

St. George's Standard

December 21, 2025



December 28, 2025

Dear Friends,

My plane arrived at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv in the wee hours of Nov. 26. Our flight was delayed by an hour. By the time I cleared customs and gathered my luggage, it was about four in the morning. A driver had been sent to fetch me. I was grateful to see him holding a piece of paper with my name scrawled on it. He had been waiting for some time. I felt bad for him and for me, too. Sleep had eluded me on the airplane.

We departed the airport and headed toward Jerusalem, where we pilgrims would be staying at St. George's Pilgrim Guest House, located within the walls of the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr and the college bearing the same name. My driver and I talked nonstop along the way. I was interested in learning his story and in staying awake long enough to find comfort in a soft pillow and comfortable bed after a long journey. He lived with his family in the Christian quarter of the old city of Jerusalem. They had resided there for many generations. He talked about the hardships suffered by so many because of the Covid pandemic and then the war. Things were desperate for so many.

Only a few other cars shared the road on that early morning drive. I peered out the window as we talked to try to catch a glimpse of the passing landscape but could see very little. It was still too dark. And then up ahead, cars slowed down as we approached a checkpoint. All the other cars were waved on. Six or so army personnel stood in a circle at one of the kiosks. One soldier bearing a kerchief to conceal the lower half of his face motioned for us to stop. The driver lowered our windows. He leaned in to talk with the driver and then his attention focused on me.

Where are you from? he asked.

Canada, I replied. Passport please, he said. I gave him my passport. He eyed the document and then looked at me carefully. I have one question for you, he said. And there is only one answer, yes or no. He paused. Do you understand? I nodded. Do you have a Palestinian identification card? No, I replied. He handed the passport back and motioned us onward. I was now fully awake.

That moment would be a foretaste of what we would see, hear, feel and experience on this pilgrimage with the Friends of Sabeel Liberation Theology Center in East Jerusalem. The Friends of Sabeel is an international and ecumenical response to the call of Palestinian Christians for solidarity. Through education and engagement, the organization supports the struggle for equality in justice, freedom and human rights of Palestinians and works non-violently for a just and durable peace **for Palestinians and Israelis**.

Over 10 days, our delegation would spend time in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank, most notably in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Taybeh, Hebron and the hills south of Hebron. We would listen to the stories of academics, artists, church leaders, advocates, farmers, shepherds and ordinary people living in challenging and inhumane conditions. For 10 days we would be invited to hold in one hand the beauty and holiness of pilgrimage sites like the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity, the Western Wall and a fertile land, and in the other hand to dwell in a place where people are partitioned, segregated and diminished by a system of repression.

Over the next 10 weekdays, beginning on Monday, Dec. 15, each member of our delegation will write a reflection on what we experienced – the challenging, the hard, the bewildering and the hopeful. We are calling this series “Happening Now in Palestine.” [You can find each reflection here.](#)

The season of Advent points towards Christmas, to the love of God made known in the birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, at a time when the land was occupied. Now as then, we pray for peace, shalom, salaam in the Land of the Holy One.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

Important Info!

Weekly Worship Services

Sundays	8.15 am	Holy Eucharist BCP
	10.00 am	Choral Eucharist
Tuesdays:	8:00 am	Morning prayer on Zoom
	6:00 pm	Bible Study
Wednesdays:	8:00 am	Morning prayer on Zoom
	6:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursdays	8:00 am	Morning prayer on Zoom
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

DEC 21

World: The Anglican Church of Burundi

Diocese: The Anglican Church Women (ACW) – Janice Hodgson, Diocesan President

Oshawa Deanery: St. Matthew's Oshawa, Rev. Diane Lee, Priest in Charge

DEC 28

World: The Anglican Church of Canada

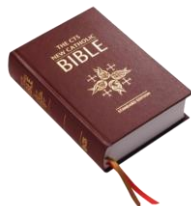
Diocese: The Cast the Net Calls

Oshawa Deanery: St. Peter's Oshawa, Rev. Diane Lee, Priest in Charge

READINGS

DEC 07

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25



DEC 14

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Heb 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Givings through E-TRANSFER

PLEASE USE THE EMAIL ADDRESS
'TREASURER@STGEORGESOSHAWA.ORG'
SECURITY QUESTION— CHURCH
SECURITY ANSWER—GIVINGS

**Please include your full name and address
in your etransfer if you wish to receive a
tax receipt.**

Memorial Flowers Placed on Altar

'**Order Forms**' are located at the back of the church or at the church office if you wish to place flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one. Requests and funds must be received **at least 2 weeks prior to placement**. Forms must be returned to the church office or placed on the offertory plate. Thanks so much!

Church Leadership

Bishop of Toronto—The Rt Rev. Andrew Asbil
Suffragan Bishop—The Rt Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop—The Rt Rev. Kevin Robertson
Incumbent-- The Rev. Dr. Alvarado Adderley
Curate: Rev. Rajini Lyman
Honourary Assistant - Rev. Janet Stephens
Rector's Warden—Barb Wotton
People's Warden—Shelley Kossatz
Deputy Rector`s Warden—Kevin Liyanage
Deputy People`s Warden - Betty Hogeterp
Director of Music - Carmine Lappano
Bookkeeper—Zsafia Halmai
Envelope Secretary—Barb Callery
Sexton—William Erwin

Church Wifi

The GUEST network is **Church Hall** and the **password** is **9057237875**.

New Office Hours

MONDAY-THURSDAY 10AM-2PM



St. George's Memorial Church (Anglican) 51 Centre St. S. Oshawa ON L1H 3Z9
telephone: 905-723-7875 email: church@stgeorgesoshawa.org

What's Happening!

It is with heavy but grateful hearts that we announce our Parish Administrator, Ama has moved on to a new job opportunity, with her last day being December 3rd.

During her time with us, Ama brought a great deal of skill, passion and positive energy to St George's. We thank Ama - her contributions have been greatly appreciated, and she will be missed. We wish her every blessing and success in her new position.

In the meantime, the Wardens are working on a transition plan.

Please note:

- The office will remain open **Tuesdays – Thursdays 10AM to 2PM.**
- The office will be closed during the week of December 22nd.
- Voicemail and email will be checked regularly.



Important Notices About Services During the Week of December 21st

- Advent Compline, – please join us for our final Advent Compline on Zoom **Monday Dec 22**
- Bible Study is **suspended** for **Tuesday Dec 23rd** and **Tuesday Dec 30th**. Bible Study will resume Tuesday January 6th.
- Morning Prayer on Zoom is **suspended** for **Tuesday Dec 23rd**, **Wednesday Dec 24th** and **Thursday Dec 25th**. Evening prayer will resume the week of January 4th.
- Evening prayer is **suspended** Wednesday December 24th.
- **Christmas Eve:** Services take place at 3:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM. Please join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus.
- **Christmas Day:** Please join us for Eucharist at 10:00 AM



Prayer of the week

"Heavenly Father, all-knowing and ever-present, clear my mind of stress and allow me to pause for a short moment and feel your presence. Strengthen me to do Your will and allow the Holy Spirit to guide me in the ways You are leading me. May Your will be done today and always. Amen".

Bible Study

Evening Prayer

A Week in Prayer

Prayer Labyrinth (TBD)

Weekly Spiritual
Renewal Quotes in the
bulletins

Laying on of Hands and
Anointing (1st Sunday
of every month)

Healing Service (Fall 2025)
Prayer Breakfast



What's Happening!

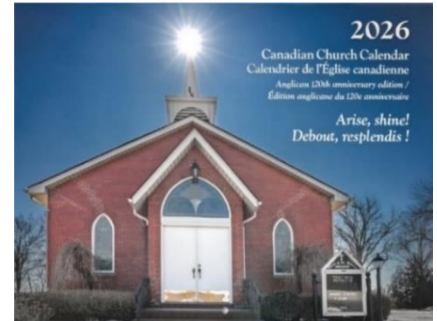
St. Bede's Group - Christmas Baskets

Thank you to everyone who participated in the draw this year. We made \$384.00. The winners are Greta Pettifer, Mary-Cathrine Campbell & Shannon Wraxall



Anglican Church Calendars Now Available!

Calendars are available for \$6 at the back of the church or from the church office.



'Coffee Hour' Refreshment Teams!

Our teams are growing! THANK YOU to those who have stepped up to join the dedicated group of people providing coffee, tea, cold drinks and snacks after the 10am service! If this ministry calls to you, **please contact Shelley Kossatz at 905-404-3089 or smkossatz@gmail.com or contact the church office!**

This ministry is SUCH an integral part of our Christian fellowship!

Mitten Tree

We are currently accepting donations of mittens, scarves, and hats, which will be donated to our local public schools and adult sizes to Durham Outlook. Thank you for helping with this much needed ministry. If you have any questions, contact Marg & Kelly at 905-434-2311



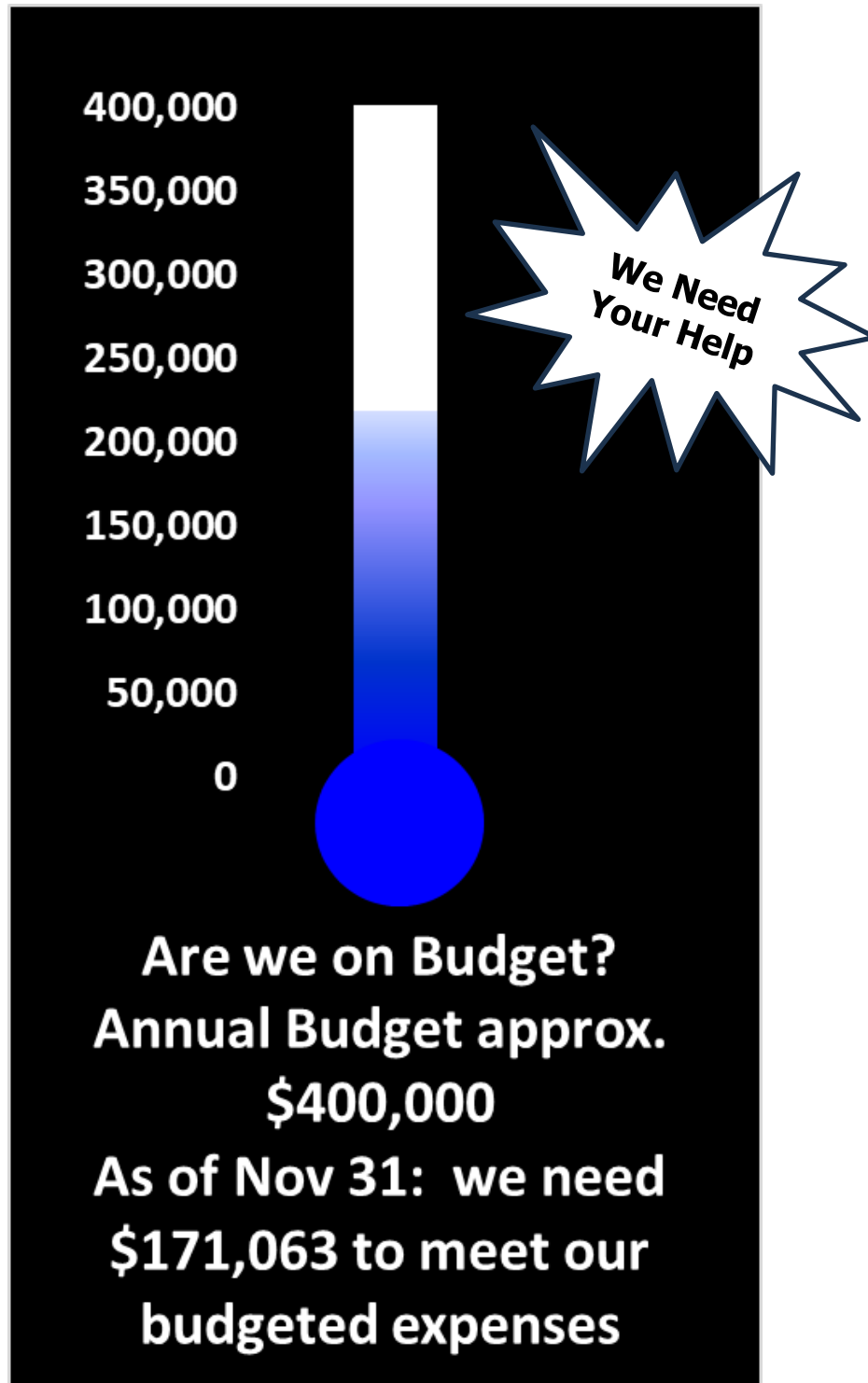
Save the Dates

- Christmas Lessons and Carols - Sunday December 21 – 4pm
- Christmas Eve Services - Wednesday December 24 - 3pm, 7pm, 10pm



Budget

Budget Update as of **November 31st**



Budget



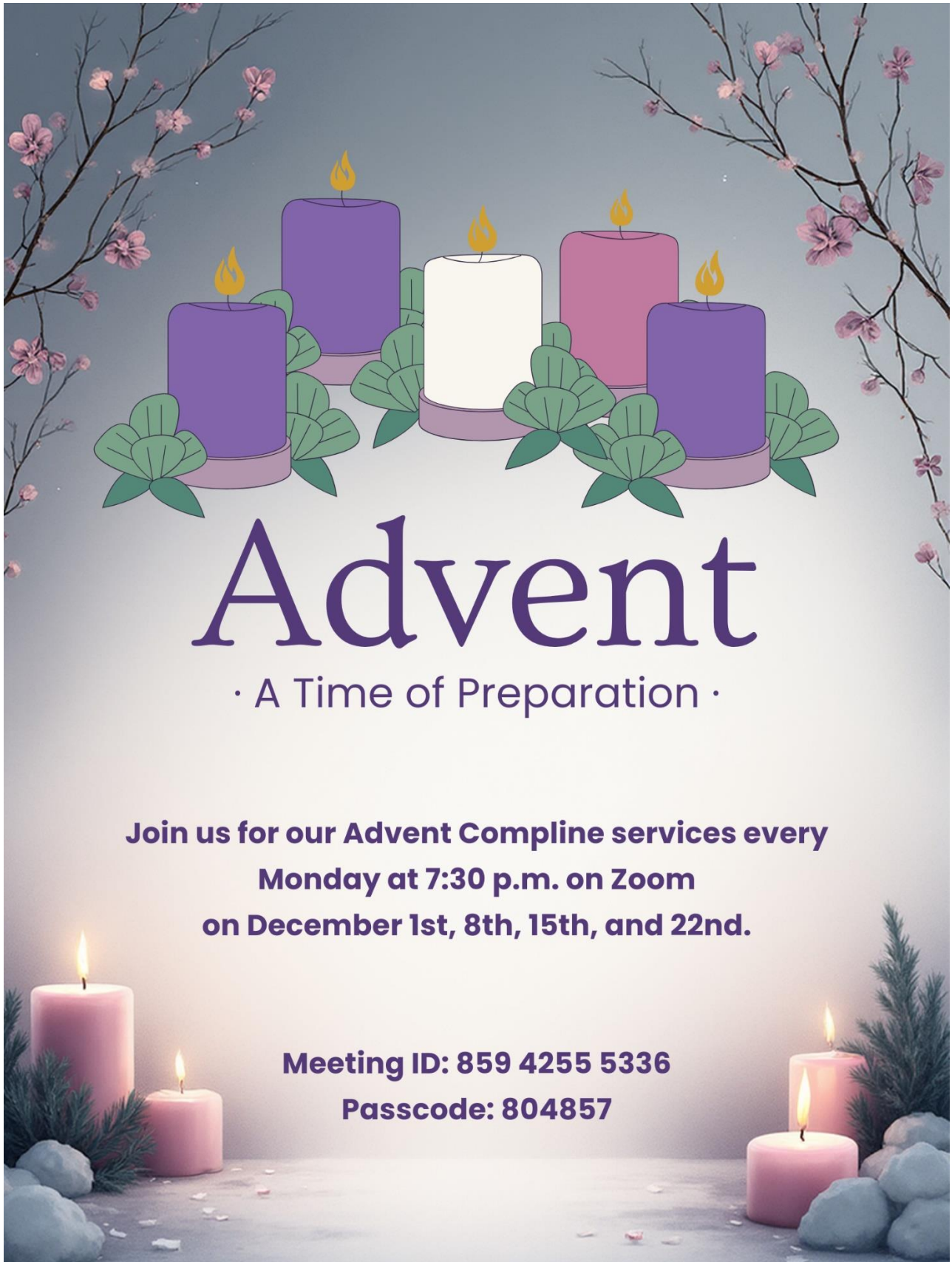
Did You Know.....

The following are our **monthly** costs for ONLY these 3 things:

- Insurance: \$2,918.05
- Hydro: summertime average: \$300, wintertime average \$600
- Heating: average \$2,000



Cost of sustaining JUST the basics have gone up drastically! Please prayerfully consider your givings.



CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

21
DEC



4
PM

ST. GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH, OSHAWA

MUSIC BY: ORD • BIEBL • STOPFORD • LAPPANO • RUTTER
WITH TRADITIONAL HYMNS AND CAROLS

FREE WILL OFFERING
ALL ARE WELCOME

Events

*Come into the season of Advent
with this seasonal favourite
service of readings and music!*

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday November 30, 4:00pm

*Bring your family and friends to
share in the beauty and warmth of
the Christmas season. Let's create
wonderful memories together!*

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday December 21, 4:00pm

Christmas Eve

Wednesday December 24, 2024

3:00pm – Family Eucharist

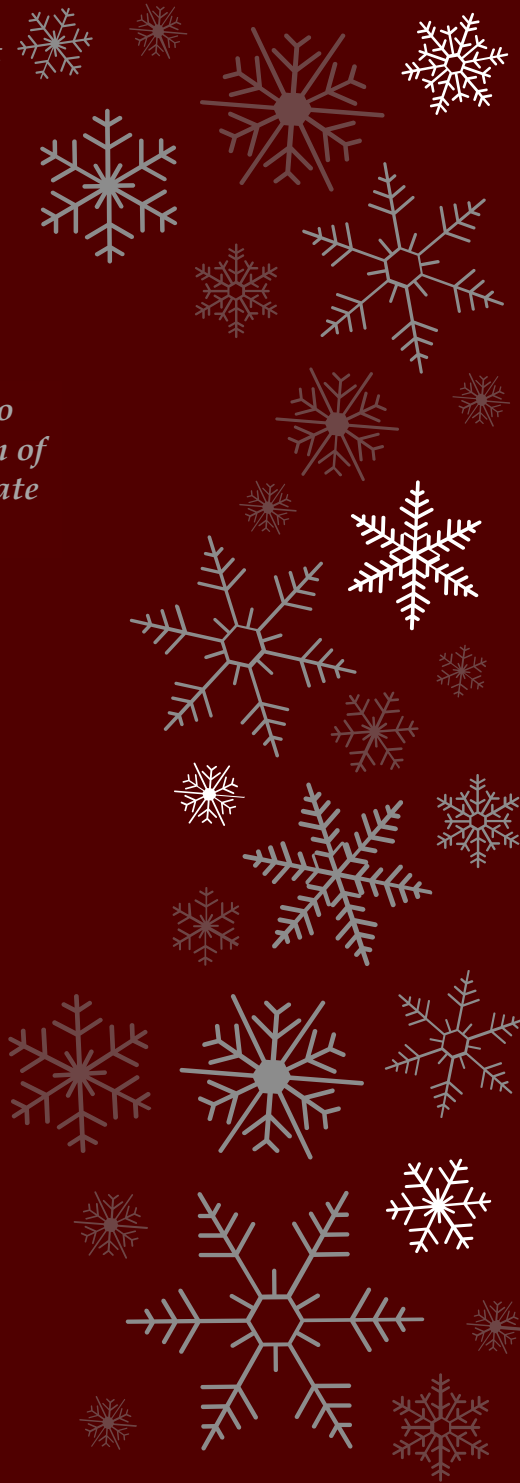
7:00pm – Sung Eucharist

10:00pm – Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

Thursday December 25, 2024

10:00am – Eucharist with Carols



Events



You are invited to a traditional turkey dinner on Christmas Day!

Thursday, December 25th, 2025

Please join us for:

♪ Carol Singing @ 11:30 am

※Turkey dinner served from 12 noon -1pm

🌀 Rides to and from the dinner can be arranged

***Where:* Christ Memorial Church
(at the corner of Mary St. N. & Hillcroft)**

***Our address:* 81 Hillcroft Street
Oshawa, ON L1G 2L3**

***Call us:* 905-728-8251**

Please RSVP by Friday, December 19th, 2025



St. Martin's
Back Pew Players

Present

**BAD AUDITIONS by
BAD ACTORS**

A Short Comedy By
Ian McWethy

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

1203 St. Martin's Drive, Pickering

7:00 PM - Wine & Cheese Reception

8:00 PM - Play begins

Tickets: \$25/pp
Reserved Seating

Contact: Lee Lynn or Church Office

Tel: 905-839-4257

office@stmartinsanglican.ca



Playscripts

Christmas Blessing



Christmas Greetings

Wishing you peace, joy, and God's blessings as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

May the light of Christ fill your hearts with hope, your homes with love, and your lives with
renewed faith throughout this holy season and the coming year.

With warm Christmas wishes,

Father Alvarado

Rajini

Rev. Janet

And your Wardens:

Kevin • Betty • Shelley • Barb

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." — Isaiah 9:6