

AUGUST 16, 2020

THE DORMITION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saint Thomas's Church, 383 Huron Street, Toronto, ON M5S 2G5

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

TODAY 11:00 am Sung Eucharist on Zoom – **THE DORMITION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Wed. August 19 7:00 pm – **Coffee Hour** on Zoom

Sun. August 23 11:00 am Sung Eucharist on Zoom – **THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Sun. August 31 11:00 am Sung Eucharist on Zoom – **THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Sun. September 6 11:00 am Sung Eucharist on Zoom – **THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Mon. September 7 Labour Day – Office Closed

SAINT THOMAS'S OFFICE E-MAIL HAS CHANGED

While the old office e-mail will continue to forward information for a time, it will eventually be eliminated. **The new office e-mail is office@stthomas.on.ca.** Please update your contact lists!

STAFF VACATIONS

Fr D'Angelo is on vacation until August 30. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Fr Brinton at frbrinton@stthomas.on.ca or 416-553-1905.

Matthew Whitfield is away from August 17 until September 1.

RE-OPENING ST THOMAS'S CHURCH

Unless the public health situation changes, we expect to resume public worship at St Thomas's on September 13. Clergy, staff and volunteers are working on protocols for this, following diocesan guidelines based on government regulations and public health advice. These are complex. We will continue to make our liturgies available on the internet for those who are unable during the ongoing pandemic to come to church. Many aspects of our liturgical life will look and sound very different when we gather again on Huron Street, but the "source and summit" of our common life, the Holy Eucharist, remains in its essence unchanged, deo gratia!

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COMMITTEE

We are very pleased to advise St Thomas's that the next group of refugees sponsored by the parish will be arriving shortly. Initially expected in the early spring, the pandemic halted travel for these newcomers until recently.

The refugee family we are expecting includes a young couple, Obaida Murad, his wife, Hazar, and their three children, daughters, Faeza (8) and Huda (2) and a son, Mohammed (5). The Murad family fled Syria in 2017 when their neighbourhood in the city of Homs was bombed and destroyed, including their house and the business where Obaida worked. Since fleeing Syria, they have received shelter in Turkey. In coming to Toronto, the Murads will be reunited with some family members who have established their home in Toronto and who we have been fortunate to get to know as we have developed this sponsorship.

For more information, including ways to get involved, please see the email sent to the parish community, and look out for further updates in this space in the future.

Refugee sponsorship has been a part of St. Thomas's social justice work since the sponsorship program was introduced by the Canadian government almost 40 years ago. Since the beginning of the most current refugee crisis in 2015, St. Thomas's has already sponsored five refugees.