TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING... PROVERBS 3:5



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT LENTEN THEME: "EMERGING FROM THE WILDERNESS WITH JESUS" MARCH 13 , 2022 10:00 AM



AECST FOUNDED 1792

# If you are physically unable to attend, please join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages.

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



#### **"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 Second Sunday in Lent. Lenten theme: "Emerging from the Wilderness with Jesus." Our speaker for "A Young Voice from the Pews" series is our own, **Ms. Jennie Patterson.** 

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. Whoever 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. Again, welcome! May Jesus reveal himself to you during the Season of Epiphany.

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

# LENTEN GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Why we don't say Alleluia during Lent: The Alleluia comes to us from Hebrew, and it means "praise Yahweh". This praise has a joyful overtone to it and we use it, especially during happy celebrations. While we do praise God all year round, during Lent we withhold a bit of our joy and happiness because of the season's penitential and sorrowful character. After all, we are anticipating Jesus' very passion and death.

In order to emphasize the penitential nature of that journey, the Church, during Lent, removes the Alleluia from the Mass. We no longer sing with the choirs of angels; instead, we acknowledge our sins and practice repentance so that one day we may again have the privilege of worshiping God as the angels do.

**Palm Sunday** is the Sunday before Easter. It commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and in many Christian churches, Palm Sunday is marked by the distribution of Palm leaves.

**Maundy Thursday** is the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the apostles, The significance is derived from Latin mandatum (a new commandment I give unto you, that you love on another as I have loved you), the statement Jesus made in John 13:34 by which He explained to the apostles the significance of His action of washing their feet. **Good Friday** ("good" meaning pious or holy) is the Friday of Holy Week, observed primarily by Christians commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His death at Calvary.

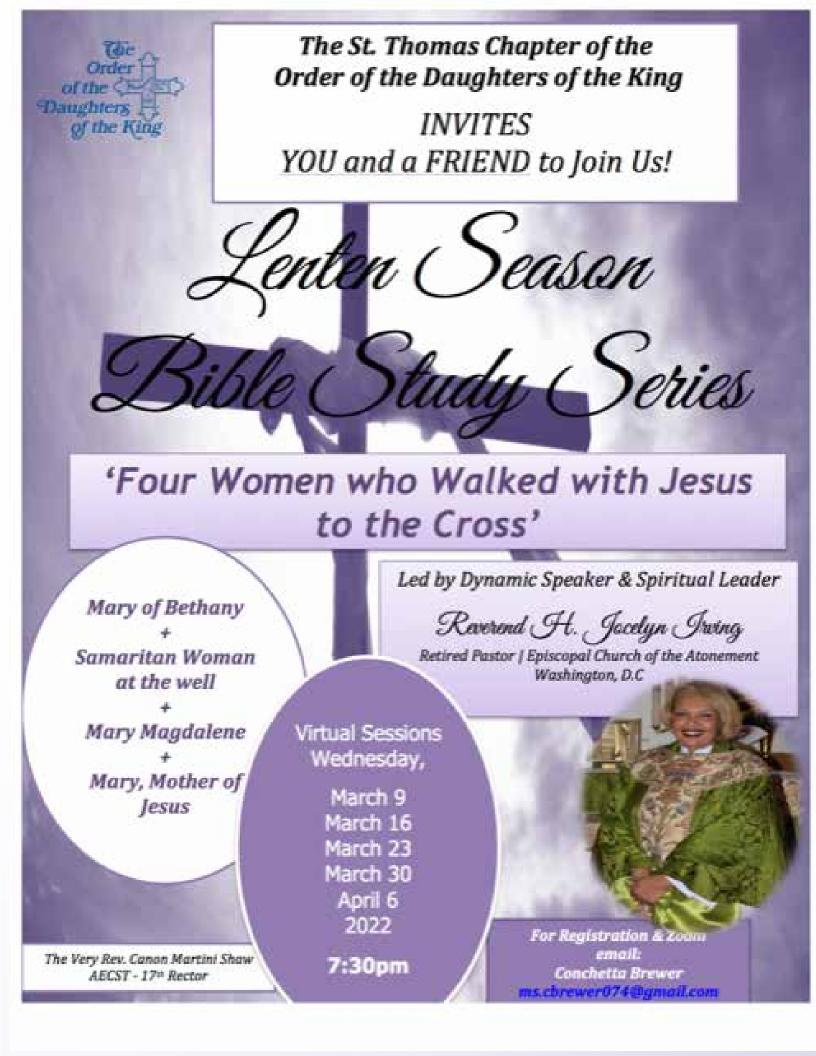
**Holy Saturday** is the day before Easter and the day of Holy Week in which Christians prepare for Easter. It commemorates the day that Jesus Christ's body was laid in the tomb.

**Triduum** (TRID-uh-wum) is the period of three days that begins the evening of Maundy Thursday and ends the evening of Easter Sunday. It recalls the passion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

#### **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.



## FROM THE RECTOR

Whoever you may be and where you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that you are always welcome at St. Thomas Church.

## SAINT THOMAS IS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE

Masks are **MANDATORY** for all in attendance. Hand sanitizer is 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.



Come to receive laying of hand and anointing of oil for a physical, mental, and spiritual healing.

March 9th , March 16th , March 23rd, March 30th and April 6th. ( A Special Concert will follow on March 23rd.)

#### 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 **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.



## "A YOUNG VOICE FROM THE PEWS"

Our speaker Sunday is **Ms. Jennie Patterson**. She is currently living and working in Washington, D.C. She serves as National Programs Manager at the National Black Child Development Institute, a non-profit dedicated to improving and advancing the quality of life for Black children and families through education

and advocacy. She recently received her Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University last May 2021.

## WONDERFUL NEWS!

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, St.Thomas will be honored at the 2022 Scholarship Benefit for St. James School. The theme of the event is "On the Horizon". It will be held at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. St. Thomas will also be joined by another honoree, Dr. Ala Stanford, founder of the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium. More information will follow.

Please click on the link provided for the Order of Service for this Sunday.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE ELECTED TO

**Vestry:** Deadra Cannon, Wendella Fox, Deborah Harrison, D. Lynn Joell, Pamela Johnson, and Judith Tillman

Auxiliary Vestry: Patricia Lynch

**Delegates to Diocesan Convention:** Albert Dandridge, Esq and Dr. Cassandra Ruffin

**Delegates to Schuylkill Deanery**: Phyllis Cater and Johanna Daye

Elected Officers of the Vestry: Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson Treasurer - Albert Dandridge, Esq Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels

Appointments made by the Rector: Rector's Warden - Deadra Cannon Property Chair - Deborah Harrison Stewardship Chair - Judith Tillman Rector's General Counsel - Joe Tucker, Esq. Special Advisor to the Rector - Richard Jones Fiscal Advisor to the Rector - Deborah Camp-Frye

Enormous thanks for years of outstanding and dedicated service to the following individuals whose terms ended: Richard Jones, Vestry, Rector's Warden Deborah Camp-Frye, Vestry, Accounting Warden Johanna Daye, Vestry, Clerk Linda Holmes, Auxiliary Vestry Cynthia Muse, Auxiliary Vestry Bernadette Wyche, Auxiliary Vestry



#### YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED

Since we are back to In-Person Service, we are in need of Readers and Intercessors, Youth and Adult. If you are interested in helping spread the Word of God through a reading, Psalm, or Intercessory prayers, please contact Gladyce in the parish office. Thank you

**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.

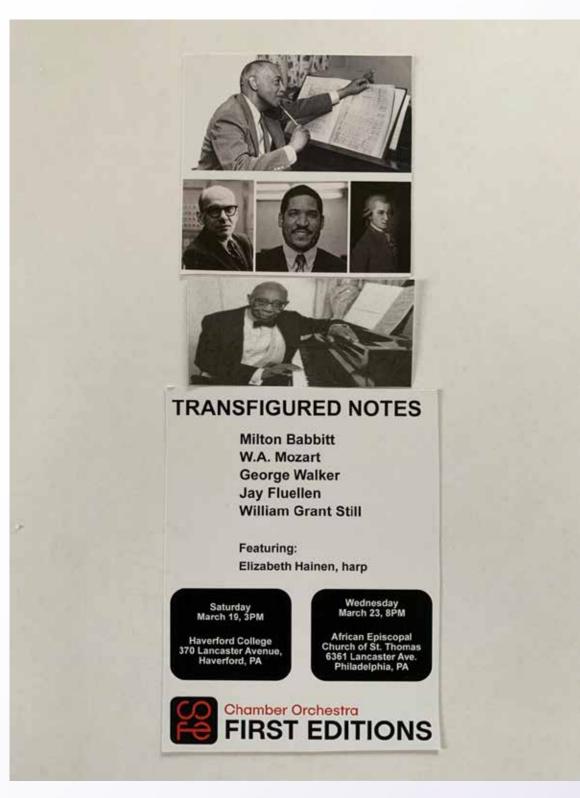


#### ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

St. Thomas Annual Women's Day will be held in person, on Sunday, May 22, 2022. We invite you to join the Women's Day Committee in celebration of our annual Women's Day. Planning will take place via zoom, starting Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m. Join us with your thoughts and ideas for an amazing Women's Day event. Interested women contact: **Deborah Matthews** or **Yvonne Caldwell-White** to receive the link for planning. We look forward to hearing from you by Wednesday, **March 16, 2022**.

#### **ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!**

Over 200 Scholarships are available through the Philadelphia Foundation. Philadelphia Foundation's 2022 Scholarship. Application process is now open! The window to apply for more than 200 available post-secondary education scholarships offered through the Philadelphia Foundation is open now through **May 9, 2022**. Click <u>here</u> for the website.



#### CONGRATULATIONS

to our own Dr. Jay Fluellen,

who was awarded a grant from the 2022 Black City Music Awards. He will be working on a new creative project: Symphony for McCoy Tyner for Musicopia String Orchestra. Your church family is so proud of you!



# 2021 MISS CARIBBEAN US

#### **CONGRATULATIONS** to our own **Tynecia Taylor Wilson** She has been chosen to compete in the Miss Philadelphia Pageant on March 26, 2022

Miss Philadelphia is the first level in the Miss America System. Keep reaching for the stars. Your St. Thomas family is very proud of you.

For more information go to the website.

#### A Message from the St. Thomas Chapter of THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

"Our long-term commitment to racial justice and reconciliation is embedded in our identity as baptized followers of Jesus. We will still be doing it when the news cameras are long gone." Excerpt from a word to the Church from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, May 30, 2020.

In keeping with Presiding Bishop Curry's sentiments, the St. Thomas Chapter formed the Anti-Racism Initiative Committee (ARIC) in September of 2020 to actively pursue the goal of promoting racial justice, reconciliation, and healing, consistent with our Baptismal Covenant and the Motto of our Order. In connection with this effort, ARIC has delivered brief educational programs to the chapter about the language of and best practices for advancing antiracism efforts. The group also created some supporting documents, including a <u>Prayer for Racial Equity and</u> <u>Healing</u>, a <u>Glossary of Anti-Racist/Bias Terms</u>, and a list of <u>Suggested Resources that Support Anti-Racism Efforts</u>.

This month, as we continue to honor Black History, we encourage you to review them at your leisure.

For more information about this effort, feel free to contact ARIC's chairperson, <u>Karen Jackson Vaughn</u>

#### DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: The Second Sunday in Lent March 13th First Reading: <u>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</u> <u>Psalm 27</u> Second Reading: <u>Philippians 3:17-4:1</u> The Holy Gospel: <u>Luke 13:31-35</u>

Week of 3/14/2022

Monday - <u>Luke 6:27–38</u> Tuesday - <u>Matthew 23:1–12</u> Wednesday - <u>Matthew 20:17–28</u> Thursday - <u>Luke 16:19–31</u> Friday - <u>Matthew 21:33–43</u> Saturday - <u>Luke 2:41-52</u>

Readings for The Third Sunday in Lent March 20th

First Reading: <u>Exodus 3:1-15</u> <u>Psalm 63:1-8</u> Second Reading: <u>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</u> The Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Readings for The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 27th

Rose Sunday First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 The Holy Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32 Readings for The Fifth Sunday in Lent April 3rd First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14 The Holy Gospel: John 12:1-8

## March 27, 2022 YOUTH SUNDAY

Fourth Sundays of each month (except for July and August) are designated **YOUTH SUNDAY** at ST. THOMAS; The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the calling of a new Rector's Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries;

The Rector has appointed Vestry Member, Wendella Fox, to serve as the Vestry Liaison for Youth Ministries.



#### **AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY**

Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume via Zoom at 7:00PM. If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible study group, contact Fr. Jay via email: <u>associatepriest@aecst.org</u> to be included on our membership list serve. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare – in advance for the week's meeting.



## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Flowers are not placed on the Altar during Lent (except for Rose Sunday / Laetare Sunday, March 27, 2022). Please place your order for Easter Flowers now.

Your gift of Easter Lilies and Altar arrangements will help beautify the church for the Easter Holiday or be a beautiful tribute to someone you love, a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. 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

#### Easter Flowers and Lilies Deadline: Monday, April 4, 2022

- \_\_ flowers on the High Altar \$125.00
- \_\_ flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar \$90.00
- \_\_ flowers on the Columbarium- \$55.00
- \_\_\_An Easter Lily @\$25.00 each (5 names per plant)

Please PRINT In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_, In Thanksgiving for\_\_\_\_\_,

Name \_\_\_\_\_, Envelop#\_\_\_\_\_, Amount\_\_\_\_\_.

-----

# THE ST. THOMAS ALTAR GUILD

is selling Liturgical Calendars. They are \$7.00 and can be purchased from Alfreda Brockman or Clare Mae Daniels.

#### 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' recent 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).

\_\_\_\_\_

# VIRTUAL CHURCH SCHOOL

Church school will meet by ZOOM on Sundays at noon. All parents and church school aged children are encouraged to attend. If you need more information please contact Dottie Archey at: 215-474-2815 or you can send an email to **Dottie Archey** for more information.

# 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

# NEW MEMBERS/ CONFIRMATION CLASS

Attention All New Members Adults and Youth: Have you been confirmed yet? The bishop will be making his Visitation to St. Thomas on Sunday, May 1st, 2022. Classes will begin Monday, February 14th at 7:00PM. They will be Zoom classes facilitated by Fr. Shaw and Fr. Jay. There are eight(8) meetings before the Bishop's visit. We are in the process of forming a New Member / Confirmation Class of 2022. Please contact Gladyce DuBrey in the Parish Office to add your name.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL: Rosalind Rodriguez - U Penn

#### **RECOVERING AT HOME**

Inez Turner, Edita Gauthney, Dorothy Smith, Kenneth Dow, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Gwenda Hart, Susan Ben, Justin Trotman.

#### PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Shirley Caldwell, Adinah Edwards, Shirley Winkfield, Robert Brown, Stephanie Williamson, Linda Holmes, Ridart "Butch"Farmer, Georgia Sawyer, Joan Hall, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Francina Norris, Leatrice Snowden, Leotta Griffith, Karen Ragland, Isadora "Gwen" Francis, Brandon Barksdale, Joseph Stevenson.

#### CONDOLENCES

to the family of **Camilla Janey** on her death. Her service will be here at St.Thomas on Tuesday, March 15th; Visitation at 9:00AM, Requiem Mass at 11:00AM. Please pray for the family. May Camilla rest in peace and rise in glory.

-----

#### 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**

#### FROM THE RECTOR

You should have received your Third Quarter Statement of the Stewardship year. I am urging everyone to please assure that your 2021 Pledge is current. If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from **9:30 AM-2:00 PM 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.

I ask that you, using the chart below to assist you, prayerfully fill out your 2022 Faithful Giving Card. Please place it in the offering plate, postal mail, or electronically use our Faithful Giving. <u>Pledge Form</u> on our website.

Again, thanks so much for your continued support to the ministries of our amazing parish.

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

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

#### **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**.

#### 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

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
\$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

## THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are now ready for you to pick up in Anderson Hall. If you're unable to pick them up on Sundays after church you may do so Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you have a parishioner who lives near you who can't get to church, perhaps you can pick theirs up as well.

You can now complete your pledge card by mail or on our website.

If you have decided to use the Givi App or Online Giving Donations, please email me at <u>stewardship@aecst.org</u> with your name and envelope number.

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.

Thank you very much. Judy Tillman, Stewardship Committee

#### 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.
- 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 still be sent for 2022. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically through the <u>www.aecst.org</u> website or send an email to our <u>Fiscal Administrator</u>. Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

Bishop Rector Assistant to the Rector Associate Priest Associate Minister Associate Minister Executive Asst to the Rector Fiscal Administrator Sexton Asst Sextons 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** 

Investments Advisor to the Rector Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esg **IJazz 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

#### **MINISTRY STAFF**

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 The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins **Dottie Archev** William Edmonds **Dale Williams** Deborah Camp - Frye Nikkol Simms Carlia Miller Joe Stevenson Yaseen Faroog Terri Tillman Alfreda Brockman **Clare Mae Daniels** Stephen Hannum Karen Ragland Lisa Steward-New Gail H Harris Deborah Harrison **Richard Jones** Howard Chapman Arlene Gray J. Reggie Kimble Arlene Singletary

rector@aecst.org

associatepriest@aecst.org dravidian@comcast.net pauljaybach@gmail.com 1792@aecst.org fiscal@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org 1792aecstorg chancelchoir@aecst.org gospelchoir@aecst.org jtucker@tlgattorneys.com thegail@hotmail.com p.walker.ellison@gmail.com associatepriest@aecst.org churchschool@aecst.org edmon57@comcast.net thebeamermator@gmail.com

njsimms@verizon.net trublu265@aim.com aldandridge@schnader.com jobopss@aol.com yifarooq@gmail.com teritill@vahoo.com fredabee@verizon.net happycmd05@aol.com 1792@aecst.org Kdrags415@gmail.com ljs210@msn.com webmanager@aecst.org dneharrison04@gmail.com

howchapman@gmail.com bsapack0133@gmail.com tkglimo@aol.com Que ntin Heyward IntervertedLensVideographyLLC@gmail.com leaniepo@verizon.net

#### THE VESTRY

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