



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

*You're  
Invited!*

*A Lenten Journey With The Rector  
2021*

THE RECTOR INVITES YOU  
TO JOURNEY WITH HIM DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON  
*"Healthy Living During a Pandemic"*

- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY SCRIPTURE READING~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY PRAYER~
- ~INCREASE YOUR CONSUMPTION OF:  
RAW VEGETABLES, FRESH FRUITS, AND WATER~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY PHYSICAL EXERCISE~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY PERIODS OF REST AND SLEEP~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE~
- ~INCREASE YOUR FREQUENCY OF WEARING A MASK~
- ~INCREASE YOUR FREQUENCY OF WASHING HANDS~
- ~INCREASE YOUR PRACTICE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING~

END YOUR DAY EACH NIGHT AFTER 9 PM BY JOINING THE RECTOR IN  
PRAYER AND COMPLINE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, MONDAY - FRIDAY.

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 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**February 21, 2021**  
**10:00 AM**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM.

Please be advised that with social distancing still in effect:

1. No more than three (3) persons can visit the office at a time.
2. You must be masked to enter the building and must practice social distancing while present.
3. You must sanitize your hands upon entering the door.
4. Only entry to the entire property will be ONE DOOR, the Absalom Jones House ramp door.

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**IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICE RE-ENTRY:**

It is presently uncertain when we will return to worship in the church however planning is underway to assure that we are all able to safely worship upon our return. The Rector has appointed the following Committee to discern/guide the process and make recommendations to him and the Vestry. The Co-Chairs are Richard Jones, Rector's Warden, and Deborah Camp-Frye, Accounting Warden.

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**ST. THOMAS  
CIRCLE  
OF  
PRAYER MINISTRY**

**PLEASE JOIN  
US WEEKLY FOR  
MONDAY MORNING  
PRAYER CALL**

**AT 6:30 AM**

**THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER IS:  
(605) 313-6361 CODE: 268 105**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND  
AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER  
REQUEST TO:**

**[CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG](mailto:CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG)**

**PHYLLIS B. CATER \* DAPHNE GILSTRAP  
FACILITATORS**

**THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW  
RECTOR**



**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS**  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065

## **ST. THOMAS CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

Thank you Fr. Shaw, Verger Lisa New, Carolyn Summers, Karen Vaughn, Deborah Seay, Elizabeth Derr, Joyce Adams, Susan Ben, Jenelle Wilson-Johnson, Cynthia Muse, the members and all others who continue participated and support our Circle of Prayer call.

We look forward to our next prayer session on **February 22, 2021**. Starting promptly at **6:30 am**.

You are encouraged to reach out to us at [circleofprayer@aecst.org](mailto:circleofprayer@aecst.org) to submit prayer request or if you are interested in leading the Intercessory Prayer, the Prayers for the People, or a Meditation in Song.

The teleconference call number is 605-313-6361:access code is 268105

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### **FROM THE RECTOR:**

There is still time for you to Prayerfully submit your 2021 Faithful Giving Card. You may do so by several methods: mail, drop off in the office, on our website online: ([aecst.org](http://aecst.org) or Facebook)

If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from 10am-1pm Monday-Thursday.

Thanking you in advance for the many ways that you share your Time, Talents and Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

## **To All Guild and Organization Leaders / Presidents:**

Please check your email. The Annual Church Meeting is coming up and a **ONE paragraph** description of you ministries and organizations activities should be submitted to the Parish Office before the deadline of Monday, February 22, 2021. It can be sent to Gladyce DuBrey at 1792@aecst.org

Thank you to all who have submitted their reports already.

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### **Chosen 300**

#### **“Have a Heart for the Homeless / Hungry” Fundraiser**

Our 2021 Fundraiser for Chosen 300 will continue in February, Heart month. In 2021, we will provide meals to be served at the Chosen 300 Spring Garden Street site and at the Lancaster Avenue site. Because of our steadfast support the challenges of COVID -19 did not deter us in 2020.

We continued service at both sites!

Checks for donations should be made payable to:

AECST Chosen 300 - with Chosen 300 on the memo line

Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church, 6361 Lancaster Avenue,  
Phila. PA 19151. Attention: Chosen 300

Use the Givi app, Donate online at [www.aecst.org/donations](http://www.aecst.org/donations)

Questions?: contact [scmci@aol.com](mailto:scmci@aol.com)

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### **Please Be Advised:**

The St. Thomas Thrift Shop is **NOT** taking donations at this time.



## **PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER**

### **Recovering At Home:**

Regina Meacham Devero, Katrina Harris Marshall, Linda Holmes, Waltier Blocker, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Quincina Edmonds, Kenneth Dow, Gail Harris, Verger Stephen Hannum, Suzanne Closson, Carl Dean, Joan Hall, Georgia Sawyer, Adinah Edwards, Bobby Johnson, William Edmonds, Isedora "Gwen" Francis, Tyrone Keller, Joseph Stevenson, William Edmonds, Shirley Winkfield

### **Hospitalized:**

Lisa Woodley, Elder Lemuel Stiles, Shirley Caldwell

### **Rehabilitation Facility:**

Francina Norris

### **Hospice Care:**

Virginia Cooke

### **We Pray For:**

Those who are Incarcerated and their families/loved ones, as well as those affected by their actions.

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## **OUR CONDOLENCES TO:**

Celeste Lowe, James Lowe, Jr, Carmen Brown, Winston Lowe and family on the death of their father, uncle and loved one, **James Lowe, Sr** (99 years old). May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

## **DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS**

### **The First Sunday in Lent**

**February 21st**

First Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17

Psalm 25: 1-9

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1: 9-15

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### **Week of 2/22/2021**

Monday - Mark 1: 1-13

Tuesday - Mark 1: 14-28

Ash Wednesday - Mark 1: 29-45

Thursday - Mark 2: 1-12

Friday - Mark 2: 13-22

Saturday - Mark 2: 23-3:6

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### **Readings For:**

#### **The Second Sunday in Lent**

**February 28th**

First Reading: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22: 22-30

Second Reading: Romans 4: 13-25

The Holy Gospel: Mark 8: 31-38

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## **UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY**

**February 26th**

Special Church School Black History Month Presentation  
at 10:00 A.M.

Annual Parish Meeting (Virtual) at Noon

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## **TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE CLASSES**

with Fr. Jay will resume on

**April 6, 2021 at 7pm.**

Please send your email to:

Fr. Collins at [JayCollins@comcast.net](mailto:JayCollins@comcast.net) or  
267-634-6185 to be added to the list.

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## **THE ALTAR GUILD**

is selling 2021 Liturgical Calendars for \$6.00 each.

You may purchase and arrange for pick up by calling  
Clara Mae Daniels at 215-327-6168 or Freda Brockman at  
609-841-4799 (after 3pm)

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## **LENTEN JOURNEY WITH THE RECTOR**

The Rector invites you to journey with him during this  
Lenten Season

### **“Healthy Living During a Pandemic”**

Increase your daily Scripture Reading

Increase your daily Prayer Discipline

Increase your consumption of:

raw vegetables, fresh fruits and water

Increase your daily physical exercise

Increase your daily periods of rest and sleep

Increase your daily expressions of Love

Increase your frequency of wearing a Mask

Increase your frequency of washing hands

Increase your practice of Social Distancing

End your day each night, after 9pm, by joining us in prayer  
and Compline on our Facebook page, Monday - Friday.

## **A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP:**

Our theme for this year's Stewardship - **"Our Doors Are Open"**

2021 St. Thomas Offering Envelopes are now ready for pick up in Anderson Hall. You may pick them up during Parish Office Hours (M-F; 9:00 A. M - 4:00P.M.) by entering through the A.J. House entrance with the ramp.

Please don't forget your mask. If by chance you live in the same neighborhood of a church member who is unable to pick theirs up, perhaps you can pick theirs up and put it in their mail slot or between their doors.

If you have changed your address, home/cell phone number or email address, please send your changed contact information to Judy Tillman at [tillman\\_72@msn.com](mailto:tillman_72@msn.com) or the church email [1792@aecst.org](mailto:1792@aecst.org) so that we can update the church records.

Thank you. "To whom much is given, much is required." Luke 12: 48

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

- 1) Mail in your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator  
6361 Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19151
  
- 2) 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.
  
- 3) Bring your check directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm). After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
  
- 4) Church website <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>  
(Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, Church School, Chosen 300, Easter, etc.)

**NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St. Thomas, when filling out your online giving information.



# **A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING**

**Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of  
(10% of our earnings)**

**Where are you on your spiritual journey?  
Annual Faithful Giving**

<b>Yearly Income</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>
\$10,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$20,000.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$25,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$110,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$120,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$175,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$200,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

The African Episcopal Church  
of  
St. Thomas  
Church School

Calling ALL AECST  
Students K-12, Parents  
and Teachers

JOIN US  
FOR OUR  
VIRTUAL CLASSES  
EVERY  
SUNDAY @ 12:00 NOON

**KNOW JESUS.  
CHANGE THE WORLD!**

Registration required via email  
To RSVP contact Supt. Dottie Archey  
(215) 837-6941 or email at [churchschool@aecst.org](mailto:churchschool@aecst.org)

Interested in becoming a Church School Teacher?  
Contact Dottie Archey to learn more.

The Very Reverend Canon Fr. Martini Shaw, Rector

"Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old, they will not turn from it"

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)



## **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.

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If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please visit <http://eepurl.com/djyGiD> to subscribe. 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.

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Please join us for service on the St. Thomas Website [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org) or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aecst1792> every Sunday morning at 10am.

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## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt Rev Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Assistant to the Rector		
Associate Priest	The Rev Fr Gerald Collins	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Thomas G Snowden	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Paul Bach	
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	
	Lisa Steward-New	
	Karen Ragland	
Executive Assistant to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	
Investments Advisor to the Rector	Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq	
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	
Asst Sexton	James Brown	
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	215.875.0609
Chancel Choir Master	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	drjfluellen@gmail.com
Gospel Choir Master	Waltier Blocker	
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	215..474..2815
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	215..450..9312
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	215..643..7223
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	302..502..6375
	Dale Williams	
Social Media Manager	Gregory J Allen, PhD	215..477..2672
Scout Pack 133	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Sound Ministry	Joe Stevenson	
Transportation Ministry	J Reggie Kimble	610..585..8053
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Brenda Johnson Best	
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	215-473-3065

## **THE VESTRY**

Rector's Warden - Richard C. Jones  
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Johanna W. Daye  
Treasurer - Kevin Johnson

Alister Allman	Albert S. Dandridge	Jonathan Muse
Patricia Bantom	Deborah Harrison	Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Ronnie Collins	D. Lynn Joell	Judith Tillman
	Brenda Johnson Best	

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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 taught, lived and spread.

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