




AECST
FOUNDED 1792

The Celebration of the
Birth of Christ:
The Christ-Mass



Rejoice...
Glory to the New Born King!

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792



The Celebration of the Birth of CHRIST

**Saturday
December 24, 2022; 7:00 PM**

*You, family and friends
are invited to join us around
the Lord's table.*



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Reception following the Service. Refreshments will be served.

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST: THE CHRIST- MASS

“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.
Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”.
Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this the
**Christmas Eve, In Celebration of the
Birth of Christ: The Christ- Mass.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived.

Faithfully,
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw,
17th Rector and Dean
of the Schuylkill Deanery

Please click for the [Order of Service](#)
for this Sunday's service.

From the Rector: Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

My dearest and faithful family members of St. Thomas, Grace and Peace to you.

We have entered the Season of Stewardship, following 2 ½ years of being in the midst of a deep Pandemic. I invite you to now join me as we Re-imagine our ministries for 2023. You are aware that many of our programs and activities have restarted. Our need for an Associate Rector for Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministries is crucial and at the top of my list of priorities.

PLEASE prayerfully consider increasing the level of your commitment this year in the offering of your [Faithful Giving Card](#). There is much being planned for 2023, and we will need your support. You may submit your card in four different ways:

- bring it to the altar Sunday morning during the offertory;
- drop it off at the parish office;
- mail it to the parish office;
- [electronically](#)

We celebrate that “We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord”.

Faithfully,
Fr. Martini Shaw

**A HAPPY HOLIDAYS MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR,
WARDENS, VESTRY, AND STAFF OF ST. THOMAS.. ENJOY!!!**



Video: Quentin Heyward (St. Thomas
Videography Ministry)

A GREAT HONOR

Our own St. Thomas Gospel Choir has received an invitation to sing at the Inauguration of the 48th Governor (Josh Shapiro) and 35th Lieutenant Governor (Austin Davis) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

2023 Faithful Giving Cards

We have kicked off our Annual Stewardship Season at St. Thomas. Enormous thanks ALL who have submitted their Faithful Giving Cards. Please add your name to the list this week by submitting your card today.

Thank you to the following persons who have submitted their 2023 Faithful Giving

The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

Vestry

Patricia & Walter Bantom
Ronnie H. Collins
Deadra Cannon
Albert Dandrige, III
Clare Mae Daniels
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel

Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell

Kelvin Johnson
Pamela Johnson

Brenda Johnson-Best
Jonathan Muse

Judith Simkins-Booth
Bobby Tillman

Judy Tillman

Auxiliary Vestry

Pat Akins
Conchetta Brewer

Sharon Bullock
William Burke, Jr.

Dr. Frank Johnson
Gregory Lyles

Particia Lynch

Carmen Alexander

Constance Anderson

Michael & Dorothy Archey

Jeanne J. Arnold

Cedric Babb

John Baker

Steven Ballard

Dr. Timothy Barksdale

Brenda Battle

Jennifer Bell

Susan Ben

Deborah Billups

Waltier Blocker

Deborah Booker-Mathews

Guy Booth

Ricardo Bostic

I. Page Bowser

Theresa Bramwell

Lorita Brockington

J.R. & Alfreda Brockman

Carmen M. Brown

Marilyn Brown

Robert & Jayne Brown

William H. Brown, III

Sandra Bryant-Miller

Theodore Bythewood

Yvonne Caldwell White

Cornelia Camp

Phyllis Cater

Suzanne Closson

Lynada Coleburn-Bryant

Ronald Coleman

Dr. Tracy Collins

Terry Corson

Gwendolyn Cottman

Johanna Daye

Carl & Mary Dean

Dr. Rollo Dilworth

Musu Doe

Barbara Douglass

Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas

William & Quincina Edmonds

Lynette Edwards

Roy & Patricia Ellison

Erika Etlén

Rashid & Christie Faisail

Larry & Deidre Farmby

Loretta Ferguson

Dr. Jay Fluellen

Norman & Nikki Franke

Barry & Deborah Frye

Irenda Gates

Elaine Gillison

Barbara L. Glenn

Swanie Goldsmith

Christopher Golson

Eugene & Marie Golson

Chad & Toya Gordon

Josephine Graham

Clarice Grant

Arlene Gray

Linda Greaves

Carole W. Green

Michelle Green

Thomasina Hack

Joan Hall

Stephen Hannum

William Hanscom

Lisa Sharon Harper

Sharon Harper

Eugene & Calais Harris

Katrina Harris

Roosevelt & Gail Harris

Walter & Nicole Harris

Joyce B. Harrison

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Gregory Hayes

Maurice Hayes

Rene Hayes

Quentin Heyward

Wanda Hill

Erica Hill-Yates

Angela Holloway

Patricia A. Holmes

Merle D. Hopson

Fleta Howell

Robert Hugh

Donald & Patricia Hunt

Diana Hutchins

Kim Hyde

Joyce Jackson

Diann Jacox

Simone Jeffers

Bobby Johnson

Lemont Johnson

Sheryl L. Johnson

Bettie Jones

Donna Jones

Kelly & Tracy Jones

Lelo Jones

Mary Ann Jones

Monica Jones

Richard Jones

Robert & Joyce Jones

Clarence Jones, Jr.

Winsome Josephs

Tyrone R. Keller

Reginald & Sherilynn Kimble

Jordina Koiler

John Kortue

Kathleen Lacey

Paula Lamb

Gwendolyn Langford

Nancy Lee

Doris Levin

Louise Lewis
Steven & Jameela Lewis
Karen Leys
Kimberly Lloyd
Adrienne Logan
Adjoa Love-Dorsey
Winston Lowe
James T. Lowe, Jr.
Gregory Lyles
Thomas Lynch
Constance Lyons
Geraldine B. Martin
Katrice Mathurin
Shelia Sawyer-
McCullough
Denise McDaniel -
Henderson
Alexandra McFadden
Denise McKinney - Gibson
Robert & Dianne McNeal
Laura McNeill
Regina Meacham-Devero
William Meek
Deirde Milanés
Colin & Helen Mitchell
Beverly Moore
Donald & Dorothy
Moore/Roberts
Gloria Moses
Elsie Moto
Cynthia Muse
Mueni Mwanzia
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen
Francina Norris
Deborah Otey
Sam & Deidre Patterson
Gwendolyn Perryman
Andrea Petrocelli-Fields
Kim Phillips
Mary Ann Phillips
Simone Pollard
Stephen Pugh
Audrey Pyles
Kevin & Ashley Quetant
Karen Ragland
Ella Randall
Dolores Redmond
Clarence H. Rice
Caryn Rivers
Victoria Rivers
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin
Yvonne Ruiz
Mercedes Sadler

Dr. Barbara D. Savage
Georgia Sawyer
Richard & Rebecca Scales
Denise Rae Scott-Jones
Deborah Seay
Leah Sheppard
Arlene Singletary
Rosalind Roberts Smalls
Anita Smith
Cary Smith
Dorothy Smith
Ted Smith
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Irving Stevenson
Joseph Stevenson
Daryn Stewart
Joyce Stewart
Shelly & Ann Stewart
Brandon Stiff
Michele Sudler
Carolyn Summers
Lynda Tapper-Smith
Wanda Tarawaly
Rosita Taylor
Dr. Monica Taylor
Gloria Thomas
Calvin Thompson
Teri Tillman
Harold Townsend III
Arnott Trotman
Justin & Lee Anne
Trotman Louise Trotman
Elizabeth Trulear
Inez Turner
Robin Vann-Lynch
Karen Vaughn
Clara Watson-Williams
Joe & Alexia Wells
Alverna Wiley
Barbara Wiley
Michelle Wilkinson
Julia Williams
R. Seth Williams
Dorothy Willis
Arleatha Wilson
Gillian Wilson
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Lorna Wilson
Tynecia Wilson
Charlene Wiltshire
Diane Winkfield
Shirley Winkfield

Edgar Wise
Wanda Wood
Stephanie Seay Wood
Lisa Woodley
Paula Wright
Ingrid Bernadette Wyche
M. Elaine Young

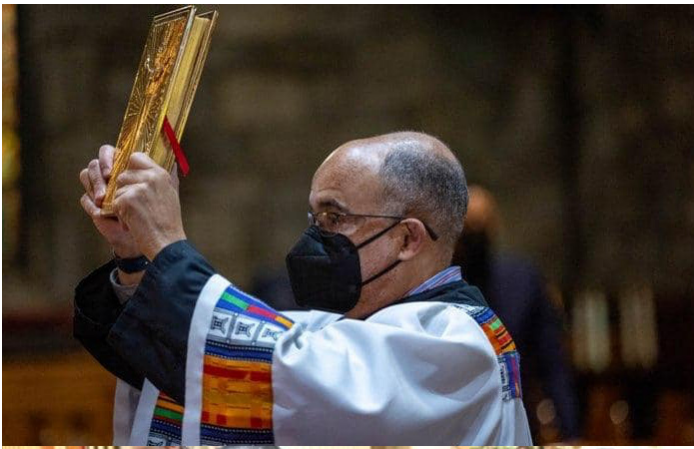
WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS!!!

We are so very happy to welcome **Erika Etlen** and **Carol Etlen** into our St. Thomas family.



PICTURES FROM THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022











OUR YOUNG ADULTS DECORATED THE CHURCH IN PREPERATION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE





African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Women's Day Committee Fundraiser



**This holiday season give the
most useful gift of all.**

**A Women's Day inspired
Growing in God's Love
Tote Bag**

*Carry goods in
style!
Limited
Supplies!
Special Price!*

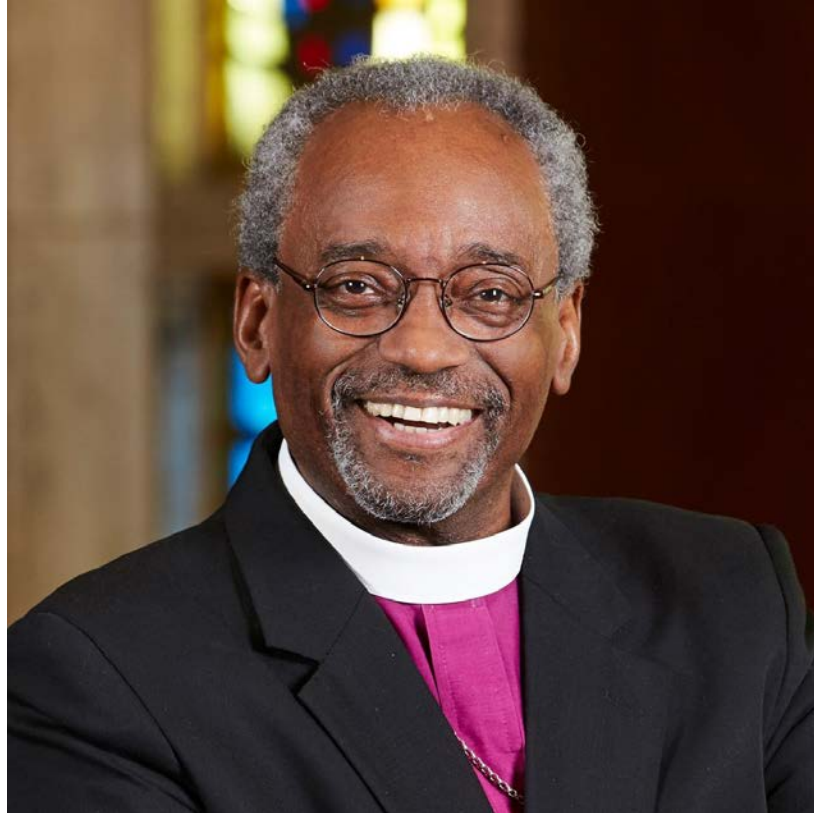


*Buy 2 for the
special price of
\$25.00
\$15.00 each*

Contact Deborah Matthews at
debmadanco@verizon.net
or any member of the Committee

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!



The Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, **The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry** will travel to Philadelphia to celebrate the Feast of Absalom Jones and St. Thomas' 231st Year Anniversary.

Our own bishop, the Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez will also be present. Please join us!

**AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR
AND WARDENS**

Please prayerfully complete the balance of your 2022 Faithful Giving Pledge by **December 31, 2022**. If you are unsure of the amount, please contact Jeannette in the Parish Office.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

Saturday, Dec. 24th (**Christmas Eve**), 7:00 P.M. - **Festive Celebration Service**

Sunday, Dec. 25th (**Christmas Day**) - No In-Person Service

Sunday, Jan 1st (**New Year's Day**), 10:00 A.M. - In-Person Morning Prayer only (No Holy Eucharist)

Sunday, Jan 8th - **The First Sunday after the Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord) Renewal of Baptism Vows**

Sunday, Jan. 15th - **Observance of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.**

Sunday, Jan. 22nd - **Youth / Young Adult Sunday**

Sunday, Jan 29th - **Health Ministry Sunday**



The Sisterhood Guild is collecting men's and women's new underwear, T-shirts, socks, gloves, and hats to be given to the homeless.

The collection bin will be placed at the back of the church, by the baptismal area starting **November, 20th** through **December 24th**.

During this holiday season let's not forget those that do not have the essentials of everyday life that you and I enjoy.

Please give so that we can enrich someone else's day with this thoughtful gesture.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: The only doors for entry on Sunday mornings are: the Front doors of the church and the front handicap door of the church. Please refrain from using other doors at this time.

**LAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, THE CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTED TO THE CHURCH "FOLOW THE STAR"
Pictures of the presentation and party given
by The Tree of Life Ministry**









**THANK YOU TO OUR TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY
FOR SPONSORING A CHRISTMAS PARTY
FOR OUR ST. THOMAS CHILDREN**





AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch [Past Services](#) and [Highlights](#) from past services.

Christmas Arrangements

The High Altar Arrangement and the arrangement Absalom Jones Altar are in Thanksgiving for fullness of His grace that I have received one blessing after another, given by Musu Doe.

The Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of: my wife, **Phyllis B. Johnson** given with love by your husband Bobby Johnson.

Pastor Sadie S. Mitchell, given by Charlene M. Wiltshire

The Flowers on the Columbarium are in **Thanksgiving** for: our daughter, **Grace**, given by her parents Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel

The Christmas Tree has been adopted in the memory of:

Rosa Lea Hughey, Ronnie Hill, Pearl Hill, Geneva Jamison, Sarah Tyner, James Hughey, Terry Hill; given by Ronnie H. Collins

Pastor Sadie S. Mitchell, Charles T. Mitchell, Jr., Lucinda G. Harper, The Clifton Family, & The Gordon Family, given by Charlene M. Mitchell

Jesse & Mary Rice, Lula Carter, Florence Smith, Rev. Rondo Nael, Rev. Julius Jackson, Rev. Michael J. Shane, Christine M. Johnson & Carol L. Rice; given by Clarence Howard Rice

The Christmas Tree has been adopted in **Thanksgiving** for: **Hon. Charles H. Cuffeld, Mr & Mrs. Edward E. Hughes & Mrs. Elizabeth Rayann Hughes;** given by Ronnie H. Collins

Poinsettias and Christmas Tree Adoption

The Christmas Poinsettias are in loving memory of:

Given by:

Adjahoe, Alfred & Naomi Adjahoe; Alberta Brockman & Rudolph J. Brockman, Edgar Adjahoe
J.R. & Alfreda Brockman

Bailey, Albert & Ethel, Jack & Eline Francis, Sidney & Nora Brown, Margaret Skeen,
Pauline Parkinson, Ettiemay Scott, Carlota Madhoo, Cecil Elliott, Ralph Grant **Karen Leys**

Johnson, Sr., Marvin H., Tanya B. Johnson, Dorothy R. Graham, Albert L. Graham,
Dennis C. Johnson, Sr., Juanita Johnson, Violet E. McCoy, Irving Cottman, Blanche Cottman,
Erika W. Mushala **Dr. Monica J. Taylor**

Mitchell, Pastor Sadie S., Charles T. Mitchell, Jr., , Lucinda G. Harper, The Gordon Family,
The Stridiron Family **Charlene M. Wiltshire**

Shaw, Sr., Kenneth W., Camille Shaw, Gregory Kimble, Girdie & Angylet Kimble,
Kenneth W. Shaw, Jr., Barbara J. James, Stefan M. Shaw, Jarel James, Jay E. Shaw Sr.
Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble

Singletary, Theresa, Margaret Singletary, Ethel Mae Barlow, Winton Singletary,
Claretha Granberry **Arlene Singletary**

Smith, Matilda "Tillie" & Bernard Smith **Paula Wright & Keith Smith**

Sudler, Cordelia K., Harvey J. Sudler, Sr., Harvey J. Sudler, Jr., Ruth V. Tucker,
William Tucker, Sr. **The Sudler Family**

Tomlinson, Beatrice, Dorothy Lundy, Eva Delimore, Edith Cole, Rachel Smaltz
Nikki & Norman Franke

Washington, Robert & Mayme, Marion Washington, Nathaniel & Bernice Tillman
Bobby, Judy & Teri Tillman

Watson, Sr., Edward O., Clara May Watson, William Leecan, Edward O. Watson, Jr.,
Martha Pressley **Clare Mae Daniels**

Young, Donald **Alice Young**



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain **MANDATORY** while at St. Thomas until further notice. St. Thomas will follow the recommended guidelines of the CDC, the City of Philadelphia, and the Diocese of PA. Let us love our neighbor and worship safely!

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. Hand sanitizer is also available. The ventilation system has been changed to let in outside air. We request that all in attendance be **VACCINATED**. Unvaccinated individuals are requested to watch the Service via [Live Stream](#).

A FEW QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES ON “VIRTUAL WORSHIP”

“Virtual and live stream worship have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to the church. However, by no means can it substitute coming and physically receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Communion).”

(From Fr. Martini Shaw’s Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

“Online Masses and Spiritual Communion do not represent the church. The faithful not gathered to receive the Sacraments is not the church. Jesus’ disciples always lived their relationship with the Lord in Community. They gathered, around the sacrament, at the same table, as a sign of community”. (Pope Francis’ message)

“If you are unable to receive the Sacrament, by reasons of extreme sickness or physical disability; or when being present at a celebration is absolutely impossible, it is possible to open yourself to God’s grace and blessing”. (Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer).

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.

CHURCH SCHOOL

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 through High School. The theme for this church school year is “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Join us as we RE-Imagine our Church School Adventures with Prayer, Fellowship, Programs, and Fun! Register in person or contact [Dottie Archey](#) for more information or 215 837-6941.

SCOUT TROOP #133 -

Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

The Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays according to the schedule.

Please contact Scout Master [Howard Chapman](#) for more information.



SHEPHERDS MINISTRY

Re-imagined

ATTENTION: AECST MEN, WOMEN, COUPLES

This is an opportunity to share your caring and kindness with our AECST flock!



THE MINISTRY

- **Immediate Goal:** Shepherd our sick and shut-in parishioners
- **Primary/Ultimate Goal:** Shepherd ALL AECST parishioners
- **Number of Households:** No more than 4 sheep households per shepherd

SHEPHERDS' ROLE

- Set your own schedule to regularly contact sheep via phone or other media
- *Attend Zoom meetings with fellow shepherds (no in-person meetings)*

Please consider joining the 10 Shepherds who have volunteered.

For more information, please contact Charlene M. Wiltshire:
cwiltshi@comcast.net



Note: Vestry members will continue to shepherd all new members until their one-year anniversary.

Join the Girls Friendly Society! Meetings are from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All girls aged 3 - 30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Girl Talks, Arts & Crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day along with trips the Theater, Museums, Ice Skating, Mini Golf, Trips to the Pumpkin Patch and Holiday House in Cape, May, NJ. If you would like to volunteer as a leader or sponsor, please contact our Branch Advisor, [Nikkol Simms](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)



Nikkol Simms
Branch Advisor
njsimms@verizon.net

For more info:
<http://gfsus.org/>

Find us on Facebook!
GFS PA African
Episcopal Church of St.
Thomas

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

**Meetings
begin
Oct. 1, 2022
11am-1pm**

GFS is ready to begin a new year of worship, study, play and service! We are excited to recharge our continuous mission of uplifting our young ladies and preparing them for today's society. We are also preparing for this year's theme to Love, Serve, and Grow and remembering our 75 years of legacy at St. Thomas.

Membership Ages:
Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo.
Junior Members: 5-13 yo.
Senior Members: 14-21 yo.
Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Girls participate in:
Service Projects
Girl Talks
Arts & Crafts
World Day of Prayer
Founder's Day
Mission Day
GFS Day

Past Recreational Opportunities:
White water rafting
Theaters
Museums
Ice Skating
Segway/Ziplining
Mini Golf
Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

GFS World Council South Africa 2023

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.

to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office.

to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).

to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact Gladyce in the Parish Office to sign up.

to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

Photography Ministry is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).

**Readings for Christmas Day
December 25, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)
[Psalm 96](#)

The Second Lesson: [Titus 2:11-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 2:1-14](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of December 26, 2022**

Monday - [John 3:31-36](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 2:22-40](#)

Wednesday - [John 2:1-11](#)

Thursday - [John 4:46-54](#)

Friday - [John 5:1-15](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

**Readings for New Year's Day
January 1, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 35:1-10](#)
[Psalm 146:4-9](#)

The Second Lesson: [James 5:7-10](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of January 2, 2023**

Monday - [Matthew 24:15-31](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 24:32-44](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 24:45-51](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Friday - [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

A ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NOTE

STAY UP TO DATE with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the [CDC](#) or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens). Go on their website to schedule an appointment.

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble.

If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions. Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact:

[**Deborah Harrison.**](#)

ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are in need of Acolytes (Youth and Adults). Please consider serving God in this rewarding ministry. If interested, please contact the Rector ASAP.

SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the [Newsletter](#) sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a **monthly Vestry meeting** via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to vestryclerk@aecst.org at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions.

Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact:

[Deborah Harrison](#).

ATTENTION:

We are so blessed to be stewards of a beautiful property that God has entrusted to our care. Persons are needed to serve on our Property Committee. If interested, please speak with [Deborah Harrison](#) or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.



AECST BIBLESTUDY WITH FR. JAY

will be on Holiday from December 27th to January 3rd.

We will resume study on January 10th at 7:00 PM.

From the AECST Bible Study Class: "Have a blessed Christmastide and a Happy New Year!"

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB: Linda Holmes

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriguez, Charles Fleming, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, Alletta Parris Olday, Dr. Walter Bantom, Lisa Woodley, William Smalls.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Karen Ragland, Winston Lowe, Georgia Sawyer, Kenneth Dow, Edita Gauthney, Gwendolyn Langford, Joan Hall, Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Eleanor Chestnut, Leatrice Snowden, Shirley Winkfield.

WE PRAY FOR

those who are incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT

If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like to schedule a St. Thomas columbarium inurnment, please contact the church office at 215-473-3065.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or email, please do so ASAP. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or [Online Giving Donations](#), please email your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. -Judy Tillman

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement [Donation Button](#) on our [website](#).

WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

“To whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12:48

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator.
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi IOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) **Pledge Cards:** Pledge cards can now be sent for 2023. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically by clicking this link [Click>](#) or send an email to our [Fiscal Administrator](#). Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

MINISTRY STAFF

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THE VESTRY

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Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

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Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
Ronnie Collins
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Jonathan Muse
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Patricia Akins
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Gregory Lyles
Patricia Lynch

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.

