

ST. AIDAN ANGLICAN CHURCH

MOOSE JAW, SASK



PARISH PROFILE

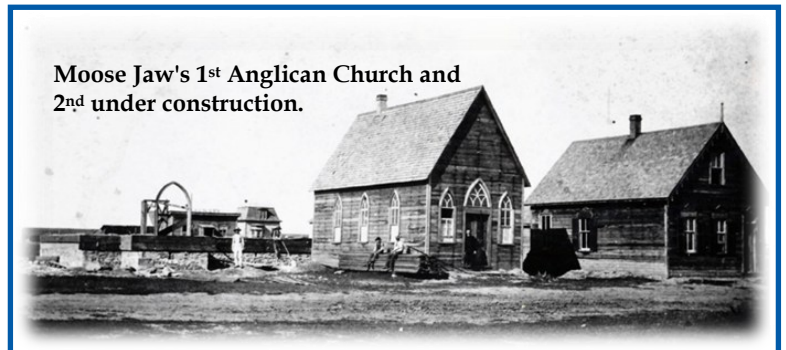


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OUR HISTORY

The Anglican Church in Moose Jaw and the surrounding district dates back to before 1885. At one time there were five Anglican churches in the city and several in the surrounding districts. By the year 2000 only four congregations in the city remained and all were struggling to survive. Through a courageous leap of obedience and faith, those four congregations amalgamated into our current parish of St. Aidan Anglican Church on October 1, 2003.



When it was discerned that our parish was to be named after the Celtic monk and bishop, St. Aidan, we explored the story of his ministry. Our desire has been to follow him as he followed Jesus. St. Aidan chose to walk among the people, meeting them and sharing the gospel of Christ with them right where they were. That has undergirded the mission and ministry of our parish as it has grown in maturity.

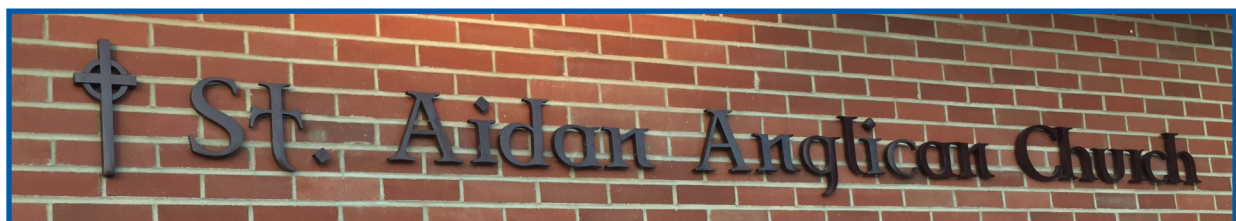


In 2007, our historic building became the home of St. Aidan. A major renovation ensued over a period of 10 years to restore and renew it as a place for our worship and ministry. Its downtown location provides a wonderful opportunity for Christian witness, outreach and ministry to the business community, tourists, downtown residents and marginalised people.

On October 1, 2023, we celebrated our 20th anniversary. In those two decades, we have grown into the parish of St. Aidan. Overall, parishioners continue to learn to rest into the Gospel of Jesus, are welcomed for who they are, and the resulting

sense of belonging allows service and creativity to overflow. The period of the last incumbency (2012-2023) provided a time of consolidation and growth during which the identity of the parish solidified.

By the grace of God, we have experienced the miracle of uniting and have seen bountiful evidence of God's grace. We give thanks for God's many blessings and generous provision over the past 20 years.



OUR CONGREGATION



The congregation of St. Aidan is drawn from Moose Jaw and the surrounding area, is multigenerational, and is marked by social and economic diversity. It includes a wide range of church backgrounds and experience.

Parishioners describe St. Aidan as a welcoming community that feels like family. Our life together is marked by hospitality, creativity and fun.

The congregation has a rich theological fabric with generations of cradle Anglicans from Moose Jaw woven together with people who have joined from other church traditions and countries to form a unique tapestry. Some parishioners are drawn by a desire to explore the rich theological history and practice of the Anglican church while others join to maintain their previous ties to the Anglican communion. The presence of students, employees, and faculty from a local evangelical seminary and college, along with a

growing number of immigrants from Africa (primarily Nigeria and South Africa) add distinctive patterns to the St. Aidan community. This contributes to a rich evangelical and global conversation in the midst of a unified baptismal identity and Eucharistic life and learning.

Our parish is currently served by our honorary assistant priest Rev. Dr. Cal Macfarlane who our bishop has licensed as Priest-in-Charge to provide stability in our transition. In addition, our parish includes a deacon, a diocesan lay reader, a parish administrator, several experienced lay preachers and two spiritual directors. Parishioners are released to minister in areas where they have gifting, interest or passion. The freedom to be and become has both allowed people to rest and to engage. As a result, St. Aidan has a large number of parishioners who participate in various forms of ministry and is also a safe place for some to rest and recover from difficult experiences.



St. Aidan is a diaconal parish. We recognize the importance of service as an expression of our Eucharistic and baptismal identity and have a history of providing varied educational opportunities such as retreats and reading groups to nurture spiritual and ministry development. The parish has recently been involved in ministries and agencies that are local (Moose Jaw Transition House, Hope Ministries, Salvation Army, Moose Jaw Food Bank), national (Anglican Foundation, Council of the North), and international (Alongside Hope) as expressions of this identity.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE



The people of St. Aidan come from diverse worship styles, traditions, and denominations. We are drawn together by Christ in the richness of the Anglican liturgy, the rhythms of the church year, the centrality of the Eucharist, and a common desire to worship and serve God.

The prominent baptismal font at the back of the nave serves as a focal point reminding us that we enter the church through baptism. Smaller fonts are at each entrance giving us the opportunity to remember our baptism by signing ourselves with holy water as we enter the building. As a symbol of our unity in the body of Christ, we receive the Eucharist in the round with people gathering in a circle around the altar.

Our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is held at 10:30 a.m., using the Book of Alternative Services. This service uses the

modern language Eucharistic liturgy and includes music with congregational singing for many of the responses.

Our music ministry is led by our music director and is made up of seven teams serving in rotation and a choir for special occasions. The teams select liturgically appropriate songs and welcome input from the presider/preacher. There is a range of musical styles from traditional to contemporary to Taizé, with the Book of Common Praise as our primary resource.

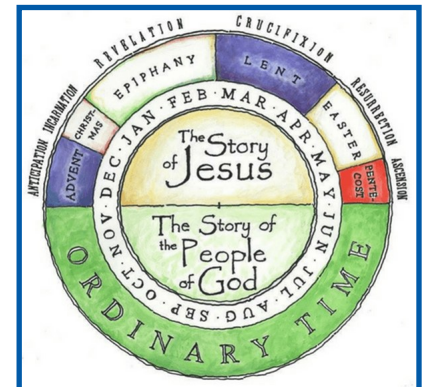
Our deacon proclaims the Gospel, leads the psalm and the confession, sets the table, administers communion alongside the priests and lay communion assistants and gives the dismissal (sending). Lay members read the lessons and offer the prayers of the people.



At St. Aidan, the clergy vest for all worship services. The parish owns a complete set of chasubles with matching stoles for each of the church seasons. The incumbent is normally the presider and preacher with our honorary assistant, deacon, lay reader and lay people available to contribute.

Our worship and life together is richly guided by the Church calendar. This is evident in our

services as well as the timing and themes of retreats, Bible studies, and other gatherings throughout the year.



The following are some of the services and special observances held at St. Aidan throughout the year:

Regular midweek services

- ✦ Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer in the chapel (BAS/BCP)
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom
- ✦ Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (said) in the chapel
- ✦ Thursday: 7:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in the chapel (BCP)

Advent

- ✦ O Antiphon Service
- ✦ Advent Lessons and Carols

Christmas

- ✦ Christmas Eve: 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Blessing of the Crèche
11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass
- ✦ Christmas Lessons and Carols

Holy Week

- ✦ Monday: Evening Prayer using prayer beads with the opportunity to make a set
- ✦ Tuesday: Taizé service
- ✦ Wednesday: Service varies year to year.
- ✦ Maundy Thursday: Agape supper followed by Eucharist service including foot washing and stripping of the altar
- ✦ Good Friday: 10:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (BAS)
- ✦ Saturday: The Great Vigil of Easter followed by a feast (reception)

Other Regular Services

- ✦ Ascension Day: Service of Holy Eucharist
- ✦ Patronal Festival: celebrated on a Sunday near August 31 (often with Backpack Blessing for students, teachers, and staff returning to school)
- ✦ All Soul's Service: celebrated Nov 2 (families of deceased in previous year are sent a special invitation)
- ✦ Intergenerational Services: held several times a year with children and youth participating in various ministries at our 10:30 AM worship service. The children also stay in the worship service on feast days such as Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, and All Saints Sunday.



OUR PARISH LIFE

At St. Aidan, we worship, pray, and play together in response to the grace-filled Gospel of Jesus Christ. The liturgy in our prayer books shapes our life together. In particular, the Anglican Baptismal Covenant as found in the Book of Alternative Services invites us to a cruciform life. It contains the Apostles' Creed and six directives:

- ✦ to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers;
- ✦ to persevere in resisting evil and, whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord;
- ✦ to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ;
- ✦ to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbour as ourselves;
- ✦ to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.
- ✦ to strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth

Our Baptismal Covenant is reflected in our diverse ministries, offering an opportunity for parishioners of all ages to live out the Gospel according to their gifts and in service to others in our worship services and beyond.

On a regular Sunday, the ministry of over twenty-five parishioners contributes to worshipping together including the Bell Ringer, Greeters, Crucifer, Servers, Nursery and Godly Play Teachers, Lectors, Intercessor, Lay Communion Assistants, Music Team, Tech Operator, Counters, Altar Guild, and Coffee Fellowship Team. ([Ministry schedules here.](#))

Pastoral care is provided to parishioners who are identified to the clergy. Together, clergy and lay members provide visits to those in hospital, care home, or their own homes as well as care home services and Bible studies. Watching the livestream of our worship services also allows these members to stay connected with us. Currently we are exploring pastoral care to new parents and those suffering a miscarriage.

We have a prayer chain formed by a group who prays daily for requests and sets aside one day per month for 12 hours of prayer focused on specific concerns for specific people and the world.

As a parish, we have a robust food outreach ministry on weekends. Each year, thousands of lunches are provided to those who are experiencing food insecurity and an increasing number of hot meals and opportunities to be sheltered from the elements are offered.



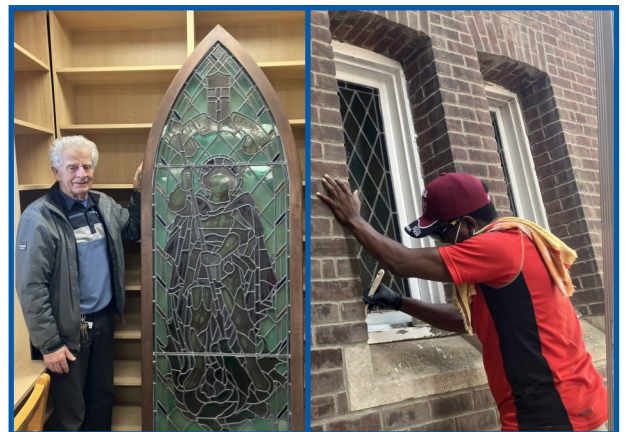
Creativity and laughter have an important place in our parish life. This is found in particular rhythms of the year starting with Christmas Presence on Gaudete Sunday (an evening of sharing a breadth of artistic offerings), Lenten retreats, Little Books, Big Ideas gatherings, fall gatherings (most recently a Nuit Blanche), and wonderful feasts at Christmas Presence, following the Easter Vigil, and other special occasions. ([See photos here.](#))

Our Stitch and Chatter group gathers twice a month and, while visiting, creates prayer shawls, items of clothing and, small toys for the annual Moose Jaw International Medical Mission to Guatemala used to pack equipment and supplies for transport and given to the children the medical team encountered.

Where possible, we provide limited assistance with financial and practical needs in the parish. This is possible through the clergy discretionary fund and through donations from parishioners (e.g., annual backpack blessing donations that assist families struggling to provide school supplies for their children).

Other areas our parishioners serve within the parish is in the upkeep of our facility and yard, our finances, and our library.

Parishioners at St. Aidan are also active participants in various community activities including Hope Ministries, Meals on Wheels, Hunger in Moose Jaw, and Salvation Army Christmas Kettles.



OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and youth are key in the life of St. Aidan. The active participation of approximately 30 children (infant to Grade 12) in our worship, prayer and play reminds us of the grace and care of God for us all. Our children are enfolded in as many of our parish gatherings as possible. To contribute to their Christian formation, there are also specific age-appropriate initiatives in place.

Every week, all children are invited to join the rest of the body for the Eucharist.

Our infant room and nursery are each set up to make young children and their parents feel welcome. The nursery is typically supervised to allow relational connection and age-appropriate welcome. The location also affords parishioners a chance to see our young ones at play or to stop in and say hello as they pass through the hall. The nursery space is shared with the library and is therefore a communal gathering space that facilitates life-giving intergenerational connections.



Godly Play is the liturgically-based curriculum for children aged 4 to grade 5 where stories are told using simple props. After a story is presented, the children and the storyteller wonder together about what they heard and interact with it verbally and then through art and play. For instance, with the story of Jesus calming the wind and waves, they might wonder together about how the disciples felt when Jesus spoke to the wind and waves, or how it felt to be in the boat and see Jesus sleeping. The space includes elements found in the nave, e.g., an altar, candles, liturgically coloured cloth, and a circle calendar to mark the church season.



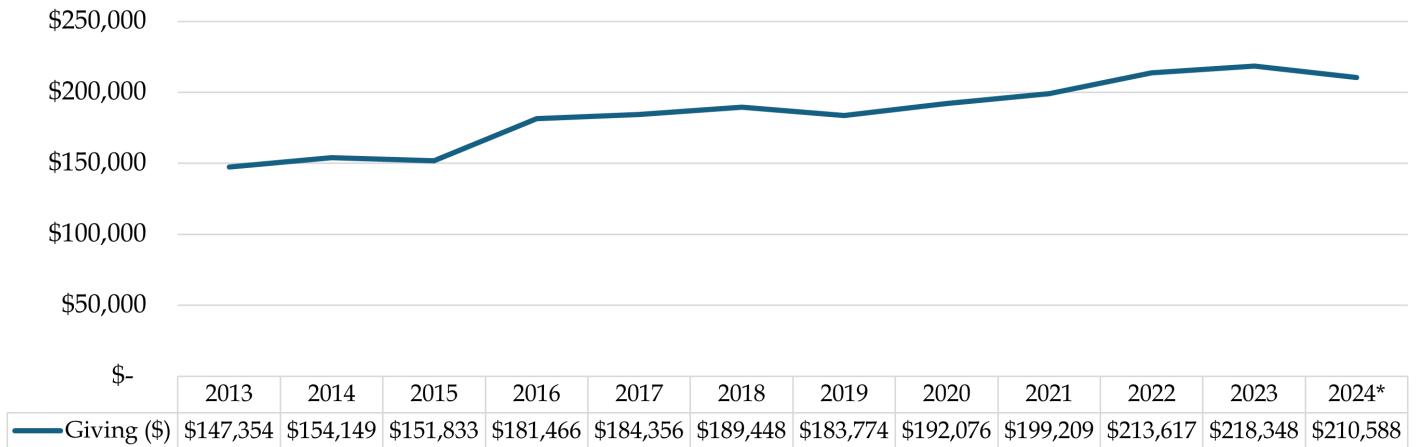
For many years, we were blessed to have a youth group that met regularly for meals, liturgy, and social activities. Since our most recent youth minister moved to serve in another parish in the fall of 2023, we have not found a new youth ministry leader nor had a group that meets. Ongoing priority prayerful discernment has led to some hope that in the fall of 2025 our young people will have a way to gather. In the meantime, they remain engaged in the life of the parish. Several regularly participate in serving, reading, greeting, ringing bells, and music for worship services and join in for parish retreats and celebrations. We are grateful for their enthusiasm.

The nursery, children and youth ministry programs are coordinated and led by lay leaders. Our desire is that our children and youth will grow spiritually and continue to be active participants of our St. Aidan congregation.

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

It has been remarkable to witness God's provision for our financial needs. Over the last decade, our congregational giving has consistently increased. This was true even through the COVID measures and beyond when attendance did not rebound completely. Offering donations alone increased by 48% from 2013 to 2023. *2024 giving does not include \$9,700 donated to a roof repair.

Giving (\$)



Our budgets have been conservative and most years have included a small surplus recently. Some years we experienced God's care and parishioner generosity through bequests which has contributed to our financial health. Designated funds from prior to 2013 supplemented the annual giving in moderate ways to support particular ministries and projects. Bequests have provided opportunities to care for our people and physical infrastructure with greater financial freedom.

The parish is debt free and is committed to meeting our Fair Share to the diocese as well as supporting our ongoing local ministry.

Our overall financial position is stable with consistent response from our congregation and financial reserves that provide backup in the case of strategic and/or unforeseen needs.



OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

St. Aidan Revenue & Expense Summaries

General Operating

REVENUE	2022	2023	2024
	\$224,493	\$262,734*	\$223,486
EXPENSES	2022	2023	2024
	\$218,106	\$237,401	\$196,955**
Net Income (Loss)	\$6,386	\$25,333	\$26,531

* includes a parishioner bequest.

** reduced expenses due to no full time incumbent and adjusted insurance premiums.

INCUMBENT REMUNERATION

The Diocese of Qu'Appelle has endorsed a standard stipend for 2025 and have included categories to reflect educational status.

CATEGORY 1 BACHELOR LEVEL \$37,925

CATEGORY 2 MASTERS DEGREE \$39,975

CATEGORY 3 ADVANCED DEGREE \$42,025

ANNUAL SERVICE GRANTS

1. The Annual Service Grant will be \$500.00 per year of service, to a maximum of 12 years.
2. The Annual Service Grant from year 13 to year 25 shall be \$250.00 per year of service.
3. The Annual Service Grant is in addition to the Standard Stipend.

For the year 2025 the housing allowance will remain \$19,000 per year (\$1583 per month).

\$900.00 educational funding is available for stipendiary incumbent priests working a minimum of 20 hours/week.

The standard benefit package for all stipendiary clergy includes life Insurance, accidental death and disability insurance, dental plan, extended health care, long term disability, pension plan, EI, and CPP.

Example: An incumbent priest with a Masters of Divinity and six years of experience would receive a stipend of \$39,975 plus an annual service grant of \$3000 plus a housing allowance of \$19,000 per year for a total annual compensation of \$61,975 plus pension and benefits.

OUR STRUCTURE

GOVERNANCE

Our governance is directed by the Canons of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle. Our clergy and diocesan lay reader serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. The incumbent, along with the wardens, are legal agents for the parish.

Our executive (incumbent, wardens, deacon, treasurer, and parish administrator) oversees the life of the church, discusses issues and crafts an agenda for the vestry meetings. This is an informal arrangement.

Our vestry (executive members and 6-8 elected members) meets once a month to pray, discuss and plan. The elected members serve for two-year terms.

Vestry's responsibility is to manage the affairs of the parish in ways that are faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to the particular call of God to this local church body.

Vestry's method is to pray, reflect on Scripture, hold conversation in trust, and make decisions that are honouring to God and our parish.

PAID ROLES

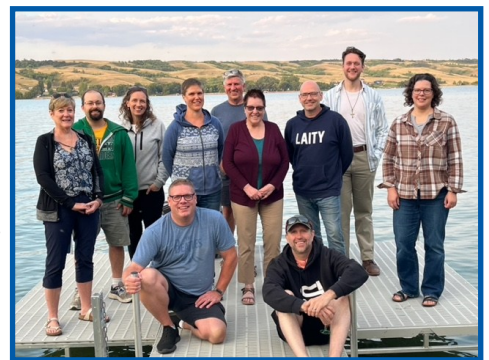
In addition to the incumbent there are two other paid roles. Our full-time parish administrator supports our clergy, executive, vestry, and parish ministries, tends our communication rhythms, manages our facility and office duties, and ensures ministry schedules and sound financial processes are in place. Our custodian is responsible for the cleanliness of the facilities including cleaning the church weekly and providing extra cleaning before/after special events.

UNPAID ROLES

The work of the church is impossible without the generous contributions of its members. In particular, our deacon plays an invaluable role in our liturgies, pastoral care and prayer ministries, and community outreach. Additionally, there are ministry leaders for areas ranging from Godly Play to our Outreach Lunch program to the Altar Guild and beyond. Every member is vital to the health of our parish. From a governance perspective, however, two specific roles are required.

Our treasurer keeps a full record of all financial affairs and transactions of the parish by validating and paying invoices, maintaining financial records, preparing monthly and year-end updates/statements for presentation to vestry, and participating in budget preparation.

Our envelope secretary is responsible for posting all financial contributions and providing official income tax receipts and is supported by our pre-authorized debit administrator.



OUR PARISH HOME

We are blessed with a beautiful place of worship, study, work, and celebration that is rich in theological symbolism and has a long history of construction and renovation. The nave and chapel were built at the turn of the 20th century with a rectory and gym added later. When the remaining four Moose Jaw Anglican parishes amalgamated in 2003, it was finally discerned that the neo-Gothic building on the corner of High St and 1st Ave NE was the place to gather.



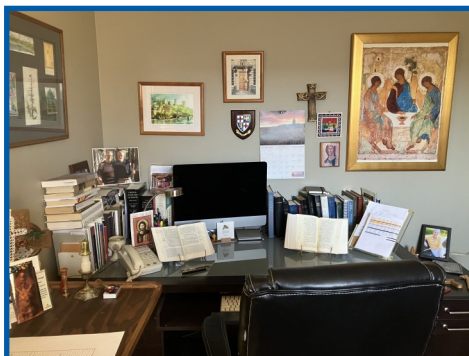
Subsequently, extensive renovations were completed: the original chancel serves as a small chapel space, the nave is configured with seating that serves the size of our congregation and invites unity, a sacristy and parents' room provides a home for sacred vessels and decorations for the liturgical seasons, the original rectory serves as office, study, and meeting space, and the former gym is a parish hall with a kitchen and nursery/resource centre. The last of these initiatives was completed in 2018. No debt was incurred throughout the work.



The area that has not yet been renovated is the lower hall below the nave. It hosts Godly Play for our children most Sunday mornings and is the area needing investment. The room below the chapel has been renovated and the sewer line has been updated – both in preparation for future work. The current discernment is to determine whether the foundation itself needs to be refurbished prior to internal upgrades. This determination will have a significant bearing on the scope of the project. When next steps are discerned, funds will be required to make the needed improvements.



Day-to-day, our building is diligently kept up to ensure both present functionality and long-term viability. It is a gift to have a physical place that not only allows us to gather but, through its design and refurbishment, also draws us into the Gospel story.





SERVICES OF WORSHIP

2024

9 Complines at Johnson's

48 Sunday Holy Eucharist Services & 4 Services of the Word

90 (chapel)
53 (online)
Week Day Morning Prayer

41 Mid-week Eucharist

22 Care Home Services

BAPTISED

2024 – 2
2023 – 7

CONFIRMED

2024 – 2
2023 – 0

MARRIED

2024 – 0
2023 – 3

FUNERALS

2024 – 5
2023 – 10

IDENTIFIED GIVERS

2024 – 126
2023 – 119

HOUSEHOLDS*

2024 – 145
2023 – 144

* Active

MEMBERS*

ADULTS 2024 – 205
2023 – 222

CHILDREN '24 – 45
'23 – 51

20 YEARS

2003 2023

\$213,000 GIVEN

+ \$9,700 to roof fund

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

2024 – 98
2023 – 105

5,000 OUTREACH LUNCHES

11 teams
9 egg boilers
6 bakers
4 coordinators
many grateful people

2 RETREATS

6 LITTLE BOOKS READ
met in 3 homes

7 MUSIC TEAMS

+ occasional choir
And 9 fantastic tech ministers

OUR COMMUNITY



St. Aidan Anglican Church is located in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in Treaty Four Territory, the traditional territory of numerous First Nations and the homeland of the Metis. A small city of 35,000 people, it blends the amenities of a major urban centre with the character and vibe of a small town. Located on the Trans-Canada Highway 70 kms west of Regina, the Province's capital, Moose Javians have easy access to many of the attractions of a larger city including an international airport and a variety of cultural, recreational, culinary, and shopping options.

Moose Jaw has much to offer in its own right. The city possesses a number of public and private art galleries and museums, an expansive public library, and performing arts facilities—most notably the celebrated Mae Wilson Theatre. The city also hosts a number of festivals and cultural events throughout the year, including the nationally recognized Saskatchewan Festival of Words. The Temple Gardens Events Centre hosts larger concerts and sporting events and is home to the Warriors, the city's WHL hockey team. A large field house, numerous rinks, gymnasiums, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, fitness centres, and outdoor parks and playing fields provide an abundance of recreational opportunities for all ages and interests. Moose Jaw is also home to the 15 Wing Moose Jaw (Snowbirds) who travel internationally representing our country.



Moose Jaw has become rather famous for its historic downtown. Century-old buildings, the Moose Jaw Tunnels, and the geothermal mineral spa are all attractions that draw travellers for a visit. Downtown Moose Jaw possesses a variety of restaurants, shops, and other local businesses. There are also the typical box stores located on the city's perimeter.

Within the city, there are several healthcare facilities including the Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital. Educational opportunities include public, private, and Catholic schools at the elementary and secondary levels with both English and French Immersion options. The city is the site of the Moose Jaw Campus of Saskatchewan Polytechnic—the province's primary institution for post-secondary applied education and research. Just 20 kms west of the city is Briercrest College and Seminary which is home to some of our parishioners who are students, staff, and faculty and also home to an extensive theological library (to which local clergy have free access). Down the TransCanada Highway in the other direction is the University of Regina, which provides a full range of academic programs to over 15,000 students.

For those looking for an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, Wakamow Valley provides great options year round.




Almighty God, giver of all good gifts. Look on your church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a priest for this parish, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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