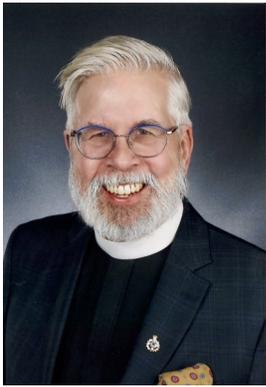


## Rector's Christmas Message



This Advent a few of us are reading a wonderful short book, *The Art of Advent*, by Jane Williams, who takes us through thirty-seven paintings, one a day from Advent through Epiphany. In each painting Williams finds details and themes that are insightful and thought-provoking. That's the case with this painting, the Nativity, by Chinese American artist He Qi. The artist's vivid and unusual style lets us see the birth of Jesus with a fresh set of eyes. Nativity scenes and crèches are meant to be serene, but this image offers us fresh wisdom.

This Nativity scene is a turbulent image, the many lines suggesting force and movement, The angel swoops in from above, the sheep dance, and the slats of the barn seem to revolve like a windmill. At the centre of all this motion are the still and peaceful forms of Mary and the child, with Joseph guarding them. Baby Jesus holds an apple, perhaps a toy but also a symbol of his mission to undo the harms of evil and human sinfulness, while the line between him and Mary hints at his destiny on the cross, the sword that Simeon said would pierce Mary's heart (Lk 2.35).

So the painting is full of motion but ultimately, as Williams notes, it is good motion, for "The universe revolves around this [newborn] human being, and those who find themselves in him by giving themselves up, to him and to each other".

Christmas 2025 comes at the end of a disturbing year, when naked power is on the rise, when old courtesies and traditions are being scrapped, and when technology and AI challenge our very ideas of humanity. But as always, in the centre of this turbulent and disordered world, those who seek Jesus Christ the lord of truth and light and grace, will find him. My prayer for us all this Christmas is that we can find peace when we come to the manger and worship the God who is the heart of all things.

Our regional Christmas schedule is enclosed. Note that we offer an all ages service at Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach, at 4:30 on Christmas Eve. The Sunday following Christmas, Dec 28th, is a joint regional Carols and Lessons service at All Saints starting at 10:30, but if you arrive early, there will be carols to sing.

May the child born in Bethlehem give us peace and joy, and unite us with God and with one another.

Michael+



## CHRISTMAS 2025



“T’was in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled....” This is one of my most favourite Christmas Carols. Of course I have a number of favourites, especially as music is such a way of speaking to hearts. But this one is special first of all because it is Canadian, but because it tells a message of God’s gift to us of his Son, and takes into account who the message was for.

This reminds me that God’s gift to us in the birth of His Son was for all. It shows God’s love for all people, regardless of age, race, language and culture. We are all created by God and we are all loved by God.

I also love that our celebration of this most holy birth comes at a time in our world when darkness seems to have overtaken the world. Literally – our longest night is Dec. 21 and the day seems all too short. But we are also living in a world that knows such strife, war, unrest, poverty, injustice, and the list goes on. We read daily about the need for food banks and affordable housing. We can become discouraged.

The gift of the Christ Child reminds us all that we too have a gift to share. We are bearers of the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace. These are the greatest gifts of Christmas. These are the greatest gifts that we bring to our friends and family and the world around us.

As we approach this most holy day, may we be ready to “kneel before the radiant boy, who brings us beauty, peace and joy”.

Bryce and I wish you all the blessings, peace, love, joy and hope, to you and yours.

Sharon+

**Dear Fellow Parishioners,**

As we gather to celebrate Christmas 2025, we wanted to extend our warm wishes for a very merry Christmas to you and your families and to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making our Parish Home a vital and vibrant one.

We are incredibly appreciative of our wonderful clergy team, led by Father Micheal and supported by Rev. Sharon, Canon Gord, Deacon Lorna, and Rev. Amy. Their dedication and spiritual leadership continue to strengthen and inspire our parish family.

Special thanks go to our music director, Barry DeSilva, and our enthusiastic choir. Their commitment has been evident not only at All Saints but also through their contributions to the choral worship in Orillia and our joint services. Well done to all involved!

We warmly welcome our new property manager, Robert Pierce, who has been diligently sorting, cleaning, and repairing since joining us in September. We are grateful for his oversight of our new boiler installation and management of our temporary heating needs. Several projects are planned for the upcoming budget cycle, ensuring that Robert will remain busy. Welcome aboard, Robert!

Our office manager, Nancy Zamborsky deserves all our thanks for her ability to juggle so many responsibilities, including organizing rentals, events, communications, worship materials, and more. She has also been working on a database to streamline our communications with the parish list and volunteers. Her efforts are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

With support from a provincial government grant, we have enhanced our safety and security by updating locks, improving exterior lighting, and implementing entrance monitoring. We encourage everyone to remain vigilant; please remember to turn off lights and ensure all doors and windows are closed for our collective safety.

Investments in our website and social media presence have resulted in increased followers and broader engagement, thank you for sharing and commenting. We invite you to leave a Google review to help others discover the welcoming church community we have at All Saints.

We are closing the gap on our fundraising efforts for the new boiler. Your gifts of time, treasures, and talents are truly appreciated and make a meaningful difference.

With heartfelt gratitude, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and blessings for a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Your Wardens  
David, Catherine, Jake and Janet



# **Regional Ministry Christmas Schedule**

## **Sunday December 21st**

All Saints **7pm** Quiet Christmas

Prince of Peace **7pm** Carol Sing

## **Christmas Eve**

### **Wednesday December 24th**

St Luke's Creemore **4pm** Eucharist

Prince of Peace All Ages Service **4:30pm**

All Saints, Prince of Peace, Good Shepherd **7pm** Eucharist's

All Saints **10:30pm** Eucharist

## **Christmas Day**

### **Thursday December 25th**

All Saints **9:30am** Eucharist

Prince of Peace **10am** Eucharist

## **Sunday December 28th**

All Saints

Regional Joint Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**10:30am**

*Note there are no other services in our region this Sunday*