

AECST
FOUNDED 1792

CHANGE
WOMEN

Celebrating Women's History Month



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

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Lenten Theme:
“Emerging from the Wilderness with Jesus”
Sunday, March 6, 2022
10:00 AM.



WHAT IS LENT?

Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history.

Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ’s fasting in the wilderness.

The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays.

The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” (BCP, p. 265).

“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 First Sunday in Lent. Lenten theme: “Emerging from the Wilderness with Jesus.”

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. Whoever 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. Again, welcome! May Jesus reveal himself to you during the Season of Epiphany.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE VESTRY: Patricia Bantom, Brenda Best Johnson, Ronnie Collins, Wendella Fox, D Lynn Joell, Pamela Johnson, Jonathan Muse, Judy Simpkins-Booth, Bobby Tillman.

TO THE AUXILIARY VESTRY: Patricia Akins, Conchetta Brewer, Sharon Bullock, and Gregory Lyles.

Property Chair - Deborah Harrison

Stewardship - Judith Tillman

Rector's General Counsel - Joe Tucker, Esq.

Special Advisor to the Rector - Richard Jones

Fiscal Assistant to the Rector - Deborah Camp - Frye

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:

Albert Dandridge, Esq. and Cassandra Ruffin

Delegates to Schuylkill Deanery:

Phyllis Cater and Johanna Daye

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

to the following individuals elected by the Vestry:

Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson

Treasurer - Albert Dandridge, Esq.

Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels

to the following individuals appointed by the Rector:

Rector's Warden - Deadra Cannon

THANK YOU!

to all the members that joined us on Sunday for our Annual Parish Meeting, in-person and Zoom. An extra Special Thank you to Yaseen Farooq and Gregory Allen for their technical expertise with Zoom. Thank you to the other members of the Communications Ministry (you know who you are) that made Sunday's meeting possible.

Enormous Thanks for outstanding service and dedication to the following individuals whose terms on the Vestry and Auxiliary Vestry have expired. They were not eligible for re-election:

Richard Jones, Vestry, Rector's Warden

Deborah Camp-Frye, Vestry, Accounting Warden

Linda Holmes, Auxiliary Vestry

Cynthia Muse, Auxiliary Vestry

Bernadette Wyche, Auxiliary Vestry

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

FROM THE RECTOR

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

SAINT THOMAS IS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE

Masks are **MANDATORY** for all in attendance. Hand sanitizer is 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](#).



SPECIAL LENTEN WEEK DAY HEALING MASSES Wednesdays 6:00 PM.

Come to receive laying of hand and anointing of oil for a physical, mental, and spiritual healing.

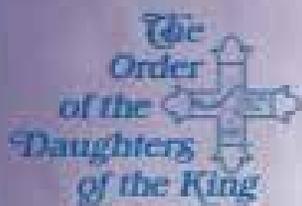
Do you need a physical, mental, or spiritual healing?

March 9th , March 16th , March 23rd,
March 30th and April 6th.

(A Special Concert will follow on March 23rd.)

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.



**The St. Thomas Chapter of the
Order of the Daughters of the King**

**INVITES
YOU and a FRIEND to Join Us!**

Lenten Season Bible Study Series

**'Four Women who Walked with Jesus
to the Cross'**

*Mary of Bethany
+
Samaritan Woman
at the well
+
Mary Magdalene
+
Mary, Mother of
Jesus*

Led by Dynamic Speaker & Spiritual Leader

Reverend H. Jocelyn Irving

*Retired Pastor | Episcopal Church of the Atonement
Washington, D.C.*

**Virtual Sessions
Wednesday,**

**March 9
March 16
March 23
March 30
April 6
2022**

7:30pm



*For Registration & Zoom
email:*

Conchetta Brewer

ms.cbrewer074@gmail.com

*The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
AECST - 17th Rector*



**SIXTY VOICES
THIRTY INSTRUMENTS
ONE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE™**

Presents A

**Benefit Concert
To Honor the Strength and
Commitment of the
Healthcare Team at
Johns Hopkins Medicine**

Saturday March 5, 2022
Hippodrome Theatre, Baltimore • 8 pm

**THE BAND AND CHOIR COVER AN
AMAZING RANGE OF MUSIC FROM ROCK,
BLUES, INDIE, JAZZ, ACOUSTIC, POP,
R&B, MOTOWN
AND SOUL-SIZZLING GOSPEL**

ZenMed Entertainment, LLC



TRANSFIGURED NOTES

Milton Babbitt
W.A. Mozart
George Walker
Jay Fluellen
William Grant Still

Featuring:
Elizabeth Hainen, harp



Saturday
March 19, 3PM

Haverford College
370 Lancaster Avenue,
Haverford, PA

Wednesday
March 23, 8PM

African Episcopal
Church of St. Thomas
6361 Lancaster Ave.
Philadelphia, PA



Chamber Orchestra

FIRST EDITIONS

CONGRATULATIONS

to our own Dr. Jay Fluellen, who was awarded a grant from the 2022 Black City Music Awards. He will be working on a new creative project: Symphony for McCoy Tyner for Musicopia String Orchestra. Your church family is so proud of you!

NEW MEMBERS/ CONFIRMATION CLASS

Attention All New Members Adults and Youth: Have you been confirmed yet? The bishop will be making his Visitation to St. Thomas on Sunday, May 1st, 2022. Classes will begin Monday, February 14th at 7:00PM. They will be Zoom classes facilitated by Fr. Shaw and Fr. Jay. There are eight(8) meetings before the Bishop's visit. We are in the process of forming a New Member / Confirmation Class of 2022. Please contact Gladyce DuBrey in the Parish Office to add your name.

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.

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](#).

THE ST. THOMAS ALTAR GUILD

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

VIRTUAL CHURCH SCHOOL

Church school will meet by ZOOM on Sundays at noon. All parents and church school aged children are encouraged to attend. If you need more information please contact Dottie Archey at: 215-474-2815 or you can send an email to [Dottie Archey](#) for more information.

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.

A Message from the St. Thomas Chapter of THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

“Our long-term commitment to racial justice and reconciliation is embedded in our identity as baptized followers of Jesus. We will still be doing it when the news cameras are long gone.” Excerpt from a word to the Church from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, May 30, 2020.

In keeping with Presiding Bishop Curry’s sentiments, the St. Thomas Chapter formed the Anti-Racism Initiative Committee (ARIC) in September of 2020 to actively pursue the goal of promoting racial justice, reconciliation, and healing, consistent with our Baptismal Covenant and the Motto of our Order. In connection with this effort, ARIC has delivered brief educational programs to the chapter about the language of and best practices for advancing anti-racism efforts. The group also created some supporting documents, including a [Prayer for Racial Equity and Healing](#), a [Glossary of Anti-Racist/Bias Terms](#), and a list of [Suggested Resources that Support Anti-Racism Efforts](#).

This month, as we continue to honor Black History, we encourage you to review them at your leisure.

For more information about this effort, feel free to contact ARIC’s chairperson, [Karen Jackson Vaughn](#)



Flowers are not placed on the Altar during Lent (except for Rose Sunday / Laetare Sunday, March 27, 2022). Please place your order for **EASTER FLOWERS**.

Your gift of Easter Lilies and Altar arrangements will help beautify the church for the Easter Holiday or be a beautiful tribute to someone you love, a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received.

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

Easter Flowers and Lilies Deadline: Monday, April 4, 2022

- Flowers on the High Altar - \$125.00
- Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$90.00
- Flowers on the Columbarium- \$55.00
- An Easter Lily @\$25.00 each (5 names per plant)

(Please PRINT)

In Memory of or In Thanksgiving for (Please list names)

Given by _____ Envelope # _____ Amount \$_____

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS FOR

The First Sunday in Lent

March 6th

First Reading: [Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#)
[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#)

Second Reading: [Romans 10:8b-13](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 4:1-13](#)

Week of 3/7/2022

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

Tuesday - [Matthew 6:7-15](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 11:29-32](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 7:7-12](#)

Friday - [Matthew 5:20-26](#)

Saturday - [Matthew 5:43-48](#)

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 13th

First Reading: [Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18](#)
[Psalm 27](#)

Second Reading: [Philippians 3:17-4:1](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 13:31-35](#)

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 20th

First Reading: [Exodus 3:1-15](#)

Psalm [63:1-8](#)

Second Reading: [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Luke 13:1-9](#)

READINGS FOR

The Fourth Sunday in Lent/Rose Sunday
March 27th

First Reading: [Joshua 5:9-12](#)
[Psalm 32](#)

Second Reading: [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)
The Holy Gospel: [Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32](#)

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 3rd

First Reading: [Isaiah 43:16-21](#)
[Psalm 126](#)

Second Reading: [Philippians 3:4b-14](#)
The Holy Gospel: [John 12:1-8](#)



AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY

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

A FEW QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES ON “VIRTUAL WORSHIP”

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

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

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL: Rosalind Rodriguez - U Penn

RECOVERING AT HOME

Inez Turner, Dorothy Smith, Kenneth Dow, Gwenda Hart, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Susan Ben.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

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

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

FROM THE RECTOR

You should have received your Third Quarter Statement of the Stewardship year. I am urging everyone to please assure that your 2021 Pledge is current. If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from **9:30 AM-2:00 PM Monday -Thursday**. Thanking you in advance for the many ways that you share your Time, Talents and Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

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

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

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

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

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement [Donation Button](#) on our [website](#).

A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING

Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of
(10% of our earnings)

Where are you on your spiritual journey?
Annual Faithful Giving

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
\$10,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$20,000.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$25,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$110,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$120,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$175,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$200,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much.

Judy Tillman, Stewardship Committee

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

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

- 1) Sunday Offering Plate.
- 2) Mail in your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator.
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) Use the **Givi app**. If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi IOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) Bring your check directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) Church website - **[Online Giving](#)**
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) Pledge Cards: Pledge cards can still be sent for 2022. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically through the **www.aecst.org** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**.
Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Assistant to the Rector		
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sextons	Ronald Jones	1792aecstorg
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
Bible Study	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
	Dale Williams	thebeamermator@gmail.com
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deborah Camp - Frye	
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	trublu265@aim.com
Investments Advisor to the Rector	Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq	aldandridge@schnader.com
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry Co-Directors	Quentin Heyward - Co-Chair	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman - Co-Chair	teritill@yahoo.com
	Dale Williams - Co-Chair	thebeamermator@gmail.com
	Yaseen Farooq - Co-Chair	yifarooq@gmail.com
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
Reach Out and Touch Ministry	Elizabeth Derr	hmomlitz@aol.com
Special Advisor to the Rector	Richard Jones	
Social Media Manager		communications@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry	J. Reggie Kimble	tkglimo@aol.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry		

THE VESTRY

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

Patricia Bantom
Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
Ronnie Collins
Wendella Fox
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Pamela Johnson
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 taught, lived and spread.