

John 3:16

**“For God so loved the world
that he gave his
one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but
have eternal life.”**



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

Second Sunday of Easter
April 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 Second Sunday of Easter.

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

A LITURGICAL REQUEST FROM THE RECTOR

The Service (mass) is not over during the singing of the Closing Hymn. We ask that you please be respectful of others in worship and refrain from departing from your pew until after the Dismissal.

WELCOME. WELCOME. WELCOME

We are very happy to welcome into our church family: Nyszha Brown and Jabriyah Brown. Both were also among those to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.



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.

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



OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The family of **LaVern Hudson**, who recently died. Her funeral will be held here at St. Thomas, on Tuesday, **April 2, 2024**. Her viewing will begin at 10:00 AM and a Requiem Mass will be said at **11:00 AM**. May the soul of LaVern rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for the family.

The family of **Mercedes Sadler**, who recently died. Her Memorial Service will be held at St. Thomas Church on Tuesday, **April 16, 2024**, at **11:00 AM**. May the soul of Mercedes rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for the family.

The sister of Mrs. Inez Turner, **Ms. Gloria Jackson**, passed away in October of 2023. Her memorial service will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, **April 17, 2024**

Church: St. Simon the Cyrenian Episcopal Church

Location: 1401 S. 22nd St. (22nd & Reed), Philadelphia, PA
19146

Visitation: 10:00 AM

Service: 11:00 AM

Burial: Private

Contact for Questions: [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#)

**Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service 6 am
March 31, 2024.**

The new fire and Paschal Candles were lit at our 6 am service at St. Thomas early Easter Sunday morning.
“The Light of Christ”



A Glorious and Joyous Easter Sunday Celebration. 10 am
Alleluia! The Lord is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!











**We Welcome the Newly Baptized:
Zuri Sa'lei Gunby
Sakiyah Aniyah Davis
Jabriyah Zamiyah Brown-Williams
Nyszha Kalia Brown**

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

Voter's Guide and News Flash from the Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry

The Catto Ministry 2024 PA Primary Voter's Guide –
Who, What, When and How to VOTE

The [link](#) will take you to the Voters Guide.

You may also use the QR Code below
to view the Voter's Guide:



Important Dates for the 2024 Pennsylvania Primary Election

April 8, 2024, Last Day to Register, check your Registration for accuracy or change your Registration before the Primary Election.

April 16, 2024, Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

April 23, 2023, Last day for the County Board of Elections to receive completed mail-in & civilian absentee ballots. (Must be received by 8:00 PM by postal mail or by hand delivery or in a drop box)

April 23, 2024, Primary Election Day.

Go to the [link](#) for information to Register to Vote, check your Registration for accuracy, and to request a mail-in ballot.



**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.



For a list of Parishioners celebrating Birthdays in April, click [here](#).

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

The Health Ministry Presents - Gift of Life Sunday

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Heroes' Sunday / Honoring First Responders

Philadelphia Police Commissioner

Kevin Bethel, Guest Speaker

April 28, 2024

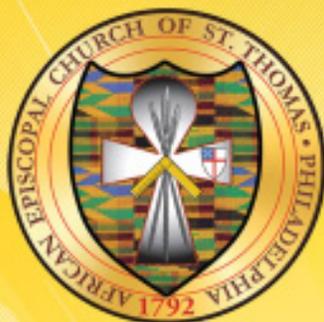
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Annual Men Are Cooking Event



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.



**St. Thomas Health Ministry
presents**

"GIFT OF LIFE SUNDAY"

April 14, 2024 - 10 AM



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



HEROES' SUNDAY

APRIL 21, 2024 10:00 AM

**Philadelphia Police Commissioner
KEVIN BETHEL, GUEST SPEAKER**



ALL first responders are invited to attend!
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



"MEN ARE COOKING: CUISINES ACROSS CONTINENTS"

Sunday, April 28, 2024 - 12 PM

**Experience delicious dishes
prepared by the men of St. Thomas.**

**See any member of the
Men's Ministry for tickets.
Donation \$15**



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

Calling ALL WOMEN of St. Thomas!

YOU ARE INVITED to participate with the St. Thomas Women's Ministry as planning gears up for our annual Women's Day Celebration!

This year's Women's Day will be held on Sunday,
June 2nd at 10:00 AM.

Join us to share your ideas, time, and talents to help make this year's celebration another amazing and memorable event. The meetings will be held virtually and the Zoom link will be provided upon your response.

Please email: [Monica Lewis](mailto:Monica.Lewis@stthomas.org) if you are interested in joining the planning committee.

We look forward to your participation.
Until then spread the word!
Peace and abundant Blessings!

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](#).

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

Second Sunday of Easter - April 7, 2024

The First Lesson - [Acts 4:32-35](#)

[Psalm 133](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 John 1:1-2:2](#)

The Holy Gospel - [John 20:19-31](#)

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

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

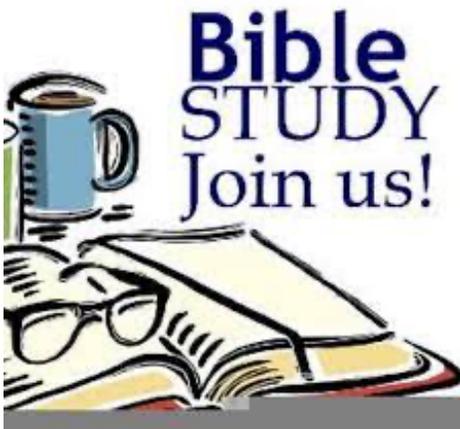
Tuesday - [John 14:18-31](#)

Wednesday - [John 15:1-11](#)

Thursday - [John 15:12-27](#)

Friday - [John 16:1-15](#)

Saturday - [John 16:16-33](#)



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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar in memory of My Beloved Sister,
Gloria Alfreda A. Jackson. May she Rest in Glory.
Given by Inez J. Turner.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in memory of
**James T. Lowe Sr., Patricia Johnson, Lynette Ivery,
Edith Goodwin, and Michael Mc Guinn,**
given by Carmen Brown.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in memory of my wife,
Phyllis K. Johnson, given by Bobby Johnson.

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 \$ _____

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.



Young Adult Bible Study

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House. During the Spring, we will explore the Acts of the Apostles. Join our exciting journey with the Apostles of Jesus. All are welcome!

Podcast Series

Stay tuned for an upcoming parish podcast series for parents with young children, and those who are responsible for the care of children. The series will explore the text: *When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-filled Responses for Tough Topics* edited by Bromleigh McCleneghan and Karen Ware Jackson.

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 the parish hall immediately following worship.

Vacation Bible School

If you would like to be part of a team to help with the planning of a Vacation Bible School, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).



Join the Girls Friendly Society!

Meetings are on Saturdays from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM. All girls aged 3-30 are welcome. Girls participate in: Service Projects, Girl Talk, Arts & Crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day, along with trips to the Theatre, 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 the Branch Advisor, Nikkol Simms at

njsimms@verizon.net

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 on Saturdays according to the schedule.

Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

Church School begins at 10:00 AM.

The theme this year is :”Exciting Stories of the Bible.” Registration forms may be found on the tables in the Undercroft Sunday School room or the registration [link](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House

Fr. Darryl James -Stapeley Rehab

Leotta Griffin - Saunders House

Terry Corson - Deer Meadows

AT HOME:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Ridart “Butch” Farmer,
Gwendolyn Langford, Shirley Winkfield, Lemont Johnson,
Ronald Coleman, Thelma Silvers, Linda Holmes,
Alletta Parris-Olday, Kenneth Dow, Joyce Harrison,
Patricia Ellison, Carl Dean, Laverne Hudson, Mary Ann Jones,
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper,
Karina Phillips.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Daryn Stewart, Cathy Stafford, Teri Taylor,
Lisa Woodley, Irving Stevenson, Sandra Bryant Miller,
Cedric Babb.

WE PRAY FOR

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



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 either complete your Faithful Giving Card or go 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](#) me. 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 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

- 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. 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. **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 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	baptism@aecst.org
	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		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

VESTRY OFFICERS

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

VESTRY

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

AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best
Deborah Booker Matthews
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins
Mary S. Dean
Elaine Gillson
Eugene Golson
Cynthia Muse
Dr. Monica Taylor
Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

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.