



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY AND ST. MARK PARKDALE

COOPERATING IN GOD'S FUTURE
MARCH 2020

WHAT OUR PARISH LOVES ABOUT EPIPHANY AND ST. MARK...



WHO WE ARE

Epiphany and St. Mark partners with various engaging ministries and neighbourhood organizations in Parkdale. Our parish has a deep passion and outpouring of support for this type of work within the community.

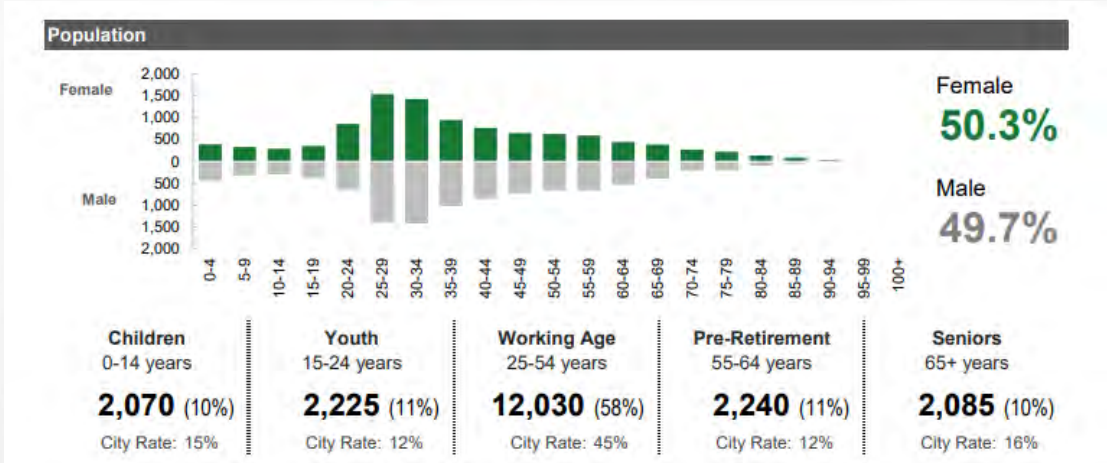
This mandate to partner with like-minded, yet often non-religious neighbourhood organizations, grew organically out of an earnest desire to translate the good news of Christ into the lives of our neighbours. This is done primarily through a philosophy of Christian hospitality that has been encouraged by our clergy and lay leaders alike, including our previous rector and our missionary. In short, we want our neighbourhood to know that we are here to serve them as Christ would!

Those who have found a home within our parish have done so because the congregation at Epiphany and St. Mark has been overwhelmingly warm and welcoming! People describe this hospitality in many ways including: a sense of togetherness, loving acceptance, free from judgement and discrimination, community-mindedness, commitment to social justice, family-friendly, ethnic diversity and inclusive of all backgrounds. People feel that they are encountering the love of Jesus Christ.



**WE ARE AN INCLUSIVE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF
GOD'S PEOPLE IN PARKDALE**

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



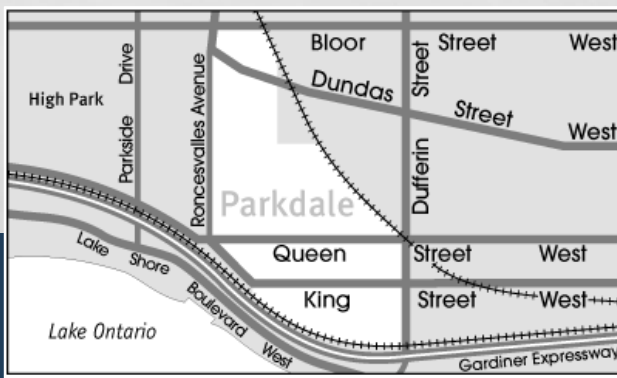
[Link to in-depth Parkdale neighbourhood demographic profile](#)

As we seek to make meaningful connections, we are called to address the pressing issues of the neighbourhood, and to interact with our neighbours as Christ would. The main issues in the community of Parkdale are:

- Poverty, Hunger, and Homelessness
- Depression and Loneliness
- Affordable Housing
- Aging and Mobility

This article provides great insight into the challenges our neighbourhood is currently facing:

[‘My Parkdale is gone’: how gentrification reached the one place that seemed immune](#)



OUR PARTNERS

We feel blessed in the groups that make use of our building. Many are led by people of faith who are committed to the development of community life in Parkdale. Together and with God's help, we look to our shared future with hope and expectation.



Greenest City - Greenest City builds healthy, inclusive neighbourhoods through education and empowerment to preserve, protect and improve the environment. They oversee HOPE Community Garden, Milky Way Garden and the Dunn Avenue Youth Garden. The Sewing Hub and Growing the Future (a program geared to young people) fall under their umbrella. They also oversee the community aspects of our church kitchen which includes cooking classes for kids and adults as well as a space where new immigrants may learn how to build a cottage industry around food and learn how to market it safely.



OUR PARTNERS



Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust - PNLT is working to build up resources of low-cost housing and community shared land in Parkdale. The Milky Way Garden behind our church was their first acquisition. English as a Second Language students from the Parkdale Public library grow food there and the space is also used for community festivals and events.

The Dale Ministries - The Dale Ministries is a community organization and a church without its own walls. The Dale creates a safe welcoming space in which all people, particularly the vulnerable and broken, are encouraged to participate fully and to the best of their abilities as they journey together toward a deeper experience of God in their lives.

OUR PARTNERS

Toronto Scouts – The Scouts have shared space in our church for over 100 years and we have an excellent relationship with the groups that meet there today. They help us in many ways. Beavers and Cubs plant seeds in the spring. Scouts do the cooking and serving for our Pancake Supper and for our outdoor BBQs. A few of the older Scouts built the standing boxes for flowers, veggies and herbs that line our south parking lot and one boy installed the watering system that collects rain water from the church roof.



Making Room - Making Room is a radically inclusive, inter-disciplinary arts company bringing together individuals, groups and communities through the process of collaborative art making.

THE HEART & SOUL OF OUR PARISH - WORSHIP

Sunday:

- 9:15 am Eucharist – a simple, quiet service of Holy Communion (4 - 8 people attend)
- 10:30 am Eucharist – a lively, contemporary family-style Communion service (30 - 60 people attend)
- Sunday school – runs from 10:40 until Holy Communion (3 - 6 children attend)

Weekday:

- 9 am Morning Prayer on Tuesday and Wednesday (4 – 6 people attend)
- 10 am Contemplative Prayer on Fridays (6 - 12 people attend)

Music Style:

We observe traditional Anglican liturgy with uplifting music from a variety of styles (jazz, folk, hymns, classic, Celtic, steel pans, meditative and many others). Our music director oversees the weekly service song selection and we enjoy hosting musical guests from time to time.

Embracing Diversity in our Worship:

As an ethnically diverse congregation, special themed services and events are held throughout the year including Black History Month, First Nations celebrations, Earth Day, All Souls Day, Parang and more. Our Jeremiah Community hosts monthly Agape meals.



FISCAL HEALTH

As the corporation, we work diligently to maintain fiscal responsibility, while exercising generosity with the space and resources we have been given. Our beautiful building is old and requires regular repair and maintenance. Like many churches, our income is derived from a combination of PAR, plate offerings and space rentals.

When seeking partners to rent our space, we endeavor to attract those with a shared vision and purpose to contributing to the community. It is within the context of these shared goals, that the opportunity for evangelism continually arises.

We have segued from times of financial uncertainty to stability in recent years. Our goal is to continue the upward trajectory shown in the table below and become sustainable over the next few years. Our hope is to work towards being less reliant on rental income. In 2019, the split between donations and rental income was 51% donations and 49% rental.

Year	Revenue*	Expenses	Surplus/Deficit
2017	\$231,098	\$241,542	(\$10,444)
2018	\$333,069	\$317,348	\$15,721
2019 (unaudited)	\$323,855	\$275,584	\$48,271

*includes grants

Fiscal year 2019 donations of \$95,326 were comprised of 42 envelopes, 15 PAR and 29 visitors. The average donation per person/family was \$1,108. We were blessed to receive a number of grants in recent years that provided for improvements in ministry and the building. These included, a Toronto Heritage Grant to refurbish our stained glass windows, a Diocesan contribution to upgrade the audio-visual system, OFOH grants for a Priest Missioner, and a Reach Grant for the Sunday School. For fiscal year 2020, we received a Reach Grant for the "Sharing the Sacred" initiative.

Please see the link to our recent annual vestry report for additional details on these and other pertinent matters in relation to our parish.

[Most recent Annual Vestry Report](#)

STAFFING

In 2018 and 2019, we had a 3/4 time incumbent and a 1/2 time priest missionary. At this time, there are currently insufficient resources to maintain a church payroll. We have several contractors providing valuable services on a part time basis. This includes a cleaner, a musical director, an office administrator and a Sunday School facilitator.



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is an integral part of who we are as a Christian community that supports and cares for its members in times of struggle and need. With increased life pressures, mental health concerns, and an aging congregation, pastoral care will figure prominently in the life of our parish priest. Our church is in an urban neighbourhood that's grappling with food and income security concerns, affordable housing and dwindling resources. Several of our parishioners are also long time members that live in diverse communities outside of the church neighborhood and still call Epiphany and St. Mark their spiritual home. We believe pastoral care enables our community to remain connected, offer comfort, love, and support hospital and home visits to those in need. This ministry serves as a poignant reminder that we are all disciples of Christ and many do their best to serve as Christ's hands, feet and heartbeat.

People who provide pastoral care in the parish are:

- Our Priest
- Our Deacon – Claudette Taylor
- Our Lay Assistant – Kennedy Marshall

CHURCH PROGRAMMING

Our parish offers programs that help us to engage respectfully with the earth, local indigenous communities and our community partners. These programs assist us with being mindful of our purpose and the seasons of the church including Advent programming, Lenten reflections, and a variety of special services and activities which keep us connected to our parish family and the wider community we serve and live in.



Deacon Claudette Taylor

Our Deacon with congregational support leads a vibrant social ministry that celebrates cultural diversity and honours our collective history. Black History Month celebrations and Indigenous teachings feature prominently in our programming. We also actively participate in an interfaith refugee committee to help resettle new families in Canada. The Jeremiah Community has also featured prominently in our growth journey at Epiphany and St. Mark bringing renewed ideas and perspectives on modern day ministry and community service.

**WE ARE A PARISH COMMITTED TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH,
DISCERNMENT AND REFLECTION.**

OUR HISTORY

Our church was the first House of Worship erected in the Village of Parkdale in 1881 and was named St. Mark's. From the very beginning, St. Mark's displayed a strong sense of connection to the community, witnessed by the fact that it housed the first lending library in the neighbourhood and for decades provided faithful ministry and outreach in the South Parkdale area.

During the Reverend Graham Cotter's time as rector, in the 60s and 70s, St. Mark's became the spiritual home for a growing number of new immigrants to Canada from the Caribbean. Through the years they have played a huge role as lay leaders in the church and as community leaders in Parkdale and beyond. Their faithful witness to Christ's love continues to enrich our parish as one that is open, welcoming and inclusive to all.

By the 1980s, the two Anglican parishes in Parkdale - St. Mark's and the Church of the Epiphany on Queen Street - were both facing financial difficulty. After much prayer and pain, the decision was made to amalgamate the two and they came together under one roof at the newly renovated and newly named Church of the Epiphany and St. Mark in 1984.



OUR HISTORY CONTINUED

A decade ago, the parish of Epiphany and St. Mark experienced dark days when our priest resigned and the corporation dissolved. We found ourselves struggling in an in-between place where the familiar was missing and our destination was unclear. Brother Reginald-Martin Crenshaw from the Order of Holy Cross was appointed to train our leadership to handle the crisis, and with them, he took on administrative oversight of our parish. Brother Reginald brought us together with an Appreciative Inquiry program that helped us see ourselves in a new light and we discovered new images of what our future might be with Christ at the heart of it.



Due to the leadership of our churchwardens and with the support and encouragement of our recent rector, we produced a [vision statement](#), a [mission statement](#) and an [action plan](#) which has brought us to where we are today.

The Jeremiah Community deserves special mention as they came into our lives in 2012 along with their gifted leaders. The Jeremiah Community was a lay order of committed Christians, who follow a Rule of Life and whose particular interest and missional focus is the City and the most vulnerable among us. While no longer together as a formal body, their spirit is alive and well in the core group worshipping among us at Epiphany and St. Mark. Their faithful witness and deep spirituality have enriched our Christian community and grown our understanding of who we are as disciples of Christ.

[How a Dying Church Came Back to Life](#): an inspiring article about the transformation of Epiphany and St. Mark

WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR NEW PRIEST WILL...

Bring the following gifts:

- Demonstrate real empathy with the joy and pain of others
- Preach the Gospel challenging us to connect scripture to our everyday lives
- Deal with all people equitably regardless of class, race, culture, handicap, age, sexual orientation

And the following skills:

- Understand how people of all ages learn and develop in faith
- Motivate the church leadership to think strategically and to plan
- Enhance our vision and provide leadership and direction for the parish community

Our new priest will:

- Get to know us and keep in touch with social gatherings
- Work with our team to attend home and hospital visits
- Be available to parishioners, especially during times of stress, despair, crisis and grief
- Nurture and grow our community partnerships
- Celebrate the sacraments with sensitivity
- Continue to build our children's ministry

I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15

