense of isolation, loneliness, fear, and hunger for more. The pandemic is hard and it is not over. And the longer it draws out, the harder it can be to feel connected to God and one another. To feel a part of the ship that is St. Clement's.

Look up at the ceiling of our church sanctuary and you will see the hull of a ship. Blow out the stained glass windows and that's where the oars go. The pews are the galley where we row together into the future God is carrying us toward.

Ours is neither a pleasure craft nor a cruise ship, but an expeditionary vessel. We are traveling through seas no one has ever charted before. The world in front of us is not like the one behind us. Not one single person alive knows what the church will look like on the far side of the pandemic.



What I do know is that no one needs to journey alone. And the stories and the view are way better when we're rowing next to somebody.

Our parish mission is *“learning to follow Jesus Christ.”* Our small group ministry is designed to support that big goal in practical, small ways. What to expect?

We will provide structure and space for ordinary folks...to share where and how God is showing up in our lives...reflect together on scripture and wisdom and their intersection with our everyday lives...close with prayer, thanksgiving, and worship. There is no formula, only people, learning how to follow Jesus together.

A few pieces to ponder:

- **Our winter small groups launch the week of Feb 1 and run to Holy Week (10 weeks total).** Each group will meet on a predetermined day/time and will be run by a trained, lay small group leader, who is a fellow parishioner.
- **All gatherings this winter will take place over zoom**, with the hope to move in-person down the road.
- Groups will be **inter-generational** by design, with between 8-12 people each.

Registration goes live on Sunday. Hope to see you on board!

Yours truly in Christ,
Andrew (Rector aka 'Captain')

Sunday Youth Ministry January Update!

Last Sunday we were so excited to see 11 youth join us for online Youth Ministry! We hope you will hop on Zoom too and join in the fun! Youth Ministry will be meeting on Zoom on Sunday's at 10:30am.

Join us by clicking [here](#) so that we can pray together, explore the Bible together and encourage one another during this tough season.

Meeting ID: **863 6161 5692**

Passcode: **621759**

Email our Youth Minister Mackenzie at mbasssimpson@stclements-church.org with any questions or concerns.



Confirmation 2022

Confirmation Preparation will begin in February 2022! In the Anglican tradition, many are baptized as babies. Confirmation, which generally takes place when one is a teenager, is a process of spending time looking at what learning to follow Jesus Christ in our daily lives means and reaffirming the promises made in baptism alongside our community of faith.

If you are a youth (grade 8 & up) and are interested in exploring confirmation, or if you have any questions please email Youth Minister Mackenzie at mbasssimpson@stclements-church.org. Preparation will begin mid-February on Zoom and, God willing, confirmation will take place this June 2022.

More specific details to come following the registration! Please click [here](#) to register.

WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

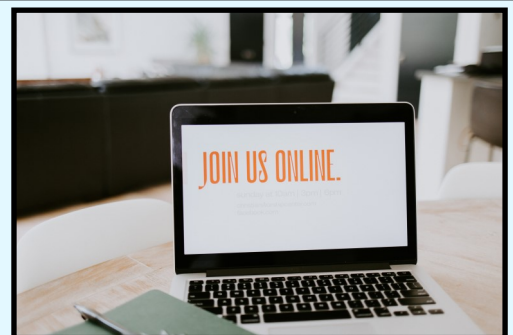
January at St. Clement's

Days before Christmas, the difficult decision to close our church building to in-person services through to January 9th was made. We had hoped that in this timeframe we would see things improve when it came to the current rapid spread of COVID, namely the Omicron variant. This has not happened.

To that end, we will be continuing with online services only through to January 30th. This is in accordance with the guidelines recently set forth by the Diocese of Toronto. The College of Bishops will announce next steps for February on January 31st and we will respond accordingly.

The Worship Experience

We know this is difficult news and we will very much miss being together in person. We remain committed to creating excellent online worship experiences and give thanks for the advances in tech at St. Clement's that have enabled us to enhance our video and audio capabilities



Join us Sundays online for:

9:30am Church at Home via Zoom - an interactive service with music, thoughtful prayers, relevant preaching, a warm connection with clergy and community chat.

11am Holy Eucharist Live streamed - connect via YouTube for worship live streamed from our beautiful sanctuary with music, preaching, prayer and spiritual communion.

Church Office & Staffing

During this time we are also adhering to Diocesan and provincial guidelines asking us to work from home whenever possible and the church office will remain closed to the public.

Email continues to be the best way to connect with clergy and staff. If you have a pastoral emergency please call **416-483-2920** for the cleric on call.

A reminder that our secure mailbox outside of our St. Clement's entrance continues to be available for anyone wishing to drop off donations and it will be checked regularly. Online options for giving can be found [here](#).

We thank you all for your ongoing patience and support.
Your St. Clement's Team



SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Scan me to donate!



Epiphany Giving

Donate now- it's easy!

- Go to **stclements-church.org/give/**
- E-Transfer to **finance@stclements-church.org**
- Text GIVE to **(647) 498-7997**
- Mail/drop off your **cheque** to our secure mailbox outside the 70 St. Clement's entrance

An update from your Wardens - 2021 Financials at a glance

We are in the process of finalizing our 2021 financials and wanted to provide an initial high level overview to our St. Clement's community.

When setting our 2021 budget, we looked to predict the impact of Covid to the best of our ability and are doing the same now as we look toward 2022. Unfortunately Covid had a greater impact than predicted in many areas in 2021, and financials were no exception:

Total unrestricted giving came in \$123K short of budget at \$745k vs budgeted giving of \$868k. Of note was an overall reduction in envelope giving as our services remained virtual for longer than anticipated and this decrease was not offset by increases in other types of giving. 'Other' revenue (for example facilities use, Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidies) came in \$64k under budget at \$429k vs a budget of \$493k.

Through continued expense management, total Expenses came in at \$97k under budget at \$1.26M vs a budget of \$1.36M. This helped to offset the decrease in revenues and brought the overall deficit to \$90k for 2021.

As we look toward 2022 from a financial perspective, these are some of the high level goals we are looking to achieve in the budgeting process:

- To adequately fund and maintain the strong ministry we have here as we continue on our Mission to learn to follow Jesus Christ
- Balance our budget, keeping in mind that Covid continues to impact our St. Clement's community which will require us to ensure we are keeping our expenses in line with our expected revenues

A complete version of our 2021 Financials and 2022 Budget will be available in our annual Vestry meeting to be held on Sunday, February 27.

Thank you all for your continued support of St. Clement's.

-Your Warden Team



REACHING OUT

The Outreach Committee continues to Reach Out to our Neighbours

The Outreach Committee thanks all parishioners and friends for their generous support of those in need over the past year and in particular over the previous two months. Hunger, homelessness and poverty do not take a holiday and it is apparent that the needs of many are very great. We plan to continue working for the homeless, the racially marginalized, Indigenous truth and reconciliation and social justice equity for all in the coming year.

Thank you all, everyone. May your New Year be full of the knowledge of God's love for you and all of creation...and may we all continue together to learn to follow Jesus.

- Your Outreach and Refugee Committee members



LOFT Donations

Your generous donations made it possible for your Outreach Committee to support LOFT Community Services.

Last year, in 2021, St. Clement's sent \$13,000. to LOFT to help with housing for disadvantaged people.

We recently received a thank you message from Heather MacDonald, CEO of LOFT. To see the video message go to loftcs.org. Thank you generous parishioners of St. Clement's church.

- Your Outreach and Refugee Committee members



Reaching out to our Neighbours

The owners of La Vecchia Restaurant have faithfully provided hot casseroles every week throughout this pandemic. The casseroles are then distributed either to our Wednesday Community Lunch guests or to the seniors in isolated housing in Flemingdon Park.

The seniors eagerly await their turn for "the excitement and new food experiences". It is the highlight of their week. Thank you La Vecchia.

St. Clement's parishioners, now is a good time to pay back La Vecchia's kindness to others. Order some delicious take-out and add a special meal to brighten yet another Covid-filled January!

Help out our local businesses.

- Your Outreach Committee

