



The Vine January 2024
St. Helen's Anglican Church
1234 Prestone Drive, Orleans, Ontario K1E 3X6
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sthelens.ca
Office: 613-824-2010
Clergy: The Ven. Rhonda Waters
The Rev John Holgate

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A Message from the Venerable Rhonda Waters

Chalking the Door

Blessing the home on or near the feast of Epiphany, in remembrance of the hospitality of the Holy Family when the magi visited their home to pay homage to the Christ Child, is a tradition that dates from the Middle Ages. Using chalk (which may be blessed for the purpose), mark your doorway with the inscription **20+C+M+B+24**. The numbers indicate the year, containing crosses for Christ and the initials of the traditional names of the magi, **C**aspar, **M**elchior, and **B**althazar. The letters also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, (May Christ bless this house).

We will bless chalk at the Eucharist on Jan 6 and use it to mark blessings on our church homes at St. Mary the Virgin and St. Helen's. You are invited to pick up a piece of this chalk and a copy of the prayer below, on either the 6th or on Sunday the 7th, to mark a blessing on your own home as well.

Home Blessing Prayer

Standing on your doorstep

The Lord be with you (*or, if alone*) In the name of the Holy Trinity:
And also with you

The wise ones followed God's star to Bethlehem, seeking the saviour.

I will follow the star.

They found Jesus in Bethlehem and knew they had found the one they were seeking.

I will seek to recognize Jesus.

They fell down and worshipped him, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

I will offer my gifts to the Lord.

*The door is marked **20+C+M+B+24** while you say:*

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's son who became human two thousand and twenty-three years ago.

May Christ bless this home and each person who lives or visits here.

Holy God, watch over *my/our* going out and *my/our* coming in throughout this year.

Fill *me/us* with the light of Christ that *I/we* may grow in love, in wisdom, and in faith. **Amen.**

A special thank you to everyone who assisted with the Advent and Christmas worship services, with decorating and baking and for your ministries throughout the season

Worship Schedule

- **Sunday, January 7 – Baptism of the Lord - @ 8 & 10 am with Holy Eucharist**
- **Sunday, January 14 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany – @ 8 & 10 am with Holy Eucharist**
- **Sunday, January 21 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany – @ 8 & 10 am with Holy Eucharist**
- **Sunday, January 28 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany – @ 8 & 10 am with Holy Eucharist**

Special Events

Feast of the Epiphany – Jan 6 – 5:00 pm Eucharist at St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn followed by a potluck party at **6:30 pm** back at St. Helen's. Please car pool to St. Mary the Virgin if at all possible.

Please note that for Sunday, January 14 services, our guest preacher will be the **Reverend Deacon Jarrett Carty** from **Belong Ottawa**.

For Sundays in January – we will also hear stories of the way God has revealed Godself in the lives of St. Helen's parishioners and beyond

Annual Vestry – Please note that the annual Vestry meeting will occur on February 25 after the 10 am service. Annual reports are due not later than February 12.

Choir The choir is excited to have a full season of music ministry ahead. New members are always welcome. Talk to any choir member, or just come out to a Thursday evening (7 PM) practice!

Chair of Worship: The Venerable Rhonda Waters

Discipleship

Ministry with Children - Join a working group to pray, dream, and plan about how St. Helen's can best minister with children. Contact Rhonda to sign up or for more information: rhonda@sthelens.ca

Bible Study – Resumes January 9 with Tuesday morning (9:30-11am) and evening (7-8:30pm) Bible studies. All are welcome to join, whether every week or once in a while.

Daily Readings Two devotional series are available in the front foyer for your use, *Day by Day*, and *Our Daily Bread*. Your \$2 donation covers the costs. If anyone else is interested in an ACC 2024 Church Calendar please notify the church office and an additional order can be placed. They are available at a cost of \$7.00 each.

Chair of Discipleship: Audrey Lawrence

Stewardship

Finances Please consider PAR(Pre-Authorized Remittance) as a tool to help you support your church financially. A call to the church office (613-824-2010) or an e-mail to finance@sthelens.ca will help you to set that up or increase your giving for 2024.

Other Options: Use Canada Helps button on our website. Setting up your Will or making changes to it? See our Legacy Giving pamphlet, or ask one of the clergy, how to support the Church which has supported you! Read the Legacy Giving section of Stewardship on our website. Thank you if you have been able to be faithful in your financial donations, through PAR, Canada Helps or church envelopes.

Chair of Stewardship: Allan Whetter

Outreach

Outreach Donations: The following donations have been made on your behalf from Outreach:

- \$ 500.00 was donated to St Margaret's Anglican church to support St Margaret's Annual Inuit Christmas Feast;
- \$ 500.00 was donated to Orleans Cumberland Community Resource Centre;
- \$ 500.00 used to purchase twenty five \$ 20.00 gift cards for students in need at the Norman Johnston Secondary Alternative Program;
- The profits from the sale of Christmas Wreaths was sent to Belong Ottawa. Special thanks to Jean Lockett for organizing that fundraiser; and
- The profit from the sale of tourtieres was used to purchase items to fill bags to be donated to Cornerstone Housing for Women. The beautiful cloth bags were made and donated by our St. Helen's Craft group. Special thanks to Glenda Farstad-Clark for organizing and baking all the tourtieres for that fundraiser.

Food Bank requests for the month of January:

- Canned Fruit
- Canned tomatoes
- Tomato Paste

Volunteer Opportunity: The Queenswood Heights Community Association is planning a Winter Festival for January 27th, 2024. Outreach is looking for volunteers to help organize and supervise winter games for children for that event. For more information you can contact outreach@sthelens.ca.

Chairs of Outreach: Lisee Kiar & Barb Porter

Community



The 2024 edition of the Art Fair will be held Saturday June 1st. Invitations have been sent out to 40+ artists and six new artists have also expressed interest in participating. We may now have to expand beyond Trinity Hall. A couple of new initiatives are being discussed to add to the Fair and further details will follow in the coming weeks and months. Thank you for your previous support and we very much look forward to another successful event this coming year!

Brian Glenn, Art Fair 2024 Coordinator
sthelensartfair@gmail.com
613-327-9384

Coffee Hour Coffee, tea, juice and fellowship available after the 10 am service. Please come to Trinity Hall and join the chat! Volunteers welcome! Sign up and full instructions are available in the servery. Coffee, tea and juice are all supplied by the church.

Pastoral Care News - The Pastoral Care Team at St. Helen's provides a listening ear to those among us who are facing illness, loneliness, or any other situation. The Prayer Chain Team upholds members of our parish and the community in prayer in times of need. Both ministries are important parts of one of our primary missions as a church: to care for those around us. Rev. John has assumed these responsibilities in the interim. To request a visit from the Pastoral Care team, please send an email to pastoralcare@sthelens.ca. To request prayers by the Prayer Chain team, please send an email to prayerchain@sthelens.ca. Rev. John monitors both email boxes. Alternatively, you can always speak with either of our clergy: Rhonda or John.

'**Comfort Quilts**' made by the Sewing/Quilting group are available for anyone suffering illness or recovering from surgery etc. Please contact Judy Lutes and/or the clergy.

Coming Events of Note:

- Feb 3, 2pm – **Merry Melodies Sing-a-Long Tea** – bring a friend, raise your voice and share in a cuppa!

Co-Chairs of Community: Shelly Yerburch & Kevin Piccott

Administration

Please note the following email addresses for contact purposes:

- Rhonda - rhonda@sthelens.ca
- John- john@sthelens.ca
- Debbie - rectorswarden@sthelens.ca
- Jeffrey - peopleswarden@sthelens.ca
- Financial Ministry Team – finance@sthelens.ca
- Administrative Assistant - office@sthelens.ca