

November 2021

Sisters and brothers,

Thank you! How much we appreciate your continuing support for St Thomas and its mission during this continuing COVID-19 pandemic!

For all of us, 2021 has continued the difficulties that began in 2020. COVID-19 has continued to bring levels of anxiety that we haven't seen before, and, sadly, lives have been lost which should not have ended so soon. At St Thomas, we have shared parish members' deep concerns.

As we write, however, there are important signs of hope, as vaccines begin to alter the landscape. In particular, in-person Eucharist services and fellowship hours resumed in September! And people are glad to be back! Indeed, there has been a sense of celebration during these services that was less apparent in pre-COVID days when in-person services were normal and, perhaps, taken for granted.

During 2021, parish members have been enormously creative in finding ways to resume many of our normal activities. Chat & Chew was reinvented as a delivery program; meals are prepared at home and at St Thomas and delivered directly to participating seniors. Our yoga classes were in person in November. As early as Christmas 2020, gift baskets were created and made available on-line. Our worship space features a brand new audio system, which makes both the in-person and livestreamed services even more enjoyable.

And we have created a new St Thomas community garden, which has contributed to the Heron Emergency Food Centre, and served as a something of a community space in the heart of our campus.

This letter and its enclosures describe what our parish ministry has looked like in 2021 and outline, with hope, how we are preparing for 2022. With them we are asking you to continue your financial support for St Thomas in 2022, and to consider how you will do this. We intend to be even more prepared to resume our active ministries as the pandemic eases. The list is varied, and -- we think -- quite impressive and worthy of strong continuing support.

This package includes the PAR Authorization Form and Response Card, both familiar to you. It also includes an insert that draws attention to the continuing importance of legacy giving. We ask that you complete the Response Card and return it to the parish office by Sunday, December 19, 2021. It can be returned by mail, dropped off at the church, or scanned and sent electronically to Flo Cheesman, our Envelope Secretary, at stthomasenv@outlook.com

If you have downloaded an electronic Response Form from the parish website in PDF format, you can complete it directly using the Adobe Fill & Sign or Add Text feature, and e-mail it back to Flo at stthomasenv@outlook.com

We again thank you very much for supporting St Thomas during a difficult but brightening 2021, and hope that you will continue that support in 2022, a year for which we are cautiously optimistic!

Cathy Munroe, Rector's Warden
Ryan Benjamin, People's Warden