

TIMELINES FOR 2019 DONATIONS

A note from the Treasurer and Envelope Secretary

In order to ensure that your donation is eligible for a 2019 tax receipt, please note the following deadlines for making your donation to the church:

- Donations by cash or cheque in person to the church – by Sunday, December 29, either on the collection plate or securely deposited in the office dropbox.
- Donations mailed to the church – Postmarked by Tues, December 31.
- Online credit card donations – Submitted via the church website (www.stthomas.on.ca/ways-to-give) by Tuesday, December 31 (midnight)

As well, we would ask that any in-kind donations (including receipts) be submitted by the end of year.



YOUR GIVINGS ENVELOPES FOR 2020 are ready for pickup. The envelopes are in the parish hall, filed in alphabetical order. Please speak to Kevin Blagrove if you have questions, or need to make changes to your givings pattern, or want to obtain a set of envelopes. There are many options you may explore. Weekly or monthly envelopes are self-explanatory. Also available are quarterly envelopes; several envelopes for occasional givers; we also have means to hold post-dated cheques, etc. Kevin Blagrove, Envelope Secretary. Email: envelopesecretary@stthomas.on.ca



OFFICE HOURS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

Christmas Day - closed	Monday, December 28 — open
Boxing Day - closed	Tuesday, December 29 — open
December 27 — closed after 12 noon	New Years Day - closed

The office will resume regular hours starting January 2, 2020.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING - February 23, 2020

The Annual Vestry Meeting will take place February 23. There will be a COMBINED Eucharist at 10:30 am, followed by a light lunch prepared by the Friars' Guild. The meeting will commence at 12:30 pm.

The Vestry list is pinned to the notice board outside the parish hall. Please check to be certain your name is present. In order to vote at Vestry, you must be 16 years old and must have been a full communicant member of St. Thomas's for a minimum of three months. The Anglican Church of Canada requires that a communicant member be a parishioner at one church only, voting at only one Vestry.

If your name is missing from the list, please write your name on the posted copy or speak to one of the members of the Parish Tribunal: the Wardens, or the elected members, Earl Barnsley and Charles Laver. Alternatively, you can contact our parish administrator, Christine Cover, at saintthomas@rogers.com.

DECEMBER 22, 2019

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

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 IV The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - 7:00 pm
Tues. Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE Low Mass with Hymns - 5:30 pm Organ Recital - 10:30 pm Midnight Mass of Christmas with Bp Andison - 11:00 pm
Wed. Dec 25	CHRISTMAS DAY (no Evensong)
Sun. Dec 29	CHRISTMAS I (no Evensong)
Sun. Jan 5	CHRISTMAS II
Mon. Jan 6	THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY - 6:15 pm Eucharist
Sat. Jan 11	"Town Hall" Meeting at 11:00 am (<i>see article</i>)
Sun. Jan 12	THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD Solemn Evensong with Epiphany Carols, Procession & Devotions - 7:00 pm
Sat. Jan 18	Carl Benn Lecture - 3:30 pm
Sun. Jan 19	EPIPHANY II

TODAY—GUEST PREACHER - FR AJIT JOHN

Fr Ajit moved with his family from India to Canada when he was a boy. He studied History (U of T) and then Law. He practised law in Toronto till he discerned a call to the priesthood and was ordained in 2003. After a curacy at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Toronto, he served as incumbent of St Matthew’s Riverdale until 2016 when he moved with his family to France where he served an English-speaking congregation in Versailles. Upon his return to Toronto he has been an Associate priest at St Paul’s L’Amoreaux, North York.



TODAY—CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Today, the St Thomas’s Church School will be putting on their Christmas Pageant at the end of the 11:00 am service. Beginning the story with their journey to Bethlehem, Joseph, Mary, and donkey will be walking up the centre aisle and stopping at six labeled pews, to ask for a place to sleep. We invite you to please sit in these pews, and when Joseph asks you if you have a room for them to sleep in, please answer with ‘No.’ Please remember that some of the children are nervous and would benefit greatly from everyone’s full support. We thank you in advance for your participation.

TONIGHT - NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS POT LUCK RECEPTION
As is our tradition, the Friars' Guild is hosting a reception following the beautiful Nine Lessons and Carols service at 7:00 pm this evening.
Parishioners are encouraged to bring their favourite sweet or savoury dish to share, or help with the set-up and/or clean-up. Please contact Hannah Orsag if you have any questions, and thank you in advance!

CHRISTMAS EVE LOW MASS WITH HYMNS at 5:30 pm

This service with hymns and a procession to the crèche is offered recognizing that, for some (such as families with young children), it is difficult to attend the Midnight Mass. Everyone is welcome!

BISHOP JENNY ANDISON AT OUR CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS



The Right Reverend Jenny Andison will be the Celebrant and Preacher at Midnight Mass Christmas Eve.

Bishop Andison was born in England and has lived in Pakistan, India, Singapore, and Japan. She was ordained to the priesthood in 1998 and has served in the Diocese of Toronto and in parishes in the Diocese of London (UK), the Diocese of Tokyo, and the Diocese of Ontario. She was elected in September 2016 and consecrated on January 7, 2017. Bishop Andison lives in Toronto with her husband and their three daughters.



CHURCH SCHOOL SITTING AREA

The children of the Church School are going to try yet a new pew area, for when they enter for the Lord’s Prayer each Sunday. They will be sitting in the pews closer to the entrance to the hall. Please note that all families, children, and babies are welcome to this area, where our Church School Coordinator, Siobhan, hopes to keep children’s books handy.



THE FRIDAY FOOD MINISTRY is meeting this Friday, Dec 27! The Friday Food Ministry is a meal programme for those in the broader community who are in need. We need volunteers to help shop, prepare, serve, and clean-up this Friday from 3:00 to 7:30 pm If you are able to help, or have any questions, please email James at fridayfoodministry@gmail.com.

REPORT FROM THE PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE
The Parish Selection Committee (PSC) will be hosting a “Town Hall” meeting on **Saturday, January 11, 2020** starting with **Mass at 10:00 am**, the meeting from **11:00 am to 12:30 pm** followed by **lunch**. As we work to develop the Parish Profile, this meeting is intended as an opportunity for you to provide input on what we should be looking for in a new Incumbent and why. This meeting will be supplemented by meetings with clergy, staff, and lay leaders and groups which provide key ministries and help to administer the parish. There will also be a survey of all parishioners during January.
You may also submit your own comments and concerns to the PSC using a confidential email address which has been established for this purpose – parishselection@stthomas.on.ca. Or you may leave them (marked PSC) in the mailslot outside the office. We ask for your prayers for the parish in this time of transition, and for the members of the PSC - Alice, Andrew, Anna, Bob, Jessica, Lorne, Michael and Pat.