



**ST NICHOLAS**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH, BIRCH CLIFF

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
Holy Eucharist

March 9, 2025  
10:30am Communion & Music

Responding to God's love for us and all people,  
the parish of St. Nick's seeks to know Christ  
and make him known in worship, friendship and service  
with our neighbourhood and in the world.

Everyone is welcome to join us in our common life  
of faith, doubt, trust, challenge and love.

# Welcome to St. Nick's!

Whether you're here virtually or in-person, for the first time or the hundredth time, it's a blessing to have you praying with us today. Our sidespeople are the friendly people at the back of the church who can help you with anything you need. Everything you need today is in this leaflet. We hope you'll participate as you feel comfortable.



## Washrooms

Our washrooms are downstairs, which you can get to by the staircase near the left-side chapel, or by the elevator, also in the chapel. For help with the elevator, speak to one of our sidespeople.

## Accessibility

If you need extra space for a walker or wheelchair, our sidespeople will show you to the accessibility pew near the front of the church. If you need communion brought to you in your pew, let one of the sidespeople know.



## Better Sight and Sound

Large-print copies of this leaflet are also available: just ask a sidesperson. If you have difficulty hearing, we have audio-assistive devices that will help you hear the service better.

## Children and Families

Young kids and their parents are free to roam the church throughout the service. There are activity bags at the back for older children – just ask a sidesperson. Families can also hang out in our Nick's Nook, the big open space on the right side of the church, where parents can still hear and participate in the service.



## Territorial Acknowledgment & Commitment to Reconciliation

We acknowledge that the land on which our parish sits is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations and the Métis Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. We also recognize, and pray for the continual grace to honour the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.



stnicksbirchcliff



stnicholas\_ang

# The Gathering of the Community

**Prelude** Love Unknown (Matthew Corl)

## The Litany and Procession

*Litanist:* O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth: have mercy upon us.

**All:** **O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth: have mercy upon us.**

*Litanist:* O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us.

**All:** **O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us.**

*Litanist:* O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful: have mercy upon us.

**All:** **O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful: have mercy upon us.**

*Litanist:* O holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God: have mercy upon us.

**All:** **O holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God: have mercy upon us.**

*Litanist:* Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forebearers; spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood.

**All:** **Spare us, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* From all evil and mischief, from sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from thy wrath, and from everlasting condemnation.

**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory and hypocrisy; from envy hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness,

**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* From all uncleanness in thought, word, and deed; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine; from battle and murder, and from sudden death,

**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* From all sedition, conspiracy, and rebellion; from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and Commandment,

**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* By thine Agony and bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial,

**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* By thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; by thy sending of the Holy Spirit;  
By thy heavenly Intercession; and by thy Coming again in glory,  
**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* In all times of tribulation; in all times of prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of  
judgement,  
**All:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Litanist:* We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God: and that it may please thee to rule  
and govern thy holy Church universal in the right way,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To keep and strengthen in the true worshipping of thee, in holiness of life, and in devotion  
to his people, thy servant Charles, our most gracious King and Governor, and all the Royal  
Family,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To give to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, true knowledge and understanding of thy  
Word; and that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth and show it  
accordingly;  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To send forth labourers into thy harvest; to prosper their work by thy Holy Spirit; to make  
thy saving health known unto all nations; and to hasten thy kingdom,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To bless the people of our Country and the Commonwealth, and to endue those set in  
authority with grace, wisdom, and understanding;  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To bless and guide the Judges and Magistrates, giving them grace to execute justice, and  
to maintain truth,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To bless and keep the King's forces by sea, and land, and air, and to shield them in all  
dangers and adversities,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To give to all nations unity, peace, and concord, that they may serve thee without fear,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To bless and protect all who serve humanity by their labour and learning,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To preserve all that travel, all women labouring of child, all sick persons and young  
children; and to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To defend, and provide for, all widows and orphans, and all who are desolate and  
oppressed,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To bless and keep all thy people,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To give to all thy people increase of grace, to hear meekly thy Word and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To strengthen such as do stand; to encourage the faint-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To succour, help and comfort all that are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To have mercy upon us all,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so that in due time we may enjoy them,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* To give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,  
**All:** **We beseech thee, good Lord.**

*Litanist:* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.  
**All:** **Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.**

*Litanist:* O Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world;  
**All:** **Have mercy upon us.**

*Litanist:* O Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world;  
**All:** **Grant us thy peace.**

*Litanist:* O Christ, hear us.  
**All:** **O Christ, hear us.**

*Litanist:* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**All:** **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Litanist:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Celebrant* Let us pray. (*A time of silence is kept.*)  
Heavenly Father, your Son confronted the powers of darkness that obscure your compassion and love for all of creation: help us to use these Lenten days to grow in wisdom and prayer, so that we may witness to that saving love

proclaimed in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**All**

**Amen.**

## **The Proclamation of God's Word**

*You may be seated during the readings.*

**Reading** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

**Reader** A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The Word of the Lord.

**People**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

*The choir will sing the verses, and everyone is invited to join in the refrain.*

All



1. Tree of life and awe-some mys-tery, in your death we are re -  
2. From the dawn - ing of We a - tion you have loved us as your

4



born, though you die in all of his-tory, still you rise with ev - ery  
own; stay with us through all-tempt - a - tion, make us turn to you a -

8



morn; still you rise with ev - ery morn.  
lone, make us turn to you a - lone.

**All** **Tree of life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn;  
Though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn,  
Still you rise with every morn.**

*Choir* Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most high  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.  
They shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my stronghold.  
My God in whom I put my trust.  
Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation.  
There shall no evil happen to you.

**All** **From the dawning of creation, you have loved us as your own;  
Stay with us through all temptation, help us turn to you alone;  
help us turn to you alone.**

*Choir* For he shall give his angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways.  
They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
You shall tread upon the lion and adder.  
You shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

**All** **Tree of life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn;  
Though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn,  
Still you rise with every morn.**

*Choir* He shall call upon me, and I will answer him.  
I will protect him, because he knows my name.  
I am with him in trouble, I will rescue him and bring him to honour.  
With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

**All** **From the dawning of creation, you have loved us as your own;  
Stay with us through all temptation, help us turn to you alone;  
help us turn to you alone.**

**Reading** Romans 10:8b-13

*Reader* A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*As you're able, stand and face the procession as it moves down the aisle.*

**All:** (♩) **Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (x2)**

*Reader* (♩) The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Reading** Luke 4:1-13

*Reader* Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was



famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

*Reader* (♪) The Gospel of Christ.

**People** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** (♪) Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (x2)

**Homily** Fr. Andrew

*After an opening prayer, the preacher will invite you to be seated.*

**The Sharing of Christ's Peace**

*As you're able, you may stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

*You may turn to friend and neighbour, and share a sign of God's peace.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

*You may be seated as we hear about ministries & events coming up at St. Nick's.*

# The Celebration of the Eucharist

**Offertory Hymn** *Forty Days and Forty Nights* (Common Praise #175)

*As you're able, you're invited to stand.*

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## Offertory

If you'd like to make an offering today, just place it on the offertory plate as it comes around, or at the back of the church as you leave. Gift envelopes can be found in the pews. You can also give via CanadaHelps using this QR code. We'll issue tax receipts for donations over \$20. Your gifts sustain our parish ministry, and our presence as the neighbourhood Anglican church in Birch Cliff.

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**Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild,  
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled:**

**burning heat throughout the day, bitter cold when light had fled,  
Prowling beasts around your way, stones your pillow, earth your bed.**

**Shall not we your trials share, learn your discipline of will,  
and with you by fast and prayer wrestle with the powers of hell?**

**So if Satan, pressing hard, soul and body would destroy,  
Christ who conquered, be our guard; give to us the victor's joy.**

**Saviour, may we hear your voice keep us constant at your side;  
and with you we shall rejoice at the eternal Eastertide.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

*Celebrant* God our refuge and our strength, receive all we offer you this day, and through the death and resurrection of your Son transform us to his likeness. We ask this in his name.

*All* **Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with the angels and archangels and all who have served you in every age, we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All:** (♪) **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be thee, O Lord most high. Blessèd is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.**

*As you're comfortable, you may stand, sit or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**People:** **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

*Celebrant:* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant* As our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us pray,  
Our Father in heaven,

**All** **hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* We break this bread,

**People** **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

*Celebrant* Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**People** **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;  
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the people of God.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**All** (♫) **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace.**

## The Communion



Everyone is welcome to receive communion.



You may receive both bread and wine, or just the bread, if you wish.



Gluten-free wafers available upon request.



Cross your arms to receive a blessing instead.



Communion can be brought to you if needed: just ask a sidesperson.

## Music during Communion

**Choir:** Brother James's Air (Traditional arr. Mack Wilberg)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,  
he makes me down to lie in pastures green;  
he leadeth me the quiet waters by.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make  
with in the paths of blessedness, E'en for his own name's sake,  
with in the paths of blessedness, E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I pass, yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with, thy staff me comfort still.  
Thy rod and staff, comfort still, comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.  
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;  
And in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be.  
And in my heart for evermore thy dwelling place shall be.  
Thy place shall be.

**Hymn:** ***Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*** (Common Praise #569)

**Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath,  
such a truth as ends all strife, such a life as killeth death.**

**Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast,  
such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.**

**Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move,  
such a love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.**

## Sending of God's People

### Prayer after Communion

*As you're comfortable, you may stand, sit or kneel for these prayers.*

*Celebrant:* All your works praise you, O Lord;

**All:** **And your faithful servants bless you.**

**Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;  
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;  
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so that we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **A Lenten Blessing**

*Celebrant:* May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

**All: Amen.**

*Celebrant:* May Christ, who overcame sin, death, and the devil through the cross, heal you and bring you to fullness life.

**All: Amen.**

*Celebrant:* May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**All: Amen.**

*Celebrant:* And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: *Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us* (Common Praise #564)**

*As you're able, you're invited to stand.*

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us; all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us, thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary, through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending, pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.**

## Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Sonata in D minor No. 6, Op. 65 Finale (Felix Mendelssohn)

*You may be seated as the procession passes by you.*



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## Thank you for praying with us today!

### Assisting in today's service

<b>Readers:</b>	Pauline Glasgow, Sonia Halloran
<b>Intercessor:</b>	Joan-Mary Spencer
<b>Server:</b>	Joshua Spencer
<b>Chalice Bearers:</b>	Joshua Spencer, Elaine Fisher
<b>Livestreaming Tech:</b>	Katherine Ferrante
<b>Congregational Voice:</b>	Vicky Morgan
<b>Sidespeople:</b>	Barb Cutts, Joan Alkerton, Brian Todd
<b>Altar Guild Team:</b>	Claudia Wood, Doreen Moffat, Iris Hogan, Elaine Fisher

### Upholding in prayer this week....

<b>The World:</b>	The Anglican Church of Canada
<b>Canada:</b>	The Diocese of Huron, Bishop Todd Townshend
<b>Diocesan Cycle:</b>	Nottawasaga Deanery
<b>The Deanery:</b>	St. Matthew, Riverdale
<b>The Sick:</b>	For all who are sick or in any need; for all those living with chronic problems, our housebound parishioners and their caregivers.

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12*

### Readings for next Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27:1-11, Philippians 3:7 - 4:1, Luke 13:31-35



## Don't throw me away!

Your weekly leaflet is full of surprises  
(even after Sunday!)

Each Sunday, we hand out more than 80 leaflets to visitors and parishioners. Inside this leaflet is not only everything you need to join in the service each week; it's also a mini-newsletter, a resource for prayer, a gift for a friend, and a directory of parish info and contacts.

*"Just because the dismissal has been said doesn't mean the leaflet's usefulness is spent."*

- Fr. Andrew MacDonald

There are many uses for the leaflet after the service finishes each week. Here are just some of the ways this booklet in your hands can be a part of your week long after you return home.

### Parish life

**Mark your calendar:** From neighbourhood, mission and outreach events that are coming up in our parish, to our weekly Wednesday service, mark your calendar so you never miss out.

**Get the latest news:** Catch up on parish news and notes; learn about ways you might serve or help support our ministry together.

### Prayer & scripture

**Reflect:** Have a look again at the past Sunday's readings and prayers and see what inspires you, and what questions arise in your heart.

**Look ahead:** Have a look at next week's readings so you can reflect on them this week.

#### **Those who sing, pray twice:**

Did we sing one of your favourite hymns? Sing it again at home!

**Pray:** Take a look at the cycles of prayer for St. Nick's and the wider church. Take a moment to pray for those people and organizations.

### Community & pastoral care

**Give a gift to a friend:** This very leaflet might be a treasured gift to one of our parishioners who can't be at church each week.

**Invite:** The leaflet can be a valuable way of sharing what St. Nick's is like, and what's coming up at the church. Share it with a friend or a neighbour who you'd like to come to church with you!



### Parish info

**Connect:** The leaflet has contact info for all our staff, wardens, the parish nurse and our clergy.

**Drop by:** The office hours are printed, so you always know how and when you can reach the parish office.

*"Everyone I've introduced to the parish is surprised at how big our little parish is, and how busy it is," says Fr. Andrew. "There's always something going on, and the leaflet reflects that on nearly every page."*

The dismissal might feel like the end of the service and the expiry date on the leaflet, but each week's leaflet is a living document, a witness to our parish ministry and a guide to your life of faith.

#### **So don't throw me away!**

For more information, or to learn how to add a note to the leaflet, contact the parish office; the details are always on the back page!





### Winter Break for Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew will be out of the office beginning Monday March 10<sup>th</sup>, returning to the office on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, for his winter break. During that time, pastoral care will be available from our honorary associate, the Rev. Joan Wilson. The Wednesday service will continue as scheduled.

### What is the litany?

The chanted prayers that we offer at the beginning of today's service are called the Great Litany. It's a sequence that we only do twice a year – the first Sunday of Advent, and the first Sunday of Lent, the two seasons of reflection and preparation. We sing these prayers in procession as a symbol of a journey and pilgrimage that these seasons will lead us on – in this case, our pilgrimage to the empty tomb and new life.

### Fr. Andrew's Vestry Challenges

At our Annual Vestry Meeting at the end of February, Fr. Andrew issued three challenges to **every parishioner** at St. Nick's.

- 1) Take home **two of the calendar cards** hanging in the pews today. Keep one for yourself, and give one to a friend, a family member, or a neighbour, and share with them an event on the card that they might be interested in. Personal invitations are always more meaningful than paid advertising!
- 2) As we grow in our faith daily, find a way to attend one of the two remaining **discipleship programs** happening this year – the upcoming Lenten study, or the *Everyday Witness* program that will take place in the fall.
- 3) Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, when we'll come together for an important parish discernment day, **The Parish Path: Walking Together in God's Company**. We'll explore our past, present and future time for prayer, lunch, snacks, and everything we need for a joyful and creative conversation. We'll try to host the meeting both in-person and by Zoom so as many people as possible can participate.

## Diocesan-wide Capital Campaign Feasibility Study

As one of the outcomes from the diocesan Cast the Net process, the Diocese of Toronto is exploring whether the time has come for a capital campaign to help support parishes with their ministry. They'd like to hear from us! On Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-12:00pm St. Nick's will be hosting a public meeting for Anglicans in this part of the city to share their thoughts. For more information, speak to Fr. Andrew.

## Coffee Hour Contributions

Want to contribute something for our weekly coffee hours? Send a note to Elizabeth Brown at [coffeehour@stnicholasbirchcliff.com](mailto:coffeehour@stnicholasbirchcliff.com), and she'll gratefully receive your offering.

## Tax Time & PAG

Tax season is a good time to remember the value of making frequent charitable donations throughout the year. The Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) program allows you to make monthly donations to the church, without having to wait for the offertory plate to go around! If you're already giving by PAG, we'd be grateful if you'd prayerfully consider raising your offering to help us keep up with rising costs. If not, today's a great day to sign up for PAG, to support St. Nick's whether you're home or away. Ask for a sign-up form at the back of the church today.

## Season of Spiritual Renewal Worship Services

**As part of the diocesan Season of Spiritual Renewal, every Anglican is invited to come together for a series of worship celebrations being held around the diocese.** Each service will include wonderful music, inspirational preaching, a joyful lay witness talk, and the opportunity for prayer and anointing, followed by a reception that will offer delicious food and plenty of time to reconnect with friends from other parishes.

The first service on March 22 is taking place at St. James Cathedral, and will be oriented around renewal through our Lenten season and practices. The Rev. Molly Finlay, incumbent at our neighbouring parish St. John's, Norway, will be preaching.

If you're interested in attending this service, Fr. Andrew is happy to organize a parish "field trip" – just let him know!

SEASON OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

# LIFT UP OUR HEARTS

Gathering as a diocese to worship God

MARCH 22 2 PM

**St. James Cathedral**  
The Rev. Molly Finlay, preacher

We turn to God in humility  
as God's people,  
seeking God's purposes.

Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

# Holy Week & Easter



ST NICHOLAS  
ANGLICAN CHURCH, BIRCH CLIFF

## **Palm Sunday, April 13**

8:30 & 10:30am Communion & Blessing of Palms

## **Holy Wednesday, April 16**

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

## **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

7:30pm Institution of Lord's Supper  
(at St. Saviour's Anglican Church, 43 Kimberley Ave)

## **Good Friday, April 18**

10:30am Solemn Liturgy & Prayers

## **Easter Sunday, April 20**

8:30 & 10:30am Easter Communion & Music

## **The Parish Path:**

## **Walking Together in God's Company**

A conversation about our past, present & future.

**Saturday, May 10**

**9:30am - 2:30pm**

(Lunch included!)



