



CHURCH OF
ST. LUKE &
ST. MATTHEW

CHRISTMAS 2020

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1: 3-7

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we arrived at Christmas last year, we had no idea that the year ahead would herald such upheaval, anxiety and sadness. In these dark times we are enriched by Jesus Christ as we bear the light of his love for the world in our community. In this season of Advent, we await the coming of the light afresh and we live through these dark days with hope.

We entered this past year with energy and hope as we began the process of renewing our ministry. We created two initiatives that would look back through our parish history for wisdom and forward to grow new ministries. Both initiatives were delayed as we transitioned to a new reality overcoming the pandemic's restrictions to worship and ministry and implanting a new online service of Morning Prayer. This year we are recommitting to these initiatives as we concurrently complete the façade restoration and interior renovation projects.

The past year has been financially challenging. However, due to your generous commitment to your ministry of offering we have been able to maintain our income enough to meet our obligations. We are eternally grateful for your commitments and love for your church. Thank you!

The dividends from the invested funds from the air rights sale has also contributed to the financial health of the parish. The vestry decided early on to park some of the dividends in our savings account to help manage any shortfall in funds over the next year or so as we complete the projects.

We invite you to pray about your upcoming financial offerings for next year. Normally we would have our Stewardship / Pledge Sunday on the First Sunday of Advent however this year we ask that you only maintain, if possible, your current level of offering for 2021. We appreciate many of your family budgets are strained at this time and so we are grateful for your offering. We know the Lord will always provide for the needs of the church.

Christmas at St Luke and St Matthew will be somewhat scaled back this year. We are of course wholly dependent on the COVID-19 infection rates within the City. **We plan to hold our Christmas Eve service at 7.30 pm** this year to avoid any city curfew and at 10am on Christmas morning. Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas for Kids gathering this year.

Enclosed you will find a Christmas offering envelope and an envelope for Christmas memorial flowers. If you wish to make your flower offering a memorial or thanksgiving, the envelope will need to be returned to the parish office by mail arriving not later than December 18th or placed in the Sunday offering plate not later than Sunday the 20th for the names to be included in the printed bulletin.

During the week after Christmas, the parish office will be closed. Please see the Christmas bulletin for office hours between Christmas and New Year. **On Sunday, December 27 and January 3 there will be one celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am.** We will return to the “usual” Sunday schedule on Sunday, January 10.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas season.

In Peace,



Fr Andrew

Christmas Season Services

Christmas Eve - 7:30 PM – Holy Eucharist and Hymns and Carols

Christmas Day – Friday, December 25
And Sundays December 27 and January 3, 2021
10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

