

# THE LYCHGATE

## December 2, 2018

Parish Newsletter of  
The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields



### From the Rector's Desk

Each year as the end of the church year approaches, I begin my annual search for a suitable Advent calendar to send to one of my godchildren. As you may know, traditional Advent calendars feature a scene connected with the Nativity of our Lord. In addition there are a number of small windows to be opened one day at a time through the season of Advent so that by the time December 25th arrives, the content of all the windows has been revealed.

The Advent calendar provides an enjoyable daily activity while at the same time acting as a helpful educational tool pointing those who use it to some of the key features of the season. For example, while there is always a full depiction of the Nativity on the calendar, you are also required to open an increasing number of windows to arrive at the celebration of the Nativity on the 25th. This dual focus is mirrored in so many of the great Advent prayers and hymns that speak of both Christ's presence with us now, but also look forward to his coming in glory in the future, of the Kingdom's appearing now but also look forward to the Kingdom's coming in all its fullness in the future. The tension between the now and the not yet occurs throughout our Advent preparations, pointing us to other tensions that exist in the Christian life, such as Christ's call to us to be in the world, but not of the world.

The opening of the windows in the calendar daily can lead to a sense of movement and expectation throughout the season of Advent. While expectation is a prominent feature of the Advent experience, we know that it is also an important part of the whole of Christian life. Advent helps us to develop that sense of anticipation which trains us to look expectantly for Christ's presence with us day by day, to look expectantly for Christ's call and challenge in the midst of our daily life.

This sense of expectation is enhanced still further in the best of the Advent calendars by the inclusion of a series of scriptural verses in each of the windows. As more and more of the windows are opened, the great sweep of salvation history is encountered, as the verses point to God's long preparation of God's people for the coming of Emmanuel, the Anointed One, God with us. One year I well remember that my godchild complained to me that the particular calendar I had sent her that year did not include this series of scriptural verses. She realized that something important in her Advent experience was missing and asked if I could please ensure that the next year's calendar contained them. Even though she did not say it directly, she seemed to have realized at a deeper level that the story of the birth of the Christ child needs to be seen within the context of the story of God's love for us from the beginning of creation, and that we can only understand our own personal story as we see our unique place within the overarching story of God's continuing love for his people throughout history.

May we all this Advent season taste something of the qualities highlighted by the Advent calendar as we look with expectation and hope for the coming of our Saviour to transform our lives and the life of the world around us. May his coming lead us to a renewed sense of joy and purpose, and a desire to immerse ourselves still more deeply in the wonderful story of God's love for us and for all God's creation.

May you enjoy all the blessings of the Christ Child this Advent and Christmas season,

Fr. Philip

## Church Directory



### The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

151 Glenlake Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

[www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)

Church: 416-767-7491  
Fax: 416-767-7065

#### Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon  
Philip Hobson OGS

#### Area Chaplain:

The Rev'd Canon  
David Luxton

#### Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd James  
Decker  
The Rev'd Canon  
Harold Nahabedian  
The Rev'd Canon  
Alyson Barnett-  
Cowan

#### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

#### Church Wardens:

Philip Savage

Cindy Paget

#### Secretary:

Margaret Allen

#### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

#### Sunday School & Nursery

Grace Karram Stephenson

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Events

**Monday, December 3** – Advent Ecumenical Service at St. Joan of Arc, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19:** Advent film series, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 8** – Advent Quiet Day, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 9** – Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, preaching at the 11:00 a.m. service (Celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesting of Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan); Advent Lessons and Carols, 7:30 p.m., followed by a reception

**Sunday, December 16** – Bishop Jenny Andison, Celebrant and Preacher at the 11:00 a.m. service

**Sunday, December 23** – Caroling in the garden, 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday, February 24, 2019** – Vestry Meeting

## Christmas at St. Martin's

### **Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

7:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant with Sung Eucharist (family service)

11:00 p.m. Procession, & Festal Eucharist

### **Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day**

11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Carols, followed by Christmas Lunch

### **Sunday, December 30, First Sunday after Christmas**

8:30 a.m. Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols with Sung Eucharist

### **Sunday, January 6, Epiphany**

8:30 a.m. Said Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Procession & Sung Eucharist

**About The Lychgate Newsletter:** *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the editors, Eilonwy Morgan and Ian Greene, at [iangreene0766@rogers.com](mailto:iangreene0766@rogers.com). For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and click links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>. If you want to go paperless and cancel your paper copy of *The Lychgate*, email us at [Lychgate1111@gmail.com](mailto:Lychgate1111@gmail.com).



Christmas Eve Pageant, December 24, 2017

Since the September 23, 2018 *Lychgate*, there has been one funeral: Nora Edwards, November 14, 2018.

## Parish Profile: The Rozdzilskis

By Ian Greene



Jane Fletcher and Joe Rozdzilski were married at St. Martin's in 1978. They have been loyal St. Martin's parishioners for the past four decades since then.

St. Martin's was not part of their lives until they decided to get married. They contacted the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, and asked if there were a "high" Anglican church in the High Park area, where they planned to live. St. Martin's was recommended, and they contacted Fr. Jackson. They liked Fr. Jackson, and he liked them, and the wedding was arranged. There was only one point of disagreement. Fr. Jackson said "I don't believe in women keeping their maiden names." So Jane became known as Jane Rozdzilski at St. Martin's. Everywhere else she is Jane Fletcher.

Why did they search out a church like St. Martin's? It turns out that Jane grew up in a Methodist tradition, and sang in the church choir from the age of 7. But she didn't like it; there was no ritual. She became a "closet Catholic." She was invited by a friend to attend an Episcopalian Christmas Eve service in Newark, Delaware. She loved it. She wanted to be married in that tradition. Joe agreed, and has never regretted it. Not only did they enjoy the liturgy and music at St. Martin's, they found the parishioners to be Christ-centred. They act on what they say in church. They care about others.

Joe and Jane have two children – Larissa (Lissy) and Jordan (Jordy). Both have gone through all the classes at the St. Martin's church school, and were servers, and both look back happily on those years.

Lissy, now a social worker, recently married Adrian, son of a Ukrainian Catholic priest. They are expecting their first child. Jordy currently works for Purolator.

Jane's father was Canadian, and became a professor of classics at the University of Delaware. During WWII, he served in the British intelligence service. He was stationed in Kingston, Jamaica, where he worked with the allies in surveillance of Nazi submarines in the Caribbean. Jane's mother, also a Canadian from Toronto, lived with her husband in a hotel in Kingston during the early years of the war. When she became pregnant, she returned to Toronto to live with her mother, who worked as a nurse, and have the baby – Jane.

After the war, Jane's father spent a year in Falls Church, Virginia, to undergo debriefing. Jane and her mother moved there to be with him. When the debriefing ended, they all moved to Newark, Delaware (a small city of about 30,000), where Jane's father resumed his teaching position. Jane did her schooling in Newark, and after graduating from high school decided to become an archeologist. She took an undergraduate degree in archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania, and then joined the Delaware Archaeological Board. She had the incredible good fortune of being part of a team that discovered the oldest woodland First Nations site in the United States, dating from 1200 AD. The site was discovered by accident. The archaeological team had done everything according to standard procedures in a beach area. They discovered nothing. Local farmers laughed at them, and told them they were looking in the wrong place. "Look over there with my backhoe," one said. So they did. Artefacts soon appeared, and then they reverted to standard archaeological digging procedures.

Around this time, Jane and her family became discouraged with the U.S. involvement in the Viet Nam war, and they decided to return to Canada. Jane's father got a position teaching classics at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. By this time, Jane realized that archaeology was not for her. It was too tedious. Her father let her know about the new Master of Library Science program at Dalhousie University. Jane did her Master's degree there. Then she got a wonderful job with the Halifax Regional County library system's bookmobile. She took the

bookmobile to remote villages and into schools, and loved the job. She did so well she was promoted to a desk job, which she didn't like. So she decided to do an education degree at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education so she could work in the school system. After graduation, she worked as a teacher/librarian at a school in Port Credit, and stayed there until she retired in 2010. It was the most wonderful job of her career.

Joe Rozdzilski was born in Toronto, and grew up in the Bathurst and Queen St. area. Joe's dad came to Canada from Ukraine during the depression of the 1930s, and worked for a farmer in Saskatchewan. He was a trained tailor, so during WWII he moved to Toronto and made uniforms for the Canadian army. Joe's mom came to Canada from Ukraine when she was 15. Her family in Europe pooled their savings to send this promising young girl to a country that had a future. She worked in Montreal for ten years, and then came to Toronto, where she met Joe's dad. Joe attended Howard Park school, and later graduated from Parkdale Collegiate.

After graduation, Joe worked as a lab technician for a drug company, and then took a program in metallurgy at Ryerson. Then he worked at the foundry for American Standard on Lansdowne doing quality control. Subsequently, he worked as a traffic manager for a trucking company, for Revenue Canada, and as a manager at Loblaws until he retired around the same time that Jane retired.

Joe did a good deal of volunteer work in the 1960s and 1970s for a service club called the Trident Club. They emphasized trust, honour and commitment, and they provided support for facilities such as the Good Neighbours' Club for homeless men on Jarvis Street – now Haven Toronto. Joe found it rewarding to bring joy and happiness to people who were otherwise neglected.

Joe and Jane met at a social event not long after Jane moved to Toronto. They shared an interest in helping others, and their romance blossomed. Joe says that "meeting Jane was the making of me." Jane inspired Joe to get involved in St. Martin's. In their spare time, they worked together to help people and animals in need.

Jane, Joe, Lissy and Jordy all consider themselves as "rescuers." They are determined to help the less fortunate: dogs, cats and people. Once, Jane and Joe took in a recently divorced man who had nowhere else to go. He stayed with them fourteen years, and became a good friend. Jordy rescued a kid off the street – a drug-addicted runaway. Jane and Joe paid for her mother to come to Toronto. Both of them stayed at the Rozdzilskis for some time, until they could plan a way forward. At one time, they had eight adults and four dogs in their house. Although the kids sometimes referred to the household as a "zoo," it taught them compassion.

Jane loves doing "random acts of kindness." For example, she enjoys going to the Salvation Army in Parkdale, and offering to help someone. Recently, she saw a grandmother who looked stressed, and offered to buy her groceries. A couple of years ago, she went to the Keele subway station before Christmas, sang Christmas carols, and gave out free tokens to those who needed them. One person told her, "What you've done warms my spirit." That made it all worthwhile. Jane and Joe think it's important to take religion out into the street in small ways.

Jane was fortunate to have been brought up in a musical family. Her grandfather and father played the trumpet, sometimes with bands and sometimes with friends. Her mother studied voice at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, and won the Canadian gold medal for singing in 1937, even though she was deaf in one ear. Jane used to help out at the Victoria Royce Presbyterian Church playing the organ and singing in concerts to raise money for the Out of the Cold interfaith program, and that was service over and above her commitments at St. Martin's. She loves singing hymns in the congregation at St. Martin's, and her lovely singing voice inspires us all.

Since 1978, Jane and Joe have come to know all of the rectors at St. Martin's: Fr. Jackson. Bishop Tonks, Fr. Pritchard, Fr. Brinton, and Fr. Philip. They appreciated all the priests at St. Martin's, especially Fr. Philip. They see him as the symbol of total commitment, and self-sacrifice to others.



## The Blessing of the Pets



On September 30<sup>th</sup>, dozens of pet owners and their charges gathered for a service of blessing in the church garden.



Fr. Philip blessing Ken Little's dog Riggins



## The Bee Hotel

By Patty McKnight



After seeing many bee hotels while visiting Amsterdam, Roberta Laking Kananaj decided she needed one and so did St. Martin's. Roberta's donation has been installed on the north stone wall of our church garden. Bee hotels target our native solitary bees which are

non-swarming and non-aggressive. Solitary bees don't provide honey but they are more efficient pollinators than honey bees. Solitary bee populations have decreased around the world due to loss of habitat and the use of herbicides and pesticides. Bee hotels provide shelter for solitary bees to rest and lay their eggs. St. Martin's bee hotel was installed over the summer so activity has been limited as the solitary bees lay their eggs in the spring. We'll be ready for more business at our bee hotel as the garden warms next spring. Thank you, Roberta.



Fr. Philip cutting his birthday cake, September 30, with Estella Joseph, maker of the cake

## Perils of Public Space Gardening

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By Ingrid Whitaker

It is always lovely to see community members sitting in and enjoying the St. Martin's garden. Indeed, we work very hard to ensure that the space is clean and always has something in bloom. Many people young and old come to enjoy the quiet and peace of our garden. This can be a two-edged sword, however. This year we have had many things taken from the garden from the simple picking of the blooms, "but these daffodils have their heads hanging" said one woman as she blithely picked the spring tulips and daffodils, to the newly planted pansies and geraniums that go missing. It seems people feel free to dig up any plants they fancy in an open space. We are sometimes astonished when simple plants that are inexpensive like geraniums are taken by the general public. Although some parishioners like to see the labels identifying various plants, sometimes it is better not to point out the more pricey ones as they are then dug up.

We have had large dogs and small children trample new plantings and also established shrubs. This year we were astounded to see that even a concrete birdbath, weighing at least 150 lbs, had gone missing.

Nevertheless, despite the petty thievery, damage, and that mess left by people and dogs alike, we are proud of our little space with its thousands of spring bulbs (even if some get picked thus damaging the plant) and year-round colour. A small group of dedicated volunteers provide the work on this amazing space that so many enjoy and we hope to continue to keep it in good order.

We thank the Parkdale and Toronto Horticultural Society for their support in providing a peaceful spot for the community to enjoy and also the parishioners of St. Martin's whose generous donations help to provide new plants when some go missing. We should have a wonderful show in the spring as many new bulbs were planted this fall to take the place of those that have been picked or eaten by squirrels.

## October's Eyeglass Collection

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By Glen Storey

Thank you to all the parishioners of St. Martin's who brought in their old prescription glasses, from our partners the "Etobicoke Queensway Lions Club."

We collected 72 pairs of glasses, including the ones dropped off by our neighbours in the new outside drop box. These glasses will make their way to Calgary to be graded and then distributed to different countries in Asia that are in need.

We will collect again in April, so tell your neighbours, family, and friends about this program so we can keep up the good work.

Note: Four members of this Lions Club attend St. Martin's.

## Newcomers Lunch

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On October 28, a lunch was held at the home of Eilonwy Morgan and Ian Greene to welcome some of the newcomers to St. Martin's, and to provide time for them to mingle with other parishioners.

Attending were Leslie and Ignatius Allen and their children, Madison and Mackenzie, Grace Karram-Stephenson and her daughter Maelle, Bethanne Bell and her daughter Ivy, Amelia Hartin, Andrew Lambert, Philip Dawson, Erica Lovley, Fr. Philip, Dianne Doughty, and Cindy Paget.



## The Canonization of Oscar Romero

By Eilonwy Morgan

Most of us noticed the two announcements about Romero House in the church bulletins this past October. The first one was familiar, having been seen at this time of year many times before. The second one was new. From the October 7<sup>th</sup> bulletin:

### Coats for Romero House

In the spirit of St. Martin who shared his cloak with someone in need one cold night, we are looking for good winter coats (for both adults and children) that will be donated to Romero House for their ministry with refugees. Winter boots are also a great need for new residents of Canada. Boxes are available at the back of the church to receive your donations of winter coats and boots.

### Oscar Romero to be declared a Saint

Next Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special service in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome for the Canonization of Msgr. Oscar Romero. St. Martin's parishioner, Jenn McIntyre, will be leading a group of people from Romero House to Rome to attend the service. There will also be a number of special services and events in Toronto to celebrate the life and witness of Oscar Romero including services at the Anglican parishes of San Lorenzo and the Redeemer. Please see the poster on the bulletin boards for more information.

The first bulletin notice is familiar; we collect winter coats for refugees before our patronal festival of St. Martin, in acknowledgement of his good deed in sharing warm clothing. Many of us, but perhaps not all, know about the mission of this Romero House, its history, and its namesake. The second bulletin notice told us of the canonization of an archbishop named Romero, of Jenn McIntyre, a parishioner, leading a group of people from Romero House to Rome for the service, and of other events held in Toronto to celebrate the canonization, including those at two other Anglican parishes.

There are stories behind each of these points. A column in the Globe and Mail on October 12<sup>th</sup> of this year provides some background on Romero House, and its namesake:



A banner of Oscar Romero

### **A new saint for the suffering, and an enduring leader for the Catholic Church**

*-by Mary Jo Leddy, one of the founders of Romero House in Toronto*

Twenty-seven years ago, a small group of middle-class Christians sat around a kitchen table in the west end of Toronto. They had talked for hours in search of a name for their new project of welcoming refugees as good neighbours. Finally, in

desperation, someone said, "Let's name it after a person." Several names were mentioned to no avail. Then someone, no one can remember exactly who, said: "Oscar Romero." We all fell silent and sure. An immense sense of peace and purpose descended upon us then and remains with us now.

On Sunday Oct. 14, Oscar Romero will be canonized as a saint in the Catholic Church. For the people of El Salvador and for many around the world, he had long ago been recognized as a martyr, and a holy one. Romero House in Toronto is but one small example of how he inspired bold and courageous efforts on behalf of justice. The first refugees we welcomed were mostly Muslims from the Horn of Africa- a reflection of his recognition of the priority that should be given to those who suffer.

Many have found hope in the fact that he had been profoundly changed by the reality of suffering in El Salvador. He had been a modest, quiet, temperamentally conservative church leader. Indeed, he had been chosen as archbishop because no one thought he would rock the leaky boat of the church's relationship with the military and the ruling elites.

Gradually, he began to see the brutal reality of his country. His insight became even more incisive after the killing of a good friend, Rutilio Grande, A Jesuit priest who had been working with the poor. Archbishop Romero began to listen to the people who came to him with stories of massacres and rape. He recognized the authority of those who suffer. "What do you want me to do?" he would ask them.

He began to speak about oppression and injustice, naming those who had been killed or tortured. His sermons were broadcast on the

radio in every town and village of El Salvador and throughout Central America. Canadian missionaries returning from that part of the world brought tapes of his homilies. Even those who could not understand Spanish heard the authority with which he spoke. A shy and quiet man, bookish and careful, he became the voice of the voiceless. He became regarded as a saint in the crucible of his time and place.

Archbishop Romero lived in a situation in which the middle ground had disappeared. Those who remained silent in the face of great injustice were choosing the side of the oppressors. He made his choices, and they were threatening to the powers that be: the elites and many authorities in the church.

Eventually, inevitably, he was killed. On March 24, 1980, his killer came for him as he said mass in the small chapel of a hospital where he lived in a small room. His life and his death gave weight to his words.

How remarkable that the life and death of an archbishop of a very small country has inspired so many efforts at true justice throughout the world. On Oct. 14, thousands of people from all over the world, from many different religious traditions, will bear witness to his enduring inspiration. Romero House will be sending eight people as pilgrims to Rome to participate in this event. They are refugees from Colombia, Venezuela and the Congo.

The Catholic Church has often suffered from poor leadership and from the sins of the clergy and lay people. Yet, mysteriously, it continues to summon people of courage and grace who bear witness to the many and varied ways of holiness.

Every day we answer the phone at our little office on Bloor Street. "Good morning, this is Romero House. How may we help you?" He lives among us.

Romero House itself consists of an office at 1558 Bloor Street, close to Dundas Street, and four houses. The houses enable their refugees to live in a neighbourhood setting. Many of the staff, five permanent members and six interns, live with the refugee families in the houses. The internship program has become important to the Romero House community. These young people, who come from around the globe, take on significant

responsibilities during their one or two years of service. This year's interns work in communications, public education, volunteer support, fundraising, kids' programming, furniture and clothing donations, and Second Harvest co-ordination. Jenn McIntyre, the present director of Romero House, began her involvement as one of those interns, almost ten years ago, right out of university. Mary Jo Leddy remains actively involved, as does a dedicated set of volunteers.

Community involvement remains a key factor; it is exemplified by the annual Wanda Road street party, now a massive all-day event each June involving hundreds of neighbours showing their support and celebrating their sense of solidarity. Romero House also participates in the West Bend Neighbourhood Association, local schools, and other community involvement.

Many details of the trip to Rome for the canonization, for them a pilgrimage, are on the Romero House website, [romerohouse.org](http://romerohouse.org).



Back Row, L to R: Sonya Wu Winter, Maria José Marciano, Alexander Duarte, Diana Ballesteros. Front Row, L to R: Winnie Muchuba, Jenn McIntyre, Laretta Santarossa, Jhon Alvarez.

According to Jenn, the canonization service was huge and mostly in Latin. The people from Romero House found it incredible to be with over 80,000 people in St. Peter's Square, with the highlight being the early morning assembling of the Saint Romero pilgrims. They met outside the gates of St. Peter's Square just after 5 a.m. The line of pilgrims in the blue colors of El Salvador and with banners and t-shirts painted with the words of Romero's homilies



stretched around the corner and out of sight. As they waited in line with the sun rising behind them, they ran into several groups of pilgrims that they had met over the previous few days. They felt as if the Spirit was bringing them together with the same people in order to share moments in intimate communities among the masses.



Mingling with other pilgrims

Jenn commented that another highlight of the trip included the Thanksgiving mass for Saint Romero which took place the day after the canonization. Their group of eight was with about two thousand other pilgrims, mostly Salvadorians either from El Salvador or diaspora communities. Jenn indicated that the spirit in the room was one of deep joy and celebration. Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez, a friend and collaborator of Oscar Romero, was presiding. They found the prayers of the people particularly moving; praying with a congregation full of many refugees, the petition was offered that people around the world be able to realize their right of living in the places they call home, as no refugee desires to be separated from their home or family. Jenn felt that this prayer certainly touched the hearts of the group from Romero House, which included refugees from Colombia, Venezuela, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This mass was followed by a special audience with the Pope. The pilgrims made it clear just how

pleased they were that the life of the priest who has already been a saint for decades in their hearts is being shared with the whole world.

Oscar Romero is, indeed, known around the world, as Mary Jo Leddy had noted. Our own church bulletin announcement referred to commemorative events for the canonization held in Toronto. Westminster Abbey in London, England, had earlier included a figure of Oscar Romero among its statues of ten martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century added above its west doorway in 1998. The Abbey held an Evensong service on November 17 to commemorate his canonization.

## Patronal Festival and Ringing of Bells



Patronal Cakes, photos courtesy Peter Chauvin. Cakes courtesy Lee Jeffrey and Estella Joseph



The intrepid bell ringers of St. Martin's, November 11. Photo courtesy Peter Chauvin



**JJ Stephenson ready to ring the bell, assisted by David McKnight. Photos courtesy Peter Chauvin**



## **Order of St. Martin: Philip Conliffe**

By Eilonwy Morgan



**Eilonwy Morgan, left, reading citation for Philip Conliffe, right. Cindy Paget, Chair of Management Board, centre.**



**Lining up to ring the church bell 100 times, dusk, November 11. Photo courtesy Peter Chauvin.**

The Patronal Festival on November 11 coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. The service began with an Act of Remembrance in front of the memorial window. The sermon was given by Bishop Victoria Matthews. The coffee hour featured two patronal cakes. At dusk, church bells across Canada rang 100 times to mark the anniversary of the armistice. At St. Martin's, sixteen parishioners took turns ringing the bell.

At the coffee hour after the Patronal Festival service, Philip Conliffe received the Order of St. Martin.

From the award's citation:

Philip is a quiet, diligent, conscientious person who gives generously of his talents and time to St. Martin-in-the-Fields. His example of Christ's ministry to us is shown through his work and time allotted to our church.

Philip's role as our Treasurer at St. Martin's is exemplary. The work he does in this area of expertise is amazing! From our annual Vestry meetings, we realize that he writes cheques to pay the bills, records transactions for all parish activities, and balances the books.

He does much more than this. He monitors our revenues and expenditures compared to budget throughout the year. He prepares income statements monthly for Management Board and full financial statements on an annual basis for the parish. He explains our church finances in simple, straightforward terms, noting the sources of our revenues and showing how the expenditure numbers illustrate our church operations and our various mission initiatives. He also recognizes and explains the role of the Memorial Fund in our ongoing parish operations.

In all of this, he even makes being Treasurer look easy!



In addition, Philip serves as a member of St. Martin's outstanding choir. So, more time is given to his beloved church and Lord going to choir practices. Philip also sometimes sings solo in our choir, and he probably practices for those, as well.

Philip is quiet and unassuming in his service to Our Lord. He has dedicated his life to God, church life, and his family. He is an exemplary father to Gregory and honorable husband to his wife, Mary.

In summary, Philip Conliffe shows the light of Christ through his life, example, and personal ministry.

## Update on Gdey

By Glen Storey, Kathy Mansfield, Tim Stephenson, Margaret Clark, and Ted Clark

Many good things have happened for Gdey and her boys (Meron and Efron) since the last update in the Lychgate. Gdey got a two bedroom apartment close to Warden subway station, so her daily commute for ESL classes and daycare for the boys is easier. Members of the support group were able to move her belongings and purchase mattresses, curtains and kitchen appliances. Saint Martin's and associated people were very generous, and over \$16,000 has been raised to pay for the funeral and furnish the apartment. The Outreach Committee is planning to set up an education fund for the boys and Jay and Vicki have already promised a place at Camp Nokomis when they are old enough!

Gdey and the boys are at Saint Martin's every Sunday, so please introduce yourselves. Many times



she has told members of the committee how much our prayers and blessings have meant to her and her family. In the photo of Meron on his new

bed, you can see how happy he is.

Many thanks to the generosity of all parishioners to help make this possible.

## Update on Marino

By Tim Stephenson



Marino's daughter Yvonne, left, Dalicia (his fiancé) centre, and Alexandre his son, right

Marino Miguela has just received his Permanent Residency. This is a huge step forward for him and he can start the sponsorship to bring his family from the Congo to Canada. He started a new full time job at the Bank of Montreal in July and is learning the differences between large corporations in Canada and the Congo. He will return to Ryerson in January to continue to study data analytics. Marino thanks you for your support and prayers.

## Nutcracker Fair

Thank you to Helen Kolberg, and all those who worked so hard preparing for and running the Nutcracker Fair on November 17. Over \$9,000 was raised.







Photos courtesy Peter Chauvin



## Blessing Box and Little Library

By Kathie Wagg – for St. Martin's Missional Team

Very soon you will see an installation of nine metal boxes against the east side of the Lychgate. This installation is a Blessing Box and a little library. The library is self-explanatory – but what is a Blessing Box, you may ask?

A Blessing Box is another way that we at St. Martin's are giving to our community. The box will contain non-perishable food items, common household items and, in the winter season, hats, mitts, gloves, and warm socks for those in need. The box can be accessed by anyone – certainly those less fortunate in our midst, but also our local neighbours who may be needing some of our box contents and just don't have the time to get to the store. The library is also accessible to anyone. We will monitor the library to ensure that offensive materials are not added. Anyone is welcome to add to whatever is in the box.

Our Sunday School children are participating in this venture by decorating magnets that will be affixed to the Box. The magnets will have Church

contact information in addition to the children's art and will be available for anyone to take.

And you can participate too! We will have a box at the back of the narthex to accept your donations of contents for the box, i.e. non-perishable food, common household/personal items, and hats, mitts, etc. for the winter. Hand knit items especially useful!

"Take what you need, Leave what you can – But above all – BE BLESSED!"

## Faithworks 2018

By Judith Kidd

The last weekend of November seems to be the official civic start of the Christmas season. Santa arrived last week and this weekend the lights are lit. Christmas is coming... it's official.

Next weekend, a group of volunteers from this parish will be preparing and helping to serve dinner for 100 - our contribution to the Out of the Cold (OOTC) program at St. Matthew's, Islington. Perhaps it's the fact that OOTC begins each year around the time of the turning on of the Christmas lights that I think of all the homeless over thousands of years – including that young couple in Bethlehem.

One of the reasons that I support Faithworks is that, through Faithworks' ministry partners, individuals and families who are vulnerable and marginalized are able to get help (including housing) and through that help to feel hope.

St. Martin's individuals and families have been most generous in their support of the 2018 Faithworks campaign. If you plan to mark your Christmas with a donation to the program, please remember that your gift needs to be received by December 31 in order to qualify for a 2018 tax receipt.

This Christmas let hope warm your heart, love warm your family, and the Holy Spirit warm all humankind.

**Advent Carol Service  
and Reception  
Sunday December 9, 7:30 p.m.**