



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Remembering and Celebrating

The Life and Ministry
of

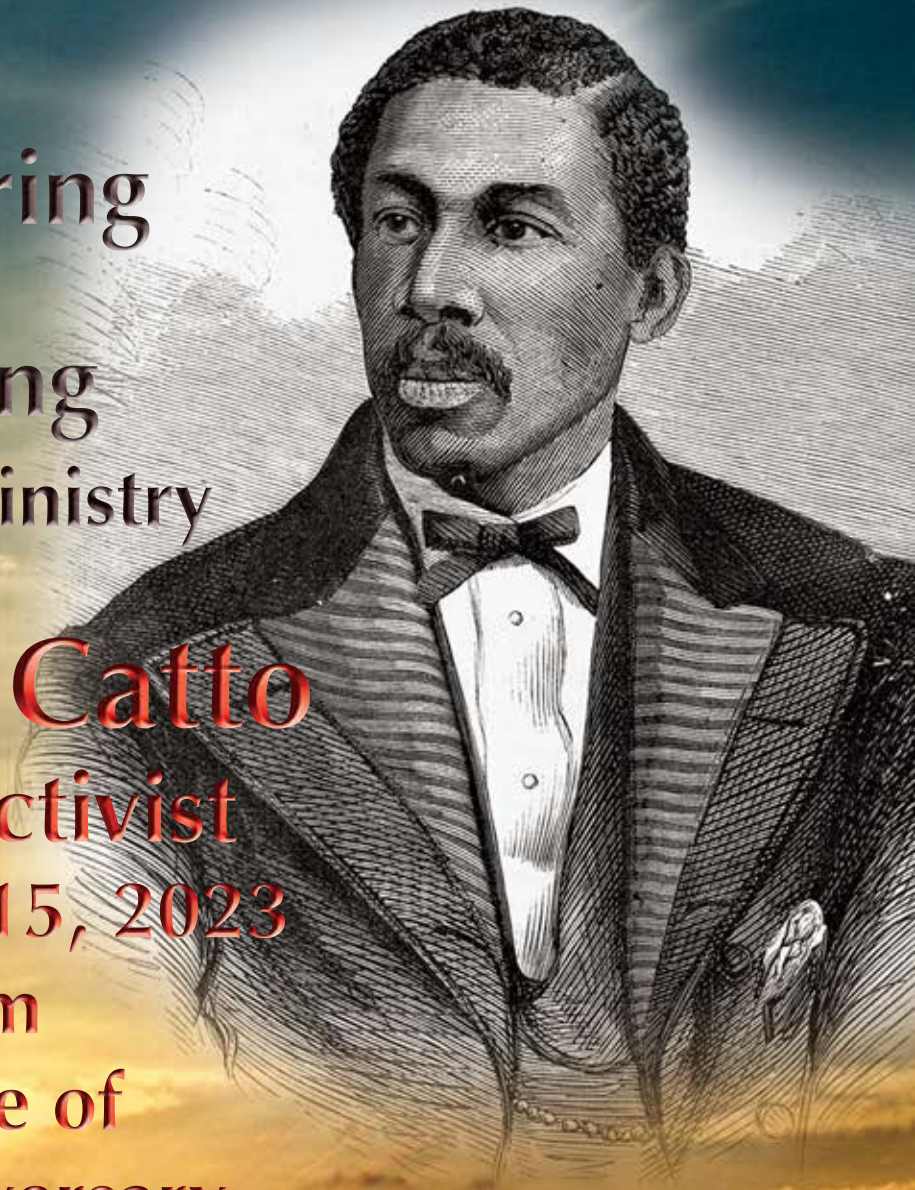
Octavius V. Catto

Civil Rights Activist

Sunday, October 15, 2023

at 10:00 am

In observance of
the 152nd Anniversary
of his Assassination



ST. THOMAS

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR

THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Celebrating the Life of Octavius V. Catto
October 15, 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 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of
the Life of Octavius V. Catto.**

We welcome our guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Malcolm T. Byrd. We also welcome the Mayor of Philadelphia, the Honorable Jim Kenney and other City and State officials worshipping with us today.

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

A PASTORAL NOTE FROM THE RECTOR
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
October 11, 2023



Greetings,

Grace and Peace to you.

Last Sunday morning during worship, there were statements expressed by a guest which some in attendance and watching on livestream found “hurtful, disrespectful, judgmental, accusatory, degrading, presumptuous, discriminating, and outrageous”.

Let me be perfectly clear regarding who we are as a church. The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas is an open, diverse, loving, forgiving, all-embracing Christ-centered community of faith where the gospel is taught, lived, and spread. It is a place where ALL of God’s children are loved and welcomed, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation/identity, social status, or present state of spiritual journey.

If you were offended in any way by words expressed, please accept my apology on behalf of this community of faith.

Again, in this place, ALL are loved, welcomed, and invited to join us as we each strive to become more Christ-like.

May God’s grace and mercy bless and keep you.



We welcome our guest preacher,
The Rev. Dr. Malcolm T. Byrd.
Please use the [link](#) to view his Biography.



Celebrating the Life of Octavius V. Catto

OCTAVIUS VALENTINE CATTO (1839-1871) was a celebrated student at the Institute of Colored Youth (ICY) Philadelphia's premier high school for African-American youth, now Cheyney University. He returned to his alma mater as a teacher and an administrator. Catto led a contingent of ICY students to Gettysburg to fight Confederate General Robert E. Lee but black men were not allowed to enlist, When President Abraham Lincoln authorized the recruitment of black Union soldiers, Major Catto helped lead the effort. A talented athlete he played shortstop and served as Captain of the all-black Pythian Base Ball Club. By 1869, Catto was a St. Thomas Vestryman and served on the parish finance committee. He was active in the Banneker Literary Institute and broke the color bar becoming the first black member of the Franklin Institute. A leader of the National Equal Rights League, Catto spearheaded the effort to desegregate streetcars and win the vote for black men. He was assassinated on Election Day, October 10, 1871. Octavius V. Catto was remembered as a "Martyr to the cause of Constitutional Liberty."

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

Join us on **Sunday, October 29th** at **10:00 AM** for Judicial Sunday. Our guest speaker will be **The Honorable John M. Younge**, speaker, U.S. District Judge.



Beginning **November 1st**, any Group, Guild, Ministry or Fellowship wishing to have a flyer placed in the bulletin will have to provide the copies to the office no later than Wednesday for insertion in the Sunday bulletin.

MEMBER INFORMATION FORMS

In an effort to get correct member information, we are asking **EVERY** parishioner to fill out a Member form. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Please fill out the [form](#) and return it to the [church office email](#). Please fill out 1 form for each adult member of your family, children may go on one of the forms. Thanks so much for your help with this.

STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF:

During Stewardship Month please pray about your Faithful Giving for 2024. We need strong support for our budget and many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. You'll be able to either complete your Faithful Giving Card by going on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this [link](#). You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

Important Note From the Rector:

Please help us to end the year without a deficit by completing your 2024 financial pledge by **December 31st**. If you are unsure of your balance, please contact Jeanette in the Fiscal Office.

Congratulations!

DesiComments.com



You are invited to join us for

JUDICIAL SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29, 2023 10AM

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS



GUEST SPEAKER:
THE HONORABLE JOHN M. YOUNGE
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

~A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE~

THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW, RECTOR
THE REV. FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) · PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 · (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG · WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792



We welcome into our church family and give thanks for our new member, **Chelsea Selby**. Her shepherd will be, **Marie Golson**. We look forward to getting to know her.



Condolences and Prayers to the family of Rosalind Dorothy Walker Rodriguez. Her service will be here on **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**. Visitation **9:00 AM**. Requiem Mass: **10:00 AM**. May the soul of Rosalind rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family. May the soul of Rosalind rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

A Memorial for **Louise Lewis** will be held at St. Thomas on **Thursday, October 19, 2023**. Visitation 9:00 A.M. Requiem Mass: 10:00 A.M. May the soul of Louise rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

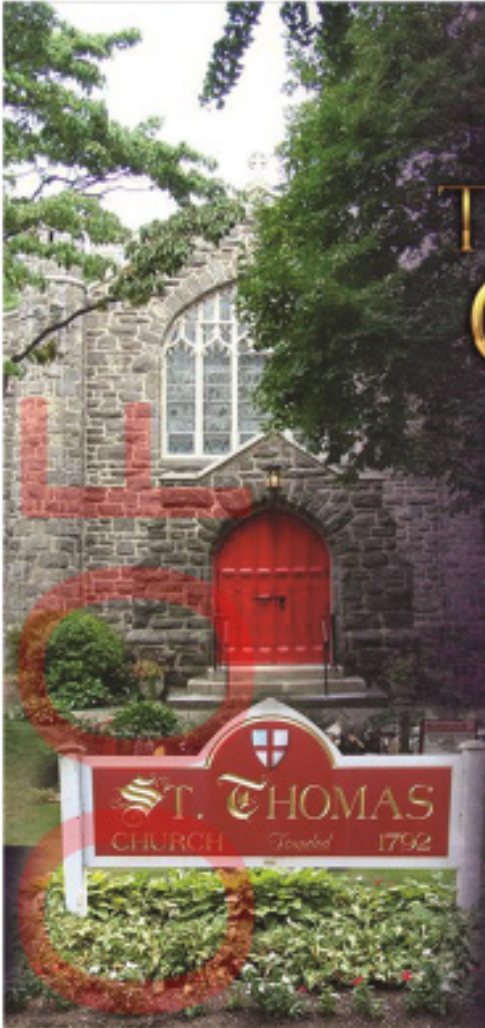


Due to current public health policies, the Division of Community Health of the University of Pennsylvania will not be able to provide COVID vaccines at this time. Therefore, **the vaccination clinic scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2023 at St. Thomas has been cancelled**. Please get the

COVID, FLU, and RSV vaccines at a local retail chain in your community.

Pew Plaques All Saints' Day-November 4, 2023

Pew Memorial Plaques: \$500.00 Payment Deadline: **October 15, 2023**. Contact Victoria Rivers for more information at 267-253-2899 and [email](#).



THE GERALDINE B. WOOD COLUMBARIUM

"AN HONORED TRADITION"

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19151
215.473.3065 | WWW.AECST.ORG



THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, RECTOR



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.

CREMATION AND BURIAL TRADITIONS

From earliest times, people have been concerned about their final earthly resting place, often with concern that it be near the gathering place of their families. In Christian times, preferred burial space was within the Church itself where the faithful gathered for celebrating a liturgy or for a prayer service. The dual tradition of burial and of cremation was preserved in both ancient and in Christian times. More recently, consideration of the spiritual and the practical aspects of cremation and inurnment within the Church itself has led to a revival of this aspect of the tradition. When space within the Church was no longer available, the churchyard cemetery developed. Only in recent times have burial grounds, far removed from the community centers of life and prayer, (Laurel Hill Cemetery, Historic Eden Cemetery) been used.

THE COLUMBARIUM

A Columbarium is a vault with recessed metal compartments of niches for placing earthly remains after cremation. The cremated earthly remains are preserved in niches in a Columbarium fittingly designed and prepared. Each metal niche is enclosed with a protective front of wood, to which is attached a bronze identification plate for the appropriate name and date of death. The dual tradition of burial and cremation was preserved in ancient and Christian times.

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas has constructed three structures consisting of 220 niches that can accommodate 440 urns along the Southeast wall in the Absalom Jones Chapel area. Eligible persons and active members of the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas and their families can purchase a niche. The opening date for the Columbarium was November 1996. A Columbarium Committee composed of four persons and the Parish Rector will govern and administer the affairs of the Columbarium. The Committee has established and will administer the policies and regulations governing sales, maintenance and expansions as was initially established by an 11-member task force.

Niches may be reserved by advance purchase, at the time of need, singly, or for family groups. The purchaser gets a Certificate of Ownership, which indicates a choice of niches. The Certificate entitles a person to a bronze nameplate and assurance of perpetual care. Orders and/or deposits are now being received. Selection of a niche will only occur upon receipt of final payment.

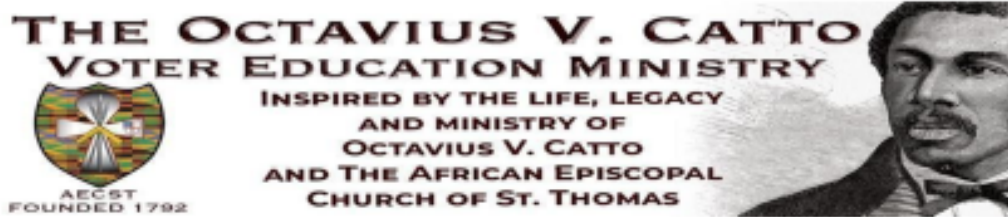
If you are interested in receiving more information on the Columbarium, please contact the Church Office at 215-473-3065 or the Columbarium committee c/o Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at 215-878-3651 or 267-253-2899.

Pictures from the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 8, 2023





More Pictures may be found on our [Facebook page](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OCTAVIUS V. CATTO

Empowering Communities Through Civic Engagement

PHILADELPHIA, PA – September 27, 2023 – The Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry will celebrate and honor the life and legacy of Octavius V. Catto by encouraging Philadelphians to vote therefore empowering communities with resources in preparation for the Tuesday, November 7th General Election.

On **Sunday, October 15, 2023**, the voter education ministry will celebrate and host community educational events focused on the voting process and highlight Octavius' legacy, exemplified daily by his statue on the southwest corner of City Hall. Our activities include: educating the congregation of St. Thomas and the community; updating voter registration information; and demonstrating how to fill out a mail-in/absentee ballot correctly. According to WHYY, between 2014 and 2022, Pennsylvania saw a 19.5% increase in voter turnout among 18-29 year-olds. The Catto Ministry will also empower young voters with activities to encourage them to get out and vote.

Philadelphia Mayor, Jim Kenney will make remarks to support local civic engagement. **Pat Christmas** of the **Committee of Seventy** will also be in attendance to support the activities and the importance of voting.

The African Episcopal Church of St.Thomas Octavius V. Catto service and celebration begin at 10 a.m. After-service events and activities will be held in Anderson Hall and Absalom Jones House, 6361 Lancaster Avenue, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit, www.AECST.org or www.FaceBook.com/AECST1792.

About The AECST Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry

Inspired by the life, legacy, and ministry of Octavius V. Catto, this is an initiative of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) to encourage voter registration and participation in our community.

Contact:

Ernestine Johnson or Julio Rodriguez at cattoministry@aecst.org



Social Media Hashtags

#OVCGoVote

#OVCGoVote2023

#AECSTVotes

###

**Attention!! Attention!! Your Vote Matters!!
Come Join the Catto Ministry**

My VOTE will Count!! My VOTE Will Count!!

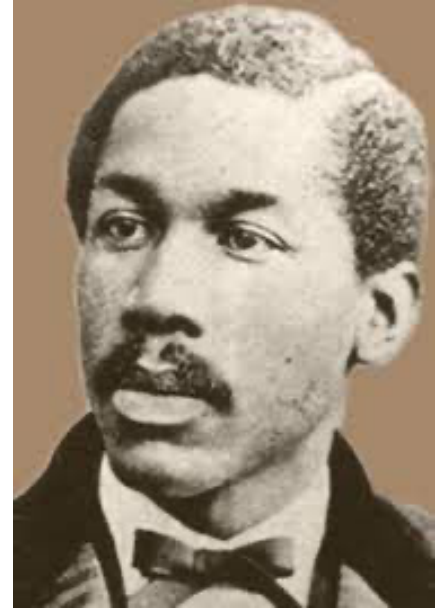
With a focus on the Philadelphia elections.

October 15, 2023, Octavius V. Catto Sunday

Come & bring a friend or two for our church service that will hopefully inspire you to Vote and stay afterward to register Folks to Vote, practice using the new electronic poll book, bring your Mail-in Ballot and fill it out

correctly and take it to a drop box – Make sure that Your VOTE will Count!!!! Get resources from the city, state & and federal Folks. Please click here for the [updated voting guide](#). We anticipate activities for teens & young adults around voting and civic engagement. We will serve light fare.

If you have questions, please contact [Wendella Fox](#) at 215-880-4936



Our St. Thomas Catto Ministry Leadership Team



Ernestine Johnson



Wendella Fox



Ted Smith



OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY
PRESENTS ...

**"MY VOTE
WILL COUNT!"**

**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
O. V. CATTO
RESOURCE DAY!**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. THOMAS - ANDERSON HALL**

~LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED~

- GATHER INFORMATION FROM LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES
- MAKE SURE YOU CORRECTLY FILL OUT YOUR MAIL- IN BALLOT
[BRING IT WITH YOU TO FILL IT OUT]
- GATHER INFORMATION FROM LOCAL SERVICE AND RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS
- ANTICIPATE HAVING ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL: WPFOX3008@VERIZON.NET

**THE OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY
IS A NON-PARTISAN MINISTRY OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS**

**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
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ATTENTION ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS*
(Ages 18 - 102 years old)

St. Thomas Men's Ministry and Fellowship: A Gathering of men in fellowship!!! **Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:30 AM.**

A conversation with our own R. Seth Williams, President and C E.O. Second Chance Strategies, LLC; former District Attorney of Philadelphia. "Crime Prevention & Recidivism Reduction"

Please **RSVP** today. Refreshments will be served



**A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES,
AND INDIVIDUALS:**

ANY and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: **Gladyce DuBrey** or call (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

Dear Church family,

This year, the **St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the King** will again collect donations for undersourced families through our Annual Thanksgiving Service project. The Daughters will be collecting outside of the Church or near the front doors after Sunday service beginning Sunday, October 8th through Sunday, November 19th.

If you wish to donate via check, please make the check out to AECST; in the memo, please note **ThksProjDOK**. You may also mail your donation to The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas 6361 Lancaster Ave (Absalom Jones Way) Phila. Pa. 19151 attention Fiscal Secretary.

Additionally, if you are aware of household(s) within the St. Thomas Church family who are in need of a Thanksgiving contribution, please contact [Ms. Sharon Bullock](#), [Ms. Thomasina Hack](#) or any of our St Thomas Chapter Daughters of the King.

The deadline to submit names of families is Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and together, let us bring Thanksgiving Joy to all!

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

October 15th - Octavius V. Catto Observance

Guest: Philadelphia Mayor, Jim Kenney and Homilist:
The Rev. Dr. Michael Byrd. Founder /CEO Forum Philly.

October 22nd - Youth and Young Adult Sunday Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday

October 29th - Judicial Sunday

The Honorable John M. Younge, speaker, U.S. District Judge.

A.E.C.S.T. Kid Friendly Trunk and Treat

Sunday, October 29, 2023, 12:00 Noon (in the parking lot).

Bring your little ghosts and goblins, princesses, and superheros to join in the fun in costume or not.

Ages 12 and under. Volunteers needed to decorate your trunk and pass out candy. Please [email](#) Gladyce in the [church office](#).

November 5th - Observance of the Feast of All Saints / All Souls;

Observance of our 1st Rector (Absalom Jones) and 17th Rector (Fr. Shaw) birthdays both born on November 6th.

Please use the [link](#) to order candles for your departed loved ones.

November 12th - Observance of Veterans Day.

November 19th - Family and Friends Sunday.

November 26th - Youth and Young Adult Sunday (YAYA)

You are invited to pray and walk with thousands of Black women across the country for Girl Trek's 9-day (**October 15-23**) Prayer Trek. Our team won in 2017. Sign up at this [link](#). Select "Find your Church Crew" on the website and register under African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas - Women and Girls. We have the opportunity to win \$1,000 for our Health Ministry. If you questions contact [Sherilynn Kimble](#).



GirlTrek
2023
PRAYER TREK
OCTOBER 15-23

SCAN HERE



To learn more and sign up visit www.prayertrek.org

If you're battling unhealthy habits, if you're in a season of despair and your faith is wavering, or you're in a season of abundance and looking to touch and agree with others who believe that blessings multiply when we join together, this is the place for you."

Each year, GirlTrek puts the call out to its sisters in the army of the Lord to cover ourselves in prayer, ground ourselves in the word, lace up our sneakers, and practice the Fruit of the Spirits in accordance with 9 fruits in the bible (Galations 5:22-23).

How it Works:

- WALK** ← Just 30 min a day
Just 30 minutes a day. We'll provide you with scripture and a daily meditation to help you reflect on the Lord and your wellbeing.
- WORSHIP** daily prayer line
Join our daily prayer line as we ask the Lord to heal our bodies and transform our communities.
- WITNESS**
Don't let your sisters miss their blessing. Encourage the women in your church to sign up at www.prayertrek.org.

As seen on
CNN npr TED the ROOT The New York Times ESSENCE

This Week at AECST - October 16, 2023

Tuesday 10/17 -The funeral of Rosalind Rodriguez -
Viewing at 9:00 AM and Requiem Mass at 10:00 AM.

Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 7:00 PM.

Wednesday 10/18 - Young Adult Bible Study
with Fr. Daren - 7:00 PM.

Thursday 10/19 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 PM.
The funeral of **Louise Lewis** - Requiem Mass at 10:00 AM.

Saturday 10/21 - Men's Fellowship Gathering 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM.

Community Mass Choir - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Scouts - 1:00 - 4:00 PM.



- *Dance, Caribbean, Praise & Line Dance Music*
- *Complimentary Set-ups*
- *Free Parking*
- *Cash Raffle*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 6PM TO 10PM
THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS

~ Old School Cabaret ~

THE NARBETH FIRE HALL
100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBETH PA 19072
TICKETS \$15.00 PER PERSON \$25.00 PER COUPLE

FOR INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT:
MIKE ARCHY 215-983-3939 OR ED GIEGER 716-207-0405

DRESS LIKE YOU'RE BLESSED & READY TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE EVENING!

BRING AND SHARE FAVORITE FOODS, BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH INITIATIVES

AECST/CHOSEN 300 Community OUTREACH

Calling Volunteers to Serve @ Chosen 300 locations

Arrive at 4:30pm – Directions will be given – Completed by 7:30pm, 2023 SERVING DATES :



Friday , July 14th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, July 17th : 3959 Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104

Friday, Sept. 15th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Friday, Nov. 17th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, Nov 20th: Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104



For Any Questions, please contact Dr. Tim Barksdale at 215-868-6766

"Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered." Proverbs 21:13



SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Friends of the Historical Society are inviting all members of St. Thomas to join us on Saturday, **November 4, 2023**, to see the Forten Exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution!! As you may know, James Forten, a member of our congregation and the Vestry, was an extraordinary entrepreneur, a philanthropist, and a friend of Rev. Absalom Jones. Stay tuned for more details. By the way, have you seen the James Forten plaque?

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 [Fr. Daren](#) 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](#).



Bible Study with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact [Fr. Jay](#).

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, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

Join the St. Thomas Gospel Choir led by Waltier Blocker and Conference Attendees will perform together at the Bent But VBroken Conference on November 4th. Click on the [link](#) for more information.



DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for:
the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 2023

The First Lesson: [Exodus 32:1-14](#)
[Psalm 106:1-6,19-23](#)

The Second Lesson: [Philippians 4:1-9](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of October 16, 2023**

Monday - [Luke 8:26-39](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 8:40-56](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 9:1-17](#)

Thursday - [Luke 9:18-27](#)

Friday - [Luke 9:28-36](#)

Saturday - [Luke 9:37-50](#)



Young Adult Bible Study

Fr. Daren is offering a Bible Study series for Young Adults on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

Fall Topic:

“If It’s Not About Love, It’s Not About God”

**Kid
Friendly!
Ages 12 &
Under**

AECST

**Volunteers
needed to
decorate your
trunk and hand
out candy!**

TRUNK OR TREAT

Come and Join Us!

October 29th

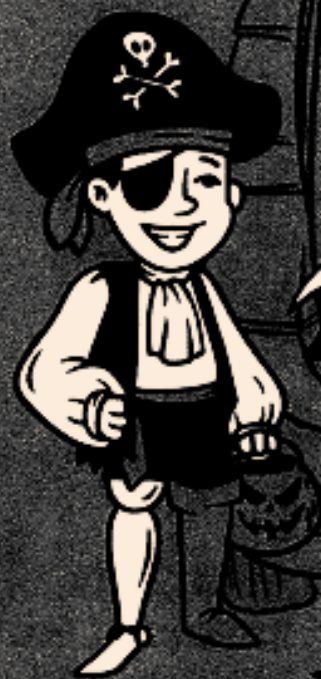
**Costumes optional
but encouraged!**

Starts at 12:00PM

Location: AECST Parking Lot

**Bring your little ghosts, goblins, princesses,
and superheroes to join in the fun!**

**Please contact Gladycce in the church office at
215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org**



**The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (The First Black Episcopal Church in the USA)
The Very Reverend Cannon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector
6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151
www.AECST.org www.Facebook.com/AECST1792**

Calling for Youth Acolytes!



All youth of our church are invited to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren.](#)

Scout Troop #133 - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The cub program meets at 2:00 PM. on Saturdays. Our Boy Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM. Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.



Nikkol Simms
Branch Advisor
njsimms@verizon.net

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

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

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

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.

We meet Saturday mornings

**First meeting:
September 30, 2023
11am-1pm**

Membership Ages:

Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo.

Junior Members: 5-13 yo.

Senior Members: 14-21 yo.

Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Girls participate in:

Service Projects

Girl Talks

Arts & Crafts

World Day of Prayer

Founder's Day

Mission Day

GFS Day

Past Recreational Opportunities:

White water rafting

Theaters

Museums

Ice Skating

Segway/Ziplining

Mini Golf

Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

GFS World Council Sri Lanka 2026

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN HOSPITAL:

Sheryl Johnson - Jefferson Hospital, Joe Stevenson - Temple Hospital.

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Thelma Silvers - Penn Rehab.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

R. Seth Williams, Linda Holmes, Ashley Williams, Ashley Quetant.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Joe Stevenson, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Joan Hall, Stephanie Williamson, Leotta Griffith, Kenneth Dow, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford, Teri Taylor, Eleanor Chestnut, Dorothy Smith, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Walter Bantom, Bill Edmonds, Leatrice Snowden, Lemont Johnson, Laverne Hudson, Cathy Stafford, Harold Yates, William Smalls, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ronald Coleman, Fr. Jay Collins, Tyrone Keller, Seminarian David King, Conchetta Brewer, Joyce Jackson, Lisa Woodley, Fr.Darryl James.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar, are in Loving Memory of **Rosalind Rodriguez**, a loyal and dedicated Girls Friendly Sponsor, given by the Leaders and Members of the Girls Friendly Society.

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

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.

(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 \$ _____

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 10:00 AM. You can also watch [Past Services](#).

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](#).

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Please remember to maintain your pledged financial giving.

Parishioners, please remember to include your envelope number as well as your name on your offering envelope. The number is especially important. If you don't have your envelope number please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks so much for your help with this. [Judy Tillman](#)

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.

FROM STEWARSHIP: A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you could slot their envelopes. Thank you.

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

“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) **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 Fiscal Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 10 am-2 pm)
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** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the website 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	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administor	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tigattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevens	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Roy Ellison	s.royellison@gmail.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
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	leaniepo302@gmail.com

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

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.