

NOVEMBER 22, 2020
THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT
THE REIGN OF CHRIST
Saint Thomas's Church,
383 Huron Street, Toronto, M5S 2G5
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Propers for 8:00 am Eucharist:

Pages 259; Introit: Psalm 85.1-7; Gradual: Psalm 85.8-13

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

TODAY	THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT – THE REIGN OF CHRIST 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 open; please pre-register) 4:00 pm Evensong (Church open; please pre-register; streamed online)
Wed. Nov 25	7:30 pm Zoom Discussion – Concerns About Ecological Destruction (<i>see article</i>)
Sun. Nov 29	ADVENT I
Wed. Dec. 2	7:30 pm Zoom Discussion – Advent Education Series (<i>see insert</i>)
Sun. Dec 6	ADVENT II
Wed. Dec. 9	7:30 pm Zoom Discussion – Advent Education Series
Sun. Dec 13	ADVENT III
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.

Welcome to St Thomas's!

We are very grateful to all those who have worked so hard to prepare us for returning to public worship reverently and safely during Covid 19. Here are some guidelines:

**While some seating is kept free for unregistered visitors, those attending services in person are strongly encouraged to pre-register on Eventbrite via our website by 6 pm the evening before.*

**At liturgies open to the public, the congregation is not permitted to sing. Much of the mass will be said so that all may participate. Sung parts are restricted to the cantor and the priest.*

**The Collection plate will not be passed during the Service. Please place your donation in the plate located at the Registrar's table in the Narthex when you came in. It will also be available there at the end of the Service. Alternatively, please do consider donating by pre-authorized giving. Information is available on our website www.stthomas.on.ca*

**At the time of Holy Communion: Remain in your seat until invited by the sidespeople to move into the centre aisle. Follow the floor markings to maintain a safe distance. Stand in the marked space six feet from the priest when you arrive at the front pew to hear the words of administration "The Body of Christ given for thee", then come forward to the priest and extend your hands folded one upon the other; carefully enclose the Host in your hands and proceed to the table to the left or right near the pulpit or lectern. Those seated on the left side of the church (facing the altar) will move to the pulpit and those on the right to the lectern. Once there, remove your mask from one ear to consume the Host, replace your mask and sanitize your hands with the sanitizer provided on the table. Return to your seat by the side aisles. It is not permitted to receive on the tongue at this time.*

**If you need to use the washroom, please proceed to the one normally designated for women at the bottom of the stairs at the main entrance. There is no access to the Parish Hall. Only one person is allowed to use the washroom at a time. Maintain physical distance while waiting.*

**At the end of the Liturgy, during the organ voluntary, please remain seated. Sidespeople will invite people to leave, pew by pew, beginning with the back rows. Those wishing to remain to the end of the organ Postlude may do so.*

**While we would all love to be able to socialize after Church, it is not yet safe to do so. If you wish to greet friends afterwards, we ask that you move well away from the exit doors, so that others can get out of the building safely. While it is wonderful to be able to chat with each other outside the church after mass, please remember to wear a mask and keep your distance!*

**Thank you for your patience and understanding. In Christian charity, these protocols are meant to protect others as well as ourselves.*

SOME 'VEXING ISSUES OF OUR TIME': A Zoom Discussion Series in November

Our final topic in our education series on Zoom is this Wednesday:

Concerns about Ecological Destruction: Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 pm

Lecture: *On Earth as In Heaven: Transforming Perspectives and Practices* by The Rev'd Dr John Chyrssavgis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hh8LzUOkKOU>

Participants are asked to watch the assigned lecture before the meeting so that we can discuss the content presented in our Zoom meeting. All are welcome and anyone is welcome to take part in all or any of these discussions. For further information, please contact Fr D'Angelo.



THE ST THOMAS POETRY SERIES will publish two new collections of Christian poetry in later November:

John Terpstra, *Wild Hope: Prayers & Poems*

Margo Swiss, *Second Gaze*

Details of our **prepublication special offer** can be found on our website: <http://www.stthomaspoetryseries.com>



Save 15% of the retail cost (\$20) while purchasing one book (\$17), or save 25% by purchasing both (\$30). To save you the postal expenses, David Kent is willing to deliver the books to your home or to St Thomas's.

REFUGEE COMMITTEE - Assistance Needed in Finding Housing for January 1

Our committee is now actively looking for a new housing arrangement for the Murad family (Obaida, Hazar, Faeza, Mohammed and Huda) beginning January 1, preferably a 3-bedroom or large 2-bedroom apartment in the range of \$1,800 per month plus utilities. They would also consider an apartment in a house. Work on the Rectory needs to begin in January.

If you have any suggestions, connections, referrals through your own experience or through friends/family please contact Michael Rowland at michael57rowland@gmail.com or call him at 416-670-5722. Please give this some thought. Most housing for sponsored newcomers is found through networking. Many thanks.

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.

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.

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 is continuing to serve the needs of the wider community and we have been going strong throughout the pandemic.

We are continuing to serve outdoors as this is the safest way to distribute meals to our guests. However, with the recent time change we are losing daylight quickly. Additionally, we are serving meals that we need to keep warm.

To this end, the Friday Food Ministry needs help. In particular, we need camping lanterns and ice chests. If you are able to lend these items to us, 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.

**INTRODUCING THREE APPROACHES TO PRAYER:
THE DAILY OFFICE, CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND LECTIO DIVINA
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 2: **Introduction to the Daily Office** (Morning and Evening Prayer) with Matthew Aggus

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

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

December 23: **Reflection on Lectio Divina/ Wrap-Up**

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