



# "MEN ARE COOKING: CUISINES ACROSS CONTINENTS"

**Sunday, May 4, 2025 - 12 PM**

**Experience delicious dishes  
prepared by the men of St. Thomas.**



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
[WWW.AECST.ORG](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
St. Thomas Men Are Cooking  
May 4, 2025**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church  
of St. Thomas**

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)  
Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
(215) 473-3065

[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw  
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans  
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins  
Associate Priest



The African Episcopal  
Church of St. Thomas |  
About The AECST

[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

**Scan the QR code to support our church  
and our ministries.**

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

## **“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 Easter.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend 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. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Again, welcome!

Faithfully,

*Martini Shaw* +

(The Very Reverend Canon) Martini Shaw,  
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deaner



***The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
Presents***

## ***St. Thomas Men Are Cooking***

**The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector  
The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans, Associate to the Rector**

**Calling All Men** to Prepare and Serve your Favorite Dish(es) and  
to forward your recipe for the cookbook to be available close to the event  
Email Recipes to Cookbook Editor & Event Organizer: Dr. Tim Barksdale :  
**Tim.Barksdale@Merakey.org**

### **\$20.00 includes:**

- Delicious Food, Dessert & Drinks
- Indoor & Outdoor Seating
- Table Service for Those in Need
- Door Prizes & Give-aways
- \$10.00 for those under 12 years
- Free for toddlers



**Sunday, May 4th, 2025, Immediately after service**

**AECST Anderson Hall, 6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA 19151**

For More Information Contact  
ED Geiger: 716-207-0405  
Andrew Dumas: 917-325-4434

**Get Tickets from  
The Men's Ministry & Fellowship,  
Edward Geiger, President**

**ANNOUNCING THE 2025 “MEN ARE COOKING”  
CHEFS OF ST. THOMAS!!!**

Fr. Martini Shaw	Gregory Hayes
Fr. Daren Evans	Maurice Hayes
Michael Archey	Quentin Heyward
Dr. Tim Barksdale	Ashley Hines
Dr. Massimo Baudo	Donald Hunt
Guy Booth	Kelvin Johnson
Ricardo Bostic	John Kortue
Paige Bowser, Jr.	Thomas Lynch
Howard Chapman	John Maxwell
Carl Dean	Michael McIntosh
Dr. Rollo Dilworth	Eugene Phillips
Andrew Dumas	Stephen Pugh
Bill Edmonds	Dr. Reginald Royster
Larry Farmbry	Edwin Santana
Norman Frank	Irving Stevenson
Barry Frye	Bobby Tillman
Ed Geiger	Harold Townsend
Eugene Golson	Arnott Trotman
Dr. Derek Griffith	Justin Trotman
Tyrone Gunby	Joe Wells
Dennis Hall	Seth Williams
Thomas Harris	Brian Wilson
Dr. Walter Harris	Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Jr.

Edgar Wise

## **AN EASTER WISH FROM THE RECTOR:**

Wishing each one of you a very holy and blessed fifty days of Easter filled with Joy and Peace.



## **OUR HOMILIST for Sunday, May 4, 2025 - The Rev. Dr. Jermaine M. McDonald**

Jermaine has been a member of St. Thomas since 2024.

He has earned a B.S. in Computer Science from The University of Virginia, M. Div from Virginia Union University and PhD in Ethics and Society from Emory University. He was licensed to preach in 2003 and ordained in 2006 by the Macedonian Baptist Church, Newport News, VA.

### **FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR:**

This is a reminder that the Mass (Service) ends following the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the Service before the conclusion. This request is being made in order to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

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### **CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**R. Seth Williams**

**and**

**Stacey Williams**

in receiving the Sacrament  
of Holy Matrimony

on Saturday, April 26th.

May God Bless their marriage and union.

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**The Sisterhood Guild** would like to thank our generous congregation for their contributions to the guild's Lenten collection for Northern Children's Services. We collected numerous packs of wipes, diapers, and toiletries. Thank you again, The Sisterhood Guild.

## OUR FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW!

We welcome **Kareem Ragin** who recently joined our church family. Kareem's shepherd is Dr. Tim Barksdale. We look forward to getting to know him.



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## A PRAYERFUL & DEDICATED GROUP OF OUR PARISH!

Several of our St. Thomas Daughters of the King (DOK) members attended the Province III Retreat at the Bishop Claggett Center.





### OUR CONDOLENCES

to Anita Smith and her family on the death of her cousin,  
**Ronald Coleman**, who passed on April 22, 2025.

Celebration of life will be held at Enon Tabernacle Baptist  
Church on Thursday, May 1st.

May the soul of Ronald rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for the family.

to Andrew Dumas and family on the death of  
his father, **Andrew Dumas, Sr.**

His service will be held on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**,  
at The United Methodist Church in Lancaster, California.

May the soul of Andrew rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for the family.



### AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for worship on the St. Thomas [website](#),  
the [Live Stream Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or  
[Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

You can also watch [Past Services](#).

**The Second Sunday of Easter  
Youth/Young Adult Sunday  
April 27, 2025**





More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

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**The New Members Manual has arrived.  
Please use the [link](#) to access it.**

## HAVE YOU JOINED YET?

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, during his sermon, the Rector signed a “**RECTOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER**” announcing that St. Thomas Church and individual Vestry members would become financial supporters and members of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The “Order” further encouraged the entire parish membership and family/friends to become supporters. Please sign up NOW using the [link](#).



## **ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Plans are underway to begin our New Members/ Confirmation Classes soon. Most of these classes will be held via Zoom. Please watch the bulletin and Spearhead for further information. Please speak with Fr. Daren or Seminarian Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

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## **JOIN OUR PARTNERS**

The St. James School will celebrate its Annual Benefit  
on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025,**

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum,  
6825 Norwitch Drive, Philadelphia.

You may recall that our church was one of the past  
honorees for this beautiful celebration.

This year's honorees are the former Presiding Bishop  
Michael Curry and the former owners of  
Royal Electric Supply. [Go to www.stjamesphila.org/thrive](http://www.stjamesphila.org/thrive)  
for event details and registration.

Once registered, please [email](mailto:Phyllis.Cater@stjamesphila.org) Phyllis Cater, if you wish to  
sit at the St. Thomas table.

## OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS/FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members/families of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms:

Constance Anderson

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather

Christopher Burks

**Deadra Cannon**

Nora Corbin

Dr. Ted Corbin

Paula Cropper

Lee Daniels

Stacey Davis

Rashid and Christie Faisal

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Bradley Hammond

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Dr. Calvin Johnson

Bettie Jones

Rae Scott Jones

Richard Jones, Jr.

Dr. Sheila Jones

Steven and Jameela Lewis

Gregory Lyles

Dr. John Rich

Richard & Rebecca Scales

Shelly and Ann Stewart

Howard Tucker

Allison Young

Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks for Deadra Cannon. She has been a faithful member for 76 years.

She says: “Even though I have physically moved, my heart and my spirit will forever remain with St Thomas because I believe that is where God has planted me”.



## **This Week at AECST – May 5, 2025**

### **Monday, May 5th**

~Meeting of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.~  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Tuesday, May 6th**

~Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting~  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM in the Undercroft  
  
~Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study~  
with Fr. Jay via Zoom – 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday, May 7th**

~Bible Study with Fr. Daren~  
6:00 PM in the Absalom Jones House  
  
~Angels in Motion~  
7:00 PM in the church  
  
~St. Thomas Gospel Choir~  
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Saturday, May 10th**

~Scout Troop #133~  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM in the Undercroft

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN MAY**

### **Sunday, May 4th**

The Third Sunday of Easter  
~St. Thomas Men are Cooking~  
Anderson Hall

### **May 11th**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
~Mother's Day~

### **May 18th**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
~Heroes Sunday~  
Guest Speaker: Philadelphia Fire Commissioner  
Jeffrey Thompson

### **May 25th**

The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
~Memorial Day Observance~



## **MOTHER'S DAY! IT'S ALMOST HERE! MAY 11th!**

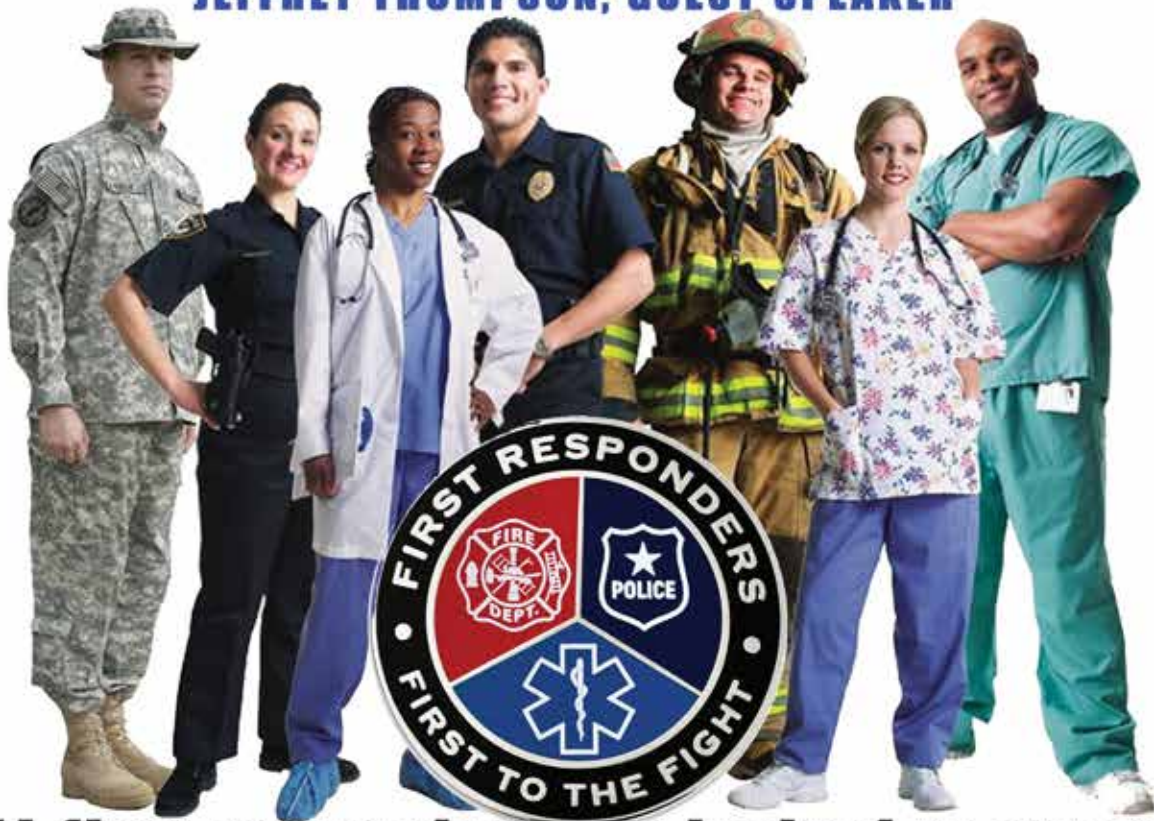
The St. Thomas Gardeners  
Annual: MOTHER'S DAY  
FLOWER SALE. Honor your  
mother (Living or Deceased)  
by wearing a red, pink or white  
carnation. Flower Day - Free  
will donations help to purchase  
colorful Summer and Fall  
flowers for our church grounds.



# HEROES' SUNDAY

MAY 18, 2025 10:00 AM

**Philadelphia Fire Commissioner  
JEFFREY THOMPSON, GUEST SPEAKER**



**ALL first responders are invited to attend!**

- \* All First Responders are encouraged to arrive by 9:45, attend in uniform and proceed into church together.
- \* There will be a reception with light refreshments in the church hall immediately following mass.
- \* For More Information Please Contact: Seth Williams  
[Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net](mailto:Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net)

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## CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE

### REAL ID

**May 7th** – The Last Call -- the use of REAL ID becomes effective; it is not too late to gather your documents and get your REAL ID go to: [www.PennDOT.gov/REALID](http://www.PennDOT.gov/REALID)

### THE PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION PRIMARY

#### Important Dates

**May 5th** – last day to register to vote

**May 13th** – last date to request mail in ballot

**May 20th** – Primary Election Day

Polls open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM for in-person voting.

Return your Mail-in Ballot by 8:00 PM.

For more information go to [www.vote.pa.gov](http://www.vote.pa.gov)

The complete ballot for Philadelphia County has not been finalized yet. However, we do know about state-wide judges for Commonwealth Court and Superior Court, the two Democratic candidates for District Attorney as well as candidates for City Controller.

The Committee of 70's Interactive Voter Guide gives you information about each position on the ballot and the candidates running for that position. You can read about the candidate's experience and whether they are recommended for election. Experience and information about the candidates for District Attorney and City Controller is also included. Take your time and read about these candidates. ***Be informed!!***

There are also candidates for Judge of Election and Inspector of Election.

Philadelphia County has 3 ballot questions that could affect the Home Rule Charter: -Increase Minimum Spending on Housing Trust Fund Purposes Amendment (May 2025): Ombudsperson for Office of Homeless Services Amendment (May 2025): Prison Community Oversight Board and Office Amendment (May 2025)

## **WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?**

### **Sunday May 4th**

Salt and Light Church 5738 Chester Avenue, 4-6 PM, the West/ SW Cluster of **POWER Interfaith**, which the Catto Ministry participates, is hosting a Town Hall on housing. Community leaders, elected officials and city council members will be on hand to provide information and answer your questions. You will have an opportunity to craft solutions that will help renters, first-time homeowners and senior citizens obtain or remain in their home.

Any questions please contact Co-Chairs Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison

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## **ATTENTION AECST STUDENTS:**

The Jesse F. Anderson Sr. Scholarship Fund is offering the St. Thomas Book Awards for graduating high school seniors who are members of the African Episcopal Church of St.

Thomas (AECST) and plan to attend a school of higher learning in Fall 2025. Additionally, applications are available for AECST members enrolled in a full-time graduate program. **The application deadline is May 12, 2025.**

For more information contact [Paula Lamb](#) (High School Seniors) or [Diana Hutchins](#) (Graduate Students) or [Thomasina Hack](#).

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## **THE ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

**Presents**

### **A Weekend Celebration of Women**

**Saturday, May 31st**

Women's Wellness Retreat

Includes: Mindfulness Wellness and Inspiring Speakers, Creative Expressions Workshops, Healing Drum Circle, Continental Breakfast, Delicious Lunch, and more!

**Sunday, June 1st**

Annual Women's Day Celebration

Get your Retreat Tickets Today!

You don't want to miss it!



**The St. Thomas Women's Ministry  
PRESENTS**

# **WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT**

**Saturday, May 31, 2025: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

## **REVIVE. RESTORE. RENEW: FINDING STRENGTH IN FAITH**

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

**~KAREN TAYLOR BASS~**

**CERTIFIED YOGA INSTRUCTOR, MEDIATION COACH,  
WELLNESS TRAINER, AUTHOR**

**~THE REV. CANON TONEH SMYTH~**

**CANON FOR MINISTRIES OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PA  
IN CONVERSATION WITH ASHLEY WILLIAMS,  
EMMY AWARD WINNING PRODUCER  
FOR CBS NEWS PHILADELPHIA**

**WELLNESS RETREAT EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:**

**CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS WORKSHOPS | GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER  
MINDFUL MEDITATION | CLOSING DRUM CIRCLE**

**BRING A FRIEND AND ENJOY ENGAGING WORKSHOPS,  
CAPTIVATING SPEAKERS, CHAIR MASSAGE,  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, DELICIOUS LUNCH AND MUCH MORE!**

**TICKETS: \$50 PER PERSON**

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S MINISTRY - MEMO: WOMEN'S RETREAT  
CASH APP PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE TO: \$46DBM | PLEASE INCLUDE WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**DEBORAH MATTHEWS | EMAIL: DEBMADANCO@VERIZON.NET**

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**The St. Thomas Women's Ministry  
PRESENTS**

# **THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN**

**Sunday, June 1, 2025: 10:00 AM**

## **REVIVE. RESTORE. RENEW: FINDING STRENGTH IN FAITH**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**SHERYL LEE RALPH**

**TONY NOMINATED  
EMMY AWARD WINNING  
ACTRESS AND SINGER**

**JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF  
WORSHIP, MUSIC, SONG, DANCE,  
AND FELLOWSHIP,  
FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION.**

**BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
TO THIS  
SPIRIT-FILLED CELEBRATION  
OF WOMEN!**



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## HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of **Older Americans Month** (OAM), a time to recognize older Americans' contributions and highlight aging trends.

The 2025 theme, **Flip the Script on Aging**, focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. It encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions.

The words we use shape our perceptions. This Older Americans Month, we're sharing ways to rethink how we talk about aging. Instead of "She still drives," simply say, "She drives." Phrases like "still" often reinforce ageist assumptions. Small shifts like this can have a big impact.

Aging is an opportunity, not a limitation—whether it's pursuing a new passion, giving back to the community, or redefining expectations.

Ever heard someone blame forgetfulness on a "senior moment?" It reinforces the stereotype that aging means cognitive decline. Let's recognize that minor memory lapses happen to people of all ages. Small language changes help us Flip the Script on Aging.

Learning doesn't stop with age—it evolves. In fact, adults over 60 are among the fastest-growing group of online learners. Let's celebrate the pursuit of knowledge at every stage of life.

What new skill or subject are you exploring?

Physical activity is key to staying healthy at every stage of life. Whether it's yoga, dancing, hiking, or daily walks, movement helps maintain strength and independence. This Older Americans Month and beyond, let's challenge the idea that aging means slowing down.

# THE DAY OF PENTECOST

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
THE BIRTH OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
JUNE 8, 2025 10:00 AM



## ONE LOVE!

Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when God's people dwell  
together in unity! Psalm 133:1

# Caribbean Festival



THE PENTECOST AND CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEES  
OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS HOST  
THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND THE 15TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

JOIN US FOR THE SWEET SOUNDS OF STEELPAN MUSIC,  
SAMPLINGS OF DELICACIES FROM THE CARIBBEAN, AND LOTS OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

CATHERINE STAFFORD & GILLIAN WILSON, CO-CHAIRS

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are given in Loving memory of  
**The Rev. Canon Jesse F. Anderson, Jr.**, on what would  
have been his 88th birthday (May 2nd),  
given by Connie Anderson.

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

High Altar - \$60  
Absalom Jones Altar - \$50  
the Columbarium - \$40

Please use the QR Code below to order flowers or  
contribute to our church ministries.



# DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

## Readings For The Third Sunday Of Easter

May 4, 2025

The First Lesson - [Acts 9:1-20](#)

[Psalm 30](#)

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

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

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of May 5, 2025

Monday - [Luke 4:14-30](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 4:31-37](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 4:38-44](#)

Thursday - [Luke 5:1-11](#)

Friday - [Luke 5:12-26](#)

Saturday - [Luke 5:27-39](#)



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### PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

with Fr. Jay meet on Tuesdays  
7:00 PM via Zoom.

Please contact [Fr. Jay](#) with  
questions/requests.

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### WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

with Fr. Daren meets in the AJ House  
at 6:00 PM. Our Spring study will be a  
“Journey through the Book of Revelation.”

## **TINY TIKES TOT AREA**

We are almost ready for our tiny Saints! The Tiny Tykes Tot area will soon welcome parents and their children aged 3 and under. The area is a soft space that will engage our little ones that may need a break from the sanctuary. A large screen monitor will live stream the service, so parents and care givers won't miss the sermon nor communion. Ribbon cutting and blessing of the space will be held after service on Mother's Day.

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## **ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS**

Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies. Please [email](#) Fr. Daren your contact information as soon as possible (including cellphone). Our prayers remain with you.

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## **CHAT AND CHEW**

Have you ever considered hosting a Chat and Chew following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the church office for further details.



## **CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!**

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson.](#)



## **VERGERS NEEDED!**

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?  
Want to know more about what a Verger does?

The Verger Guide may be found [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or  
the Rector for more details.



**A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS,  
MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS:**

**ANY** and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladyce DuBrey](#) (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

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**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, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

## RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

- to 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. Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the office if you are interested.
- as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) 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](#).
- **The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).



## **ST. THOMAS PODCAST**

Stay tuned! Our podcast will soon return. In the meantime, please enjoy the three previous episodes. If you would like to be a guest on any of the podcasts, please speak with Fr. Daren or [email](#) him for more information.

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## **ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES**

Rehearsals are EACH SUNDAY immediately following service. For more information, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

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## **CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Are you willing to serve, at least one Sunday per month, as a church school teacher? Please prayerfully consider this call. We are especially looking for young adults, men, and anyone who loves children. Please use this [link](#) to register to become a church school teacher.

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## **IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW but also as the church of TODAY!!! We embrace and celebrate our youth. If you have children in your family or neighborhood, please invite or bring them to be a part of our amazing Church School program. When was the last time you invited someone to church?

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## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

## **YOUNG ADULT GATHERING**

All young adults (those in their 20's and 30's) are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

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## **GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY**

All young ladies are invited to join us on Saturdays in the Undercroft at 11:00 AM.

**The Girls' Friendly Society does not meet every Saturday.**

Please contact [Nikkol Simms](#) for more information and the schedule.

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## CALLING FOR YOUTH ACOLYTES!



Calling all youth! You are needed to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren.](#)

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**Scout Troop #133** - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at **2:00 PM on Saturdays.**

Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program meets at **3:00 PM on Saturdays.**

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

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## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:**

### **IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House;  
Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Leotta Griffith - Kindred Hospital Havertown; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Inez Turner - The Residence at Bala Cynwyd; Ola Bass - The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting; Ridart "Butch" Farmer- Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center; Patricia Holmes - 62nd Street Nursing Home; Elizabeth Trulear - Riddle Village Retirement Community

### **AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison, Barbara Douglas, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Quincina Edmonds, Solomon Cropper, Sharon Harper, Donald Hunt, Sr., Verger Stephen Hannum, Marie Golson, Virginia DuBrey

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Lisa Woodley, Adinah Edwards, Ann Stewart, Waltier Blocker, Arlene Gray, Daryn Stewart, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Sydnor

### **WE PRAY FOR**

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

## **HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?**

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

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways, your time, your talent or your treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God's children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasures. Prayerfully consider donating to one or all of the special requests below.

### **FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)**

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 2025.

You'll be able to complete your [Faithful Giving Card](#) on the [church website](#), or by using the paper Faithful Giving Card. Strong support is needed to meet the budget, our many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. Your Faithful Giving Card can also be placed in the Alms Basin or mailed to the church office.

**THE BUILDING FUND ENVELOPES** have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. If you've already picked your offering envelopes up, please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering [online](#). Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month.

Thank you.

## **CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

If you are actively contributing, thank you! Your gifts are truly appreciated. Everyone is asked to make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. The Building Fund Envelopes are located in Anderson Hall beside the Offering envelopes. When using electronic payments select "Building Fund." If using checks write "Building Fund" on the memo line of your check.

## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

The church has received many "undeliverable" mailings. If you have moved, please update your mailing address with the church office by [email](#) or phone 215-473-3065.

Can you help deliver offertory envelopes to our sick and shut-in parishioners? If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you would bring their envelopes to them. A list of our sick and shut-in parishioners is located next to the offertory envelopes in Anderson Hall.

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure your name, envelope #, and amount are included on the front of your offering envelope. This is critical for bookkeeping accuracy. Help is just an email away. Contact [Patricia Lynch.](#)

## **RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST**

\$100,000.00. Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider donating toward the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, use the QR code, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



**The African Episcopal  
Church of St. Thomas |  
Abou...**

[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

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

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”. II Corinthians 9:7

### 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,  
(Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151

### 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and nor an account, it's easy to obtain. Please 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 Fiscal Office during regular business hours ( Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM) **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. **NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St.Thomas when filling out your online giving information.

### 6) **Faithful Giving Cards (Pledge)** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**. Thank you so much to all who have return them.

## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
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	David McGilberry	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
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq   Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Patricia Lynch	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney   Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

## THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.  
Stewardship Chair - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Eugene Golson	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Marie B. Golson	Deborah Matthews

## THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Mary Sandra Dean	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Elaine Gillison	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
Ronnie Collins	Cynthia Muse	

## DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. | Dr. Cassandra Ruffin | Alternate: Tyrone Keller

## DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller