

MARCH 21, 2021

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Saint Thomas's Church,

383 Huron Street, Toronto, M5S 2G5

416-979-2323 www.stthomas.on.ca office@stthomas.on.ca

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

Propers for 8:00 am Eucharist:

Pages 148 & 138, Introit: Psalm 43; Tract: Psalm 143.1-10

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- TODAY** **LENT V – PASSION SUNDAY**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:30 am Sung Eucharist
11:00 am Sung Eucharist
4:00 pm Evensong Prelude, followed by Evensong
4:45 pm Coffee Hour (on Zoom)
- Wed. Mar 24 **The Eucharist in a Time of Pandemic**
- Sun. Mar 28 **PALM SUNDAY**
8:00 am Said Eucharist (*please register*)
9:30 am Sung Eucharist
11:00 am Sung Eucharist (*please register*)
4:00 pm Way of the Cross with Chorales from St John's Passion
(*on YouTube*)
- Thurs. Apr 1 **MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm**
- Fri. Apr 2 **GOOD FRIDAY 10:30 am**
- Sat. Apr 3 **EASTER VIGIL 8:30 pm**
- Sun. Apr 4 **EASTER DAY**
- Sun. Apr 4 **EASTER OCTAVE**
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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.

CHANGE IN COVID GUIDELINES FOR CHURCHES:

We are now permitted to re-open with 15% of capacity. This morning's 8:00 am Service will accordingly be available to a larger number of pre-registered people. Beginning Palm Sunday we hope to re-open at 11:00 am with spaces for approximately 35 pre-registered people in addition to the clergy, musicians and acolytes. The 4:00 pm Service on Palm Sunday will be a pre-recorded choral service on Youtube only. Please remember that being vaccinated does not mean that safety protocols can be eased. Masks and distancing are still required and anyone feeling unwell or vulnerable should not come to Church at this time. The ceremonial of our liturgies will be adjusted according to diocesan recommendations. Let us thank God that Holy Week, however modified, can be celebrated with congregations this year.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF TORONTO

Mayor Tory has written to Faith Leaders in Toronto to thank our communities for the role they have played in providing strength and solace during the pandemic. He notes that the first death from Covid 19 in Toronto occurred on March 21, a year ago and that since then 2600 people have died from the virus in the city. He asks that we remember the deceased during our liturgies this weekend and that all of us consider marking the anniversary at home by turning on a porch light, a balcony light, or placing a light in a window on the evening of March 21 in remembrance of those whose lives have been lost as a result of the virus. The full text of the Mayor's letter is available on our website stthomas.on.ca

THE FRIDAY FOOD MINISTRY is continuing to serve the needs of Toronto's vulnerable population this Friday, March 26, and every Friday from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. We invite you to come in support us either through:

Preparing meals on Friday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Serving meals on Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Preparing baked goods and other items at home and dropping them off on Friday

All public health protocols are followed by the Friday Food Ministry and we work to ensure the safety of all guests and volunteers. If you are interested in helping, or have any questions, please contact Fr. James Shire at fridayfoodministry@gmail.com

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.

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.

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 – Dates Available!

Please contact the office if you are interested in having memorial flowers after Lent and up to the end of June.

Dates available include April 11 & 26, May 9, 16, 23 & 30, June 6, 13 & 27.

Right now we are putting flowers on the High Altar approximately every second week, and having two or more families share the cost. If you would like to have a loved one memorialized in April, May, or June of 2021, flowers will cost \$50.00.

As mentioned previously, the cost for flowers has increased significantly over recent years so we will be transitioning from the old rate through this COVID19 period. If you would like to continue your memorial once we are able to have in-person services once more, the cost for High Altar flowers will be \$125.00, and the Lady Altar will become \$75.00.

Please contact Christine at office@stthomas.on.ca if you are interested in one of the dates listed above, or are looking for a specific date at another time of the year.

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/>

THE EUCHARIST IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC:

Sacramental Theology for when you cannot receive the Sacrament

Four historic Anglo-Catholic parishes have joined forces to offer a special Wednesdays in Lent series at 7:00 pm each week via Zoom. There is one more session left in this series:

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?