

Happy Thanksgiving,



On Sunday October 8, we will gather to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings we have received from God and each other. No matter what we may be going through, each one of us will be able to find something to be thankful for. We have been given the gift of life and the opportunity to celebrate another Thanksgiving together and for that alone we can give our thanks.

Our community is flourishing in so many ways that I had never imagined at the beginning of the year. It is a life-giving place where the Kingdom of God is bursting into people's lives. For that I say, **"Thanks be to God."**

When the year began, I did not think that, on this Thanksgiving Sunday, we would be dedicating a beautiful organ which was acquired from St. Martin's. The whole project from start to finish had the hand of God written on it and for that I will ever be grateful.

After a year's hiatus, this year's Thanksgiving Dinner has taken on a life of its own. So far 50 people have signed up including students from Germany, Iran, China, Korea, India, and Sri Lanka. The eight students are our guests so we will provide for them. Those who have been international students know how much it is appreciated to have a family and community with whom to celebrate Thanksgiving. I am thankful that our community is prepared to come together and share their food with friends, new Canadians and students alike.

I cannot tell you how excited and grateful I am for the Fall Food Fair which will be held on Saturday November 4. The hard work of several months will come to fruition on that day. Each and everyone of you has contributed to this Fall Fair and I thank you. Some will make things or donate items or cash, while others will come to buy and enjoy the coffee and lunch. Every year at the end of the Fall Fair it always feels like an accomplishment and the only feeling I have is gratitude. When I see the fruits of our hard work and our persistence, I am even more grateful. Thank you for giving from the abundance of your heart.

As I once said, “St. Stephen’s would not exist without your dedication and the commitment you put in every day for this place.” What a blessing! I thank God for blessing me with All of you. **On Sunday I will be making a special offering to God of \$1 for each and every one of you.**



My offering on this Thanksgiving is not only an offering to God and to my future self but your future also and what the Lord has in store for us. We are all recipients of God’s grace and generosity. But it is in receiving that we are also called to give, to share, and to live lives of gratitude.

St. Stephen’s is blessed in so many ways, far too many to name here, so please help me name them in your prayers on Sunday, and Monday evening when you gather for the Thanksgiving meal. We all have so much to be grateful for! Take time to give thanks!

I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing everyone on Thanksgiving Sunday.

With sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve you,

I remain yours.

The Reverend Canon George Kwari.