

FEBRUARY 28, 2021
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Saint Thomas's Church,
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Propers for 8:00 am Eucharist:

Pages 143 & 138, Introit: Psalm 25.1-7; Tract: Psalm 123

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

TODAY LENT II / VESTRY SUNDAY
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:30 am Sung Eucharist
11:00 am Sung Eucharist
1:30 pm Vestry Meeting
4:00 pm Evensong Prelude, followed by Evensong
4:45 pm Coffee Hour (on Zoom)

Wed. Mar 3 **The Eucharist in a Time of Pandemic** (*see article*)
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**
Thurs. Apr 1 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
Thurs. Apr 2 **GOOD FRIDAY**

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.

TODAY - ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING at 1:30 pm

On past Vestry Sundays congregants have received printed copies of the Vestry Report and the financial statements. With the pandemic still raging, we have had to do things rather differently this year. If you are a parishioner, you will have received an invitation to the Zoom meeting which will begin at 1:30 this afternoon. To read the Vestry Reports, please go to <https://www.stthomas.on.ca/reports-for-vestry-2021>.

2021 SOCIAL JUSTICE VESTRY MOTION ON ANTI-RACISM

In light of growing concerns about anti-Black and other forms of racism in our society, and the Diocese's commitment to rolling out anti-racism/anti-bias training for clergy, staff, and volunteer leaders in 2021, this year's motion calls parishes to acknowledge the sinfulness of racism and to take action to recognize and dismantle racism within our secular institutions, our Church, and our own hearts. The text of the motion, with a backgrounder and some suggestions for parish action, can be found at <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/vestry-motion>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The diocese's annual Black heritage service will be held on Zoom on Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. The service, which is in its 26th year, is usually held at S. Paul, Bloor Street but will be held online this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The theme, "God's People: Grounded in Faith, Filled with Hope, Called to Action," reflects the context of the Anglican Church's response to the issue of anti-Black racism and bias. A new feature of the celebration will be a moderated dialogue between Bishop Andrew Asbil and two young members of Black Anglicans of Canada, Aleshia Johnson and Brittany Hudson. You can register for the service at <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/events/black-heritage-service/>

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 a 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.

CREATION CARE FAST RESOURCE CREATED FOR LENT

The Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care has produced a resource for Anglicans who want to undertake a fast during Lent that focuses on creation and issues related to the climate crisis. A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021 provides a fast for each week of Lent, which began on Feb. 17 and ends on Apr. 3. It begins with a meat fast followed by a consumption fast, a food waste fast, a water fast, an injustice fast, an electricity fast and an ignorance fast. It concludes with a resurrection feast for Easter on Apr. 4. In addition to the full resource, there are also week-by-week pages with ideas to participate in each fast. Find the full resource and helpful tips for participating in the fast each week, please go to this website: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/creationcare/>

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.

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,” began on Wednesday, February 24 and will run until March 24.

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 practised?

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 practise 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.

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.