



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

AT THAT TIME JESUS CAME FROM NAZARETH IN GALILEE
AND WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN IN THE JORDAN.
JUST AS JESUS WAS COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER,
HE SAW HEAVEN BEING TORN OPEN AND THE SPIRIT
DESCENDING ON HIM LIKE A DOVE.
AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN:
"YOU ARE MY SON, WHOM I LOVE;
WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."

MARK 1:8-11 NIV

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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
(Renewal of Baptismal Vows)**

“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
**First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord
(Renewal of Baptismal Vows).**

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

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR AND WARDENS

The date for completing your Faithful Giving pledge for 2022 has been extended to **JANUARY 15, 2023**. If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Jeannette in the Parish Office ASAP.

Thank you for your continued support.

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.

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.

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	I. Page Bowser	Josephine Graham
The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	Theresa Bramwell	Clarice Grant
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	Lorita Brockington	Arlene Gray
Vestry	J.R. & Alfreda Brockman	Linda Greaves
Patricia & Walter Bantom	Carmen M. Brown	Carole W. Green
Ronnie H. Collins	Marilyn Brown	Michelle Green
Deadra Cannon	Robert & Jayne Brown	Thomasina Hack
Albert Dandrige, III	William H. Brown, III	Joan Hall
Clare Mae Daniels	Sandra Bryant-Miller	Stephen Hannum
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel	Theodore Bythewood	William Hanscom
Deborah Harrison	Yvonne Caldwell White	Lisa Sharon Harper
D. Lynn Joell	Cornelia Camp	Sharon Harper
Kelvin Johnson	Phyllis Cater	Eugene & Calais Harris
Pamela Johnson	Suzanne Closson	Katrina Harris
Brenda Johnson-Best	Lynada Coleburn-Bryant	Roosevelt & Gail Harris
Jonathan Muse	Ronald Coleman	Walter & Nicole Harris
Judith Simkins-Booth	Dr. Tracy Collins	Joyce B. Harrison
Bobby Tillman	Ted Corbin & John Rich	Richard & Gwenda Hart
Judy Tillman	Terry Corson	Gregory Hayes
Auxiliary Vestry	Gwendolyn Cottman	Maurice Hayes
Pat Akins	Solomon & Alice Bowman Cropper	Rene Hayes
Conchetta Brewer	Johanna Daye	Quentin Heyward
Sharon Bullock	Carl & Mary Dean	Wanda Hill
William Burke, Jr.	Dr. Rollo Dilworth	Erica Hill-Yates
Dr. Frank Johnson	Musu Doe	Angela Holloway
Gregory Lyles	Barbara Douglass	Patricia A. Holmes
Patricia Lynch	Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas	Merle D. Hopson
Carmen Alexander	William & Quincina Edmonds	Fleta Howell
Constance Anderson	Adinah Edwards	Robert Hugh
Michael & Dorothy Archey	Lynette Edwards	Donald & Patricia Hunt
Jeanne J. Arnold	Roy & Patricia Ellison	Diana Hutchins
Cedric Babb	Erika Etlen	Kim Hyde
Natasha Bagwell	Rashid & Christie Faisail	Joyce Jackson
John Baker	Larry & Deidre Farmby	Diann Jacox
Steven Ballard	Loretta Ferguson	Simone Jeffers
Dr. Timothy Barksdale	Marceline Fitzwilliams	Bobby Johnson
Brenda Battle	Dr. Jay Fluellen	Calvin Johnson
Jennifer Bell	Stephen & Donna Foster	Lemont Johnson
Susan Ben	Norman & Nikki Franke	Sheryl L. Johnson
Deborah Billups	Barry & Deborah Frye	Bettie Jones
Waltier Blocker	Patricia Garfield	Donna Jones
Deborah Booker-Mathews	Taylor Garfield	Kelly & Tracy Jones
Guy Booth	Irenda Gates	Lelo Jones
Ricardo Bostic	Edita Gauthney	Mary Ann Jones
	Elaine Gillison	Monica Jones
	Barbara L. Glenn	Richard Jones
	Swanie Goldsmith	Robert & Joyce Jones
	Christopher Golson	Clarence Jones, Jr.
	Eugene & Marie Golson	Winsome Josephs
	Chad & Toya Gordon	

Tyrone R. Keller
Reginald & Sherilynn
Kimble
Jordina Koiler
John Kortue
Kathleen Lacey
Paula Lamb
Gwendolyn Langford
Nancy Lee
Doris Levin
Louise Lewis
Steven & Jameela Lewis
Karen Leys
Kimberly Lloyd
Adrienne Logan
Adjoa Love-Dorsey
Winston Lowe
James T. Lowe, Jr.
Gregory Lyles
Thomas Lynch
Constance Lyons
Geraldine B. Martin
Katrice Mathurin
Shelia Sawyer-
McCullough
Denise McDaniel -
Henderson
Alexandra McFadden
Denise McKinney - Gibson
Robert & Dianne McNeal
Laura McNeill
Regina Meacham-Devero
William Meek
Deirde Milanes
Colin & Helen Mitchell
Beverly Moore
Donald & Dorothy
Moore/Roberts
Gloria Moses
Elsie Moto
Cynthia Muse
Mueni Mwanzia
Vincent & Lisa Napoloen
Francina Norris
Deborah Otey
Sam & Deidre Patterson
Gwendolyn Perryman
Andrea Petrocelli-Fields
Kim Phillips
Mary Ann Phillips
Simone Pollard
Stephen Pugh
Audrey Pyles

Michael Pyles
Kevin & Ashley Quetant
Karen Ragland
Ella Randall
Dolores Redmond
Clarence H. Rice
Caryn Rivers
Victoria Rivers
Dr. Cassandra Ruffin
Yvonne Ruiz
Mercedes Sadler
Edwin & Sharahn Santana
Dr. Barbara D. Savage
Georgia Sawyer
Richard & Rebecca Scales
Denise Rae Scott-Jones
Deborah Seay
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman-Knuckles
Arlene Singletary
Rosalind Roberts Smalls
Anita Smith
Cary Smith
Dorothy Smith
Ted Smith
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Irving Stevenson
Joseph Stevenson
Daryn Stewart
Joyce Stewart
Shelly & Ann Stewart
Brandon Stiff
Michele Sudler
Carolyn Summers
Lynda Tapper-Smith
Wanda Tarawaly
Bernice Taylor
Rosita Taylor
Dr. Monica Taylor
Gloria Thomas
Calvin Thompson
Teri Tillman
Harold Townsend III
Arnott Trotman
Justin & Lee Anne
Trotman Louise Trotman
Elizabeth Trulear
Joe Tucker
Inez Turner
Robin Vann-Lynch
Karen Vaughn
Clara Watson-Williams

Joe & Alexia Wells
Alverna Wiley
Barbara Wiley
Michelle Wilkinson
Julia Williams
R. Seth Williams
Dorothy Willis
Arleatha Wilson
Gillian Wilson
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Lorna Wilson
Tynecia Wilson
Charlene Wiltshire
Diane Winkfield
Shirley Winkfield
Edgar Wise
Wanda Wood
Stephanie Seay Wood
Lisa Woodley
Paula Wright
Ingrid Bernadette Wyche
M. Elaine Young



AECST

FOUNDED 1792

A Major Celebration...

PLEASE JOIN US!



**Sunday, February 5, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

Celebration of the
THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES
and
231ST PARISH ANNIVERSARY

The Most Reverend Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church
~Preacher~

The Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez
Bishop - Diocese of Pennsylvania
~Celebrant~

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector

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THE PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

will be presenting “Singing Freedom Preview and Panel Discussion” in Anderson Hall at 3:00 PM this **Sunday, January 8, 2023**. The program will feature a panel discussion followed by a brief presentation of the singer Karen Slack. Our own Dr. Rollo will be serving as a moderator for the discussion. The event is free and open to the public.

WE WILL HAVE **OUR ANNUAL TOAST TO THE NEW YEAR,**
SUNDAY DURING SERVICE.



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.

CONGRATULATIONS



*Mr. & Mrs.
Dale and Shaleen Williams*

December 26, 2022 Hampton, VA



A CALL TO LEADERSHIP

Share your leadership ability.

Nominations for Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry Positions, Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery, and Delegates and an alternate delegate to the 2023 Diocesan convention will be accepted until **January 15, 2023**. Nominee's bios will be posted in the bulletin on January 22, 2023. Nominees should be available for the Vestry Meetings on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month. They must also:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Have been a member of St. Thomas a minimum of nine (9) months prior to their nomination and
3. Completed their 2022 pledge in full by **January 15, 2023**

ATTENTION ALL GUILDS, MINISTRIES, AND ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS:

The Parish Annual Meeting, **Sunday, Feb 18, 2023**, following **10:00 AM** Service. End-of-Year Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting must be submitted no later than **January 25, 2023**.

Your 2022 reports should be **1(One) page** and include: Your vision, 2023 activities, and 2023 Planned activities and any other information you would like to share. Please send to Gladyce at 1792@aecst.org. The deadline for reports is Wednesday, **January 25, 2023**.

CANDIDATE PROFILE FOR CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS AECST

Please complete this profile and return it to the church office, or to any member of the Nominating Committee by **Sunday, January 15, 2023**. Candidates' names and profiles will be in the bulletin by **January 22, 2023** to be reviewed prior to their election at the February Annual Meeting. Please print or type all information.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Seeking nomination for (check one):

Vestry ___ Auxiliary Vestry ___

Delegate to the:

Schuylkill Deanery ___ Diocesan Convention ___

Current or pre-retirement occupation: _____

Describe your involvement in church, guilds, or organizations:

In the space provided below, please provide your vision for the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. You may also describe any of your work or special skills that you think will benefit the parish, and/or discuss what you see as the most pressing issue(s) facing St. Thomas, and how you might contribute to the solution(s):

Nominating Committee Chair: Pat Lynch email: *ptl318@aol.com*
Members: Ronnie Collins, Cynthia Muse, Bobby Tillman

Officers, 2023
Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry, Schuylkill Deanery and Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Share your leadership ability.

Nominations for Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry Members, 2023-2026; Schuylkill Deanery Representatives and Diocesan Convention Delegates, 2023, will be accepted December 11, 2022 through January 15, 2023. A nomination form is in the bulletin today. Nominees' bios will be in the bulletin on January 22, 2023.

Qualifications:

- Nominees must be 18 years of age.
- They must be a member of St. Thomas a minimum of nine (9) months prior to their nomination.
- Their 2022 pledge must be paid in full by December 31, 2022.
- They must be available for Vestry meetings on the third Thursday evening of each month, January through June and September through December.
- They are required to serve on a Vestry Committee/Ministry.

Please forward nominations and questions to members of the nomination committee: Nominee forms may also be emailed to: Pat Lynch ptl318@aol.com

Chair: Pat Lynch Members: Ronnie Collins, Cynthia Muse, Bobby Tillman

With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.
Psalm 78:72

A GREAT HONOR

Our own St. Thomas Gospel Choir has received an invitation to sing at the Inauguration of the 48th Governor (Josh Shapiro) and 35th Lieutenant Governor (Austin Davis) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, **Tuesday, January 17, 2023.**



UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN JANUARY

Sunday, Jan. 8th - The First Sunday after the Epiphany
(Baptism of our Lord) Renewal of Baptism Vows

Sunday, Jan. 15th - Our Annual Celebration of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr - Guest Speaker, **The Rev. Canon Betsy Smith Ivey**, Canon for Growth and Support - Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.



Sunday, Jan. 22nd - Youth / Young Adult Sunday
Girls Friendly Induction

Sunday, Jan 29th - Health Ministry Sunday



Happy Birthday to all our Parishioners who are celebrating birthdays in January

- 1 / 2 Angelica Ganier-Glenn, Meecca Miles, Constance Stokes, Shonalie Roberts, Seth Williams
- 1/3 Shirley Gadson
- 1/4 Debra Joell
- 1/5 Theodore Bythewood
- 1/7 Patricia Corbin, Andrew Sudler, Donald Ellis Moore
- 1/9 Selma Thompson, Deidre Farmby, Denise McKinney
- 1/10 Karl Holloway, Donnisa Graham
- 1/12 Vernetta Johnston, Nicole Miles
- 1/16 Helena Allen, Gwen Francis
- 1/17 Jayne Browne
- 1/18 Adrienne Logan
- 1/19 Gladys Dungee, Jann Minor
- 1/22 Larry Farmby, Jessica Golson
- 1/23 Rev. Wil Gafney
- 1/24 Alexis Collins, Karen Jones
- 1/25 John Shields
- 1/26 D'Lalah Joell, Ian Napoleon
- 1/27 Natalye Paquin, Elizabeth Derr
- 1/29 JoAnn Chapman, Fr. Jay
- 1/30 Gary Camp, Marie Jordan



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain **MANDATORY** while at St. Thomas until further notice.

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.

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.

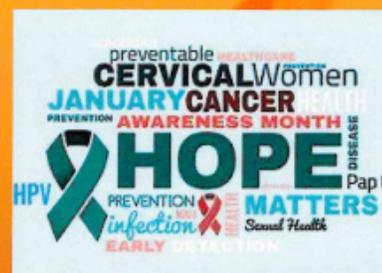
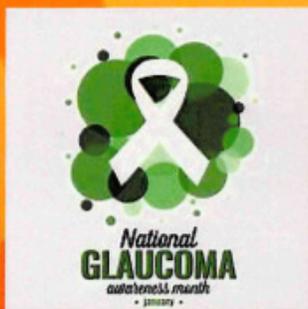
Please contact Scout Master [Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

A St. Thomas Health Ministry Note

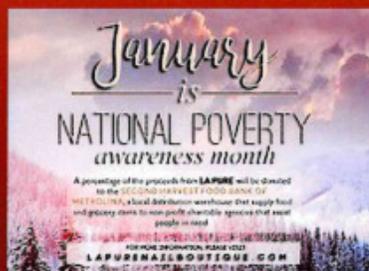
STAY UP TO DATE with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.

For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) 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.



January Health Awareness



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 First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 8, 2023**

The Baptism of Our Lord
The First Lesson: [Isaiah 42:1-9](#)
[Psalm 29](#)

The Second Lesson: [Acts 10:34-43](#)
The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 3:13-17](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for
the Week of January 9, 2023**

Monday - [Mark 1:1-12](#)
Tuesday - [Mark 1:14-28](#)
Wednesday - [Mark 1:29-45](#)
Thursday - [Mark 2:1-12](#)
Friday - [Mark 2:13-22](#)
Saturday - [Mark 2:23-3:6](#)

**Readings for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 15, 2023**

The First Lesson: [Isaiah 49:1-7](#)
[Psalm 40:1-12](#)
The Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)
The Holy Gospel: [John 1:29-42](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of January 16, 2023**

Monday - [Mark 3:7-19a](#)
Tuesday - [Mark 3:19b-35](#)
Wednesday - [Mark 4:1-20](#)
Thursday - [Mark 4:21-34](#)
Friday - [Mark 4:35-41](#)
Saturday - [Mark 5:1-20](#)

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.

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](#).

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.

OUR CONDOLENCES

to Terri Taylor and family, on the death of her brother, **Glynn Taylor**. May the soul of Glynn rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

to Sheryl Johnson and family, on the death of her father **A. Benjamin Johnson, Jr.** May the soul of A. Benjamin rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.



AECST BIBLESTUDY WITH FR. JAY

Bible Study will resume on **January 10th 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. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare - in advance - for the week's meeting.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL: Sheryl Johnson, Ronald Coleman - Lankenau, Dr. Snowden - University of Pennsylvania

IN REHAB: Linda Holmes

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriguez, Charles Flemming, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, , Dr. Walter Bantom, William Smalls, Leatrice Snowden. Joan Hall, Shirley Winkfield.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman, Dr. Thomas Snowden, 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.

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	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.