



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



Third Sunday of Advent
May the joyful promise
of your presence, O God,
make us rejoice in our
Hope of Salvation.



*Let
joy to
the world
Christ...
Our Joy*

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“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
Third Sunday of Advent and Rose / Gaudet 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

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 St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

My dearest and faithful family members of St. Thomas, Grace and Peace to you.

We have entered the Season of Stewardship, following 2 ½ years of being in the midst of a deep Pandemic. I invite you to now join me as we Re-imagine our ministries for 2023. You are aware that many of our programs and activities have restarted. Our need for an Associate Rector for Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministries is crucial and at the top of my list of priorities.

PLEASE prayerfully consider increasing the level of your commitment this year in the offering of your [Faithful Giving Card](#). There is much being planned for 2023, and we will need your support. You may submit your card in four different ways:

- bring it to the altar Sunday morning during the offertory;
- drop it off at the parish office;
- mail it to the parish office;
- [electronically](#)

We celebrate that “We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord”.

Faithfully,
Fr. Martini Shaw

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

2023 Faithful Giving Cards

We have kicked off our Annual Stewardship Season at St. Thomas. Enormous thanks ALL who have submitted their Faithful Giving Cards. Please add your name to the list this week by submitting your card today.

Thank you to the following persons who have submitted their 2023 Faithful Giving

The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw	Lorita Brockington	Sharon Harper
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Eugene & Calais Harris
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	Carmen M. Brown	Katrina Harris
Vestry	Marilyn Brown	Roosevelt & Gail Harris
Patricia & Walter Bantom	Robert & Jayne Brown	Walter & Nicole Harris
Ronnie H. Collins	William H. Brown, III	Joyce B. Harrison
Deadra Cannon	Sandra Bryant-Miller	Richard & Gwenda Hart
Albert Dandrige, III	Theodore Bythewood	Gregory Hayes
Clare Mae Daniels	Yvonne Caldwell White	Maurice Hayes
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel	Cornelia Camp	Rene Hayes
Deborah Harrison	Phyllis Cater	Quentin Heyward
D. Lynn Joell	Lynada Coleburn-Bryant	Erica Hill-Yates
Kelvin Johnson	Ronald Coleman	Angela Holloway
Pamela Johnson	Dr. Tracy Collins	Merle D. Hopson
Brenda Johnson-Best	Terry Corson	Fleta Howell
Jonathan Muse	Gwendolyn Cottman	Robert Hugh
Judith Simkins-Booth	Johanna Daye	Donald & Patricia Hunt
Bobby Tillman	Carl & Mary Dean	Diana Hutchins
Judy Tillman	Dr. Rollo Dilworth	Kim Hyde
Auxiliary Vestry	Musu Doe	Joyce Jackson
Pat Akins	Dr. Barbara Douglass	Diann Jacox
Conchetta Brewer	Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas	Simone Jeffers
Sharon Bullock	William & Quincina Edmonds	Bobby Johnson
William Burke, Jr.	Lynette Edwards	Lemont Johnson
Dr. Frank Johnson	Roy & Patricia Ellison	Sheryl L. Johnson
Gregory Lyles	Erika Etlén	Bettie Jones
Particia Lynch	Rashid & Christie Faisail	Donna Jones
Carmen Alexander	Larry & Deidre Farmby	Kelly & Tracy Jones
Constance Anderson	Loretta Ferguson	Lelo Jones
Michael & Dorothy Archey	Jay Fluellen	Mary Ann Jones
Jeanne J. Arnold	Norman & Nikki Franke	Monica Jones
Cedric Babb	Barry & Deborah Frye	Richard Jones
John Baker	Irenda Gates	Robert & Joyce Jones
Dr. Timothy Barksdale	Elaine Gillison	Clarence Jones, Jr.
Brenda Battle	Barbara L. Glenn	Tyrone R. Keller
Jennifer Bell	Swanie Goldsmith	Reginald & Sherilynn Kimble
Susan Ben	Christopher Golson	Jordina Koiler
Deborah Billups	Eugene & Marie Golson	John Kortue
Waltier Blocker	Chad & Toya Gordon	Kathleen Lacey
Deborah Booker-Mathews	Josephine Graham	Paula Lamb
Guy Booth	Clarice Grant	Gwendolyn Langford
Ricardo Bostic	Linda Greaves	Nancy Lee
I. Page Bowser	Carole W. Green	Louise Lewis
Theresa Bramwell	Michelle Green	Steven & Jameela Lewis
	Thomasina Hack	Karen Leys
	Joan Hall	Kimberly Lloyd
	Stephen Hannum	Adrienne Logan
	William Hanscom	Adjoa Love-Dorsey
	Lisa Sharon Harper	Winston Lowe

James T. Lowe, Jr.	Anita Smith
Gregory Lyles	Dorothy Smith
Thomas Lynch	Ted Smith
Constance Lyons	Catherine Stafford
Geraldine B. Martin	H. Lynn Starr
Katrice Mathurin	Irving Stevenson
Shelia Sawyer-	Joseph Stevenson
McCullough	Daryn Stewart
Denise McDaniel -	Joyce Stewart
Henderson	Shelly & Ann Stewart
Denise McKinney - Gibson	Michele Sudler
Robert & Dianne McNeal	Carolyn Summers
Laura McNeill	Lynda Tapper-Smith
Regina Meacham-Devero	Wanda Tarawaly
William Meek	Rosita Taylor
Deirde Milanes	Monica Taylor
Colin & Helen Mitchell	Gloria Thomas
Beverly Moore	Calvin Thompson
Donald & Dorothy	Teri Tillman
Moore/Roberts Cynthia Muse	Harold Townsend III
Mueni Mwanzia	Arnott Trotman
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen	Justin & Lee Anne
Francina Norris	Trotman Louise Trotman
Deborah Otey	Inez Turner
Gwendolyn Perryman	Robin Vann-Lynch
Andrea Petrocelli-Fields	Karen Vaughn
Kim Phillips	Clara Watson-Williams
Mary Ann Phillips	Joe & Alexia Wells
Simone Pollard	Alverna Wiley
Stephen Pugh	Barbara Wiley
Audrey Pyles	Michelle Wilkinson
Kevin & Ashley Quetant	Julia Williams
Karen Ragland	R. Seth Williams
Ella Randall	Dorothy Willis
Dolores Redmond	Arleatha Wilson
Clarence H. Rice	Gillian Wilson
Caryn Rivers	Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Victoria Rivers	Lorna Wilson
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin	Charlene Wiltshire
Yvonne Ruiz	Diane Winkfield
Mercedes Sadler	Shirley Winkfield
Dr. Barbara D. Savage	Edgar Wise
Georgia Sawyer	Wanda Wood
Richard & Rebecca Scales	Lisa Woodley
Deborah Seay	Paula Wright
Leah Sheppard	Ingrid Bernadette Wyche
Arlene Singletary	M. Elaine Young
Rosalind Roberts Smalls	

ST. THOMAS MEN'S CHORUS - PRACTICING FOR MEN'S DAY



PICTURES FROM THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 4, 2022

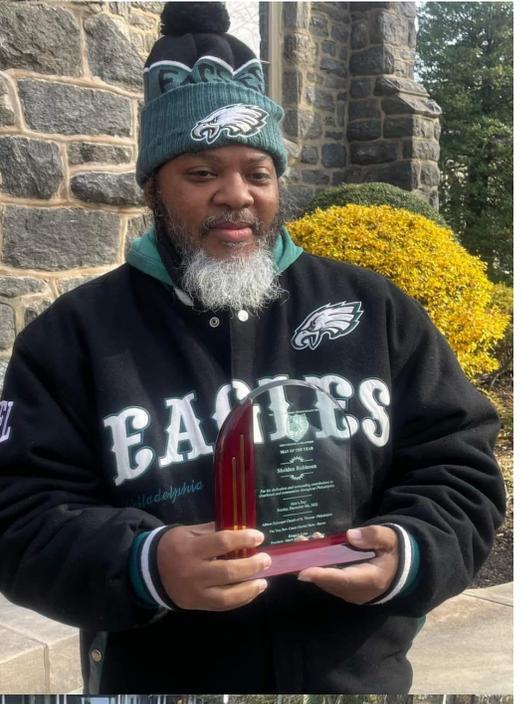




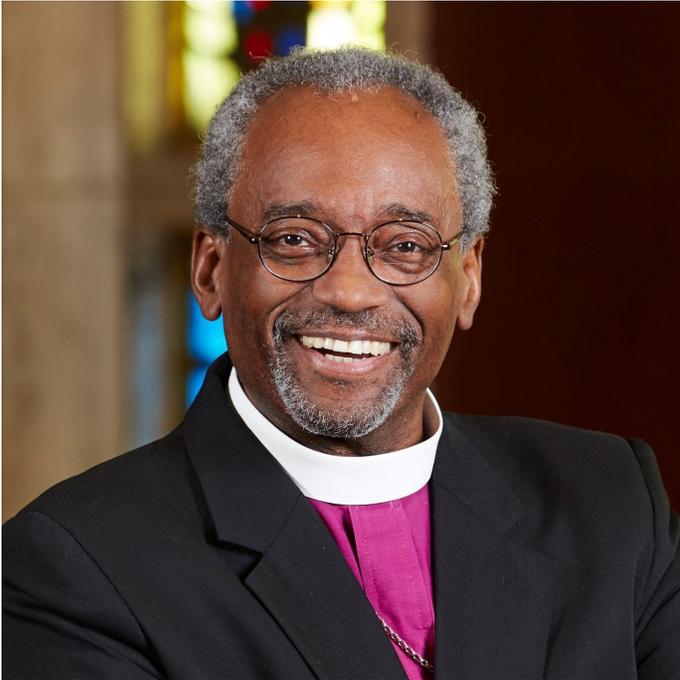








MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!!!



The Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, **The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry** will be visiting St. Thomas **Sunday, February 5, 2023.** in Celebration of our **Annual Absalom Jones Feast Celebration.** More information to follow soon.

New Members of the Men's Ministry & Fellowship:

David King, Chad Gordon, Dennis Hall, Bradley Hammond, Rolland Thomas, Dr. Joseph Gobern, Scott Williams, Richard Jones, Jr., Kevin Carter, Fr. Darryl James, Troy Miles, Rashid Faisal, Austin Green, Kevin Quetant, John Maxwell & Peter Horner

**MAN OF THE YEAR
Sheldon Robinson**

Lifetime Achievement Award - **Cedric Babb**
A Special Thank you to Men's Ministry & Fellowship Officers
Gregory Lyles,
Ed Geiger, Andrew Dumas, Jumba Mugwanya, Bobby Tillman & Solomon Cropper

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER

Dec. 4th The Second Sunday of Advent/
Annual Men's Day Celebration

Dec. 11th Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 18th Fourth Sunday of Advent
Church School Christmas Presentation

Dec. 24th (7:00 PM) - Carols and Festive
Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25th - Christmas Day, No In-Person Service

We, the St. Thomas Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King, wish to **THANK YOU** for your participation in our 2022 Annual Thanksgiving Project.

Because of your generous support, the St. Thomas DOK Chapter was able to provide twenty- three families- many from our St. Thomas family- with the means to bring joy to their Thanksgiving dinner table.

Fr. Shaw, many thanks for your vision. To the AECST family, again, thank you for your generosity with this very important mission. We are forever grateful.

Peace and Blessings,

Monica Lewis Jones - St. Thomas DOK Chapter President &
Sharon Bullock- St. Thomas DOK Chapter Vice President &
Project Chair



African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Women's Day Committee Fundraiser



**This holiday season give the
most useful gift of all.**

**A Women's Day inspired
Growing in God's Love
Tote Bag**

*Carry goods in
style!
Limited
Supplies
Special Price!*

*Buy 2 for the
special price of
\$25.00
\$15.00 each*



Contact Deborah Matthews at
debmadanco@verizon.net
or any member of the Committee

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AECST
FOUNDED 1792

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL
PRESENTS

“FOLLOW THE STAR”

A JOURNEY TO FIND THE NEW BORN KING!
A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 10:00AM



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The Sisterhood Guild is collecting men's and women's new underwear, T-shirts, socks, gloves, and hats to be given to the homeless.

The collection bin will be placed at the back of the church, by the baptismal area starting **November, 20th** through **December 24th**.

During this holiday season let's not forget those that do not have the essentials of everyday life that you and I enjoy.

Please give so that we can enrich someone else's day with this thoughtful gesture.

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



THE TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY
PRESENTS
"A FREE GIVE-A-WAY RAFFLE"
OF

BICYCLES

Sunday, December 18, 2022

All youth are invited to get a free raffle ticket for the drawing prior to and after the church service. The drawing will be held immediately after the church service.



Thanks to the City of Philadelphia Sheriff's Department
for the donation of the Bicycles and Refreshments

Given by: The HIRAM LODGE #5
MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE F.&A.M. OF PA
Brother Mark P. Wilson, PM

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELIZABETH "TOOTIE" STANLEY

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A PHILLY POPS CHRISTMAS: SPECTACULAR SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Hamilton star **Mandy Gonzalez** returns for her fourth Christmas with the POPS, joined by Broadway sensation and small-screen heartthrob **Jordan Donica!**

Music Director and Principal Conductor **David Charles Abell** presents his usual dazzling, unique, and all-new program with over 300 performers, including The Philly POPS Festival Chorus, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir (For the 17th Year), and Santa!

Discount tickets are available using the code word: **chorus**
Box Office: Kimmel Center Box Office 300 South Broad
Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

Tickets: 215.893.1999

Subscriptions: 215.893.1955

Group Sales: 215.253.6980

2022 Concert Dates and Times

Saturday, Dec. 10th -3:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 11th - 3:00 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 14th - 8:00 PM

Friday, Dec. 16th - 3:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 17th -3:00 PM



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](#).

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’ 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).

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.

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.

Church School Christmas presentation **December 18th,** 2022 “Follow the Star.” Mandatory rehearsal for all children participating will be held Saturday, **December 17th** from **10:00 AM-12:00 PM** followed by pizza and snacks.

If you have any questions, please call Dottie Archey at (215) 837-6941 or (215) 474-2815.

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.



SHEPHERDS MINISTRY

Re-imagined

ATTENTION: AECST MEN, WOMEN, COUPLES

This is an opportunity to share your caring and kindness with our AECST flock!



THE MINISTRY

- Immediate Goal: Shepherd our sick and shut-in parishioners
- Primary/Ultimate Goal: Shepherd ALL AECST parishioners
- Number of Households: No more than 4 sheep households per shepherd

SHEPHERDS' ROLE

- Set your own schedule to regularly contact sheep via phone or other media
- *Attend Zoom meetings with fellow shepherds (no in-person meetings)*

Please consider joining the 10 Shepherds who have volunteered.

For more information, please contact Charlene M. Wiltshire:
cwiltshi@comcast.net



Note: Vestry members will continue to shepherd all new members until their one-year anniversary.

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 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](mailto:njsimms@verizon.net)



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

**Meetings
begin
Oct. 1, 2022
11am-1pm**

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.

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

GFS World Council South Africa 2023

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](#).

**Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 35:1-10](#)
[Psalm 146:4-9](#)

The Second Lesson: [James 5:7-10](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of December 12, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew 24:15-31](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 24:32-44](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 24:45-51](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Friday - [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 7:10-16](#)
[Psalm 80:1-7,16-18](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 1:1-7](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of December 19, 2022**

Monday - [Luke 1:1-25](#)

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

Wednesday - [Luke 1:39-48](#)

Thursday - [Luke 1:57-66](#)

Friday - [Matthew 1:1-17](#)

Christmas Eve - [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

**Readings for Christmas Day
December 25, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)
[Psalm 96](#)

The Second Lesson: [Titus 2:11-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 2:1-14](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of December 26, 2022**

Monday - [John 3:31-36](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 2:22-40](#)

Wednesday - [John 2:1-11](#)

Thursday - [John 4:46-54](#)

Friday - [John 5:1-15](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

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.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH

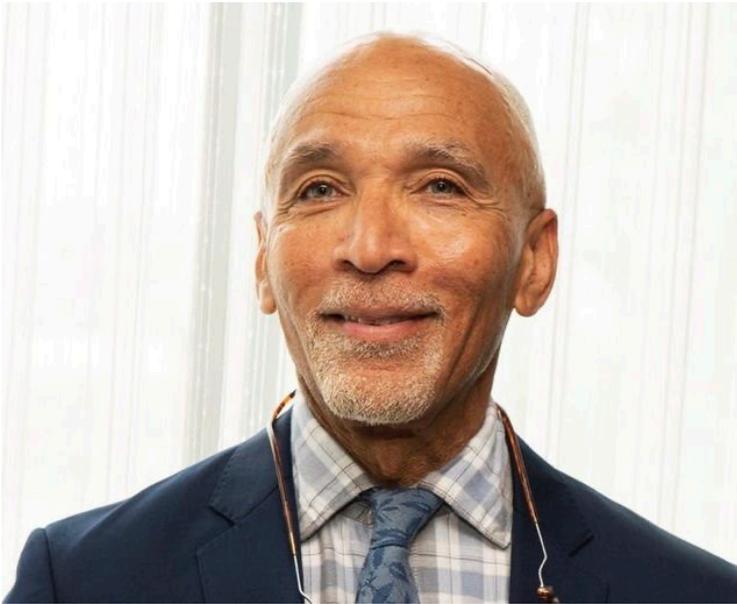
The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.



AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY via Zoom Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.

If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible Study Group, contact Fr. Jay via email at:

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.



We welcome
Persko L. Grier, Jr. who
joined our church family
last Sunday. We look
forward to getting
to know him.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar for Rose / Gaudete Sunday are in Memory of **Errie Mills Hugh**, in Thanksgiving for a life well lived; given by P.J. Grier.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of **Randolph Blakeney**, given with Sweet Memoirs from Lumaria & Tiffany Blakeney.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of **Harry & Jacqueline Starr**, given by H. Lynn Starr.

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of, my wife, **Phyllis B. Johnson** given with love by your husband Bobby Johnson.

Please see the following form for Poinsettia and Christmas Tree adoption information.

Your gift of Christmas poinsettias and altar arrangements will help beautify the church for the holidays, and will be a beautiful tribute to your loved ones, or a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. Please fill out (**Print**) the form below and return to Alfreda Brockman or Clara Mae Daniels at 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Phila., PA 19151

Please do not place in the collection plate. DEADLINE : TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

Christmas Flower Donations (Please Print All Names)

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - @125.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - @ 85.00
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - @ 45.00

A) In memory of

B) In Thanksgiving for

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount \$ _____

Poinsettia and Christmas Tree Adoption

- I would like to purchase a **Poinsettia @ \$25.00 (5 names per plant)**
- I would like to adopt a **Christmas Tree @\$35.00 per tree.**

Please PRINT names below:

Please circle one: In memory of / In Thanksgiving for

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount \$ _____

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB: Linda Holmes

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriguez, Joan Hall, Charles Fleming, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, Leatrice Snowden, William Smalls, Shirley Winkfield.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

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

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. 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	T792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	T792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	Ronald Jones	T792@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	T792@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	T792@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.