

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of Central America.

In the Anglican Church of Canada, we pray for our Primate, the Most Rev Linda Nicholls; for our Metropolitan and Diocesan Archbishop, the Most Rev Anne Germond; for the Deanery of Sudbury-Manitoulin, and our Archdeacon, the Ven Glen Miller; and for our parish of the Church of the Ascension and for our parish clergy: Canon John, Rev Jeff, and Bishop Andrews.

In the Diocese of Algoma, we pray for the children and families of the Diocese, that they may pattern their lives on the earthly home of Mary and Joseph of Nazareth.

We pray for reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples: Merciful God, you call us to loving relationship with one another. Be with us now as we seek to heal old wounds and find joy again in this relationship. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. Give us the gifts of honesty and openness, and fill us with your healing power and grace. We ask this in Jesus's name.

We pray for the following people for God's continued healing and strength during the coming week, especially – Tamara, Nancy, Marshall, Kay, Dave Fowler, Annette, Barbara, Claudette, Gerry, Mary Rose, Sarah, Jaqueline, Colin, Catherine, George, David, Dan & Marc, Gary, Lucette, Estelle, Richard, Maggie, Carol, Marjorie Morton, Michael Sheppard, Rob Caines, Spruce, Del, Vince, Helen, Chris, Lynne, Connie Lee, Bishop Tom, David Caines, Trischa, Ed, Heather, Lori, John P, and Ivan.

We pray for those who are living in retirement residences or nursing homes: Milt Fleming, Karin Hoffman, Laurent Constantineau, Bessie Morgan, Sybil Crawford, Marlene Moulton, Betty Bonas, and Del Gates; may they always feel God's presence in their lives.

In our parish, we pray for our wardens, board members, and lay leaders; we pray for parents, grandparents, and godparents, for spouses and siblings, for children and dependents, for all families and friends, for those with whom we are hurt, angry, or at cross-purposes, and for those who might be alone, in any circumstance, that they might be comforted and know the love of God.

We give thanks to God for the faithful ministry of the Rev Canon Dr John Gibaut, who for nine months has served this parish as pastor, presbyter, interim incumbent, and friend. Unto thy gracious care and keeping, Loving Father, do we commit Canon John as he takes his leave; grant him courage, prudence, and self-control; raise up for him good friends; preserve him from loneliness; and keep him under the protection of thy good providence. We beseech thee, O God, to keep him resolute in faith in the face of the tasks yet before him, that he may prosper in thy way, and that by thy strength and guidance he may continue in thy love and service.

#### Christmas flowers in the Church are given:

In loving memory of husband Ron, granddaughter Christina Polifroni,  
and mother Therza Griffiths, from Betty Bonas and family;  
In loving memory of Don McLeod, from wife Betty and family;  
In memory of husband George, from wife Anne and family.



## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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December 26, 2021

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2021

Sunday morning service live-streamed on Facebook @ascensionsudbury at 10.00 am. Over Christmas week to New Year's Day, in-person Sunday mornings at 10.00 am with no more than 40 in the congregation.

**Welcome to our worship!** It is good to have you here with us today. Please know that the Anglican Church teaches that all who are baptized with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are welcome to participate in the sacrament at the time of Communion.

**St Stephen the Martyr**  
*within the Octave of Christmas*  
Holy Communion  
Sunday morning 10.00 pm

Liturgy, BCP pp. 67 – 86

(readings are per *Revised Common Lectionary, NRSVA translation*)

<b>Gathering</b>	BCP, p. 67; pp. 69-70
<b>Collects of the Day</b>	BCP, p. 108; p. 104; p. 107
<b>Lesson</b>	Acts 6.8-7.2a, 51c-60
<b>Psalm 31 vv. 1-7, 16</b>	
<b>Holy Gospel</b>	St Matthew 23. 34-39
<b>Nicene Creed</b>	BCP, p. 71
<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>The Offertory</b>	BCP, pp. 72-73; p. 74
<b>The Intercessions</b>	BCP, pp. 75-76
<b>Confession</b>	BCP, pp. 76-78
<b>Sursum Corda, Sanctus</b>	BCP, p. 78; p. 81
<b>Prayer of Consecration</b>	BCP, pp. 82-83
<b>Prayer of Humble Access</b>	BCP, p. 83
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	BCP, p. 85
<b>Prayer after Communion</b>	BCP, pp. 85-86
<b>Gloria in Excelsis, Blessing</b>	BCP, p. 86

<b>Interim Incumbent:</b>	Rev Canon Dr John Gibaut
<b>Hon. Associate:</b>	Rt Rev Dr Stephen Andrews
<b>Hon. Assistant:</b>	Rev Jeff Hooper
<b>Rector's Warden:</b>	Pat Cunningham (705) 566-1203
<b>Peoples' Warden:</b>	Jen Ames (705) 618-2319
<b>Deputy Warden:</b>	Brent Leigh (705) 524-6482
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<b>Facebook:</b>	@ascensionsudbury

**Collect of St Stephen the Martyr:** Grant, O Lord, that in all our sufferings here on earth, for the testimony of thy truth, we may stedfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed; and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may learn to love and bless our persecutors, by the example of thy first Martyr Saint Stephen, who prayed for his murderers to thee, O blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those that suffer for thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

**Collect of Christmas:** Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

**Second Collect of Christmas:** O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. *Amen.*

**The Lesson** (*Acts 6.8 - 7.2a, 51c-60*)

*The Lesson is written in the 6th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, beginning at the 8th verse.*

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" And Stephen replied: "You are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it." When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory

of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

**Psalm 31** , vv 1-7, 16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge let me never be put to shame / ***deliver me in your righteousness.***

Incline your ear to me / ***make haste to deliver me.***

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold / ***for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.***

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me / ***for you are my tower of strength.***

Into your hands I commend my spirit / ***for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.***

I hate those who cling to worthless idols / ***and I put my trust in the Lord.***

I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy / ***for you have seen my afflictions; you know my distress.***

Make your face to shine upon your servant / ***and in your loving-kindness save me.***

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost / ***as it was is in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.*** Amen.

**Gospel** (*Mt 23. 34-39*)

*The Holy Gospel is written in the 23d chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, beginning at the 34th verse*

Jesus said, "I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'