



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



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 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 7, 2024

“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 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost,
Independence Day Observance.**

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. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,+
Martini Shaw

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

Please click here
for the [Order of Service](#).

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

You will soon be receiving your 1st Quarter Financial Statement. Please carefully examine it and make an extra effort to fulfill your mid-year faithful pledge of giving by **June 30th**. Enormous thanks to everyone current with their faithful giving and actively supporting our many ministries with their treasures.

RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST

Replacement of Air Conditioning units - \$100,000.00.

Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider a donation toward the replacement.

SUMMER GIVING

PLEASE remember to maintain your weekly/monthly giving during the summer months when traveling and on vacation.



**In July and August, the
Parish Administrative Offices and Church
hours are Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**



OUR CONDOLENCES

and prayers for Henri White, Cary Smith, and family
on the death of their wife and mother,
Yvonne Caldwell Smith White.

Her service will be held at St. Thomas on
Wednesday, July 17, 2024. The viewing will begin at
10:00 AM and the Requiem Mass at **11:00 AM.**

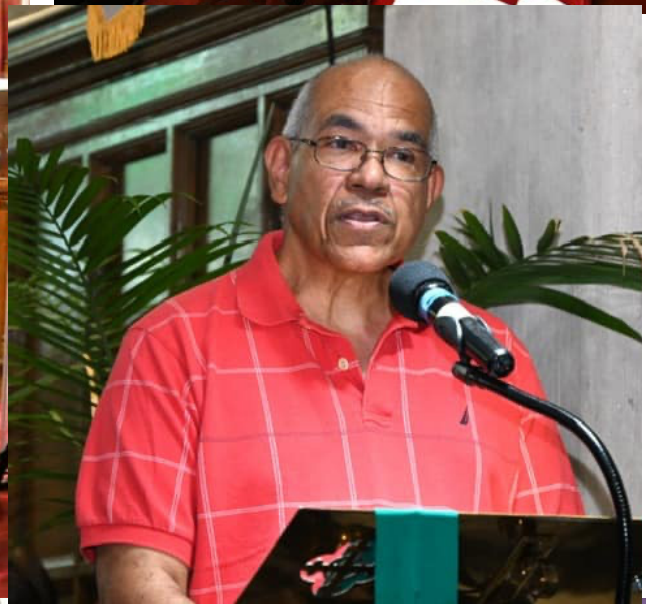
May the soul of Yvonne rest in peace
and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

COFFEE HOUR (CHAT AND CHEW)

Have you ever considered hosting a Coffee Hour
(Chat and Chew) following Service in thanksgiving for a
blessing received, or in memory of a departed loved one?
Please contact Gladyce for further details.

**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
“Celebrating Our Youth”
June 30, 2024**

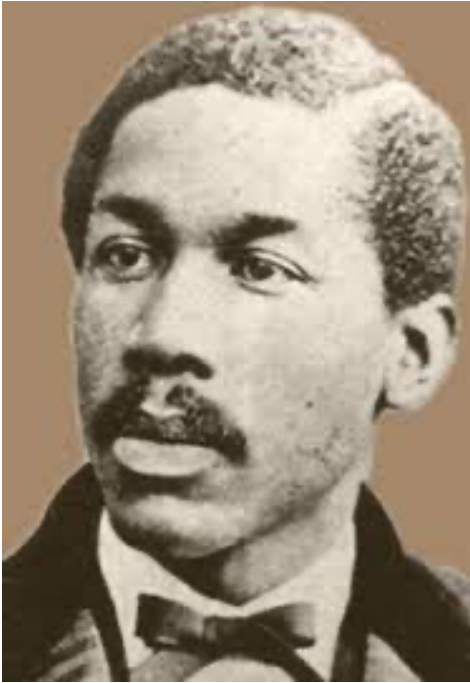








More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.



A note from the Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry

Greetings All

We are gearing up for General Election 2024 activities. If interested in participating in Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry, please contact Wendella Fox at 215-880-4936 or wpfox3008@verizon.net.

The Catto Ministry is a non-partisan ministry, which follows the legacy and advocacy of our St. Thomas member, Octavius Catto, around civic engagement and voting. He was killed on Election Day 1871, because of his advocacy.



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.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Are you willing to serve for at least one Sunday per month as a church school teacher? Please prayerfully consider this call. We are especially looking for young adults, men, and anyone who loves children. Please speak with Fr. Daren ASAP if you are interested.

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](#).

YOUTH AND FAMILY FUN DAY Save Saturday, September 21, 2024, for Youth and Family Fun Day

All youth, teens, families, and those who are young at heart are welcome to join us for fun, games, story time for little ones, learn to bake yummy cookies outdoors, snacks & much more.

Contact [Nikki Simms](#) or [Pam Johnson](#) for more information and to volunteer.
Come and join us!! It will be fun!!

St. Thomas
Presents

"WADING IN THE WATER"

August 5-9, 2024

from 10 am to 2 pm
drop-off starting at 9 am



A VACATION BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Ages: 4-16

FREE OF COST

Plenty of fun, fellowship, and food!

Register at QR CODE ATTACHED

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

ASSOCIATERECTOR@AECST.ORG



**COMING
SOON!**

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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](#).

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

READINGS FOR

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 7, 2024

The First Lesson - [Ezekiel 2:1-5](#)
[Psalm 123](#)

The Second Lesson - [2 Corinthians 12:2-10](#)

The Holy Gospel - [Mark 6:1-13](#)

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of July 8, 2024

Monday - [Luke 23:44-56a](#)

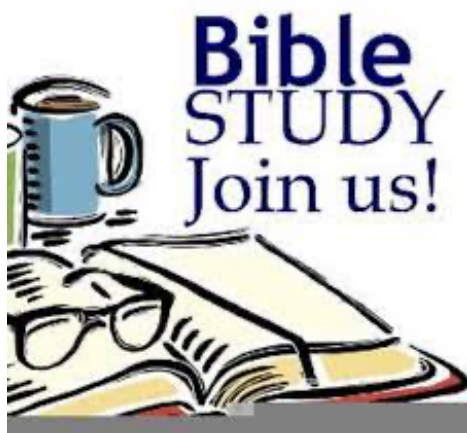
Tuesday - [Luke 23:56b-24:11](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 24:13-35](#)

Thursday - [Luke 24:36-53](#)

Friday - [Mark 1:1-13](#)

Saturday - [Mark 1:14-28](#)



Tuesday, 6/18 at 7:00 PM is the
last Bible Study with Fr. Jay until
September.

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to
Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman.

__ I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00

__ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar -
\$50.00

__ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00

(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 \$ _____

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Kenneth Dow - Presbyterian; Gwendolyn Langford -
Lankenau

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Fr. Darryl James - Stapley
Rehab; Leotta Griffith, Linda Holmes - Saunders House

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Alletta Parris-Olday,
Ola Bass; Ronald Coleman, Shirley Winkfield,
Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison,
Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Terry Corson,
Barbara Douglas, Verger Stephen Hannum,
Wendell Whitlock, Rev. Dr. Thomas Snowden, Cornelia Camp

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor,
Lisa Woodley, Waltier Blocker, Adinah Edwards, Carl Dean,
Patricia Holmes

WE PRAY FOR

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



EXCITING NEWS!!! SPREAD IT!!!

Announcing the new St. Thomas Family and Young Adult Podcast Series. Please check out the [first one](#) featuring Fr. Daren and Fr. Shaw.



ATTENTION: ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN

During the summer months (July and August), there will be a reserved area in the front of the church for our children to gather. There will be fun things for the children to enjoy during the Service. There will be a reserved area for parents nearby. Please speak with Fr. Daren for more specific details.

**Looking for a nice quiet getaway?
Come to Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey**

GFS PA HOLIDAY HOUSE

OPENING FOR THE 2024 SEASON! JUNE 1ST- SEPTEMBER 30TH

2024 Season Donation Rates

\$125/night: single occupancy

\$225/night: double occupancy

\$250/night: triple occupancy

*Family and Group rates available

No meals \$90/night: single occupancy. Must be indicated at the time of reservation.

JUNE/SEPT Bed and Breakfast Rate \$100/night: single



Ask for details about our SPECIALS! \$250/person (Children 12 and under ½ price.)

Out of School- Two weeks!

- Mon., 6/17- Fri., 6/21
- Mon., 6/24- Fri., 6/28

- 4th of July Special- Choose Mon., 7/1- Fri., 7/5
OR Wed., 7/3 - Sun., 7/7
- Labor Day Weekend Fri., 8/30- Mon., 9/2

For reservations e-mail gfsholiday@yahoo.com or call *609-846-6097 *New phone number!

YOUTH COUNCIL

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

All young adults are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

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.

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 Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays. Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

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 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 complete your Faithful Giving Card by going on our [website](#), Spearhead, [Facebook](#) page, or this [link](#) to complete your Faithful Giving Card. You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church.

The Building Fund Envelopes have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. And if you've already picked your offering envelopes up please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering online once a month. Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month. Thank you

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount are placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please don't hesitate to [contact](#) Judy Tillman. We appreciate your help with this.

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

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 would bring their envelopes to them. 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

- 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 (Absalom Jones Way).
- 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 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 10:00 AM-2:00 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. **NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St.Thomas when filling out your online giving information.)
- 6) **Pledge Cards** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **www.aecst.org** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**.

Thank you so much to all who have return them.

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	baptism@aecst.org
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photogrphy 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		
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry		
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

VESTRY OFFICERS

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, iii Esq.
Stewardship Chair - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William Burke

THE VESTRY

Deadra Cannon	Wendella Fox	Marie B. Golson
Deborah Harrison	D. Lynn Joell	Kelvin Johnson
Pamela Johnson	Patricia Lynch	Judith Simkins-Booth

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. 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.