

November 2022

Sisters and brothers,

Thank you! How much we appreciate your continuing support for St Thomas and its mission during this continuing COVID-19 pandemic! Indeed, the pandemic has continued to form the backdrop to our many ministries, particularly those involving in-person gathering, and the outlook remains unpredictable.

Nevertheless, drawing on multiple vaccinations and recommended mask wearing, we have been able to open up in-person Eucharist services, complete with full choir processions, in-person Sunday School, and maskless reading or speaking during the service. Fellowship Hour has also returned to the Lower Hall. Chat & Chew, following delivery-only events in March and April, returned in October as an in-person event! It almost sounds normal!

During the summer, we celebrated with thanks the ministry of Rev. Michael Garner, who left us to become Incumbent of St Alban's in Sandy Hill. In September, we then welcomed Rev. Tom Hubschmid, who joined us as Assistant Curate. Tom was ordained to the priesthood on November 19th, and we look forward to his ministry among us!

The summer also brought the arrival of Oksana and Mariana Kateryniak and their children, refugees from Ukraine. A number of parish members have formed an active support group for them as they adjust to life in Canada.

So it has been a year in which challenges were met, ministries maintained, and in some cases, expanded.

Looking to 2023, we plan to strengthen and grow our parish ministry. The attached document, 'St Thomas in 2023', elaborates on that.

As we plan for 2023, of course, we will continue to depend on your support, both financial and in terms of faithful service in many essential ministries.

This letter and its enclosures describe what our parish ministry has looked like in 2022 and outline, with hope, how we are preparing for 2023. With them we are asking you to continue your financial support for St Thomas in 2023, and to consider how you will do this. We plan to be even more proactive in our ministries, while recognizing pandemic protocols, and we think you will find our plans compelling.

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 18, 2022. It can be returned by mail, dropped off at the church, placed on the offerings plate, or scanned and sent electronically to Flo Cheesman, our Envelope Secretary, at stthomasenv@outlook.com

If you download 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 an encouraging 2022, and hope that you will continue that support in 2023, a year for which we continue to be cautiously optimistic!

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