

*"The light shines  
in the darkness,  
and the darkness  
has not overcome it"*  
- St. John 1. 5

# The Parish of St. John the Divine

***The Diocese of Algoma ✕ The Anglican Church of Canada***

The Feast of St. Nicolas  
December 6, 2011

Dear Partners in Ministry:

A friend and I recently approached a group of people to ask directions to a local restaurant. After we received the information we needed, someone from the group piped up: "Make sure you bring a thick wallet!" We certainly did enjoy a lovely meal, and the prices were indeed higher than at some other restaurants in the city: but the food was worth it!

Imagine going to a high class restaurant and being told that there will be no bill, because someone else has already paid the price in advance. Could you walk away without offering appropriate thanks?

The Son of God came down to earth to be our spiritual nourishment. Bethlehem, the place where Jesus was born, means "House of Bread." Our Lord was placed in a manger, of all places—in a feeding trough! He comes to offer His Body and His Blood so that "we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us" (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 84). This divine spiritual food, which strengthens us for eternity, is of infinitely more value than the physical food which nourishes us for only a short span of earthly time. Jesus came down from Heaven to feed us the spiritual food which is Himself, and He paid the price for our souls with His life on the Cross. Thanks to God, the meal is free for you and for me. How should we offer our thanks?

As the year draws to a close, please prayerfully consider how you are willing and able to offer yourself to God through the resources He has blessed you with, financial and otherwise. How you have been blessed will be a blessing to others, and so I thank you for your continued generosity to God's work: "Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine..." (*Book of Alternative Services*, p. 214).

The Rev. Father A. E. Nussey  
Parish Priest & Rector

*Have you checked out our new Parish Web site? [www.stjohndivine.ca](http://www.stjohndivine.ca)*

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** 4pm (Children's Service); 7pm (Holy Eucharist, BCP)  
11pm (Holy Eucharist, BAS). **CHRISTMAS DAY:** 10am (Holy Eucharist)