

# St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

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The Revd. Canon Claude Schroeder - Rector

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Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



O GOD Most High, who didst endue with wonderful virtue and grace the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord: Grant that we, who now call her blessed, may be made very members of the heavenly family of him who was pleased to be called the first-born among many brethren; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.



## **TODAY AT ST. MARY'S**

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY BE TO HIM FOREVER!

**Flowers on the Altar** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Reg and Catherine Trim by Bill and family.

**Nursery** for infants & toddlers is available in the Good Shepherd Nursery. Leader: Starr and Andrew D.

**Children ages 3 and up** worship in church today.

**Lunch and Fellowship:** in the upper hall following the service. Everyone welcome!  
Coffee Hosts: Mary and Nat R.

**The Intercessions Book** on the table with the bread and the offering plates has space for you to write in the names of people you wish us to remember in prayer this morning, and throughout the week. Prayers will be offered for travelers, those in special need, and the departed.

## **SERVICES THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday** 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

**Saturday** 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday** 10:00 am Morning Prayer  
10:30 am Holy Communion

## MORNING PRAYER AT TEN

Prayer Book, pp.6-15, Ps.24, Isaiah 25. 15-18, Luke 1.26-38

### THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING OF MOTHER AND CHILD AND HOLY COMMUNION AT HALF-PAST TEN

*The priest greets the mother and child at the south doors of the church.*

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Priest: Come into God's house. Adore the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and thank God who has given you the grace of motherhood.

People: **This woman shall receive a blessing from the Lord and mercy from God, her Savior; for she is one of the people who seek the Lord.**

Hymn in Procession: Tell Out My Soul (Song of Mary)

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;  
his holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

People: **This woman shall receive a blessing from the Lord and mercy from God, her Savior; for she is one of the people who seek the Lord.**

*The parents kneel at the Communion rail for the prayers.*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**OUR Father...**

Minister. O Lord, save this woman thy servant;

Answer. **Who putteth her trust in thee.**

Minister. Be thou to her a strong tower;

Answer. **From the face of her enemy.**

Minister. Lord, hear our prayer.

Answer. **And let our cry come unto thee.**

Collects and Blessings

Collect for the Day

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm: 131

*(Prayer Book p. 503)*

Epistle

Hymn: **269 Heavenly Message**

The Holy Gospel

Sermon

Nicene Creed

*(Prayer Book p. 70)*

Intercessions

Offertory Hymn: **385 Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness**

Offertory Anthem

*(Prayer Book p. 74)*

Invitation, Confession and Absolution

*(Prayer Book p. 76, 77)*

Great Thanksgiving, Peace, Prayer of Humble Access

*(Prayer Book p. 78ff)*

The Communion

*+ All baptized Christians who have prepared themselves are invited to come forward with faith and love to receive Holy Communion.*

Hymn after Communion: **84 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour**

Lord's Prayer, Thanksgiving after Communion

*(Prayer Book p. 85)*

The Gloria

*(Prayer Book p. 86)*

The Blessing

Announcements

Dismissal: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Hymn: **318 Rejoice Today with One Accord**

*\* Please observe a moment for silent prayer\**

**THE WORD OF THE LORD: TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: GENESIS 3. 8-15, 20.** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

This is the Word of the Lord. *R./* **Thanks be to God**

**EPISTLE: ACTS 1. 12-14** . Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

This is the Word of the Lord. *R./* **Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL: LUKE 1. 39-47**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel... *R./* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Gospel of the Lord. *R./* **Praise be to thee , O Christ.**

**From a Discourse by Saint Andrew of Crete, Bishop. (650 - 712 A.D.)**

*"The old has passed away: all things are made new."*

‘The fulfilment of the law is Christ himself, who does not so much lead us away from the letter as lift us up to its spirit. For the law’s consummation was this, that the very lawgiver accomplished his work and changed letter into spirit, summing everything up in himself and, though subject to the law, living by grace. He subordinated the law, yet harmoniously united grace with it, not confusing the distinctive characteristics of the one with the other, but effecting the transition in a way most fitting for God. He changed whatever was burdensome, servile and oppressive to what is light and liberating, so that we should be enslaved no longer under the elemental spirits of the world, as the Apostle says, nor held fast as bondservants under the letter of the law.

This is the highest, all-embracing benefit that Christ has bestowed on us. This is the revelation of the mystery, this is the emptying out of the divine nature, the union of God and man, and the deification of the manhood that was assumed. This radiant and manifest coming of God to men most certainly needed a joyful prelude to introduce the great gift of salvation to us. The present festival, the birth of the Mother of God, is the prelude, while the final act is the fore-ordained union of the Word with flesh. Today the Virgin is born, tended and formed and prepared for her role as Mother of God, who is the universal King of the ages.

Justly, then, do we celebrate this mystery since it signifies for us a double grace. We are led toward the truth, and we are led away from our condition of slavery to the letter of the law. How can this be? Darkness yields before the coming of the light, and grace exchanges legalism for freedom. But midway between the two stands today’s mystery, at the frontier where types and symbols give way to reality, and the old is replaced by the new. Therefore, let all creation sing and dance and unite to make worthy contribution to the celebration of this day. Let there be one common festival for saints in heaven and men on earth. Let everything, mundane things and those above, join in festive celebration. Today this created world is raised to the dignity of a holy place for him who made all things. The creature is newly prepared to be a divine dwelling place for the Creator.

## Parish Life Notes

**Thanksgiving and Blessings.** Today we give thanks and bless God for the birth and safe arrival of Nyang, daughter of Yar and Nathaniel, and Claire, daughter of Kellianne and Alex, and pray God's blessing and protection upon them!

**Men's Morning Prayer and Breakfast** resumes this Wednesday at the new time of 9:00 a.m.

**Feed the hungry.** Help serve and clean up after the evening meal this Thursday, Sept 12 between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Souls Harbour soup kitchen, 1632 Angus St. Please advise Nat R if you are able to come.

**Breakfast and Community Clean-Up.** Volunteers needed to help serve breakfast in the Upper Hall this Saturday, September 14 starting at 8.30 a.m. for The Cathedral Community Association annual community and back alley clean-up which goes from 8:30 am until noon. Please sign the sign-up sheet on the landing or contact Sandra D.

**Holy Day Celebration: The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.** Join us this Saturday, September 14th at 9.30 a.m. for a celebration of the Holy Communion, as we reflect both on the historical origins of this unusual feast day, and the reason for the death of *Jesus on the Cross*.

**Women's Time Out Bible Study** will begin on Sept. 12th at 9:30 am with a new study book *Sermon on the Mount*. All interested ladies are welcome.

**Forever in Motion:** Senior Exercise will begin Tuesday Sept. 17th here at St. Mary's 10:30 am. The program includes endurance, strength, balance and flexibility activities which may be performed either in sitting or standing positions. All are welcome! The program is also a good way to start with exercise.

**Parent and Tots group** We love to welcome our parents and their little ones to our Parent and Tots Group- We provide games, activities and tea and coffee, milk and juice. You are welcome to bring a snack to share. We will meet every Wednesday morning from 10:30 am -12:30 pm. Start: **Wednesday September 18th.**

**"St. Mary's Book Club** Do you like to read? Do you like to talk with others about what you're reading? Then the St. Mary's Book Club may be right for you! We will be having an organizing meeting after the service on Sunday, September 15th in the lounge. What we decide to read and when/how often we want to meet will be up to the group, so let your voice be heard! For more information, contact Beth C.

**Refugee Sponsorship Update.** To date St. Mary's has raised \$13,000 towards our year end goal of \$18,000 for sponsorship of a South Sudanese family of five, currently living in refugee camp in Uganda. We hope to raise the same amount next year before the family arrives in Canada. You can support this effort through:

1. Direct Donations to St. Mary Anglican Church, with a memo line South Sudanese Family Sponsorship or other information to guide the accountant to direct the fund towards the sponsorship.
2. South Sudanese Food Fair – to be held in St. Mary's upper hall on October 26, 2019 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
3. Recycling of Bottles and Cans. Amanda H and family are collecting bottles and cans in the neighborhood. We request Parish members to help in their neighborhood with cycling bottles and cans. Please contact Amanda, Elizabeth D or Nathaniel for a flyer or to participate in recycling fundraiser.

*Welcoming and loving strangers is a precious gift from the Lord, our God (Lev. 19: 33-34).*

For more information about the sponsorship, contact Rev. Nathaniel.