

## THE FRIDAY FOOD MINISTRY NEEDS FORKS

The fork as a personal dining utensil was likely first invented in the Byzantine Empire over 1700 years ago, and since then has become one of the most ubiquitous table utensils in the world. However, the Friday Food Ministry is in need of the useful utensils as we often run out of forks in a meal service.

Any metal forks you could spare for the Friday Food Ministry would be deeply appreciated. Feel free to drop them at the parish office, or bring them to church with you next Sunday. If you have further questions, please contact James at [fridayfoodministry@gmail.com](mailto:fridayfoodministry@gmail.com).



## THE MANDARIN MINISTRY AT SAINT THOMAS'S

We welcome you to the family of Saint Thomas's Church. Our Mandarin fellowship starts at 5:00 pm every Monday. We hope that the Chinese community can be a harbour of love for you, and a place where we can experience God's presence and grace together.

Contact person: Michael Liu.

衷心欢迎您来到圣多马堂。我们的中文团契每周一下午五点在教堂晚祷，接着一起晚餐和学习圣经。

盼望圣多马堂可以成为一个爱的港湾，在这里我们一起寻求真理，一起经历上帝的同在，一起领受上帝的恩典。



## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

*Be still and know that I am God*



There are two weekly meditation groups meeting at St Thomas's, and they run separately:

- Tuesdays at 7:00 to 8:30 pm in St Agnes's Chapel below the Church.
- Wednesdays at Noon to 1:00 pm in the Fr Freeland Room at the back of the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch if you wish.

Inquirers are always welcome to audit one or more sessions. No prior experience in meditation is necessary to join a group. Both sessions use the same focus and material each week. You are welcome to attend either, as your timetable permits.

For more information please contact Fr Brian Bartley.

DECEMBER 1, 2019

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

416-979-2323 [www.stthomas.on.ca](http://www.stthomas.on.ca) [saintthomas@rogers.com](mailto:saintthomas@rogers.com)

twitter: [@stthomastoronto](https://twitter.com/stthomastoronto)

[www.calendarwiz.com/stthomas383huronstreet](http://www.calendarwiz.com/stthomas383huronstreet)

**Nursery Care** is available during the 11:00 am Service.

**Church School** is held during the 11:00 am Service. Please speak to Siobhán Dungan for more information.

**Coffee Hour:** After each of the 9:30 and 11:00 am Eucharists, there is a time for fellowship in the parish hall. Enjoy light refreshments while getting to know members of the congregation and learning more about St Thomas's.

**Need Assistance?** The sidespeople are pleased to offer assistance. Please speak to them if you need Communion brought to you, or would like a booklet to guide you through our Liturgy.

Please keep this leaflet as a reminder of upcoming events, or visit our website.

## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

TODAY	ADVENT I
	<b>Advent Carols</b> - 7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec 5	<b>Advent Study: <i>The Coming of God</i></b> - 11:30 am ( <i>please see article</i> )
Fri. Dec 6	<b>Exultate Concert</b> - 8:00 pm ( <i>please see article</i> )
Sun. Dec 8	ADVENT II
Tues. Dec 10	<b>The New Moms Group</b> - 5:00 pm, Nursery <b>The Society of Mary</b> - 6:15-8:00 pm
Thurs. Dec 12	<b>Advent Study: <i>The Coming of God</i></b> - 11:00 am
Fri. Dec 13	<b>The Ensemble Masques Concert</b> - 5:30 pm
Sun. Dec 15	ADVENT III
Sun. Dec 22	ADVENT IV
	<b>The Festival of Nine Lessons &amp; Carols</b> - 7:00 pm
Tues. Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE
	<b>Said Mass of Christmas Eve</b> - 5:30 pm <b>Midnight Mass of Christmas</b> - 11:30 pm
Wed. Dec 25	CHRISTMAS DAY
	(no Evensong)

## WELCOME TO FR DAVID BRINTON

Welcome to Interim Priest in Charge The Rev'd Canon Fr Brinton, OGS, who has been appointed by Bishop Andison to serve until the end of August. During this time he will serve the Parish on a half-time basis. Fr Brinton is a former Vicar and sub-Dean of St James Cathedral and since last year has been General Secretary of the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas (CAROA). He is a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd.

### REPORT FROM THE PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

The PSV has elected Alice Degan as chair of the committee. The committee had an initial meeting on November 25 with Bishop Andison and Susan Graham Walker, the Diocesan appointed facilitator, to begin the selection process. The committee will be meeting frequently in the coming weeks to develop and implement a parish consultation process. We ask for your prayers for the parish and for the members of the committee in this time of transition.

## A TWO-PART ADVENT STUDY - *THE COMING OF GOD* led by Fr Brinton.

Thursday, December 5 and Thursday, December 12 at 11:30 am (please note the change of time) in the Fr Freeland Room. All are welcome and invited to stay for the 12:15 Mass, followed by a light lunch.



**EXULTATE CHAMBER SINGERS PRESENT *HOLIDAYS WITH A TWIST***, a merry romp through some festive favourites. The holiday season is never complete without the sounds of a choir. Exultate showcases witty and unique takes on familiar holiday favourites in this light-hearted concert.

**Friday, December 6, 2019, 8:00 pm** at St Thomas's

Tickets available online, at the door, or by calling 416-971-9229

Regular \$30 / Senior \$25 / U30 and Arts Worker \$20 / Student \$10

No intermission. The concert will be followed at 9:15 by an informal reception.

## A HUG FOR THE APOSTLE—Saturday, December 7 at 1:30 pm

The Canadian Company of Pilgrims (Toronto Chapter) presents historian and author Laurie Dennett, who will be speaking about her Camino de Santiago journeys. This will be an informal event, with readings from *A Hug for the Apostle - on Foot from Chartes to Santiago de Compostela*, a discussion with other pilgrims, and general discussion about the Way of St James.

Admission is free, and copies of *A Hug for the Apostle* will be available for sale. Please see [www.santiago.ca](http://www.santiago.ca) for more information.



**THE MONTHLY DEVOTION OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY** will take place on Tuesday, December 10. Fellowship and discussion will take place in the Fr Freeland Room beginning at 6:15 pm. Rosary and Benediction will take place in the Church at 7:30. All are welcome.



## SAINT THOMAS'S CHURCH SCHOOL

Advent is a wonderful time to join our Church School.

During the Advent Season, we will be very much story-based, exploring the amazing recounts of Jesus' birth, and the events that both lead up to it and follow it. For this period, we welcome the wee members of our parish, along with our regular group, who love beautiful stories, illustrations, and music.

Into the New Year, the St Thomas's Church School children will keep adding to their 'Life of Jesus' workbook; learning about his childhood, adolescence, death, and resurrection. By June, the children will own their own biography of Jesus.

As we enter the First Week of Advent, we light a purple candle, representing Hope.



## ANNUAL OPERATING FUND PLEDGE PROCESS

We invite and encourage all parishioners to make a pledge of their anticipated regular givings to Saint Thomas's in 2020. The pledge packages are due back by December 15. It is crucial to maintain a healthy outlook on operating funds so that we can plan effectively and provide the full ministry that God is calling us to carry out as a parish community. Please consider prayerfully what you can do to increase your current operating givings as stewards of St Thomas's Church.

~ Michael Rowland