

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 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"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 Second Sunday after the Epiphany, and A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 <u>Order of Service</u> 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 AND WARDENS

The date for completing your Faithful Giving pledge for 2022 has been extended to **JANUARY 15, 2023**. If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Jeannette in the Parish Office ASAP.

Thank you for your continued support.

WE WILL BE <u>CLOSED</u> ON







Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Celebration of the
THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES
and
231ST PARISH ANNIVERSARY

The Most Reverend Michael Curry

Presiding Bishop and Primate The Episcopal Church ~Preacher~

The Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez

Bishop - Diocese of Pennsylvania ~Celebrant~

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector

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UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN JANUARY / FEBRUARY Sunday, January 15th



Our Annual Celebration of the Life and Ministry of THE REV. DR. MARTIN L. KING, JR
Preacher, The Rev. Canon Betsy Smith Ivey
Canon for Growth and Support
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Sunday, January 22nd Youth / Young Adult Sunday Girls Friendly Induction

Sunday, Jan. 29th Health Ministry Sunday

Sunday, February 5th
Visit by Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church,
THE MOST REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY and
The Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez

Sunday, February 12th Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 19th Mardi Gras Mass

Wednesday, February 22nd Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 26th Scout Sunday **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.

AECST LIVE STREAM

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

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.**Click here to watch the Livestream feed.



The UBE is still collecting new or gently used suitcases, duffel bags, and backpacks to be used for the children in the Philadelphia Foster Care System. They will be collected each Sunday morning from 9:15 AM until 9:45 AM in the back entrance of the Thrift Store.

Contact persons: Conchetta Brewer 267.975.7283, or Wendella Fox 215.880.4936.

We welcome **Julio Rodriguez**, who joined our church family, last Sunday. We look forward to getting to know them. His shepherd will be Jonathan Muse.



A CALL TO LEADERSHIP

Share your leadership ability.

Nominations for Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry Positions, Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery, and Delegates and an alternate delegate to the 2023 Diocesan convention will be accepted until **January 15, 2023**. Nominee's bios will be posted in the bulletin on January 22, 2023. Nominees should be available for the Vestry Meetings on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month. They must also:

- 1. Be at least 18 years of age.
- 2. Have been a member of St. Thomas a minimum of nine (9) months prior to their nomination and
- 3. Completed their 2022 pledge in full by January 15, 2023

ATTENTION ALL GUILDS, MINISTRIES, AND ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS:

The Parish Annual Meeting, **Sunday, Feb 18, 2023**, following **10:00 AM** Service. End-of-Year Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting must be submitted no later than **January 25, 2023.**

Your 2022 reports should be **I(One) page** and include: Your vision, 2023 activities, and 2023 Planned activities and any other information you would like to share. Please send to Gladyce at <u>1792@aecst.org</u>. The deadline for reports is Wednesday, **January 25, 2023**.

Officers, 2023

Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry, Schuylkill Deanery and Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Share your leadership ability.

Nominations for Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry Members, 2023-2026; Schuylkill Deanery Representatives and Diocesan Convention Delegates, 2023, will be accepted December 11, 2022 through January 15, 2023. A nomination form is in the bulletin today. Nominees' bios will be in the bulletin on January 22, 2023.

Qualifications:

- Nominees must be 18 years of age.
- They must be a member of St. Thomas a minimum of nine (9) months prior to their nomination.
- Their 2022 pledge must be paid in full by December 31,2022.
- They must be available for Vestry meetings on the third Thursday evening of each month, January through June and September through December.
- They are required to serve on a Vestry Committee/Ministry.

Please forward nominations and questions to members of the nomination committee: Nominee forms may also be emailed to: Pat Lynch ptl318@aol.com

Chair: Pat Lynch Members: Ronnie Collins, Cynthia Muse, Bobby Tillman

With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

Psalm 78:72

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.

CANDIDATE PROFILE FOR CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS AECST

Please complete this profile and return it to the church office, or to any member of the Nominating Committee by Sunday, January 15, 2023. Candidates' names and profiles will be in the bulletin by January 22, 2023 to be reviewed prior to their election at the February Annual Meeting. Please print or type all information.

Name:		
Address	_	
CityState	_Zip	
Phone #Email		
Seeking nomination for (check one):		
Vestry Auxiliary Vestry		
Delegate to the:		
Schuylkill Deanery Diocesan Convention		
Current or pre-retirement occupation:		
Describe your involvement in church, guilds, or organization	ons:	
		_
		_
		_
		_
In the space provided below, please provide your vision for You may also describe any of your work or special skills the discuss what you see as the most pressing issue(s) facing S the solution(s):	hat you think will benefi	t the parish, and/or

Nominating Committee Chair: Pat Lynch email: pti318@aol.com Members: Ronnie Collins, Cynthia Muse, Bobby Tillman We congratulate **Dale Williams** and **Shaleen Manning** on their marriage on December 26, 2023. Fr. Shaw blessed their union last Sunday.



ALTAR FLOWERS (Please Print All Names)

Flowers on the Columbarium are given in Loving Memory of **Elizabeth Anderson Monterio**, given by Constance Anderson.

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to **Clare Mae Daniels** or **Alfreda Brockman** (Please do not place in the collection plate or give to the church office. Thank you)

I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - @60.00.
$_$ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - @ 50.00 $_$ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - @ 40.00
A) In memory of
B) In Thanksgiving for
Given by
Envelope #Amount \$
Memorial

OUR CONDOLENCES

to Sheryl Johnson and family, on the death of her father **A. Benjamin Johnson, Jr.** His services will be held here at St. Thomas on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 9:45 AM. May the soul of A. Benjamin rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

(Dervices)

to the family of **Charles Fleming**, former Sexton of St. Thomas Church. His service will be on January 20, 2023 at Wood Funeral Home, 5537 W Girard Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131, at 11:00 AM. Please pray for the family.

PICTURES FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY JANUARY 8, 2023









IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain MANDATORY while at St. Thomas until further notice.

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 <u>Howard Chapman</u> for more information.

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.

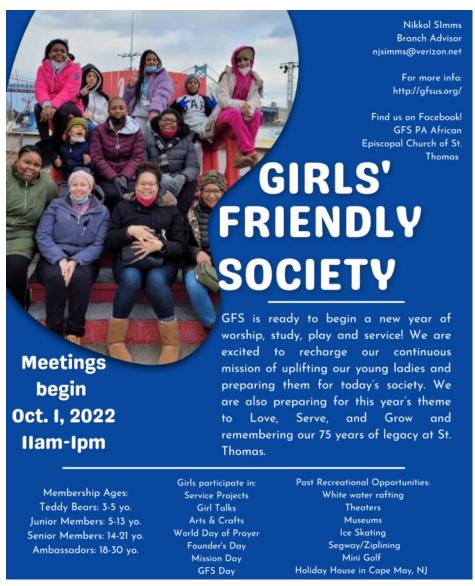
For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the CDC or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens).

Go on their website to schedule an appointment.



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 to 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



Please help support our St. Thomas GFS Branch with a love donation. Donations will go to helping them go on their Founders Day trip to Washington D.C. in March and World Council in South Africa August 3-11, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Nikkol Simms.

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 <u>Bill Edmonds</u> or <u>Dale Williams</u>.

Readings for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 15, 2023

The First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of January 16, 2023

Monday - <u>Mark 3:7-19a</u>

Tuesday - <u>Mark 3:19b-35</u>

Wednesday - Mark 4:1-20

Thursday - <u>Mark 4:21-34</u>

Friday - <u>Mark 4:35-41</u>

Saturday - Mark 5:1-20

Readings for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 22, 2023

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1,5-13

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of January 23, 2023

Monday - Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday - Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday - Mark 6:13-29

Thursday - Mark 6:30-46

Friday - Mark 6:47-56

Saturday - Mark 7:1-23

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 <u>Deborah Harrison</u> or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

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.

SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the <u>Newsletter</u> sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can <u>UNsubscribe</u> at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

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

Bible Study will resume on January 10th at 7:00 PM.

If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible study group, contact Fr. Jay via email at associatepriest@ aecst.org to be included on our membership list. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare - in advance - for the week's meeting.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Ronald Coleman - Lankenau

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriquez, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, Dr. Walter Bantom, William Smalls, Leatrice Snowden. Joan Hall, Shirley Winkfield. Linda Holmes, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Pearl Henderson.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart"Butch" Farmer, Karen Ragland, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut. Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart.

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 <u>Click></u> or send an email to our <u>Fiscal Administrator</u>. Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop
Rector
Assistant to the Rector
Associate Priest
Associate Minister
Associate Minister

Executive Asst to the Rector Fiscal Administrator Sexton Asst Sexton Chancel Choirmaster Gospel Choirmaster Rector's General Counsel Baptism Co-Chairs

Church School Superintendent Ed Muse Photography Ministry Fiscal Assistant to the Rector Girls Friendly Society Jazz Ensemble Director Live Stream Ministry

Memorial Flowers

Parish Vergers

Parish Webmaster
Property Chair
Special Advisor to the Rector
Scout Pack 133

Transportation Ministry
Videography Ministry
William Burke Ushers Ministry

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
The Rev. Dr. Thomas G Snowden
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach

Gladyce DuBrey
Jeannette Jeffrey
LaDon Elliott
Ronald Jones
Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.
Waltier Blocker
Joe Tucker, Esq
Gail H Harris
Patricia Walker-Ellison

Dottie Archey
William Edmonds
Deborah Camp - Frye
Nikkol Simms
Joe Stevenson

Terri Tillman
Alfreda Brockman
Clare Mae Daniels
Stephen Hannum
Karen Ragland
Lisa Steward-New
Gail H Harris

Yaseen Faroog

Deborah Harrison Richard Jones Howard Chapman Arlene Gray

J. Reggie Kimble
Que ntin Heyward
Arlene Singletary

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r724jones1@gmail.com
howchapman@gmail.com
bsapack0133@gmail.com
tkglimo@aol.com
recordedvideo@aecst.org
leaniepo@verizon.net

THE VESTRY

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

Patricia Bantom
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.