

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020**  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
Saint Thomas's Church,  
383 Huron Street, Toronto, M5S 2G5  
416-979-2323 [www.stthomas.on.ca](http://www.stthomas.on.ca) [office@stthomas.on.ca](mailto:office@stthomas.on.ca)  
twitter: [@stthomastoronto](https://twitter.com/stthomastoronto)

---

**Propers for 8:00 am Eucharist:**

Page 95, Introit: Psalm 25.1-7; Gradual: Psalm 85.4-7

---

**EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

**ADVENT I**

- Sat. Nov. 28      4:00 pm Litany and Said Eucharist (Church open; please pre-register)
- Sun. Nov. 29      8:00 am Said Eucharist (Church open; please pre-register)  
9:30 am Sung Eucharist (Church closed; streamed online)  
11:00 am Litany & Sung Eucharist (Church closed; streamed online)  
4:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols (Church closed; streamed online)

Wed. Dec. 2      7:30 pm **Zoom Discussion** – Advent Education Series (*see article*)

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](http://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 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

---

**SIDESPEOPLE NEEDED**

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

## **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** 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](mailto:fridayfoodministry@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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.

## **JOHN HUSTON PERFORMANCES OF *A CHRISTMAS CAROL***

Long-time friend of the Parish, John Huston, has kindly provided links to his upcoming performances of *A Christmas Carol*. There are two: Friday, December 4 at 6:30 pm, and Thursday, December 24 @ 7:30 pm.

Tickets for the live stream performance on December 4 are available at *<https://ontheboards.thundertix.com/events/178657>* and commences at 6:30 pm. It features John in his one-man show in front of a socially-distanced audience. The cost is \$15.00 per household.

A pre-recorded performance will be airing on Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm, and features a string quartet from Aeolian Hall in London, Ontario. The cost is \$20.00 for four different performances from the Hall for one month. The link is: *<https://aeolianhall.ca/events/john-d-hustons-a-christmas-carol/>*

## **CHURCH CALENDARS FROM ST PETER PUBLICATIONS**

In the past, Diana Verseghy 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>*.