

Let's Celebrate!

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 AT 10AM



Join us on FaceBook or on www.aecst.org for:
- Epiphany Sunday (3 Kings) Scripture and Prayers
- New Year Greeting and Blessing From the Rector
- Join the Rector in a
Toast to the New Year with your drink of choice.

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

January 3, 2021

10:00 A.M.

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM.

Please be advised that with social distancing still in effect:

1. No more than three (3) persons can visit the office at a time.
 2. You must be masked to enter the building and must practice social distancing while present.
 3. You must sanitize your hands upon entering the door.
 4. Only entry to the entire property will be ONE DOOR, the Absalom Jones House ramp door.
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IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICE RE-ENTRY:

It is presently uncertain when we will return to worship in the church however planning is underway to assure that we are all able to safely worship upon our return. The Rector has appointed the following Committee to discern/guide the process and make recommendations to him and the Vestry. The Co-Chairs are Richard Jones, Rector's Warden, and Deborah Camp-Frye, Accounting Warden.

THE ALTAR GUILD

is selling 2021 Liturgical Calendars for \$6.00 each.

You may purchase and arrange for pick up by calling Clara Mae Daniels at 215-327-6168 or Freda Brockman at 609-841-4799 (after 3pm)

**ST. THOMAS
CIRCLE
OF
PRAYER MINISTRY**

**PLEASE JOIN
OUR FIRST WEEKLY
MONDAY MORNING
PRAYER CALL**

**JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 6:30 AM
THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER IS:
(605) 313-6361 CODE: 268 105**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND
AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER
REQUEST TO:
CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG**

**PHYLLIS B. CATER * DAPHNE GILSTRAP
FACILITATORS**

**THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW
RECTOR**



**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065**

ST. THOMAS CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Are you or someone you love in need of Prayer?

Are you willing to pray for someone in need?

The St. Thomas Circle of Prayer offers our Church family an opportunity to pray as a community.

Please join us for the Inauguration of our new weekly Monday morning Prayer call.

The call is open to all St. Thomas Church members.

Our first call will take place on **January 4, 2021 at 6:30 A.M.**

(The average call time will be approximately 20 minutes)

The teleconference call number is **(605) 313-6361**
and the code is **268 105**

If you are interested in having your name added to the call prayer list please send you intercessory prayer request to circleofprayer@aecst.org

Phyllis B. Cater * Daphne Gilstrap
Facilitators

FROM THE RECTOR:

You should have received by now your Third Quarter of the Stewardship year. I am urging everyone to please assure that your 2020 Pledge is current and received by **January 10, 2021**. Please indicate on your check that it is for your 2020 pledge. If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from **10am-1pm 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.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

from the Rector and staff

for all the Christmas Greetings, expressions, and gifts.

Fr. Shaw wishes you a very blessed 12 days of
Christmastide and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

To My Beautiful St. Thomas Church Family:

It is with gratitude and much appreciation that I, on behalf of Pastor Sadie S. Mitchell's family, thank you for the prayers that you have raised during her illness, and the many expressions of sympathy upon her passing. On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, my mother transitioned from her earthly life after having never fully recovered from hip replacement surgery resulting from several falls at her former nursing home residence. With her many accomplishments, she touched the lives of many. Our family feels that many of these people would want to be a part of our celebration of her life. We have, therefore, decided that a memorial service and inurnment of ashes at St. Thomas is pending the full opening of the church -- prayerfully, by year-end 2021.

All monetary donations that have been made, thus far, will be forwarded, in my mother's memory, to the Jesse F. Anderson, Sr. Scholarship Fund of the AECST in the donors' names. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, gifts and monetary donations made to individual family members, that you please make your donations payable and mailed to: The JFA, Sr. Scholarship Fund of the AECST, 6361 Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19151. In the memo portion of your check, please note your envelope number and "In memory of Pastor Sadie."

Thank you for your kindness and caring.

Peace & Blessings, Charlene M. Wiltshire

OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO:

Our sincere condolences to Denise McKinney Gibson on the death of her First cousin, **Robert Washington Jr.** May his soul Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Please pray for the family.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Recovering At Home:

Regina Meacham Devero, Katrina Harris Marshall, Linda Holmes, Gail Harris, Waltier Blocker, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Quincina Edmonds, Kenneth Dow, Verger Stephen Hannum, Suzanne Closson, Angela Foster, Carl Dean, Richard Scales, Adinah Edwards, Bobby Johnson

Hospitalized:

Joan Hall - Lankenau
Tyrone Keller - University of Pennsylvania

Hospice Care: Virginia Cooke

THANK YOU!

My church family really gifted us in a most generous way this 2020 Christmas season, with hope, kindness, sustenance and many blessings. I cannot thank you enough and appreciate your continued support.

Sandra Bryant-Miller and Family

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

This Sunday's Readings
Second Sunday after Christmas
Feast of the Epiphany
January 3rd

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Week of 1/4/2021

Monday - John 9: 1-12, 35-38

Tuesday - John 11: 17-27, 38-44

Wednesday - Matthew 12: 14-21

Thursday - John 6: 30-33, 48-51

Friday - John 7: 37-52

Saturday - John 8: 12-19

Readings For:
The First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 10th

First Reading: Genesis 1 :1-5

Psalm 29

Second Reading: Acts 19 :1-7

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1: 4-11

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

Jan. 3rd

Feast of Epiphany

observed with a New Year Greeting
and Blessing from the rector.

Please join him in lifting a glass
of your favorite beverage for our Annual
“New Year Toast”

Jan. 10th

Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

Jan. 17th

Remembering the Life and Ministry of
the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

Jan 24th

Youth Sunday

Jan 31st

Health Ministry Sunday

TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE CLASSES

with Fr. Jay are on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Please send your email to:

Fr. Collins at JayCollins@comcast.net or
267-634-6185 to be added to the list.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF 2020
to The St. Thomas Church Family!

Katie Janafo's shepherd is - Muso Doe
Austin Green's shepherd is - Dr. Frank Johnson
Joyce Adams' shepherd is - Brenda Johnson
Anita Nicholson's shepherd is - Johanna Daye
Rene Jones' shepherd is - Conchetta Brewer
Marian Wise's shepherd is - Ronnie Collins
Nicole Miles' shepherd is - Natalie Wiltshire
Troy Miles' shepherd is - Larry Wiltshire
Christine Faisal's shepherd is - Tracey Jones
Rashid Faisal's shepherd is - Kelly Jones
Rev. Darryl James' shepherd is - Fr. Gerald Collins
Kevin Carter's shepherd is - Dr. Frank Johnson
Beverly Moore's shepherd is - D. Lynn Joell
Angela Kelly's shepherd is - Conchetta Brewer
Richard Jones Jr.'s shepherd is - Gregory Lyles

A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP:

Our theme for this year's Stewardship - "Our Doors Are Open"
2021 St. Thomas Offering Envelopes are now ready for pick up
in Anderson Hall. You may pick them up during Parish Office
Hours (M-F; 9:00 A. M - 4:00P.M.) by entering through the
A.J. House entrance with the ramp.

Please don't forget your mask. If by chance you live in the
same neighborhood of a church member who is unable to
pick theirs up, perhaps you can pick theirs up and put it in
their mail slot or between their doors.

If you have changed your address, home/cell phone
number or email address, please send your changed
contact information to Judy Tillman at tillman_72@msn.com
or the church email 1792@aecst.org so that we can update the
church records.

Thank you. "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) Mail in your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151

- 2) 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.

- 3) Bring your check directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm). After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

- 4) Church website **<http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>**
(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.)

2021 FAITHFUL GIVING CARDS

Thank you to the following individuals who have already submitted their 2021 Faithful Giving Cards.

Clergy, Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry Leadership

Fr. Martini Shaw

Fr. Gerald Collins

Walter & Patricia Bantom

Ronnie Collins

Albert S. Dandridge, III

Johanna W. Daye

Deborah & Barry Frye

Deborah Harrison

D. Lynn Joell

Brenda Johnson Best

Kelvin & Pam Johnson

Richard Jones

Judith & Darryle Tillman

Patricia Akins

Conchetta Brewer

Sharon Bullock

William Burke, Jr.

Deadra Cannon

Clara Mae Daniels

Linda Holmes

Dr. Frank Johnson

Cynthia Muse

Jonathan Muse

Judith Simkins-Booth

Bernadette Ingrid Wyche

THANK YOU!
IS YOUR NAME LISTED BELOW?
If you have not, please prayerfully submit yours TODAY!

Joyce Adams
Dr. Gregory Allen
Constance Anderson
Jean Armstrong
Jeanne Arnold
Cedric Babb
Paul Bach & Julie Hergenrather
Terri Barber
Brenda Battle
Susan Ben
Deborah Billips
Guy M. Booth
Ricardo Bostic
I Page Bowser
Theresa Bramwell
Lorita Brockington
Jean Brogden
Carmen M. Brown
Dr. Jane & Robert Brown
Marilyn Brown
William Brown, III
Shirley Caldwell
Cornelia Camp
Phyllis Cater
Lynada Coleburn-Bryant
Ted Corbin
Terry Corson
Gwendolyn Cottman

THANK YOU!

Andrea Cummings
Stacey Davis
Carl & Mary Dean, Sr.
Dr. Rollo Dilworth
Barbara Douglas
Quincina & William Edmonds
Patricia & Roy Ellison
Deidre & Larry Farmbry
Loretta Ferguson
Marceline Fitzwilliam
Earlene Ford
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel
Gwen Francis
Nikki Franke
Irenda Gates
Elaine Gillison
Barbara Glenn
Clarice Grant
Linda Greaves
Carole Williams Green
Michele Green
Signe Griffin
Leotta Griffith
Thomasina Hack
Joan Hall
Gail & Roosevelt Harris, Sr.
Leslie T. Harris
Joyce Harrison
Gwenda & Richard Hart
Gregory Hayes



THANK YOU!

Maurice Hayes
Denise Henderson
Quentin Heyward
Wanda Hill
Merle Hopson
Ruth E. Hopson
Angela Holloway
Karl Holloway
Fleta Howell
Patricia & Donald Hunt
Dr. Diana Hutchins
Kim Hyde
Joyce Jackson
Diann Jacox
Fr. Darryl James
Bobby Johnson
Lemont Johnson
Sheryl Johnson
Jenelle Wilson Johnson
Bettie Jones
Clarence Jones, Jr.
Donna Jones
Joyce & Robert Jones
Rene Jones
Sheila Jones-Smith
Tyrone Keller
Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
Jurdina Koiler
John Kortue, Sr.
Valerie Hutton LaBonne
Kathleen Lacey

THANK YOU!

Paula Glenn Lamb
Gwendolyn Langford
Nancy Conway Lee
Louise Lewis
Steven & Jameela Lewis
Kimberly Lloyd
Adrienne Logan
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
James T. Lowe, Jr.
Winston Lowe
Patricia Lynch
Constance Lyons
Deborah Matthews
Shelia McCullough
Denise McKinney
Denise McKinney-Gibson
Regina Meacham Devero
William Meek
Deirdre Milanes
Jann Minor
Carl Minott
Colin & Helen Mitchell
Pastor Sadie Mitchell
Thelma Montara
Elsie Moto
Mueni Beatrice Mwanzia
Vincent & Lisa Napoleon
Francina Norris
Jerome & Helen Peterson
Marcia Pruet
Stephen Pugh

THANK YOU!

Audrey Pyles
Karen Ragland
Dr. Vivian Ray
Dolores Redmond
Clarence Rice
John Rich
Caryn Rivers
Victoria Rivers
Rosalind Roberts-Small
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin
Yvonne Ruiz
Mercedes Sadler
Dr. Barbara Savage
Georgia Sawyer
Richard & Rebecca Scales
Deborah Seay
Stephanie Seay
Leah Sheppard
Arlene Singletary
Velva Daniels Small
William Small
Anita Smith
Dorothy Smith
Langsten Smith
Linda Tapper-Smith
Catherine Stafford
Dr. H. Lynn Starr
Joseph Stevenson
Joyce Ann Stewart
Lisa Stewart-New

THANK YOU!

Shelly & Ann Stewart
Elder Lemuel & Cheryl Stiles
Sheila Stubbs
Yvonne Syndor
Wanda Tarawaly
Dr. Monica Taylor
Rosita Taylor
Gloria Thomas
Justin & Lee Anne Trotman
Louise Trotman
Wanda Tarawaly
Gladys Tucker
Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Inez Turner
Karen Vaughn
Alverna Wiley
Barbara Wiley
Michele Wilkinson
Julia Williams
Stephanie Williamson
Dorothy Willis
Arletha Wilson
Lorna Wilson
Charlene Wiltshire
Dr. Denise Wing
Diane Winkfield
Wanda Wood
Paula Wright
Beverly Yates
Donald & Alice Young
M. Elaine Young

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



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

The African Episcopal Church
of
St. Thomas
Church School

Calling ALL AECST
Students K-12, Parents
and Teachers

**JOIN US
FOR OUR
VIRTUAL CLASSES
EVERY
SUNDAY @ 12:00 NOON**

**KNOW JESUS.
CHANGE THE WORLD!**

Registration required via email
To RSVP contact Supt. Dottie Archey
(215) 837-6941 or email at churchschool@aecst.org

Interested in becoming a Church School Teacher?
Contact Dottie Archey to learn more.

The Very Reverend Canon Fr. Martini Shaw, Rector

"Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old, they will not turn from it"
Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)



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.

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please visit <http://eepurl.com/djyGiD> to subscribe. 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.

Please join us for service on the St. Thomas Website www.aecst.org or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aecst1792> every Sunday morning at 10am.

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard C. Jones
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Johanna W. Daye
Treasurer - Kevin Johnson

Alister Allman	Albert S. Dandridge	Jonathan Muse
Patricia Bantom	Deborah Harrison	Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Ronnie Collins	D. Lynn Joell	Judith Tillman
	Brenda Johnson Best	

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt Rev Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Assistant to the Rector		
Associate Priest	The Rev Dr Sadie S Mitchell	
Associate Priest	The Rev Fr Gerald Collins	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Thomas G Snowden	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Paul Bach	
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	
	Karen Ragland	
	Lisa Stewart	
Executive Assistant to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	
Investments Advisor to the Rector	Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq	
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	
Asst Sexton	James Brown	
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	215.875.0609
Chancel Choir Master	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	drjfluellen@gmail.com
Gospel Choir Master	Waltier Blocker	
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	215..474..2815
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	215..450..9312
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	215..643..7223
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	302..502..6375
	Dale Williams	
Social Media Manager	Gregory J Allen, PhD	215..477..2672
Scout Pack 133	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Sound Ministry	Joe Stevenson	
Transportation Ministry	J Reggie Kimble	610..585..8053
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Brenda Johnson Best	
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	215-473-3065

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 taught, lived and spread.