

Parish Profile 2023



St. Mary's Anglican Church Richmond Hill



10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 1T8
www.saintmarysanglican.ca

Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Mary's Anglican Church, called by God and committed to Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to live and make known, in word and action, the good news of God's love in the world. Using our gifts we worship, proclaim, learn, serve, reach out, welcome others and develop a caring, sharing community of believers.

Our Search Committee Prayer

Lord, God Almighty, as we send out our members in search of a new priest for this our family here at St. Mary's we seek Thy guidance in finding and selecting that priest that will fulfil Thy purpose for us at this time of uncertainty in The Church and the world. Anoint the members of our Selection Committee and grant them Grace to yield to the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit in all their deliberations, this we ask in the peerless name of Thy son Jesus Christ Our Saviour. Amen

Our Large Rectory



Introduction

St. Mary's is part of the historic village of Richmond Hill. We are surrounded by older subdivisions to the north and west, as well as an ever-changing demographic landscape to the south. Our original church, now commonly referred to as the Chapel, was built in 1872. We have just completed celebrating our 150th anniversary this past year. Due to a rapidly growing community at the time, our new church was built in 1964 and is our main worship space on a Sunday morning.

We currently have [two services](#) on a Sunday morning; one at 8 am (said communion) and one at 10:30 am (sung Eucharist with choir). The church is located on a prime site at a major intersection in the city of Richmond Hill at Yonge St. and Major Mackenzie Dr.

Our large rectory, which contains 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms with a finished basement, will make a lovely home for our new priest. Built in 1964, it was completely renovated in 2014. Located on Arnold Crescent, it is a short walk from the church, in a well-established neighbourhood. It is surrounded by beautiful mature trees and has been updated again in the past few years.

Who we are

Family best describes our church community. Mutual support and fellowship is a key strength of St. Mary's, occurring naturally through personal relationships, fellowship opportunities and relationships formed through our various committees. As we move forward after Covid, we are hopeful that these strengths will again be bolstered with in-person gatherings outside of regular church worship times.

We are a neighbourhood church:

"I came because I was looking for an Anglican Church nearby as I had just moved to Richmond Hill."



We are Family

What our parishioners say:

“I feel that I am part of something – a family – a community – a faith family.”

Our large property encompasses a beautifully maintained outdoor courtyard that lies between the historical chapel and new church. These gardens provide us with a unique space in which to hold our seasonal parish activities. We are situated on the Yonge Street transit corridor, with a convenient bus stop to the south of our building. You can find a large, fully lit parking lot located behind our church buildings, as well as a few street parking spots on Yonge Street.

We have a large, fully stocked kitchen attached to Wrixon Hall, our large church hall, as well as a small kitchenette located across from the Clergy and Church Administrative offices.

Our congregation is a lovely, multi-cultural melting pot, comprised of families, empty nesters and retirees who make up at least half of our parish. Post-Covid, we look forward to enticing and welcoming new, younger families and youth back to our fold, as they will represent our future in Richmond Hill.

Despite our demographic challenges we are engaged and offer many volunteer thriving ministries.

ACW–Anglican Church Women	Greeting Card Ministry
Altar Guild	Lay Pastoral Visitation
Book Study Group	Men’s Pub Night
Choir	Musical Performances
Gardeners	

Outreach Committee who have offered the following events:

Christmas Family Program	Plan Canada
Food Bank	Parish Lunches
Loonie Muffins	Prayer Support Group
Merchant Card Program	Refugee Family
Out of the Cold	

We are blessed to have many rental groups that share our church including a Russian Orthodox and Korean Church. On a daily basis, you will find our halls and rooms filled with the sounds of the students from Discovery Academy. The school runs in harmony with the general business of our church.

Our Rental Partners

[Discovery Academy](#)

[St. Seraphim Russian Orthodox Church](#)

[Blessed Community Church Korean Presbyterian](#)

[Sunlily Yoga](#)

[York Symphony Orchestra](#)

A.A. and Al-Anon

[Pedal Heads](#)

[Home on the Hill](#)

We Communicate with Each Other Well

We communicate with the community and our parishioners through extensive use of the internet. Our 10:30 service is live streamed each Sunday and can be viewed either from our website or through YouTube. The audio alone can be heard via telephone. We maintain an excellent website that has information on who we are, our church groups and activities. As well as the live broadcasts the website has access to past broadcasts and an online donation page that has multiple ways to give. Every Friday our WebNews email is sent out with information on Sunday's service and events taking place in the coming weeks. On special occasions or emergencies, we make use of an email blast to communicate with our parishioners.

Our in-person service is also enhanced with the use of technology. A large screen displays the words for the service and hymns while the spoken word is delivered through a state-of-the-art sound system. Our Sunday School room is equipped with a projector and screen, and we have a large TV on a portable stand to use for visual displays.

What are our life-giving qualities:

Caring for each other

Looking after parishioners who are elderly, in ill health or have issues that they need to talk about

Being involved in church activities: outreach, refugee sponsors, children's ministries and working with the food bank and Out of the Cold

Ministry during Covid-19

During Covid-19, St. Mary's broadcasted the weekly Sunday services so that they could be watched live or after being recorded, by clicking on the link on our website.

The church was open every Wednesday from 10 am – 12 noon for parishioners to drop off financial contributions and donations for the local Food Bank.

We created a Blessings Box which was placed at the end of our sidewalk containing food stuffs for members of the community in need to access. This was regularly replenished by a roster of volunteers.

The chair of the ACW held a virtual Christmas Market in November of 2020 and November 2021. It was remarkably successful and served as a model for other parishes.

All of our Advisory Board meetings and Churchwarden meetings went ahead on Zoom meetings. We produced a weekly web news bulletin for our parishioners and printed seasonal newsletters and mailed them out in order to keep parishioners informed of the latest updates from the diocese.

Parishioners kept in regular communication with each other via intentional phone calls. The incumbent and lay pastoral assistant kept up to date on those with health issues.

Issues that Challenge Us

During the past five years, we have been challenged by staff changes particularly with the position of caretaker and of Office Administrator. At the moment Mahmut Terci and his wife Esma serve as our new Sextons and Caretakers. We have hired a new Administrator as of last October and Robin Murray fits in well as she navigates through the duties at St. Mary's. Soyoung Shin is our Director of Music and Organist. Maggie Velteer is our paid Treasurer and Bookkeeper. See our staff bios [here](https://www.saintmarysanglican.ca/about/who-we-are/clergy-staff/)
<https://www.saintmarysanglican.ca/about/who-we-are/clergy-staff/>

In addition to the Incumbent, and those paid positions the parish includes the following:

Sub Deacons
Lay Pastoral Assistant
Crucifer

We are caring, committed followers of Christ with a strong mutual support network. Many of us serve on the Parish Board, made up of about 10+ lay leaders serving in these roles as advisors to the Corporation (Incumbent and Churchwardens):

Treasurer	Lay Members of Synod
Envelope secretary	Archive Chair
Sunday school leader	Green Team Chair
Outreach committee chair	

As many parishes had noted, our volunteer base fell off during Covid-19 and has not quite bounced back. It is difficult to get volunteers and therefore the same small group of people tend to do the majority of work in the church. At times we are stretched thin for volunteers; however, we have hard-working, dedicated collaborative Lay Leaders and Churchwardens.

Our church faces onto the main road of Yonge Street, but our access is by a laneway one block west of the major intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and can easily be missed. We have a large aging building complex which requires a lot of effort to upkeep. It does, on the other hand, lend itself to providing rental space for community groups.

Our community is large and expanding; however, it has become truly diverse over the years with the majority of newcomers who have Chinese, Korean, Iranian, and Russian backgrounds. Although we see our neighbourhood as a mission field, it may be an unlikely source of new members to the church community itself. Our renters currently draw from these demographic groups.

Children Youth and Family Ministry

A key challenge for our parish is the reduced number of young families and youth. In early 2020, we proactively hired a part-time family and youth pastor to build a strategy and initiate outreach to families and youth in our parish and in our wider community. Unfortunately, these initiatives were stalled by the COVID pandemic and need to be re-energized. We recognize that we need guidance to re-launch our strategy for this ministry. We are, however, taking action now including celebrating those families that we do have today during our weekly services, reaching out to re-connect with those families who have not yet returned post-COVID, and re-launching parish-wide, family-friendly gatherings such as our pre-Lent pancake supper and back-to-church Sunday. We are fortunate to have dedicated funds to invest in programming and intend to explore Diocese programs including [Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program \(YMAP\)](#) as well as shared opportunities with other parishes and/or Christian faith communities in Richmond Hill.

What would our vibrant future look like?

- A larger, thriving, more youthful community
- Bring back the youth group
- Have intergenerational programming

Looking Forward

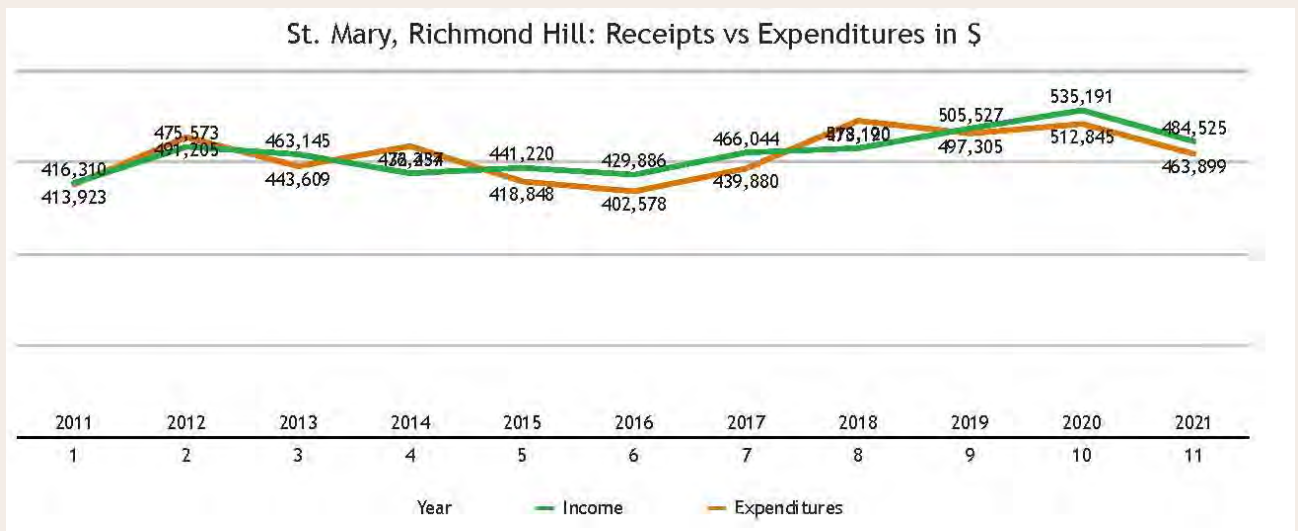
We want to be a growing parish particularly regarding family ministries. Since the pandemic, we have lost many of our families and therefore we look forward to expanding the number of families in attendance. We have existing funds, left over from a Diocesan Grant, to potentially employ a part time Family and Youth Minister. We want to maintain strong caring relationships and mutual support as this is a key strength within the parish. At the same time we want to continue and/or expand our Outreach programmes that respond to the needs of our local community.

At St. Mary's we have a history of doing worship well. We look forward to engaging services that will incorporate varying approaches with inspiring music. At our Parish Consultation some folks suggested experimental services with different instruments and the desire to see a full choir in the church. At the heart of the service would be Spirit-based sermons, relevant to our daily lives. Our gathering together, in worship or in Bible Study groups, seeks to discern the word of God and to grow in our knowledge of His Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On our website we say: "in our faith community, we take the words of Jesus very seriously." One of the chief commandments of our Lord was, "to go and make disciples of all nations." As such Christian education and Bible Study are important to us.

We are Good Stewards

Donations can be made via weekly envelopes, PAG, or by a button on the website, Canada Helps. We have a balanced budget and fared well during the pandemic.



We have weathered the pandemic in generally decent shape financially and so we hope to be financially stable now and in the future. Indeed in the next couple of years we are hopeful that the sale of a piece of our land will be finalized, and we hope this will help us to be even more financially secure as we look to the future.

See our [Vestry Report](#) for details:

<https://www.saintmarysanglican.ca/?s=Vestry+report>

Our New Priest

St. Mary's is seeking a new priest who will guide us as we embrace the present reality and look to our future vision. Given the profile of our parish, we look for a priest who enjoys and has demonstrated skills in the area of pastoral ministry. We are hopeful that our new cleric will care for our people and show us empathy. We look for someone with an easy manner, able to put folks at ease. And as noted above, we wish that our leader will help us attract and build up family ministry, helping us to deliver a vibrant children and youth ministry.

As a ministry leader, our new priest will be able to deal with people equitably, motivate church leadership to think strategically and generate enthusiasm to help us raise up more active volunteers to deliver the outreach programs we know will grow our church.

We look for someone who can preach the Gospel in an effective delivery style, making Jesus' words and scripture relevant to our everyday lives.

Technology has become very important especially during the pandemic times in keeping our congregation connected. It has continued to do so, making it easier for those who are shut in or unable to attend on Sunday mornings to still be able to participate. We now have two churches: an online and a virtual one. It is essential that we have someone who is at ease with technology and will be able to instruct others in the smooth running of our system. We also hope for leadership in marketing our church and harnessing social media like Instagram and Facebook.