

NOTICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Thomas's Church

383 Huron Street, Toronto, M5S 2G5 416-979-2323

www.stthomas.on.ca office@stthomas.on.ca

Facebook: @stthomastoronto Instagram: @smokytomsonhuron

Mattins at 7:30 am: Psalm 33 (BCP 367); Isaiah 30.8-21 & Revelation 14.13 - 15.4

Surge, Illuminare (BCP 28) replaces Te Deum; Psalm 100 (BCP 457)

Low Mass at 8:00 am: Introit Psalm 19.1-6 (BCP 351); Decalogue (BCP 68);

Collects & Propers (BCP 102 & 95); Gradual Psalm 145.18-22 (BCP 517)

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

TODAY

ADVENT IV & CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30 am Mattins 8:00 am Low Mass (no music)

9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS)

11:00 am High Mass (BCP)

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass

9:30 pm Organ Recital

10:00 pm Christmas Eve High Mass (BCP)

Mon. Dec 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30 am Mattins 8:00 am Low Mass (no music)

9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS)

11:00 am High Mass (BCP)

No Evensong

Tues. Dec 26

Boxing Day – Office Closed, Low Mass at 5:30 only

Sun. Dec 31

CHRISTMAS I

7:30 am Mattins 8:00 am Low Mass (no music)

9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS)

11:00 am High Mass (BCP)

No Evensong

Mon. Jan 1

New Years Day – Office Closed, Low Mass at 12:15 only

Sat. Jan 6

EPIPHANY PROCESSION & HIGH MASS at 11:00 am

Sun. Jan 7

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

5:00 pm A Procession with Carols for Epiphany & reception

Wed. Jan 10 **Seeking God – Reading Scripture** (*see article*)
 Sun. Jan 14 **EPIPHANY II**
 Wed. Jan 17 **Seeking God – Reading Scripture**
 Sun. Jan 21 **EPIPHANY III**
 Wed. Jan 24 **Seeking God – Reading Scripture**
 Sun. Jan 28 **EPIPHANY IV/SEPTUAGESIMA**
 Wed. Jan 31 **Seeking God – Reading Scripture**
 Fri. Feb 2 **CANDLEMAS** – 6:30 pm Procession & High Mass
 Sun. Feb 4 **EPIPHANY V/SEXAGESIMA**
 Wed. Feb 7 **Seeking God – Reading Scripture**
 Sat. Feb 10 **Pancake Dinner** (*see article*)
 Sun. Feb 11 **LAST EPIPHANY /QUINQUAGESIMA**
 Wed. Feb 14 **ASH WEDNESDAY** – 12:15 & 6:30 pm Masses

WEEKEND WORSHIP (*unless otherwise advertised*)

Saturday Services: Morning Prayer at 9:30 am; Low Mass at 10:00 am
 (*No public Evening Prayer on Saturdays.*)

Sunday Services are at 7:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm.

All Sunday morning Masses are in-person. The 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses are
 livestreamed on YouTube, as is Evensong and Adoration at 5:00 pm.

Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall follows the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses.

WEEKDAY WORSHIP (*unless otherwise advertised*)

Morning Prayer: 8:30 am, Monday-Friday *

Evening Prayer: 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday *

Low Mass at 12:15 pm: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Low Mass at 5:30 pm: Tuesday, Thursday

* **NOTE:** *There will be no public Morning or Evensong Prayer on Tuesday, December 26,
 Monday, January 1, or Tuesday, January 2*

HEALING MASS ON TUESDAY

Anointing for healing is available at Low Mass on Tuesday; if you wish to be anointed, simply remain at the communion rail after all have received and the Celebrant will lay hands on you and anoint you. Anyone who wishes to stand in solidarity with you may also surround you and place their hands on your shoulders or pray for you from the pews. If you wish to be anointed privately after the Mass, please indicate this to the Celebrant by visiting the Vestry prior to the Mass, if possible, or inform the Celebrant of your desire when you come to the rail to receive communion or a blessing.

KNOW A CHILD WHO LOVES TO SING?

The St. Thomas's Choristers welcomes all children, ages 7-17, to audition for our new children's choral program. The Choristers will be singing at the 9:30 am Mass, starting in Fall 2023. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. This is an extraordinary opportunity for free music education, with a focus on sacred music in the Anglican tradition. You can sign up for an audition using the Google Form at stthomas.on.ca/choristers, or by emailing Manuel Piazza at mpiazza@stthomas.on.ca.

SEEKING GOD – Reading Scripture – How do we relate the two?

A study & conversation over five Wednesday evenings – January 10 to February 7, 2024 – 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

The place of scripture in contemporary Christian life is neither self-evident nor uncontroversial, so if a person would seek God through reading scripture, she or he must know how to undertake that task. There must be some clarity about the framework in which scripture is read, an appreciation of how scripture teaches the seeker and the believer, a willingness to face the difficulties of terminology and translation, and some effort to deal with, both as seeker and believer, the rhetoric employed by scriptural authors.

In the majestic language of the Book of Common Prayer we pray that God has caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, and we ask God to grant us so to hear those scriptures, and read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and hold fast to the blessed hope of everlasting life.

The requisite terms of the effort required to read Scripture prayerfully and productively can be understood in a useful foundational way through some mindful attention to two of the shortest 'books' of the Bible – the prophecy of Obadiah and the Second Letter of John, from the Old and New Testaments respectively.

In reading *Obadiah* and *2: John* together we will consider:

1. What is this thing called Scripture? Facing our assumptions, presumptions, prejudices and presuppositions. *Within what 'frame' do we read Scripture?*
2. How do Acting Divinity and responding humanity relate? In particular, *what is the meaning of prophecy or bearing witness?*
3. How are we to deal with the difficult words and the demanding images as these are transmitted to us? *How can we begin to discern the Spirit in its inspiration and communication in images?*
4. How do we receive and use terminology and translations? *How do the Hebrew, Greek, and English speaking minds talk to each other?*
5. How can the seeker move forward in the reading of Scripture? *How does reading Scripture help the seeking and believing person, personally, in his or her unique faith journey?*

John Stuart, already known to some of you through the courses he has run on Biblical Hebrew, will lead the sessions. To register or ask John a question about the study go to the Parish website under Upcoming Events and use the link there or use the link in the Thurible.

The means of meeting (virtual or in person) has not been finalized. Those registering will be asked to indicate their preferences, whether 'zoom,' or 'in person.'

PANCAKE SUPPER & LINE DANCE – Saturday, February 10 at 6:00 pm

We are planning a Pancake Supper and Line Dance on Saturday, February 10th as a fundraiser for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

A dinner of pancakes, sausages and fruit will be served starting at 6:00 pm. Then we'll clear the floor and start the dancing at 7:30 pm. In the best Shrovetide tradition, we'll dance the night away! Whether you've danced before or not it will be fun. This event is for all comers!

\$15 for adults, \$5 for children – Our goal is to raise \$500 towards the PWRDF.

There will be spot prizes. We'll surprise you!

Want to help? Please contact Rob Kennedy kennedy@bell.net

NOTICE OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING - February 25, 2024

The Annual Vestry Meeting will take place February 25. 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, the Rector, or the elected members, Earl Barnsley and Gerald Stuart. Alternatively, you can contact our parish administrator, Christine Cover, at office@stthomas.on.ca.

Need to write a report for Vestry? Please send your reports to Christine at office@stthomas.on.ca.

VACATION NOTICE

Fr. Humphrey will be on vacation between December 26 and January 5.

Fr. Shire will be away from St Thomas's starting on December 26 to February 1.

Eli McNeilly will be unavailable from December 26 to January 3.

Christine Cover will be away from December 26, returning January 2. Fr. Ipema will be in the office on December 27, 28 & 29.

HAVE YOU BEEN RECEIVING ST. THOMAS'S WEEKLY E-MAIL OF THE THURIBLE?

If not, would you like to? The easiest way to get on our mailing list is through our website, at www.stthomas.on.ca/newsletter-signup. Just fill in the form and click 'subscribe,' and you will be included on our next mailing (usually on Saturdays).

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



St. Thomas's relies on the generosity of those whose offerings reflect gratitude for God's own generosity to us. To make a secure gift online, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera app, or visit qrco.de/smokytops. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to fill out the online form. **We no longer pass the plate, so if you want to give the old-fashioned way, an alms basin is available in the narthex.**

DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK

(BCP pages 67-86, 105,

Octave of Christmas, Yr 2B)

Ordinary Weekday Introit: Wisdom 18,
Psalm 93

(Antiphon) While all things were in quiet silence, and night was in the midst of her course / thine almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven out of thy royal throne. (Ps.) The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength. Glory be... *(Repeat Antiphon)*

TUESDAY (26) **HOLY DAY** (Red) 5:30 pm

Saint Stephen the Martyr

Pr Bk Propers, page 108

Introit: Ps 119, pt 3 (BCP 486);

Gradual: Ps 119, pt 21 (BCP 496)

WED. (27) **HOLY DAY** (White) 12:15 pm

Saint John the Evangelist

Pr Bk Propers, page 110

Introit: Ps 92.1-4 (BCP 449);

Gradual: Ps 92.12-15 (BCP 450)

THURSDAY (28) **HOLY DAY** (Red) 5:30 pm

The Holy Innocents

Pr Bk Propers, page 111

Introit: Ps 8.1-2 (BCP 337);

Gradual: Ps 124.5-7 (BCP 499)

FRIDAY (29) Commem. (White) 12:15 pm

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170

1 John 2.7-11; Ps 96.1-9(BCP 453);

Luke 2.22-35

SAT. (30) Commem. (White) 10:00 am

John Wycliffe of Oxford,

Translator of the Scriptures into English, 1384

1 John 2.12-17; Ps 96.7-10 (BCP 453);

Luke 2.36-40

SAINT THOMAS'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Rector: Fr. Nathan J.A. Humphrey

frhumphrey@stthomas.on.ca or 647-947-6442

Rector Emeritus: Fr. Roy A. Hoult

Interim Associate Priest: Fr. James Shire

frshire@stthomas.on.ca

Honorary Assistant Priest: Fr. Ian D. Nichols

Organist & Choirmaster: Elizabeth Anderson

eanderson@stthomas.on.ca

Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus: John Tuttle

Assistant Organist & Choirmaster: Manuel Piazza

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Parish Administrator: Christine Cover

Sexton: Elijah McNeilly

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To request prayers or pastoral visits:

prayerandcare@stthomas.on.ca

To volunteer for the Friday Food Ministry:

fridayfoodministry@gmail.com

To reserve the church or parish hall:

office@stthomas.on.ca

To lend a hand as a greeter or Sidesperson:

Anneli Pekkonen: anneli@sympatico.ca

Wendy Woodworth: wendyw@ica.net

Rector's Warden: Carroll Guen Hart

People's Warden: Jessica Nee

Deputy Rector's Warden: Lorne Swan

Deputy People's Warden: Phil Spencer

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