

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter March 8, 2025.



St. Brice's Anglican Church

<https://www.stbriceschurch.com/wordpress/>

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Table of Contents

<i>Spiritual Development</i>	p. 3
<i>The Wider Church & Community</i>	p. 9
<i>Property</i>	p. 11
<i>Financial Update</i>	p. 12

Something To Make Us Smile

Q: What kind of car does Jesus drive?

A: A Christler.



St. Brice's Visioning Scripture

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus." Colossians 3: 14, 17 (NLT)



Spiritual Development

Thank you to Mary Goodleaf and all the others who put on the **Nigerian Dinner** for the North Bay Community. There were many complements about the delicious food and the friendly atmosphere. Proceeds to date are about \$940, to benefit the St. Brice's Food Bank.

Thank you to Rick Turcotte and the other guys who offered the **Shrove Tuesday pancake supper** for parishioners on 4 March (the day before Lent begins). You did a great job! The proceeds from donations (\$213) benefit the Teen Lunch Program.

We are now in the **Church season of Lent**, which will run until Easter weekend.

As part of our journey to become more and more the people

Christ calls us to be, we are encouraged to take on some disciplines for the season of Lent. These fall into 2 basic groups:

1. Giving up or at least reducing a bad habit (for example, being more careful about what we eat;

cutting down or eliminating alcohol; *etc.*)

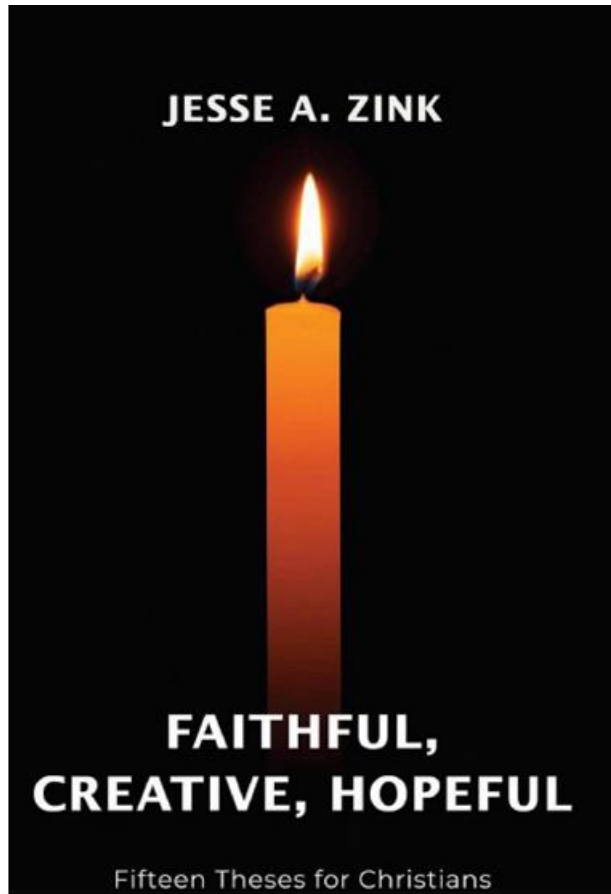
2. Taking on a good habit (supporting the Food Bank, reading something from the New Testament each day; *etc.*).

To help with this, St. Brice's Spiritual Development Committee, in consultation with some others, recommend some devotional resources.



No one has to use any of these resources, but we believe that most people will find them helpful. Whatever you do, though, we hope you will do *something* this Lent, which draws you closer to Christ and your neighbour.

1. Bishop Michael Oulton, who will be visiting St. Brice's on June 29, will be leading an on-line Bible study on Wednesday evenings in Lent. For more information, please see the "Book Study," attached. The book is by Jesse Zink, *Faithful, Creative, Hopeful*. To get the Zoom link, please write Carla MacEwan at the synod office, at Carla.MacEwan@dioceseofalgoma.com
2. Parishioners who ordered a copy of *Create in Me a Clean Heart* or *Turn My Mourning into Dancing* ought to have received their copies by now. If you haven't, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005; stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca).
3. The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity is an Anglican ministry to help equip Christians to deep and to live out their faith – especially, how to share our faith gracefully with others. For short daily devotions, please go to: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/prayer-journeys> . Scroll down to "On Purpose: Lent Devotional Journey." You can either choose "email" to receive a devotional by email each day, or choose "youversion" to receive the whole devotional at once. If you want to see other resources by LICC, please go to: <https://licc.org.uk/about/>
4. An Anglican theological student who lives west of Sudbury, Pavani Paul, is offering a Bible study on the penitential psalms for Lent (please see the notice on the nearby page, for more information).



For pre-book study insights check out this link to this podcast interview Dr. Zink did with Martha Tatarnic of the Diocese of Niagara:

<https://futurechristian.podbean.com/e/jessezink-on-charting-realistic-hope-for-the-church-s-future/> .

There is also a podcast interview with an American podcast: <https://theleadersway.podbean.com/e/47-apocalyptic-clarity-with-jesse-zink/>

Penitential Psalms for Lent Study Outline

Schedule for Online Lenten Bible Meditation Every Thursday from March 6 to April 10, 2025, for 30 minutes from 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM over Zoom:

March 6 Psalm 32

March 13 Psalm 51

March 20 Psalm 130

March 27 Psalm 143

April 3 Psalm 102

April 10 Psalm 6.

Tentative Structure of the Lenten Study of the Psalms:

12:00 PM - 12:05 PM: Greeting and Fellowship

12:05 PM - 12:20 PM: Guided meditation on a Penitential Psalm

12:20 PM - 12:30 PM: Reflection and sharing of insights

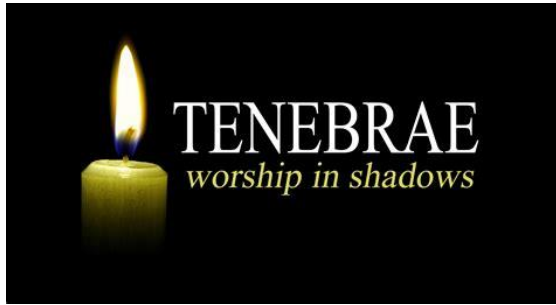
Holy Week – the week leading up to Easter Sunday – will begin on 13 April this year.



Sunday, 13 April (Psalm Sunday), 8:30am & 10:30am: Holy Eucharist, with the distribution of palm crosses. There will be a Procession at the 10:30am service.

Monday, 14 April (Monday in Holy Week), 7:30pm:

There will be a Prayer Service of Tenebrae on Monday in Holy Week. "Tenebrae" means "darkness" or "shadows." It is a meditative prayer service, with the Church building becoming darker as the service progresses, signifying the



spiritual darkness which came upon the world with the betrayal of the Saviour. There is a sharp sound at the end, reminding us of the hammering of the nails of the cross.

Thursday, 17 April (Maundy Thursday), 7pm:

This worship service will be a commemoration of the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Eucharist.

For those who wish, there will be the Washing of Feet, as our Lord taught us to serve one another. The chancel and sanctuary will be made bare (the "Stripping of the Altar," until Easter morning.

Friday, 18 April (Good Friday), 10:30am:

There will be an ecumenical worship service for the churches of North Bay. Location will be announced soon. At **2pm on Good Friday**, there will be the devotions of the Anglican Stations of the Cross service at St. Brice's.

Saturday, 19 April (Holy Saturday), evening:

The exact time and the location of the Easter Vigil will be announced soon. The Easter Vigil, with the lighting of the new fire, will be held at St. John's or Christ Church parish.

Sunday, 20 April (Easter Day), 8:30 and 10:30am:

There will be a celebration of the Festival of Easter.

Refugee Sponsorship

As most of us are aware, last summer, St. Brice's was approached by a Methodist church in New Hampshire, in the United States, asking us to sponsor a refugee family to settle in Canada. The subject of immigration is quite fraught now in the United States, and an immigration lawyer recommended that the American church partner



with a Canadian church to sponsor the family. The Methodist church is providing the primary financial support; we are helping the family settle, if they can come to Canada.

The family are converts to Christianity. Their names are Hasan (father), Nada (mother), Ahmed (older son, aged 22), and Mohammed (younger son, aged 20).

The family has a very clear case. They are in an unstable position and are legitimately frightened. They are recognized to be refugees by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Still, there are far more refugees who hope to come to Canada than there are spaces allowed by the federal government. St. Brice's is working in partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario, who have a legal partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. M.C.C.O. will be allowed to put forward 150-175 people in 2025, and they are expecting to receive applications for about 700. The family and I (PA) ask for your prayers, for God's best in this situation.

The first set of application documents were submitted electronically earlier today, and was very time-consuming to prepare. The family and St. Brice's will learn around Easter weekend whether or not this family will be allowed to proceed to the next step in the immigration process. Even if all goes well, the process will take at least months to complete.

Paint Party

Bonnie (one of Bob and Theresa Gray's daughters) has offered to lead a Paint Party as a fundraiser for St Brice's Teen Lunch Program. Bonnie will provide all the materials and instruction. She can comfortably accommodate ten people. She is proposing \$45 per person, with \$10 of that going to the church. This event is planned for Saturday, March 22, beginning at 6:30pm (concluding by 9pm). We know this is the same day as the "Deanery Day" event, which is being promoted separately. However, this is when Bonnie is available.

Wider Church & Community

Deanery Meeting

There will be a Deanery Meeting, with Jane Mesich and Jennifer Baron from the synod office. It will be held on Saturday, April 12, 9:30am, at St. Mary Magdalene parish, Sturgeon Falls. Part of this meeting will be to elect new deanery delegates. There will also be a presentation from Jane and Jennifer.

Deanery Day

St. Brice's is hosting a "Deanery Day," on Saturday, March 22, 10am-2pm. The theme is "Growing in Faith." There will be three talks, two of them by lay people from St. Brice's. The St. Brice's Praise and Worship Band will be playing.

There will be a free will offering at lunch.
To register, please email Linda at oneilllrja@gmail.com , or call 705 729-9963.



TEMISKAMING DEANERY DAY
GROWING IN FAITH

Gather and connect to become more Christ-like in your daily life. This workshop will consist of three faith-based Lenten talks, discussion groups, plenty of music and lunch.

SATURDAY March 22, 2025
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

St. Brice's Anglican Church
1225 Cassells St.
North Bay

Register by March 17, 2025
Linda O'Neill oneilllrja@gmail.com
or **705-729-9963**

Free Will Offering at Lunch

Layreaders

Temiskaming Deanery will be hosting the diocesan layreaders meeting, on 26-27 September 2025. If you have ideas about a theme, etc., please contact the parish office (705 474-4005; stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca).

Moosonee Electoral Synod

The Diocese of Moosonee (north of the Diocese of Algoma) is having a diocesan synod on 26 March, for the purpose of electing a new diocesan bishop. They ask for our prayers.

Salvation Army Open House

The North Bay Salvation Army has moved to a new property on Main Street East, by the overpass into Ferris. They will be holding an open house on Friday, March 28, from 11am-3pm. We are invited to drop by.

Coldest Night of the Year

I want to express appreciation to parishioners for sponsoring the St. Brice's teens, who participated in the Coldest Night of the Year fund-raising walk, in support of our neighbour on Cassells St., The Gathering Place.

Property

Building Fund Balance

At the Vestry meeting on 2 February, there was some discussion about how much money ought to be kept in the Building Fund account, in case of an unexpected breakdown and expense. The Advisory Board met just over a week ago, and decided to aim for \$5000 to be held in reserve for sudden, unexpected building expenses.

Railing

The stage in the parish hall does not have a railing. We have noticed that during the Teen Lunch Program, some teens step onto the stairs directly from the stage. Particularly in the wintertime, the stairs are sometimes wet. The Advisory Board agreed with the proposal for warden Gary Thoms to build a railing, to prevent short-cut in stepping



onto the stairs. To look balanced, there will be a short similar railing on the other side of the stage, near the Food Bank cupboard.

There was some good, lively discussion at the Board whether to have a railing at all, a railing for part of the stage, or a railing across the entire stage. No one wants anyone to have an injury falling off the stage. On the other hand, we don't want to prevent access from the floor to the stage, or the stage to the floor. Secondly, there was some concern about how a full railing would look. The end result was, the Board agreed to install a partial railing.

Organ

Although it continues to be maintained, the organ at St. Brice's continues to show evidence of failure. We are currently looking into options, about what might best be done.

Financial Update (1 January-28 February 2025)



Income: \$25 425.77
Expenses: \$29 380.73
Deficit: \$3954.96.

