

DECEMBER 6, 2020
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Saint Thomas's Church,
383 Huron Street, Toronto, M5S 2G5
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Propers for 8:00 am Eucharist:

Pages 97 & 95, Introit: Psalm 80.1-7; Gradual: Psalm 50.1-6

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

ADVENT II

- Sat. Dec. 5 4:00 pm Said Eucharist (Church open; please pre-register)
- Sun. Dec. 6 8:00 am Said Eucharist (Church open; please pre-register)
9:30 am Sung Eucharist (Church closed; streamed online)
11:00 am Sung Eucharist (Church closed; streamed online)
4:00 pm Solemn Evensong & Devotions (Church open; please pre-register)
- Wed. Dec. 9 7:30 pm **Zoom Discussion** – Advent Education Series
- Sun. Dec 13 **ADVENT III**
12:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour
- Wed. Dec. 16 7:30 pm **Zoom Discussion** – Advent Education Series
- Sun. Dec 20 **ADVENT IV**
- Wed. Dec. 23 7:30 pm **Zoom Discussion** – Advent Education Series
- Thurs. Dec 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
- Fri. Dec 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Pre-Registration to attend Services: Please do this on Eventbrite via the parish website www.stthomas.on.ca or by calling the office at 416-979-2323 X 4.

**INTRODUCING THREE APPROACHES TO PRAYER:
THE DAILY OFFICE, CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND THE EXAMEN
An Advent Education Series**



An elderly man in prayer
Follower of Rembrandt (Dutch, 1660s or later)
The Cleveland Museum of Art

This series will provide practical instruction about how to pray using three different methods of prayer with the aim of helping participants to deepen their prayer life during this ongoing season of solitude and distance.

The Format: Those interested in participating are asked to pray using the introduced method of prayer for one week and then to report back to the group about their experience of it the following week before receiving instruction about the next method to be adopted for the subsequent week.

Meetings will take place on the following
Wednesdays at 7:30 throughout Advent:

December 9: **Reflection on the Daily Office/
Introduction to Christian Meditation** with
Fr Bartley

December 16: **Reflection on Christian Meditation/
Introduction to The Examen**
with Fr D'Angelo

December 23: **Reflection on The Examen/ Wrap-Up**

All are welcome. For more information, please contact Fr D'Angelo

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR NEXT SUNDAY

Following the 11:00 am Eucharist on Sunday, December 13, we will be having a Coffee Hour on Zoom, until about 1:00 pm or so. Fr Humphrey will be joining us, so this is a good opportunity to 'meet' him, if you haven't already done so.

CHRISTMAS & MEMORIAL FLOWERS

As in years past, the congregation has donated money to purchase flowers to decorate the High Altar and church at Christmas. Envelopes will be available in the church starting the first Sunday of Advent. There is also the option of donating online at: <https://www.stthomas.on.ca/> and selecting “Donate Now” and “Donate to Christmas Flowers”.

The Altar Guild will be arranging for Memorial flowers at the High Altar in the new year, as we do want parishioners to have the opportunity to remember their loved ones. However, we will only be having them twice a month. As you can appreciate, obtaining, delivering and arranging flowers brings additional complications during COVID 19 times.

We will be contacting those currently on the list to confirm their intentions for 2021 either through email or by mail. Please contact the office if you are interested in having memorial flowers. The cost for flowers has increased significantly over recent years so we will be transitioning from the old rate through this COVID 19 period. More information on the costs will be shared with those we contact.

THE FRIDAY FOOD MINISTRY will be meeting and serving on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25. We are excited to be able to celebrate Christ’s birth in this way during these unprecedented times and to prepare a delicious take-away Christmas Dinner for our guests. We need help though to make this happen. We need people to donate various items for us to serve to our guests including:

- 120 bags of mixed veggies (2 people to make 60 bags each)
- 120 hard boiled eggs (2 people to prepare 60 eggs)
- 120 bags of nuts (2 people to make 60 bags each)
- 240 cookies (2 people to make 120 cookies, or 4 people to make 60 cookies)

Making and donating these items is a great way to participate in the Friday Food Ministry from the safety of your home, and these will help make this Christmas dinner special for our guests.

Additionally, we will need volunteers to help shop, prepare, and serve on Christmas Day itself. All volunteers will need to fill out a screening form upon their entry into the parish hall and kitchen to ensure everyone's safety. If you are able to help or have any other questions, please contact Fr. James at fridayfoodministry@gmail.com

SIDESPEOPLE NEEDED

If you are interested in volunteering in this important lay ministry, please contact Anneli Pekkonen at anneli@sympatico.ca, or one of the parish clergy.

HURON PLAYSCHOOL has a few spaces available in the Nursery School program (9-11:45, \$550/month, 9:00-2:45, \$1000/month), and in our After School program (3:30-6, \$375/month). Playschool is a parent run licensed childcare program that has been operating in the St. Thomas's Church Hall for over 50 years. For more information, please contact our parent registrar at registrar@huronplayschool.com.

VIDEO RECORDING OF LARKIN STUART LECTURE

The video recording of the 2020 Larkin-Stuart Lecture is available to view on the Trinity College YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2B6DS1PeE4&feature=youtu.be>.

The lecture, sponsored jointly by Trinity College and St Thomas's Church, was delivered on November 12, 2020 via Zoom by The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church. Fr Nathan Humphrey, rector-designate of St Thomas's, led the opening prayer and provided background on the lecture series, and Fr D'Angelo led the closing prayer.

CHURCH CALENDARS FROM ST PETER PUBLICATIONS

In the past, Diana Verseggy has placed bulk orders for church calendars with St Peter Publications in Charlottetown, which she has then sold at cost at the Sunday coffee hours during Advent. Unable to provide this service this year, Diana wanted to let people know how they can order them directly. 2021 church calendars can be ordered from St Peter Publications through this link:

<http://www.stpeter.org/calen.html>.

Operating Budget Pledges Due December 13th – Reminder Notice

As Fr David Brinton wrote a few weeks ago, our annual pledge process is an important way for parishioners to express their thanks and anticipated financial support for the parish's various ministries through our annual operating budget. The pledge process helps the churchwardens, clergy and treasurer to prepare the budget for presentation to Vestry.

This year we are especially thankful for a new beginning as we prepare for the arrival of our Rector-designate Fr Nathan Humphrey and his family. We want to welcome him into a community strong in the Faith and fiscally secure. Fr Nathan writes:

Although we do not yet know what 2021 will look like once we set foot on Canadian soil in time to celebrate our first Canada Day in our newly-adopted country, Anne and I have already tithed our expected income (before taxes!) for the second half of the year to St. Thomas's in thanksgiving for the leap of faith you have made in calling us to minister alongside you in Toronto.

This year's pledge campaign is a referendum on your confidence in a post-pandemic parish. To say I have high hopes for us is an understatement: I am counting on us all to demonstrate through our giving the love we have for St. Thomas's as our chosen centre of Christ's mission work in this city, this diocese, and the world at large.

As Jesus teaches us, where our treasure is, there our hearts may be found also (Matthew 6:21). Anne and I have chosen to put our hearts and our treasure into the flourishing of St. Thomas's in 2021. If you have not already done so, I invite you to join us. And if you have made a pledge, be assured of our heartfelt gratitude for supporting this parish in what may very well be its greatest time of need in over a century. Through your generosity, God will accomplish great things on and from Huron Street!

If you haven't done so already, please give prayerful consideration to your anticipated level of financial support for our 2021 operating budget, and then respond by December 13 using this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScELLMAWxrcfH-jL4Bon81N2CTDw_mmUB-iyOpz-Lw3e0QExw/viewform

Yours faithfully,



Michael Rowland
Chair, Stewardship Committee