



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022

We light a second candle
as a symbol of
Christ the Way.

May the Word
sent from God
through the prophets
lead us to
the way of salvation.

Please join us for our
Annual Men's Day Celebration!

*Christ...
The Way*

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 SECOND 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
Second Sunday of Advent and Men’s Day.

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

Constance Lyons
Geraldine B. Martin
Katrice Mathurin
Shelia Sawyer-McCullough
Denise McDaniel - Henderson
Denise McKinney - Gibson
Robert & Dianne McNeal
Laura McNeill
Regina Meacham-Devero
Colin & Helen Mitchell
Beverly Moore
Donald & Dorothy Moore/Roberts Cynthia
Muse
Mueni Mwanzia
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen
Francina Norris
Deborah Otey
Gwendolyn Perryman
Andrea Petrocelli-Fields
Kim Phillips
Mary Ann Phillips
Stephen Pugh
Audrey Pyles
Karen Ragland
Ella Randall
Dolores Redmond
Clarence H. Rice
Caryn Rivers
Victoria Rivers
Rosalind Roberts-Small
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin
Yvonne Ruiz
Mercedes Sadler
Dr. Barbara D. Savage
Georgia Sawyer
Richard & Rebecca Scales
Deborah Seay
Leah Sheppard
Arlene Singletary

Anita Smith
Dorothy Smith
Ted Smith
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Irving Stevenson
Joseph Stevenson
Daryn Stewart
Shelly & Ann Stewart
Michele Sudler
Carolyn Summers
Lynda Tapper-Smith
Wanda Tarawaly
Monica Taylor
Gloria Thomas
Calvin Thompson
Teri Tillman
Harold Townsend III
Arnott Trotman
Justin & Lee Anne Trotman Louise Trotman
Inez Turner
Robin Vann-Lynch
Karen Vaughn
Clara Watson-Williams
Joe & Alexia Wells
Barbara Wiley
Michelle Wilkinson
Julia Williams
R. Seth Williams
Arleatha Wilson
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Lorna Wilson
Charlene Wiltshire
Diane Winkfield
Wanda Wood
Lisa Woodley
Paula Wright
Ingrid Bernadette Wyche
M. Elaine Young



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP
MEN'S DAY 
CELEBRATION



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022, 10 AM
"REIMAGINING MEN'S MINISTRY"
R. SETH WILLIAMS AND JUSTIN TROTMAN
SPEAKERS

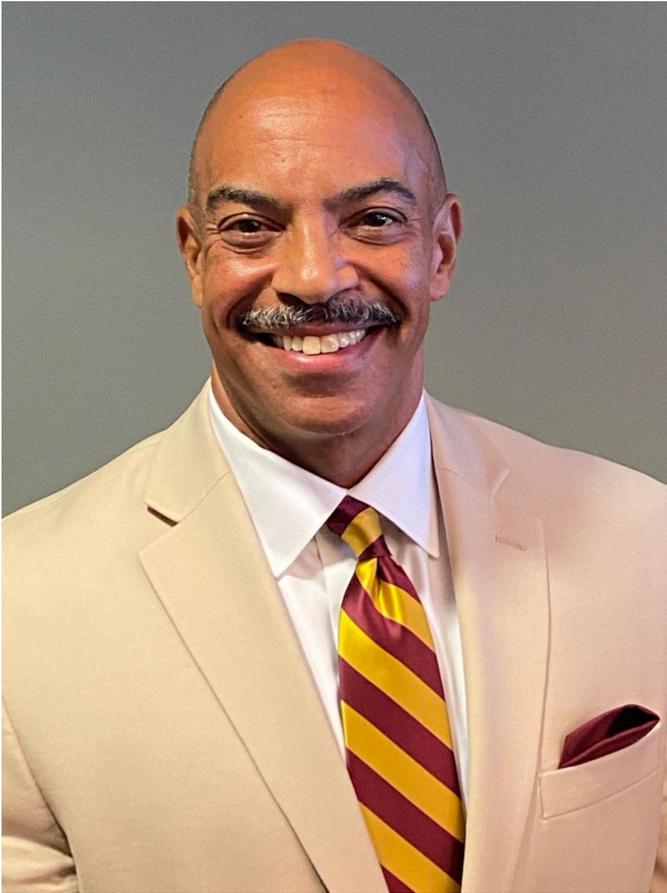
*PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL MEN'S DAY DONATION
BASED ON YOUR COMFORT LEVEL OF \$25, \$50, \$75, OR \$100

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Sunday is Men's Day

Our speakers will be **R. Seth Williams** and **Justin Trotman**.

Click on [this link](#) to donate to Men's Day



PICTURES FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





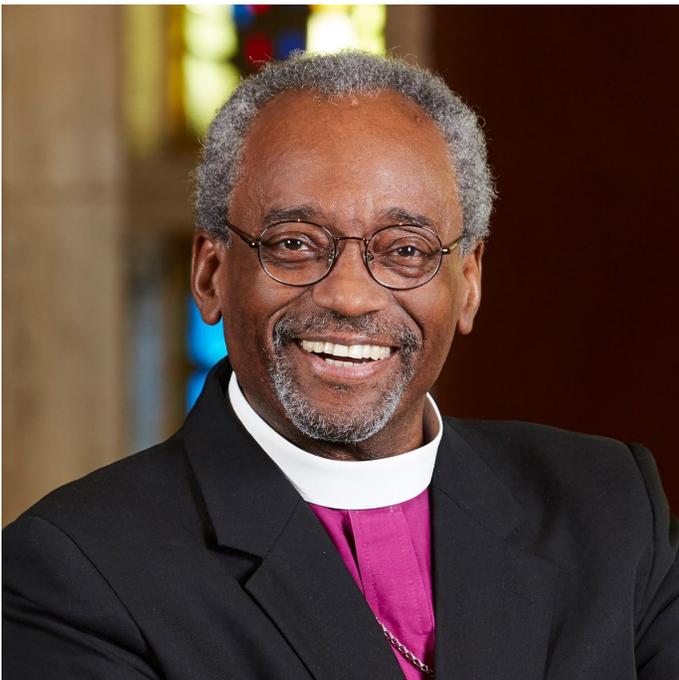




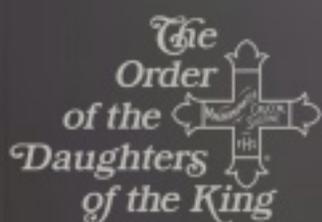




MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!!!



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.



*The St. Thomas Chapter of
The Order of the Daughters of the King
Invites All Women to join us for*

Prayer, Scripture & Reflections

*Saturday, December 3, 2022
9am -10:30am*

*Join us for this
virtual gathering as
we discern
ADVENT
in Preparation for
the COMING
of Jesus into the
world*

*'Proclaiming God's
Goodness, Grace &
Glory'*

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who
bring news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,
who proclaim Salvation, who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"
Isaiah 52:7*

*For Questions and Zoom Link – Contact:
Monica Lewis Jones | mblj03@gmail.com*

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

FROM THE RECTOR - AN OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

In thanksgiving to God for your blessings received, please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift of thanks.

You may:

- place it in an envelope and mail to the church;
- place it in the Sunday offering plate; or
- use this [link](#) to offer it online. Please use the "Thanksgiving" option



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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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.

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

Friday, Dec. 2nd - 8:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 3rd - 3:00 PM
Sunday, December 4th - 3:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 7th -8:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 9th -8:00 PM
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 Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)
[Psalm 72:1-7,18-19](#)

The Second Lesson: [Romans 15:4-13](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of December 5, 2022**

Monday - [Matthew 22:23-33](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 22:34-46](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 23:1-12](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 23:13-26](#)

Friday - [Matthew 23:27-39](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 24:1-14](#)

**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](#)

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

As we enter the Season of Advent, flowers are only placed on the Altar for Rose **Sunday, December 11, 2022**. Please see the form below for Poinsettia information.

To order flowers for **Rose Sunday**, please return the form with payment to:

Clare Mae Daniels, Alfreda Brockman (Please do not place in the collection plate or give to the church office. Thank you)

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)

a) In Memory of _____

b) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____ Envelope # _____ Amount _____.

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.

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	
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Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
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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.