

YOUR GIVINGS ENVELOPES FOR 2019 are now ready for pickup. The envelopes are in the parish hall, filed in alphabetical order. Please talk to either Barb Obrai or Marilyn Ramsingh if you have questions, or need to make changes to your givings pattern, or want to obtain a set of envelopes. There are many options you may explore. Weekly or monthly envelopes are self-explanatory. Also available are quarterly envelopes; several envelopes for occasional givers; we also have means to hold post-dated cheques, etc. Barbara Obrai, Envelope Secretary. Email: stthomas.env.sec@gmail.com

MISSING GAME FROM CHURCH SCHOOL

The Church School is still looking for its *Bible Book Parking Lot*. It consists of a blue, lidless, box containing several small cars; 6 sheets of hard stock, that show all of the names of the Old & New Testament Bible books, labelled as parking spots, that have been decorated with trees and bushes etc, by the children. Also included is a free-standing, transparent, plastic, frame that explains how it is all used. If you have any idea of where it might be, please let our Church School Coordinator, Siobhán, know.

HAVE YOU LOST SOMETHING AT SAINT THOMAS'S?

Oddly enough, people rarely claim items left at St Thomas's. As a result, Christine has a vast and eclectic collection of items in her lost and found drawer, including prescription eyeglasses, jewelry, clothing items, and even a pair of boxing gloves (really!).

If you suspect you may have left something behind after a visit to St Thomas's, please call or e-mail Christine to describe your item, so that you and your property can be reunited.

DECEMBER 16, 2018

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saint Thomas's Church, 383 Huron Street, Toronto, ON M5S 2G5
 416-979-2323 www.stthomas.on.ca saintthomas@rogers.com
 twitter: @stthomastoronto
 www.calendarwiz.com/stthomas383huronstreet

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

TODAY	ADVENT III
Mon. Dec. 17 th	ADVENT BIBLE STUDY (<i>see article</i>)
Wed. Dec. 19 th	Altar Guild & Acolytes' Guild Service & Christmas Party at 6:00 pm
Sat. Dec. 22 nd	Church Decorating at 10:30 am (<i>see article</i>)
Sun. Dec. 23 rd	ADVENT IV 7:00 PM A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS Pot Luck Reception (<i>see article</i>)
Mon. Dec. 24 th	CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30 pm EARLY MASS 11:00 pm MIDNIGHT MASS with The Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz, Primate
Tues. Dec. 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Eucharists - No Evensong
Wed. Dec. 26 th	St Stephen's Day - Office Closed 10 am Eucharist - No Evensong
Thurs. Dec. 27 th	St John the Evangelist - Office Closed
Sun. Dec. 30 th	CHRISTMAS I 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Eucharists - No Evensong
Mon. Jan. 1 st	NEW YEARS DAY - Office Closed 10 am Eucharist - No Evensong
Sun. Jan. 6 th	FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 7:00 PM EPIPHANY CAROLS
Sun. Jan. 13 th	THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
Sun. Jan. 20 th	EPIPHANY III

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SEXTON, ELIJAH MCNEILLY

Our new Sexton Eli has an interesting and eclectic background. He has training in building maintenance and repair, holds health and safety and First Aid certificates, and is able to do basic plumbing, electrical work, carpentry and drywalling. He is also an excellent cook, a multi-instrumentalist, and has a strong interest in writing and language.

One of Eli's mentors is a long-time Sexton at a church in London, Ontario, so he has a good sense of what will be expected of him in his new position.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY ON ISAIAH: Monday, December 17th following the 5:30 pm Eucharist. A light supper will be served in the Rectory at 6:00 pm, followed by the Bible Study.

Only rivaled by the Psalms, no Old Testament book plays as prominent of a role in the New Testament as Isaiah. According to one tally, 194 New Testament passages contain allusions to verses from 65 of Isaiah's 66 chapters. The Book of Common Prayer lectionary, recognizing how greatly the writers of the New Testament relied upon the language of Isaiah to proclaim the good news of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, includes a lesson from Isaiah at Morning and Evening prayer each day throughout the season of Advent.

Its prominence, as well its traditional use in the daily office during the Advent season, makes Isaiah a particularly fitting book of the Bible to study together in the midst of Advent this year. Please join us as we prepare our hearts and minds to receive the coming of Christ in our midst anew this Christmas. All are welcome. Speak to Fr D'Angelo if you have any further questions.

THE FRIDAY FOOD MINISTRY - it is again St Thomas's turn to provide the meal this Friday, December 21st (from 3:00 to 7:00 pm), and we need your help to make it possible! We need volunteers to shop, prepare, serve, and clean up for this meal. So why not start this Christmas season off right by participating in this ministry? If you are able to help, please email James at fridayfoodministry@gmail.com.

James Shire, Outreach Coordinator

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Christmas on Saturday, December 22nd at 10:30 am and on Monday, December 24th at 10:00 am. To volunteer, or for more information please contact Mike Degan.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS POT LUCK RECEPTION - December 23rd

As is our tradition, the Friars' Guild is hosting a reception following the beautiful Nine Lessons and Carols service at 7:00 pm on December 23rd. This is our largest reception of the year, and we rely on the congregation's help to show hospitality to all our guests and parishioners.

There are many ways to participate. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their favourite sweet or savoury dish to share or to volunteer to help with set-up and clean-up of the event. Sign-up sheets are available at coffee hour following each service. Please speak to Hannah or Matthew Orsag if you have any questions. Thank you for your help and hospitality!

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 5:30 PM

For those unable to attend Midnight Mass, a more substantive service than in previous years, with some music and hymns, will be offered this year at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve. All are welcome but especially families with children.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The parish website was redesigned as of December 1st and is now mobile-friendly. The address remains www.stthomas.on.ca. We appreciate the positive feedback so far! You can find the service leaflets, announcements bulletin and parish calendar under the menu tab "Upcoming." More content will be added gradually. If by any chance your browser is returning the message "page not found," then you should clear your cache to resolve the issue. You can readily find information on the Internet about how to clear the cache in whichever browser you use.