



**AECST  
FOUNDED 1792**

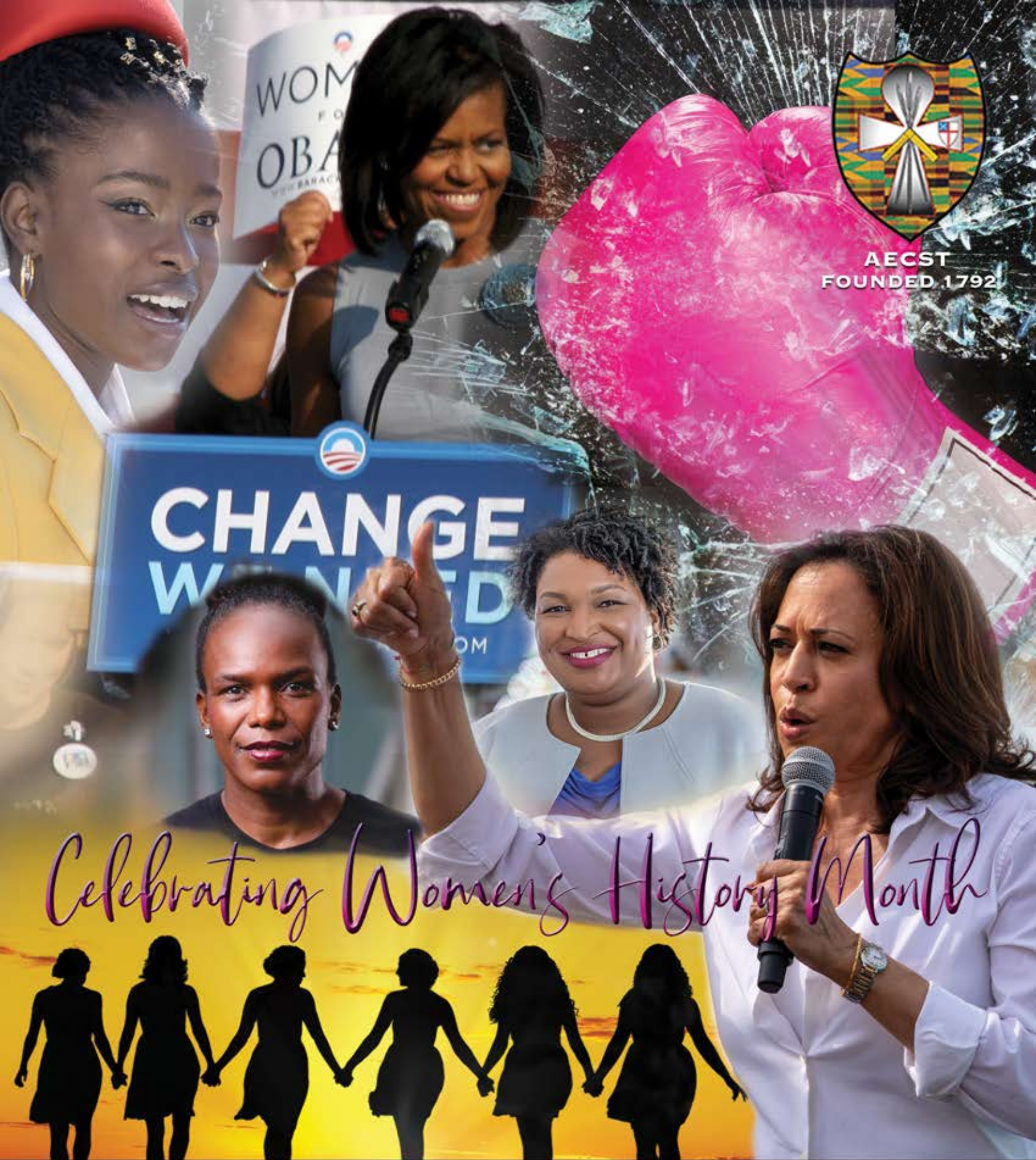
**Welcome to**

# *Rose Sunday*

**... a time of Joy,  
amid a period of  
Penance & Prayer**

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



AECST  
FOUNDED 1792

*Celebrating Women's History Month*

**If you are physically unable to attend,  
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# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

## March 19, 2023

### “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 Fourth Sunday in Lent, Rose Sunday / Laetare Sunday..**

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.

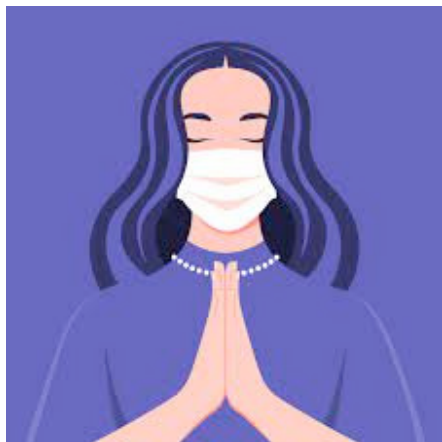
Faithfully,  
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw,  
17th Rector and Dean  
of the Schuylkill Deanery

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Please click on the link provided  
or the [Order of Service](#) for this Sunday.

**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS**

for Arlene Gray (children: Melissa and Adrian) and her family on the death of her husband, **Anthony Gray**. May the soul of Anthony rest in peace and rise in glory.

for Deidre Patterson and her family on the death of her uncle **Samuel Lyons**. May the soul of Samuel rest in peace and rise in glory.

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**THANK YOU** to my church family for the many cards, calls, and words of encouragement to my family and me, during my time of bereavement. Karen Leys and Family



**PLEASE JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY DURING LENT  
2023 Lenten Series**

**“The Ten Commandments, Re-Imagined”**

**6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.** - Holy Eucharist / Presentation / Discussion.

**March 1** - Introduction to the Ten Commandments, Re-Imagined.

**March 8** - You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not steal.

**March 15** - You shall not commit adultery. You shall not commit murder. Honor your father and your mother.

**March 22** - Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**March 29** - You shall not make for yourself any idol. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

## **LENTEN GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Why we don't say Alleluia during Lent:** 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 one 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.



## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE - 2023**

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY / April 2nd / 9:30 AM.**  
Blessing of the Palms / Outdoor Procession / Students from St. James School will worship with us.

**HOLY WEDNESDAY: April 5th / 6:00 PM.**

A Special Virtual Holy Week Presentation: "Stations of the Cross".

**HOLY THURSDAY (Maundy Thursday) April 6th / 6:00 PM.**  
Maundy Thursday Dinner.

Hosted by the AECST Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry

The Service of Foot Washing, the Holy Eucharist, and Stripping of the Altar will follow the Dinner at **7:00 PM.**

Dinner Tickets will go on sale **March 12, 2023: \$15.00/person.**

**All Night Vigil** sponsored by the DOK (please sign up to pray for an hour).

**GOOD FRIDAY: April 7th / Special Liturgy / Noon**

**HOLY SATURDAY / EASTER VIGIL** at the Cathedral / April 8th / 6:00 PM.

Join others from our Schuylkill Deanery in celebration.

**EASTER SUNDAY: April 9th / A Festive Celebration / 10:00 AM.**

**Rose or Laetare Sunday** is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent., in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. Traditionally, this Sunday had been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (incipit) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day. “Laetare Jerusalem” (Rejoice, O Jerusalem”) is Latin from Isaiah 66:10

Flowers may appear on the high altar. Priests are given the option to wear rose-colored vestments at Mass help on this day in place of the violet vestments normally worn during Lent. The term “rose” is used to describe this lighter shade of the color violet.

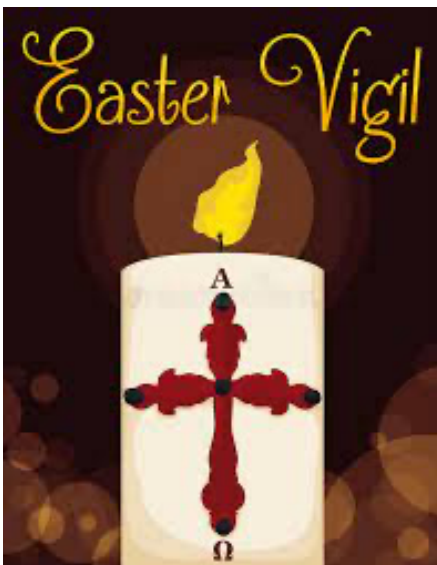
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**YOU ARE INVITED TO:**

**The Way of Love in Lent; Reflection, Quiet, and Prayer**  
sponsored by The Order of the Daughters of the King.  
Saturday, March 18th from 9:00 AM -11:00 AM.

For the virtual link you may [email](#)

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Please join the Schuylkill Deanery at the Philadelphia Cathedral for Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

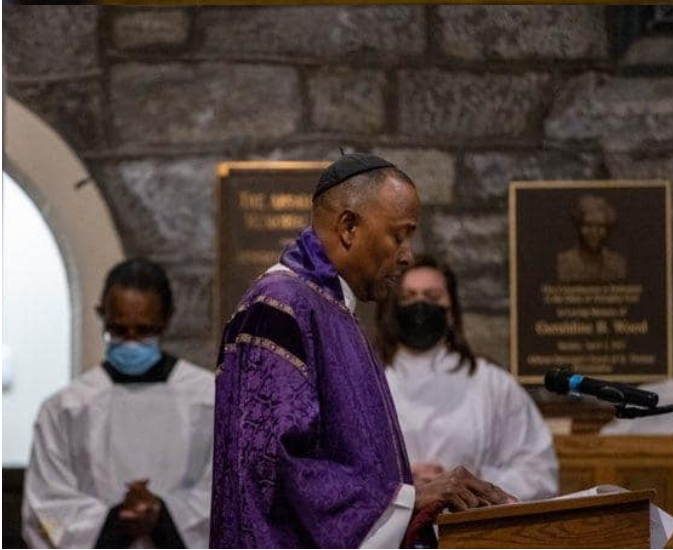


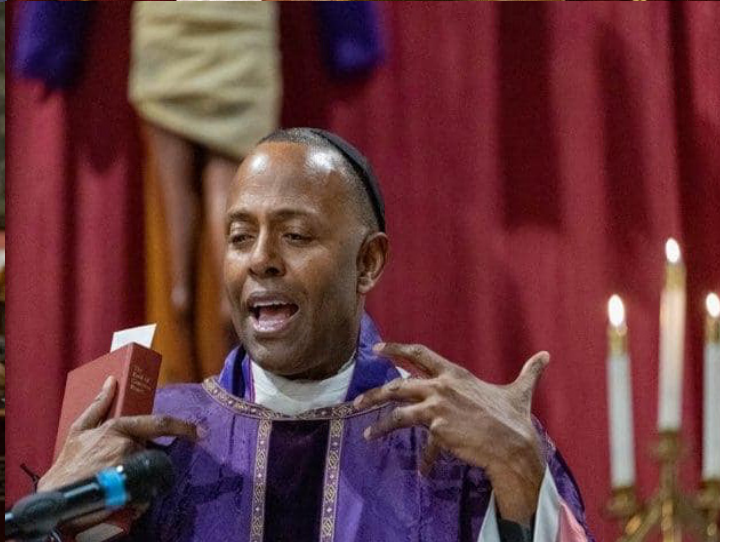
**Pictures from our Wednesday Lenten Series**  
If you havent been to the Wednesday Lenten Series,  
you have 2 more weeks to join us

**The 10 Commandments: Re-Imagined**  
Presented by: **Fr. Shaw, Seminarians Kathryn Brossa**  
**and David King**















## **CALLING ALL WOMEN OF ST. THOMAS!**

As planning begins for our annual **Women's Day** celebration, you are invited to join us on **Thursday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM** to share your ideas, time, and talents to help make this year's celebration another amazing and memorable event.

This year's Women's Day will be held on **Sunday, June 4, 2023.**

The meetings will be held virtually and the zoom link will be provided upon your response. If interested, please respond to [Monica Lewis Jones](#) or [Yvonne Caldwell White](#) no later than **Tuesday, March 21st**. We look forward to your participation! Until then, peace and blessings.

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**The Sisterhood Guild** is currently collecting baby diapers, wipes for pregnant youth and feminine products during the Lenten season. We, as women, understand that sometimes it can be difficult to get these types of supplies and the expense that can come along with that especially if there is homelessness involved. The collection bin will be at the back of the church. Again, thank you in advance for any donations received.

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**NEXT SATURDAY, March 18, 2023:** Dr. Jay Fluellen is hosting ARC Spirituals workshop "Singing the African American Spirituals with Integrity" from **2:00-5:00 PM**, here at St. Thomas. There will be singing led by Dr. Jay, Ruth Naomi Floyd, Carrie Lessene and the Intermezzo Choir. For more information and to register, please follow the [link provided](#).





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023**

“Men Are Cooking: Cuisines Across Continents”. Experience delicious dishes prepared by the men of St. Thomas.

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**The Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 12, 2023**







**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.

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STGC presents its Annual Palm Sunday Concert, Sunday,  
**April 2, 2023 at 3:00 PM.** Free will offering.

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### **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.

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### **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.

## EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are in Thanksgiving for **Inez Turner**, who recently celebrated her 98th birthday; given by the St. Thomas Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King.

Flowers on the High Altar are in Celebration of the 85th Birthday of **Cynthia R Muse** given by Sheila Jenkins Stubbs, Tobias Jenkins, Carl Stubbs, Carl J. Stubbs and Rebecca Stubbs.

Flowers on the High Altar are given in Loving Memory of our Mother, **Thelma Booker** on her 100th Heavenly Birthday, given by her daughters Deborah, Marilyn and Patricia.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of my wife, **Phyllis Johnson**, given by Bobby Johnson.

Flowers are not placed on the Altar during Lent (except for Rose Sunday/ Laetare Sunday, March 19, 2023).

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. **(5 names per plant)** To order flowers, please return the form with payment to: Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman.

Easter Flowers and Lilies: Deadline: Monday, **April 4, 2023**

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$125.
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$90.
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - \$55.
- I would like an Easter Lily @\$25.00 each (5 names per plant).

(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of paper for more names.)

A) In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

B) In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

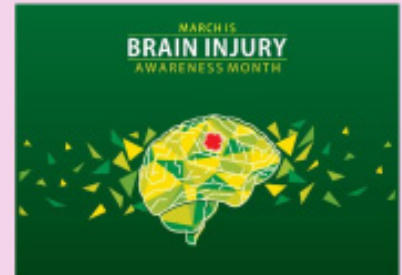
## A ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NOTE

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](https://www.cdc.gov) 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.

### March Health Awareness



## **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.

## **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.

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## **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.

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**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](#).

## 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](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)



Nikkol Simms  
Branch Advisor  
[njsimms@verizon.net](mailto: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



## 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](#).

-**The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023**

The First Lesson: [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

The Second Lesson: [Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [John 9:1-41](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
Week of March 20, 2023**

Monday - [Luke 2:41-52](#)

Tuesday - [John 5:1-18](#)

Wednesday - [John 5:19-29](#)

Thursday - [John 5:30-47](#)

Friday - [John 7:1-2,10,25-30](#)

Saturday - [Luke 1:26-38](#)

**Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 26, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

[Psalm 130](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 8:6-11](#)

The Holy Gospel: [John 11:1-45](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the  
Week of March 27, 2023**

Monday - [John 8:1-11](#)

Tuesday - [John 8:21-30](#)

Wednesday - [John 8:31-42](#)

Thursday - [John 8:51-59](#)

Friday - [John 10:31-42](#)

Saturday - [Luke 18:9-14](#)

## **GUN VIOLENCE WRITING CAMPAIGN**

This [link](#) below is a letter from Bishop Gutierrez sharing the message from the bishops in Pennsylvania to the PA State Legislators regarding Gun Violence.

HELP PROTECT OUR KIDS  
FROM TRAUMA AND  
VIOLENCE

**TAKE  
UP  
YOUR  
PEN!**

**WRITE  
LETTERS TO  
STOP GUN  
VIOLENCE**

From the Schuylkill  
Deanery of the  
Diocese of  
Pennsylvania

[www.schuylkilldeanery.org](http://www.schuylkilldeanery.org)

Don't know who your Representative is? Scan this QR Code and it will take you to the website for more information.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

PA State Representative. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am a resident of your district and am writing to you to request that you work to pass legislation to ban assault weapons in the state of Pennsylvania. To quote the study by Roth and Koper cited below, "Assault weapons are disproportionately involved in murders with **multiple victims, multiple wounds per victim, and police officers as victims.**" To protect Pennsylvanians from mass shootings in which assault weapons are likely to be used, and to protect law enforcement whose body armor does not always protect them from assault weapon fire, please join the other US states including New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, who are passing assault weapon bans.

As a Christian and a member of the Schuylkill Deanery of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, a group of Episcopal churches in West Philadelphia, this issue is a matter of faith for me, of loving my neighbor as myself. West Philly is facing an epidemic of gun violence, and I hope you will work on our behalf to address this important issue.

Assault weapon bans have been proven to be effective. The 1994 Assault Weapons Ban reduced crime and got these military-style weapons off our streets. Since the ban expired, hundreds of people have been killed or injured by these weapons.

- A Justice Department study of the assault weapons ban found that it was responsible for a **6.7% decrease in total gun murders**, holding all other factors equal.
  - Source: Jeffrey A. Roth & Christopher S. Koper, "Impact Evaluation of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994," (March 1997).
- **The use of assault weapons in crime declined by more than two-thirds** by about nine years after 1994 Assault Weapons Ban took effect.
  - Source: Christopher S. Koper, "An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003" (June 2004), University of Pennsylvania, Report to the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.
- The percentage of firearms seized by police in Virginia that had high-capacity magazines dropped significantly during the ban. That figure has doubled since the ban expired.
  - Source: David S. Fallis and James V. Grimaldi, "In Virginia, high-yield clip seizures rise," Washington Post, at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/22/AR2011012204046.html>
- When Maryland imposed a more stringent ban on assault pistols and high-capacity magazines in 1994, it led to a 55% drop in assault pistols recovered by the Baltimore Police Department.
  - Source: Douglas S. Weil & Rebecca C. Knox, Letter to the Editor, The Maryland Ban on the Sale of Assault Pistols and High-Capacity Magazines: Estimating the Impact in Baltimore, 87 Am. J. of Public Health 2, Feb. 1997.
- 37% of police departments reported seeing a noticeable increase in criminals' use of assault weapons since the 1994 federal ban expired.
  - Source: Police Executive Research Forum, Guns and Crime: Breaking New Ground by Focusing on the Local Impact (May 2010)

We are asking for legislation to ban the sale, transfer, manufacture, and importation of:

- All semiautomatic rifles that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: pistol grip; forward grip; folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; barrel shroud; or threaded barrel.

All semiautomatic pistols that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: threaded barrel; second pistol grip; barrel shroud; capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside of the pistol grip; or semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm.

All semiautomatic rifles and handguns with a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.

All semiautomatic shotguns that have a folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; pistol grip; fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 5 rounds; ability to accept a detachable magazine; forward grip; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; or shotgun with a revolving cylinder.

All ammunition feeding devices (magazines, strips, and drums) capable of accepting more than 10 rounds.

Understand that such legislation would not include any weapon that is lawfully possessed at the date of the bill's enactment; any firearm manually operated by a bolt, pump, lever or slide action; assault weapons used by military, law enforcement, and retired law enforcement and antique weapons. The legislation should also protect legitimate hunting and sporting rifles and shotguns.

Legislation should be written to strengthen the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and state bans by:

Moving from a 2-characteristic test to a 1-characteristic test.

- o Making the ban harder to evade by eliminating the easy-to-remove bayonet mounts and flash suppressors from the characteristics test.

Banning dangerous aftermarket modifications and workarounds such as ump or slide fire stocks, so-called "bullet buttons" that allow the rapid replacement of ammunition magazines, and thumbhole stocks, a type of stock that was created as a workaround to avoid prohibitions on pistol grips.

Adding a ban on the importation of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.

Legislation should address the millions of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines currently in existence by requiring a background check on all sales or transfers of a grandfathered assault weapon, prohibiting the sale or transfer of large-capacity ammunition feeding devices lawfully possessed on the date of enactment of the bill, requiring states and localities to use federal Byrne JAG grant funds to conduct a voluntary buy-back program for grandfathered assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition feeding devices, and requiring that assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition feeding devices manufactured after the date of the bill's enactment be engraved with a unique serial number and date of manufacture of the weapon.

Because school children are being traumatized by the threat of gun violence in their schools. Please sponsor legislation to ban assault weapons in our state and help West Phila. become a safer, flourishing community.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## **ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH**

The Rector will soon announce the appointment of the new Associate Rector for Parish Life and Youth Ministries.

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Fr. Jay is in Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, 414 Paoli Pike, Malvern, PA. He can be reached by phone at **484-596-5400** and is accepting visitors.

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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](mailto: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 PM.

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

**IN THE HOSPITAL:** Nia Mathurin; Tyrone Keller - HUP;  
John Maxwell - Lankenau.

### **IN REHAB:**

Ronald Coleman - Promedica Rehab, Exton, PA.  
Nora Corbin- Little Flower Rehab; Linda Holmes; Fr. Jay Collins  
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, 414 Paoli Pike, Malvern, PA.

### **RECOVERING AT HOME:**

Rosalind Rodriguez, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates,  
Dr. Walter Bantom, William Smalls, Leatrice Snowden.  
Pearl Henderson, Wendell Whitlock.

### **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,  
Joan Hall, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden,  
Lemont Johnson.

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### **WE PRAY FOR**

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

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### **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

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## 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](#).

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## **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

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
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Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
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	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
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Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo@verizon.net

## **THE VESTRY**

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones  
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels  
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Brenda Johnson Best  
Judith Simkins Booth  
William Burke  
Deadra Cannon  
Wendella Fox, Esq.  
Marie Golson  
Deborah Harrison  
D. Lynn Joell  
Kelvin Johnson  
Jonathan Muse  
Judith Tillman

## **THE AUXILIARY VESTRY**

Conchetta Brewer  
Ronnie Collins  
Eugene Golson  
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor  
Pamela Johnson  
Patricia Lynch  
Cynthia Muse  
Darryle "Bobby" Tillman

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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 re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.