

FEBRUARY 21, 2021
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Saint Thomas's Church,
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Propers for 8:00 am Eucharist:

Pages 140 & 138, Introit: Psalm 91.1-8; Tract: Psalm 91.9-16

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- TODAY** **LENT I**
8:00 am Said Eucharist (please pre-register)
9:30 am Sung Eucharist
11:00 am Litany & Sung Eucharist
4:00 pm Evensong Prelude, followed by Evensong
4:45 pm Coffee Hour (on Zoom)
- Wed. Feb 24 **The Eucharist in a Time of Pandemic** (*see article*)
Sun. Feb 28 **LENT II / VESTRY SUNDAY**
Wed. Mar 3 **The Eucharist in a Time of Pandemic**
Sun. Mar 7 **LENT III**
Wed. Mar 10 **The Eucharist in a Time of Pandemic**
Sun. Mar 14 **LENT IV**
Wed. Mar 17 **The Eucharist in a Time of Pandemic**
Sun. Mar 21 **LENT V – PASSION SUNDAY**
Wed. Mar 24 **The Eucharist in a Time of Pandemic**
Sun. Mar 28 **PALM SUNDAY**

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.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

During Lent we are exhorted to prepare for Easter by intensifying our commitment to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It has been said that prayer is about our relationship with God, fasting about our relationship with ourselves and almsgiving about our relationship with others. The old English word almsgiving comes from a Greek root meaning "compassion." It refers to giving a portion of our own possessions to the poor. To give alms is to acknowledge that what we possess is a gift given to us by God and not ultimately the result of any merit of our own and to concretely identify ourselves with God's desire for justice and mercy. One way to observe the Lenten discipline of almsgiving is to participate in FaithWorks, the diocese of Toronto agency funding dozens of ministries providing support to the poor and all those "in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity". You can find out more about these ministries at *faithworks.ca* and make a contribution on the operating fund donations page of the parish website at *stthomas.on.ca* If you donate on the FaithWorks website please be sure to indicate that you are a St Thomas Huron Street parishioner as portion of our parish total can be retained for local outreach here such as the Friday Food Ministry. May God give us all grace to keep a holy Lent.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Private confession to a priest is available during Covid by appointment only. Confessions will be heard in the church observing social distancing protocols while also ensuring privacy. Please contact Fr Brinton or Fr D'Angelo for further information.

EPISCOPAL OVERSIGHT IN THE PARISH

Please note that as of Feb 24 Bishop Andison becomes Rector of St Paul's Bloor Street and no longer a Suffragan bishop of Toronto and Area Bishop of York Credit Valley with its 4 deaneries. (She is of course still a bishop, but now with a parochial appointment.) The diocese is currently evaluating the 40 year old system of area bishops functioning as a College with the bishop of the diocese. In the meantime, Bishop Asbil will assume episcopal oversight of the Parkdale-West Toronto deanery which includes St Thomas's.

THE EUCHARIST IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC:

Sacramental Theology for when you cannot receive the Sacrament

Four historic Anglo-Catholic parishes are joining forces to offer a special Wednesdays in Lent series at 7:00 pm each week via Zoom. The parishes leading this series are:

Saint John the Evangelist, Newport, RI <https://saintjohns-newport.org>

Fr Nathan Humphrey, Rector & Mr. John Lord, Director of Adult Christian Formation

Saint Paul's, Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY <https://stpaulscarrollst.org>

Fr William Ogburn, Rector

Saint Stephen's, Providence, RI <https://www.sstephens.org>

Fr Benjamin Straley, Rector

Saint Thomas's, Huron Street <https://www.stthomas.on.ca>

Fr Chris D'Angelo, Associate Priest

“The Eucharist in a time of Pandemic: Sacramental Theology for when you cannot receive the Sacrament,” will begin on Wednesday, February 24 and run for five sessions.

Wednesday, February 24

Foundations in Scripture with Fr D'Angelo & John Lord What are the Biblical roots of the Eucharist?

Wednesday, March 3

Patristic Development with Fr D'Angelo & John Lord How did the Church Fathers interpret the Biblical Witness?

Wednesday, March 10

Medieval Unfolding with Fr Straley & Fr Ogburn Amidst the Black Death, how was the Eucharist understood and practiced?

Wednesday, March 17

Reformation Response with Fr Ogburn & Fr Humphrey What lasting insights did the English Reformation impart?

Wednesday, March 24

Anglo-Catholic Synthesis with Fr Humphrey & Team Faculty How does Anglo-Catholic theology and practice promise life in the midst of death?

Please register through the link on the parish website or through the link provided in the weekly parish e-blast.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING - February 28, 2021

The Annual Vestry Meeting will take place February 28, 2021. The list of those eligible to vote at Vestry has been prepared, but because of government restrictions the list will not be posted as was the usual practice. If you wish to verify that your name is on the list, or have your name added to the list, please contact Christine Cover by email at office@stthomas.on.ca or by telephone at 416-979-2323 Ext 4.

Under normal circumstances, in order to vote at Vestry, you must be 16 years old and 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 you have any questions or concerns about how the spirit of this requirement is meant to be applied during the restrictions caused by the pandemic, please direct them through the church office.

EASTER FLOWERS

As in years past, the congregation has donated money to purchase flowers to decorate the High Altar, Lady Altar and nave at Easter.

If you would like to participate, here are the various options for making your donation:

- Envelopes will be available in the church starting the first Sunday of Lent
- Donate online at at: <https://www.stthomas.on.ca> - Select "Donate Now" and "Donate to Easter Flowers"
- Mail in a cheque payable to *St Thomas's Church* with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line

ALTAR MEMORIAL FLOWERS

We will be contacting those currently on the list to confirm their intentions for the spring and summer of 2021 either through email or by mail.

Please contact the office if you are interested in having memorial flowers. Here are some of the available dates after Easter and up to the end of June: April 11, May 9 & 30, June 6, 13 & 27.

The cost for flowers has increased significantly over recent years so we will be transitioning from the old rate through this COVID19 period. More information on the costs will be shared with those we contact.