



Parish Update #33

Dear Parishioners of St. John's,

I write on the last weekend before the province is scheduled to lift its COVID restrictions. Again, we are in a time of transition. **Next Sunday, March 27, we will return to in-person worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. without restrictions about attendance and without registration and invitations.** As a courtesy to those around us, we are recommending that you continue to wear a mask in our buildings for the foreseeable future. As we did in the fall, we also ask you to be mindful of the distance between you and others. All of our pews will now be open for use, so there is room to move about and give one another space. As always, practice good hand hygiene and if you are feeling ill, please stay at home. We will welcome our choir back into the worship space on March 27. They will be masked for singing. All of this is, of course, by way of cautious return and is dependent on case numbers and epidemiology continuing to improve.

With the anticipated return to in-person worship and a more open church, there will be some changes to our on-line presence. We will no longer be producing a pre-recorded Sunday service of Morning Prayer. This Sunday, March 20 will be the last of these services. The recording of the 10:00 service will continue for a few more weeks and will continue to be posted by 1:30 on Sunday afternoons on the parish website and YouTube. We anticipate that this will soon be replaced by a **live-streamed service on Facebook** in real time. We experimented with that format on Sunday, March 13 and the recording of that service is on our parish Facebook page and available for viewing after the fact. (Check out the left hand side of the main page at www.stjohnstruro.ca to access this service.) Each week, we hope to be livestreaming which means that you can watch the service and participate with us as it is happening. You do not need to join Facebook to access the worship. This link will take you there: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsTruro/>. This is a permanent link and will always work to access the livestream worship. Bear with us while we are learning to use this new way of sharing worship with you. We are excited about its potential. And on that note, we are searching for one or more volunteers who could share the task of filming the worship each week for this livestream. Let us know if you can volunteer.

Our events for Lent are going forward well as we approach the half-way mark of the season. Our **Lent Program "You are Here"** is happening on Thursday evenings at 7:00 on Zoom. You can still join in on this hour of worship and conversation by emailing or calling me. I'd be happy to send you the zoom invitation for next Thursday. Our **Lenten Daily Devotion** is an email offering which you can receive each day in your inbox. Send me a note or give me a call if you would like to be added. Many of our parishioners are participating in **Lent Madness** again this year. This online devotion draws us nearer to God by teaching us about the lives of the saints. You can register at www.lentmadness.org and join in the fun. Watch each Sunday as we update our saintly scoreboard on the church wall and ask the eternal question: Who will win the Golden Halo? Also throughout Lent, we are holding a short said service of **Evening Prayer each Tuesday evening** at 6:00 p.m. in the choir area of the church. All are welcome.

Our **Holy Week and Easter** schedule is as follows: (all services in person)*

Friday, April 8 at 6:00 – Palm Cross Making in the upper hall. Come and join in – training provided!

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday – 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Liturgy (blessing / distribution of palm crosses)

Tuesday, April 12 noon – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 13 7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae

Thursday, April 14 7:00 p.m. – Liturgy of Maundy Thursday and stripping of the altar

Friday, April 15 – 10-3 p.m. Stations of the Cross in the upper hall (a drop-in time of quiet prayer as we walk the way of cross with Jesus)

11:30 Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday, April 16 – 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg hiding

Sunday, April 17 6:15 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service

10:00 a.m. Easter Liturgy

*We hope to be able to livestream several of these liturgies on Facebook!

In other news:

We're happy to report that our Chancel Guild's Baby Needs Drive was a success again this year. We delivered 79 pounds of baby food and other baby needs to the Colchester Food Bank on March 7. Thank you for your support of this initiative.



The first in a series of three workshops on discerning the future of ministry in our parish is coming up quickly. The series is called **Good News Café** and will be facilitated by the Rev. Frances Drolet-Smith, our Diocesan Vocations Coordinator. It takes place on Saturday, March 26 from 9:30-11:30 in the upper hall. Frances has shared this with us by way of introduction to the workshop:

In a spirit of anticipation and hopefulness, join us at the **Good News Café** for a time of fellowship and conversation. We'll explore together where God may be calling us as people of faith in this time and in this place. In prayer, small group discussions, and larger conversations we'll note how God has blessed each of us with gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ, and calls us to live lives of love and service.

And since it is a Café, there will be refreshments! We would love for you to come and share with us! Please RSVP to the Rev. Bev DeVoue at revbev@mail.com by Friday, March 25.

I know from speaking with many of you how very horrified you are by the events taking place in Ukraine. As of this writing 3 million Ukrainians have been forced from their homes. I promised to inform you of some ways that we can help as people of faith.

1) **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund** is receiving donations for refugee relief. You can donate in all of the usual ways:

- * donate online at <https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-supports-ukrainians-forced-to-flee/>

- * donate by phone toll free at 1 – 866 – 308 -7973

- * donate by mail – send your cheque to PWRDF 80 Hayden St. 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

2) **Lifewater Canada**, our partner in the Water of Life program is making clean drinking water available in areas where refugees are arriving and gathering. A generous donor has offered to match donations up to \$20,000 so your donation here will actually be twice what you give. You can donate to this effort in the usual ways as well:

- * By **Cheque**: made out to Lifewater Canada and sent to 457 Heather Cres., Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5L1 (*please note on cheque the designation to the Ukraine*)

- * By **E transfer**: sent to info@lifewater.ca with a note indicating donation is to be directed to the Ukraine

- * By **Credit Card**: [give emergency water supplies to war victims in Ukraine](#)

3) A local group of **Ukrainians in the HRM** are collecting supplies and donations. These can be sent to 1 Kingswood Drive, Office 200, Hammonds Plains, N.S. B4B 1B4. Cheques for donations may be made out to Yuliya Kozub. Please note this is not a registered charity at this point so no tax receipts can be issued.

As with all charitable drives, you may also place a cheque on our offering plate. Make sure it is clearly marked PWRDF, Lifewater Canada, or HRM Ukraine so that we can know where to direct your donation.

In closing, be assured of my prayers for your good progress through Lent and your coming joy in the promise of resurrection that awaits us. And as we go about our daily lives being mindful to be kind and considerate of others' needs in this time of transition – a sending prayer:

As we turn to the tasks before us this day,
Fill us, gracious Lord.

In making faithful choices, great and small,
Guide us, gracious Lord.
As we seek to notice and serve those in need,
Teach us, gracious Lord.
As we offer our lives to you,
Hear us, gracious Lord.
With our hearts ready to serve,
Accompany us, gracious Lord.

(Daily Prayer for all Seasons, Church Publishing: New York, NY)

In peace, Rev, Lori