

Church of St. John the Evangelist Weekly Parish Bulletin – March 20, 2020

Since the rapid shutdown of much of our public life last week, we have begun to retrench and think about ways to stay connected as a community, to continue to nurture our faith and to care for one another in what is a truly unprecedented time.

All church services, meetings and events are suspended at St. John's indefinitely, along with most in-person gatherings of any kind here in Montreal and elsewhere, while public health officials manage the COVID-19 pandemic. **We are going to do our very best to help each other through this. Every week on Friday, we will be creating a parish communication, like this one, to be distributed widely through email, on our website, and on social media.**

Our Diocesan clergy have begun all-hands virtual meetings on Friday mornings. The parish corporation is meeting online just after that, and so this bulletin will contain the latest news we have from the Diocese and elsewhere. You may also wish to subscribe to the Diocesan E-Newsletter, if you have not already: <https://www.montreal.anglican.ca/e-newsletter>.

Each week will include parish and diocesan news, as well as resources for staying in touch, praying together while at home, and taking care of one another and our community.

Staying in Touch

Leadership Team

The clergy and wardens **remain available**, but we are working from home as much as possible, so the best way to reach us is at home. Please use the following coordinates (and we have updated them on the website):

General Email: office@redroof.ca

Father Keith Schmidt – Email: rector@redroof.ca

Cell phone: 514-717-4930

Mother Wendy Telfer – Email: thurifer@hotmail.com

Cell phone: 514-506-2386

Beth Reed (Rector's Warden) – Email: rwarden@redroof.ca

Home phone: 514-937-1904

Sara Pistolessi (People's Warden) – Email: sarakbp@gmail.com

Home phone: 514-843-7715

Email List

Many of you are receiving this by email. If you would like to be on the email list to receive this and other communications, if you need to update your email address, or wish to be taken off the list, please write to office@redroof.ca.

Phone Calls

The clergy and our parish visiting group, the Guild of St. Raphael and St. Clare, organized by Scott Potter, have created a phone tree to reach out to parishioners regularly by telephone. If you wish to receive or help make phone calls, or if you know of someone who should receive a call, please let us know at office@redroof.ca.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Zoom is a popular online meeting and webinar app that a lot of organizations are now using to for a wide array of online gatherings. St. John the Evangelist now has a Zoom account and have begun using it for meetings. Our first try at a parish-wide event will be a **virtual coffee hour, this Sunday, March 22, from 11:30 to 12:30**. We hope to make it a weekly gathering. Please contact Beth Reed at rwarden@redroof.ca for a link to join. Bring Your Own Coffee!

Praying Together

Even though we are not gathering all together for mass right now, we have numerous opportunities to nurture our faith and remain in communion with one another.

Prayers at the Church

Public mass has been suspended, but Father Keith and a few servers are still regularly saying mass at the church (they are keeping a safe distance!). We are not attempting to put these quiet services online, but we hope that it is a comfort to many of you to know that this central aspect of our worship continues.

If you would like a candle lit, or a mass said, for you or others, please send these and any other prayer requests to office@redroof.ca, or contact Father Keith directly. Please indicate whether you would like your prayer request to be added to the public prayer list below or kept private.

Prayer List

We remember in our Prayers: St. Michael and all Angels, Winnipeg; Our Diocesan prayer partners, The Territory of the People and the Diocese of Masasi

For those in special need: Tony Whitehead, Fr Richard Cawley, Glenn Cartwright, Fr Arthur Klassen, and Sheila Garner

For continuing support: Hala Baillon, So He Lee, Ian MacLean, Sandra Guillaume, Frances Kemp, Douglas McWilliam, Desmond Murphy, Ivan Smith, Vessella, Everil, Katherine, Mike, Tom Byford, Juliana Dass, Harley Smith, Peter Iveson, Francine Bérubé, Annie-Laurie Giudice, Debbie, P.A., Brian Selwood, and Charles Taylor

We remember those who have died, especially Mother Elizabeth Rowlinson (priest), longtime friend of the parish, who died recently in Orillia, ON, where she had retired. A memorial service will be held when circumstances permit. [Elizabeth Rowlinson Obituary](#).

Commemorations (March 21-27)

Sat	Meredith Haskill, Bernard Wilkinson, Ruth Pierson
Sun	Henry George Wiseman, Annie Porter, Edna Webb, James Jenkyn Rosevear, Jessie Lord, Aline Sklivas, and Dorothy Stewart
Mon	Edmund Newton, Edmund John Marchment
Tue	Anne Smith, Edward Waud, Emmanuel Greenbaum (Priest), Mabel Grace Brighton
Wed	Sarah Hardie, Evelyn Louise Brown, Stewart Ira Draper, James Cecil Ward
Thu	Helen Reynolds, Robert Norman Noakes, Hugh McCaughan, Cecil Billing
Fri	Maud Pauline Poulin, Georgina Stanbury, George Edward Ward, Frank Coyle, Reginal Benton, Sarah Louise King, George Braginetz, Fred Kelley

Prayers Online

A number of parishes across the Anglican Communion are offering virtual services. Here is a selection that might be of interest:

From friend of the parish Kieran Wilson, we are invited to view mass daily from **St. Bartholomew's, Regent Park (Toronto)** on their YouTube channel. We are encouraged to subscribe: if they reach 1000 subscribers they will be able to stream services live. Link here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Nln_hvAzv9-kMY6NYr3Rg

St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue (New York) makes webcasts available of a variety of services:

<https://www.saintthomaschurch.org/events/categories/webcasts/>

The National Cathedral in Washington DC streams services daily: <https://cathedral.org/worship/>

Closer to home, in our Diocese has compiled a list of the many virtual services that parishes are offering:

[Link to Online Church Services in the Diocese of Montreal](#)

Prayers in Small Groups

We encourage all of you to consider joining or starting a small prayer group, bible study, or other faith-centered group in a way that encourages familiarity and conversation. Whether you are following a liturgy or simply praying what is in your heart, following a bible study curriculum or just being together in fellowship, coming together regularly eases isolation and helps all of us remember our faith when we need it most. You can meet online or just have a regular phone call with one other person.

One such group that has started meeting is the "Wives of Henry VIII" group, who meet virtually for Compline on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and may meet virtually for other prayers. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Noel Dass at noel.dass@gmail.com

If you would like help finding or starting a group, please contact one of the clergy or office@redroof.ca. We can also help you find and use the right technology for your meetings. In a future bulletin, we will add a selection of online Bible study resources that may be of interest.

Prayers with the Whole Church

We will announce here public prayer initiatives in the Anglican Communion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury called the Church of England to a national day of prayer on March 22, 2020 inviting everyone to light a candle in their window or porch at 7 p.m. and pray throughout the day.

Here in Canada, our primate, Archbishop Linda Nichols us all to join her at 7 p.m. on March 29 (Lent 5).

<https://www.anglican.ca/news/a-national-call-to-prayer-on-lent-5/30025949/>

Prayers on Your Own

We will also always have some in our community saying morning prayer at home on Sundays at our usual meeting time of 10:30, and we invite you to do likewise. The table of lessons is located at the front of the Prayer Book, for Sundays we are in Year II, and this Sunday, March 22, will be Lent IV. The BCP can be found online at <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/>.

Taking Care of Each Other and Ourselves

Finally, please protect yourselves and others by staying home unless absolutely necessary, keeping a physical distance of 1-2 meters between yourself and others when you are in public, and washing your hands often and well.

For information about coronavirus and COVID-19, including current recommendations, restrictions and special social services and benefits, visit www.quebec.ca/coronavirus.

Being apart is likely to be stressful for most of us, at least some of the time, so check in often and reach out if you are in trouble or feeling overwhelmed. Help each other along. Pray for each other and for the church and for the world.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.