



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

He is not here. He has Risen!

If you are physically unable to attend,
please join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages.
THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**EASTER SUNDAY (RESURRECTION SUNDAY)
APRIL 9, 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 Easter Sunday
(Resurrection Sunday).**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived.

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

An Easter wish from the Rector: Wishing each one of you a very holy and blessed fifty days of Easter filled with Joy and Peace.

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



Today the rector will announce the name of the new Associate to the Rector for Parish Life and Youth Ministries.



We welcome **Zenobia Dancy** to our church family. Her shepherd will be D. Lynn Joell.

We look forward to getting to know Zenobia.

We would like to **THANK** the members of the Altar Guild and Girls Friendly Society (GFS) for preparing the church and beautiful altar for Easter Sunday.

CONDOLENCES

We offer our condolences and prayers for Bradley Hammond and family on the death of his grandmother, **Rose Fundge Hall**. May the soul of **Rose** rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

From the Rector: Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks **is now optional, however, strongly recommended.**

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. **Hand sanitizer** is also available.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: The only doors for entry on Sunday mornings are: the Front doors of the church and the front ambulatory door of the church. Please refrain from using other doors at this time.

PROFOUND HIGHLIGHTS & INVITATION
St. Thomas journeys from Lent to Easter!!!!



Pictures from Palm Sunday April 2, 2023

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









CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED



IVY JEAN GORDON

AVA LEE GORDON

CELESTE MARI PHILLIPS

AMELIA ISABELLA

DE LOS SANTOS



Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia is an exhibit at The Museum of the American Revolution. The Forten family belonged to St. Thomas and we

loaned Absalom Jones' canonical register to the museum for the exhibit.

One upcoming event associated with the exhibit is scheduled for April 12th. It will feature historian Julie Winch, who used St. Thomas' archives while researching her acclaimed biography of James Forten - in conversation with - James Forten's great great great great grandson Atwood "Kip" Forten Jacobs.

For more information, and to register for this event, you can find a link on the [museum's website](#).



O.V. CATTO VOTER
EDUCATION MINISTRY

ROAD TO THE PRIMARY

Voting With Purpose

SPRINGTIME ELECTION SERIES

POWER Mayoral forum Off-Site (must register)|
Open Forums with candidates & officials | Social Engagement
and much more...
*Check weekly updates in AECST Facebook/ Spearhead

For more information contact
Wendela Fox wpfox3008@verizon.net

DATE(S):

- *Sunday April 16th
(Off Site Must Register
3pm-6pm)
- Saturday April 22nd
- Saturday April 29th
- Saturday May 6th

Time:

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Doors open at 12:30pm

Location: St. Thomas
6361 Lancaster Ave Phila
PA 19151 - Anderson Hall

PRIMARY ELECTION: TUES MAY 16TH

The African Episcopal Church of St.Thomas

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector

www.AECST.org. www.FACEBOOK.com/AECST1792

The St. Thomas Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry is inviting all Members of St. Thomas to attend Conversations with Mayoral Candidates sponsored by POWER Interfaith including Mother Bethel & more than 40 other congregations.

Sunday, April 16, 2023 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM
Conversations with Mayoral Candidates
First District Plaza 3801 Market Street

Attendees will have an opportunity to listen to a candidate respond to POWER's top issues, on gun violence, schools, clean air, good jobs, and housing, with details for implementation in the first 100 days; the first year in office. These will be individual conversations.

Pictures from the St. Thomas Gospel Choir's Annual Palm Sunday Concert, April 2, 2023







AECST
FOUNDED 1792

APRIL 9, 2023
JOIN US ON THE
FRONT LAWN FOR OUR
ANNUAL
EASTER EGG HUNT
AND A VISIT WITH THE
EASTER BUNNY
IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING SERVICE.
CANDY TREATS WILL BE
GIVEN OUT TO
ALL CHILDREN
ATTENDING SERVICE.



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

Please join the Church School on the Great Lawn for their **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** immediately following Service. At the conclusion of the Service, we will have a special visiting guest. Special treats will be given to all children attending the Service.

CHURCH SCHOOL

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 through High School. The theme for this church school year is "The Lord's Prayer".

Join us as we RE-Imagine our Church School Adventures with Prayer, Fellowship, Programs, and Fun! Register in person or contact [Dottie Archey](#) for more information or 215 837-6941.

SCOUT TROOP #133 -

Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

The Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays according to the schedule.

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



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

"MEN ARE COOKING: CUISINES ACROSS CONTINENTS"

Sunday, April 30, 2023 - 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 1926 Foundation, Incorporated

Presents

The Omega Omega Ensemble

Omega Omega Chapter

Carrie Lessene, Director

In Concert



**The Historic African Episcopal Church
of St. Thomas**

**6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151**

May 7, 2023.

4:00 p.m.

\$15.00

Save the Date
2023 ANNUAL
WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION
"Celebrating 40 Years"



GUEST SPEAKER:
THE HONORABLE
JOANNA MCCLINTON
FIRST WOMAN ELECTED
PA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Sunday
June 4, 2023 - 10:00 AM

Theme:
"And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these
is LOVE"
1 Corinthians 13:13

If you are physically unable to attend,
please join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages.
THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

On Sunday, April 23, 2023, Dr. Jay and the Philadelphia Community Mass Choir, present the complete Spirituals Mass by Clayton White. With guest soloists Valerie Gay and Paul Spencer Adkins. More information to come.

ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR NEWS

On Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 7:45 am and 8:15 am the STGC will be singing for the kickoff festivities for The Gift of Life Donor Program, Donor Dash at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, Philadelphia, PA

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 4 pm the STGC will be singing at Rosemont College, 1400 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA for their World Culture Festival.

On Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 6 pm the STGC will be singing at **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**, 1682 Wood Street (just off of Callowhill St.) in an Interfaith Music Concert with members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints. The Concert is free and parking will be validated. More Information coming soon.

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
- 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 \$ _____



To view the Memorial Flowers please use the [link](#) provided.

A ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NOTE

STAY UP TO DATE with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the [CDC](#) or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens).

Go on their website to schedule an appointment.

SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the [Newsletter](#) sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch [Past Services](#) and [Highlights](#) from past services.



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.

**Meetings
begin**

Oct. 1, 2022

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

JOIN THE GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY!

Meetings are from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All girls aged 3 - 30 are welcome. Girls participate in: service projects, girl talks, arts & crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day along with trips to the theater, museums, ice skating, mini golf, trips to the Pumpkin Patch and Holiday House in Cape, May, NJ. If you would like to volunteer as a leader or sponsor, please contact our Branch Advisor, [Nikkol Simms](#)

Please help support our St. Thomas GFS Branch with a love donation. Donations will go to helping them go on their Founders Day trip to Washington D.C. in March and World Council in South Africa August 3-11, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact [Nikkol Simms](#).

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble.

If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a **monthly Vestry meeting** via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to vestryclerk@aecst.org at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM.

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

-to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.

-to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office.

-to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).

-to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact Gladyce in the Parish Office to sign up.

-to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

-as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

-**Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).

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

**Readings for Easter / Resurrection Sunday
April 9, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Acts 10:34-43](#)
[Psalm 118:1-2,14-24](#)

The Second Lesson: [Colossians 3:1-4](#)
The Holy Gospel: [John 20:1-18](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of April 10, 2023**

Monday - [Matthew 28:9-15](#)

Tuesday - [John 20:11-18](#)

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

Thursday - [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

Friday - [John 21:1-14](#)

Saturday - [Mark 16:9-15,20](#)

**Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Acts 2:14a,22-32](#)
[Psalm 16](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

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

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of April 17, 2023**

Monday - [John 17:1-11](#)

Tuesday - [John 17:12-19](#)

Wednesday - [John 17:20-26](#)

Thursday - [Luke 3:1-14](#)

Friday - [Luke 3:15-22](#)

Saturday - [Luke 4:1-13](#)

**Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Acts 2:14a,36-41](#)

Psalm [116:1-3,10-17](#)

The Second Lesson: [1 Peter 1:17-23](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 24:13-35](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of April 24, 2023**

Monday - [Luke 4:14-30](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 4:31-37](#)

Wednesday - [John 17:20-26](#)

Thursday - [Luke 3:1-14](#)

Friday - [Luke 3:15-22](#)

Saturday - [Luke 4:1-13](#)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL: Nia Mathurin; Nikki Frank, Tyrone Keller; Fr. Darryl James; Linda Holmes - Crozier Hospital, DE; Calvin Thompson - Lankenau.

IN REHAB:

Nora Corbin- Little Flower Rehab; Moss Rehab Center, Elkins Park, PA.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriquez, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, Dr. Walter Bantom, William Smalls, Leatrice Snowden. Pearl Henderson, Wendell Whitlock Joe Stevenson, Ronald Coleman, Fr. Jay Collins, Terri Taylor, Lisa Woodley.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Karen Ragland, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut, Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Lemont Johnson.

WE PRAY FOR

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

ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT

If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like to schedule a St. Thomas columbarium inurnment, please contact the church office at 215-473-3065.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or email, please do so ASAP. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or [Online Giving Donations](#), please email your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. -Judy Tillman

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](#).

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

“To whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12:48

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator.
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi IOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon, 215-844-6115.**
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) **Pledge Cards:** Pledge cards can now be sent for 2023. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically by clicking this link [Click>](#) or send an email to our [Fiscal Administrator](#). Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Cannon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector		
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	Dottie Archey	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	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	leaniepo@verizon.net

THE VESTRY

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

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

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

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

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.