



St. Brice's Anglican Church Office

1225 Cassells St.
North Bay, ON
P1B 4B8

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26 November 2021.

Dear Everyone,

I hope you are well.

I have a few points to share with you.

First, I know that not everyone received a copy of last week's Newsletter. We had a technical problem with the office desktop last Saturday. We hope to send it to the remaining parishioners tomorrow.

Second, some changes were announced yesterday from the diocesan office, with regard to the COVID-19 protocols. There are 3 changes which affect us:

1. Congregational singing will be allowed while we're wearing masks, as long as case rates in the local health unit remain below 80/ 100 000. (Yesterday, our current case rate was 17/ 100 000.)
2. We can have coffee hours. People are being asked to sit at tables in the parish hall, and will be served. We plan for this to begin at St. Brice's on December 5.
3. We are still not to gather together to chat in close proximity, including when we come and go by the main door. As they have found that people tend to stand and to talk by coat racks, they are asking us not to use the coat racks at this time.

Third, many of us are aware of the "Indigenous Declaration" which are being read at the beginning of Sunday services. We are exploring different ways of presenting the Indigenous Declaration, and our commitment to truth and to reconciliation. Four proposals are: Reading the Declaration at joint services, having a written declaration (such as a wall display), consulting with local indigenous leaders, and offering a prayer. We hope to take steps to implement some or all of these proposals in December.

Fourth, if you plan to participate in the "Blue Christmas" service on 5 December, 7pm, and have a music request, please remember to submit your music request by Sunday. Please see the material just outside the Church building doors, for more information.

Fifth, please also remember that the Advent Retreat Day will take place on Saturday, 11 December, 9:30-noon. It is called, ""Servants Are Open: Pondering the Gospels with Imagination." This event is free, and participants can participate in person or on-line. Pre-registration is encouraged for people who will attend in person, and is required for people who are joining us on-line (to get the passcode.)

Sixth, if you would like to participate in Archbishop Anne's "Gospel Based Discipleship" on-line gatherings in Advent on Wednesday evenings, please contact the parish office – (705) 474-4005 – to get the passcode.

Blessings,

Peter Armstrong



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27 November 2021.

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are well.

I know that many of you received the most recent parish newsletter, but some did not, because of a computer glitch. It's easier for me simply to send it again to everyone, than to send it selectively within the group list. I'm sorry if you're receiving it twice to you.

In my recent message about re-instating coffee hour, beginning next month, I did not include the important detail that, to participate in coffee hour, people have to be vaccinated (like going to a restaurant). You do not have to be vaccinated in order to sit in the pew on Sunday morning – although vaccinations are strongly encouraged -- but vaccinations are required for anyone offering a ministry at St. Brice's. Of course, we need to continue to observe the regular practices such as wearing masks, physical distancing, and so on.

I also want to write “thank you” to those who decorated the Church building for Advent this morning. It looks fantastic!

Blessings and love to you all,
Peter Armstrong

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