



St. Clement's Church, Toronto

Focus on Social Justice – Reaching Out to Others

Lenten Giving 2022 -- Wednesday, March 2 - Sunday, April 3, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

“Learning to follow Jesus” “Reaching Out to Others” “Loving our Neighbours as Ourselves”

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to intensify the challenges of the most vulnerable. The need for support for people and agencies working to meet those challenges is still daunting. The Lenten season offers us a special opportunity to focus on what Jesus Christ teaches us and to renew our spiritual and Christian life at St. Clement’s. Appropriately, part of that is renewing our commitment to care for the needs of others.

Each Sunday in Lent we will highlight specific areas St. Clement’s Parish supports through your generous giving. We wish we could be enjoying coffee and conversation with you during one of our coffee hours and be able to tell you about the Outreach Committee’s continuous work during the pandemic; however, we remain safely apart during this period of Lent 2022. Instead, we ask you to enjoy a coffee in your favourite chair and prayerfully consider how you might support one or more of these agencies and their domestic and international community support.

We have outlined five of the initiatives the St. Clement’s Outreach Committee supports on behalf of the parish during this Lenten period. Also please note that donations to any of the other organizations St. Clement’s supports are always welcomed. A list of the financial donations made on your behalf to the various agencies is included in the financial statements of the Vestry Report.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work to put social justice into action.

Your Outreach (Social Justice) Committee members

How to Donate to the Lenten 2021 Programs		
There are three easy ways to give:		
1. Use the provided envelopes Place a cheque (preferred) or cash in the provided Lenten envelope and mail or drop it in the secured mailbox at the 70 St. Clements Avenue Church entrance. Cheques should be made payable to “St. Clement’s Church” and clearly marked with the name of the Lenten program on the subject line.	2. St. Clement’s website Visit <i>stclementsto.ca/give</i> , click on the Donate button . There are several ways you can donate through the church: on-line, by text, through e-transfer or through pre-authorized giving. Follow the instructions. Please ensure you indicate which of the Lenten programs you are supporting with your donation.	3. CanadaHelps website Visit <i>www.canadahelps.org</i> , go to the St. Clement’s Church Toronto “charity” and use the drop-down box to select the program you wish to support with your donation.



WEEK 1 – HAITI: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

An Opportunity to Double your Donation to Haiti Scholarships

For more than 30 years, St. Clement's has provided funds to cover scholarships for students at the **Ecole Saint-Barthelemy** in Terrier Rouge, Haiti, a school run by Father Bruno, an Episcopalian priest who has visited St. Clement's several times. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. We usually send a minimum of \$23,600 per year, sufficient to provide 50 scholarships. This year a generous parishioner has offered to **match designated donations** made for these scholarships to a maximum of \$10,000. This matching donation will double parishioners' dedicated donations and enable us to support additional student scholarships. This school is one of the few educational centres that has continued to function despite many hardships including hurricanes, civil unrest, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Your contribution to the **Haiti Student Scholarships** gives hope to the children through education and helps Haitians to rebuild their own country.



WEEK 2 – REFUGEES

St. Clement's parish has a long and very generous history of supporting refugees from other countries in turmoil including displaced persons from Vietnam, Somalia, Syria and Eritrea, just to name a few. Now with the withdrawal of US and other Western militaries from Afghanistan and the resurgence of the Taliban rule in August 2021, hundreds of thousands of Afghans are seeking resettlement in other countries. Canada has committed to resettle up to 40,000 Afghans through different programs. St. Clement's still has a commitment to support Maharatab, an Eritrean currently living in Israel. His arrival in Canada has been delayed for 2-years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we also want to be in a position to support the resettlement of Afghan refugees. By donating to Outreach – Refugees you will give us the wherewithal to start working towards helping these initiatives. Your donations will go directly to refugee support as well as to the agencies which enable resettlement, such as AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) which is planning resources needed to support the influx of Afghan refugees. auraforrefugees.org



WEEK 3 – FOOD PROGRAMS

Food insecurity is a reality for 1 in 5 Toronto households (18.5 %) and experts have signalled that the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to an increase in this ever-growing number due to extensive job loss, increased food costs and reduced incomes. **Flemingdon Park Ministry** serves more than 200 struggling families and continues to increase its focus on programs to encourage self-sufficiency through its community garden and market. Our own volunteer-run **St. Clement's Wednesday Community Lunch** program, which has been running weekly for more than 20 years, serves a nutritious hot lunch and packed meal to every guest. Your donations also help support other food programs such as **St. Bartholomew's in Regent Park**.



WEEK 4 – INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

In 2017 as part of our commitment to the ***Calls to Action*** of the ***Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada***, St. Clement's commenced funding 2-\$5000 scholarships through **Indspire's** Post-secondary Scholarships for Indigenous Youth program. In partnership with Indigenous, private and public sector stakeholders, Indspire educates, connects and invests in First Nations, Inuit and Métis people so they will achieve their highest potential. The stories from the students St. Clement's have supported so far are truly inspiring. We also plan to support Toronto Urban Native Ministry and Native Family and Child Services this coming year. Please visit indspire.ca to learn more about their vision.



WEEK 5 – HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

The pandemic has increased the number of Torontonians unable to find safe, secure housing and St. Clement's Outreach Committee continues to advocate with government representatives to address this desperate situation, while continuing to support community housing organizations. **LOFT** provides permanent housing, community outreach and support housing services to youth, adults, and seniors with all manner of physical and mental challenges. For additional information, please visit loftscs.org **Matthew House** is a welcoming community that offers a range of support services to help refugees establish new lives in Canada. Visit matthewhouse.ca to read the unique stories of their residents. The Outreach Committee is working to identify other potential housing projects needing our support.