



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



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
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

APRIL 24, 2022,

10:00 AM

“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 Second Sunday in 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. 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

Please click for the [Order of Service](#)
for this Sunday's service.

FROM THE RECTOR

Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that you are always welcome at St. Thomas Church.

A FEW QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES ON "VIRTUAL WORSHIP"

"Virtual and live stream worship have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to the church. However, by no means can it substitute coming and physically receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Communion)."
(From Fr. Martini Shaw's Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

"Online Masses and Spiritual Communion do not represent the church. The faithful not gathered to receive the Sacraments is not the church. Jesus' disciples always lived their relationship with the Lord in Community. They gathered, around the sacrament, at the same table, as a sign of community". (Pope Francis' recent message)

"If you are unable to receive the Sacrament, by reasons of extreme sickness or physical disability; or when being present at a celebration is absolutely impossible, it is possible to open yourself to God's grace and blessing".
(Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer).



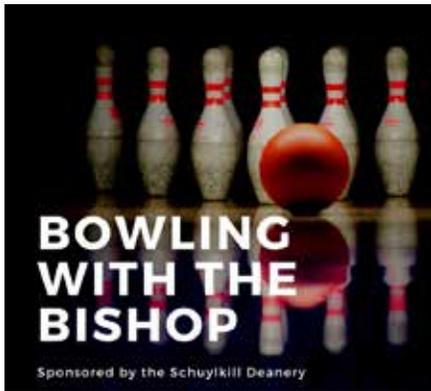
IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain **MANDATORY** while at St. Thomas until further notice. St. Thomas will follow the recommended guidelines of the CDC, the City of Philadelphia, and the Diocese of PA. Let us love our neighbor and worship safely!

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. Hand sanitizer is also available. The ventilation system has been changed to let in outside air. We request that all in attendance be **VACCINATED**. Unvaccinated individuals are requested to watch the Service via [Live Stream](#).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOLY WEEK





BOWLING WITH THE BISHOP!

Youth Ministry Bowling with the Bishop at Wynnewood Lanes, 2228 Haverford Ave, Ardmore PA, April 30th, from 2:00-4:00 PM.

You may register for this event [here](#).



THE BISHOP IS COMING!

Bishop Gutierrez will be making an official visit to St. Thomas on Sunday, May 1st.

VESTRY MEETING

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 p.m.

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.

UPCOMING GOSPEL CHOIR EVENTS

April 30, 2022, 3737 Seminary Rd. 2, at 11:00 AM.

Bent not Broken Music Conference Concert

Grace United Methodist Church

900 N. Washington Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

May 24 & 25, 2022 (Time TBD)

Concert & Recording

Virginia Theological Seminary,

3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

VIRTUAL CHURCH SCHOOL

Church school will meet by ZOOM on Sundays at noon.

All parents and church school aged children are

encouraged to attend. If you need more information

please contact Dottie Archey at: 215-474-2815 or you can

send an email to [Dottie Archey](mailto:dottie.archey@stthomasparish.org) for more information.

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the calling of a new Rector's Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

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.

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed to serve on the Altar Guild. This amazing group of individuals prepare our beautiful altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact Alfreda Brockman at fredabee@verizon.net

We are in need of **Readers and Intercessors**, Youth and Adult. If you are interested in helping spread the Word of God through a reading, Psalm, or Intercessory prayers, please contact Gladyce in the parish office. Thank you.

We are looking for a few individuals 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.

ATTENTION:

We are so blessed to be stewards of a beautiful property that God has entrusted to our care. Persons are needed to serve on our Property Committee. If interested, please speak with [Deborah Harrison](#) or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

The Jesse F. Anderson, Sr., Scholarship Award applications are available. Applications must be a St. Thomas member for one year and active in youth activities. Application deadline is May 3, 2022. For more information contact Paula Lamb (215) 620-7250 or Thomasina Hack (215)901-2773.

Over 200 Scholarships are available through the Philadelphia Foundation. Philadelphia Foundation's 2022 Scholarship Application process is now open!

The window to apply for more than 200 available post-secondary education scholarships offered through the Philadelphia Foundation is open now through May 9, 2022. Click [here](#) for the website.

WONDERFUL NEWS!

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, St.Thomas will be honored at the 2022 Scholarship Benefit for St. James School. The theme of the event is "On the Horizon". It will be held at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. St. Thomas will also be joined by another honoree, Dr. Ala Stanford, founder of the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium. For more information please contact [Wendella Fox](#) or [Phyllis Cater](#).

“Are you EXCITED about encouraging voter registration in your community like our beloved ancestor and St. Thomas activist Octavious V Catto??? Then join an OVC committee meeting to find out how you can be apart of our efforts to increase & assist with voting awareness, registration information & current policies for our upcoming elections. Send your name via email TODAY to Gregory.Jay.Allen@gmail.com and HELP US keep up the EXCITEMENT of our voices in voting RIGHTS and SOCIAL JUSTICE.”

THE ST. THOMAS O.V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY is reminding its Pennsylvania members to please check their Voter Registration Status for the 2022 Midterm Elections and the Primary. Go to pavoterservices.pa.gov and verify your voting status. You will need to do this to confirm that you are registered to vote, your voting district and if you are a mail-in voter. You will also be able to get directions to your polling location as well if needed. Please contact [Gregory Allen](#) or [Gregory Lyles](#) for more information.

Remember that the Mid-term elections, voter turnout is as important if not greater than the general. Make sure you know your status as soon as possible!!!

DUE DATES AND DEADLINES:

May 2 - Last day to register to vote.

May 10 - Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot.

May 17 - Primary Election

Link to PA Voters

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov>

Registration Deadline May 2nd



AECST
FOUNDED 179



**OCTAVIUS
WANTS
YOU
TO
VOTE!**

**THE 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.

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GO TO:

WWW.

Philadelphiamvotes.
com/en/voters

- Register to vote
- Check your
Registration
status

**PRIMARY
ELECTION:
MAY 17TH**



St. Thomas Women's Day Celebration
Join us...

Growing In God's Love

Sunday, May 22, 2022
10:00 am

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Guest Speaker

Minister Eryka Waller

Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church

Color this Year
White w/splash of
Pastel

Honoring our Ninety Years Young Women

AECST 'Woman of The Year' Award

Uplifting our younger community

2022 Women's Day Committee

Co-Chairs

Deborah Matthews

Yvonne Caldwell White

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector - AECST

Please contact: [Deborah Matthews](#) - or
[Yvonne Caldwell-White](#) for more information.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for
The Second Sunday of Easter
April 24, 2022

The First Reading: [Acts 5:27-32](#)
[Psalm 118:14-29](#)

The Second Reading: [Revelation 1:4-8](#)

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

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of 4/25/2022**

Monday - [John 14: \(1-7\) 8-17](#)

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](#)

The Third Sunday of Easter
May 1, 2022

The First Reading: [Acts 9:1-6, \(7-20\)](#)
[Psalm 30](#)

The Second Reading: [Revelation 5:11-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [John 21:1-19](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of May 2, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew \(1:1-17\); 3:1-6](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 3:7-12](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 3:13-17](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Friday - [Matthew 4:12-17](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 4:18-25](#)

MOTHER'S DAY IS COMING!



Don't forget to support the St. Thomas Gardeners on **Sunday, May 8th** by purchasing a carnation. Donations go to helping keep the grounds beautiful.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are in need of Acolytes (Youth and Adults) Please consider serving God in this rewarding ministry. If interested, please contact the Rector ASAP.



AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY

Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume via Zoom at 7:00PM. If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible study group, contact Fr. Jay via email: associatepriest@aecst.org to be included on our membership list serve. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare in advance for the week's meeting.

FLOWER ORDERS

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

- flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00
- flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00
- flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00
- An Easter Lily @\$25.00 each (5 names per plant)

Please PRINT

In Memory of _____, In Thanksgiving for _____,

Name _____, Envelop# _____, Amount _____.

THE ST. THOMAS ALTAR GUILD

is selling Liturgical Calendars. They are \$7.00 and can be purchased from Alfreda Brockman or Clare Mae Daniels.

POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions. Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact [Deborah Harrison](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL: Rosalind Rodriguez

RECOVERING AT HOME

Inez Turner, Dorothy Smith, Kenneth Dow, Gwenda Hart, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Justin Trotman, Teena Watson Matthews, Dr. Walter Harris, Winston Lowe, Gladyce DuBrey.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Shirley Caldwell, Adinah Edwards, Shirley Winkfield, Robert Brown, Stephanie Williamson, Linda Holmes, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Georgia Sawyer, Joan Hall, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Susan Ben, Francina Norris, Leatrice Snowden, Leotta Griffith, Karen Ragland, Isadora "Gwen" Francis, Edita Gauthney, Brandon Barksdale, Joseph Stevenson, Lisa Woodley.

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.

OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS TO:

Sharahn & Edwin Santana and their family on the recent death of their nephew.

Yaseen Farooq and his entire family on the death of his grandfather, **Theotis Matlock, Sr.**

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

FROM THE RECTOR

You should have received your Third Quarter Statement of the Stewardship year. I am urging everyone to please assure that your 2021 Pledge is current. If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from **9:30 AM-2:00 PM 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.

I ask that you, using the chart below to assist you, prayerfully fill out your 2022 Faithful Giving Card. Please place it in the offering plate, postal mail, or electronically use our Faithful Giving. [Pledge Form](#) on our website.

Again, thanks so much for your continued support to the ministries of our amazing parish.

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

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

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](#).

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

THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are now ready for you to pick up in Anderson Hall. If you're unable to pick them up on Sundays after church you may do so Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you have a parishioner who lives near you who can't get to church, perhaps you can pick theirs up as well.

You can now complete your pledge card by mail or on our website.

If you have decided to use the Givi App or Online Giving Donations, please email me at stewardship@aecst.org with your name and envelope number.

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.

Thank you very much.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Committee

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 still be sent for 2022. Please send them via the US mail to the church or **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
Assistant 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 the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	Ronald Jones	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deborah Camp - Frye	1792@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
	Lisa Steward-New	ljs210@msn.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	dneharrison04@gmail.com
Special Advisor to the Rector	Richard Jones	r724jones1@gmail.com
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com
Videography Ministry	Que ntin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo@verizon.net

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Deadra Cannon
Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Patricia Bantom
Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
Ronnie Collins
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Jonathan Muse
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Patricia Akins
Conchetta Brewer
Sharon Bullock
Gregory Lyles
Patricia Lynch

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.