



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

10:00 AM

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00AM-4:00PM.

Please be advised that with social distancing still in effect:

1. No more than three (3) persons can visit the office at a time.
2. You must be masked to enter the building and must practice social distancing while present.
3. You must sanitize your hands upon entering the door.
4. Only entry to the entire property will be ONE DOOR, the Absalom Jones House ramp door.

IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICE RE-ENTRY

It is presently uncertain when we will return to worship in the church however planning is underway to assure that we are all able to safely worship upon our return. The Rector has appointed the following Committee to discern/guide the process and make recommendations to him and the Vestry. The Co-Chairs are Richard Jones, Rector's Warden, and Deborah Camp-Frye, Accounting Warden.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The next scheduled Vaccine Clinic at St. Thomas is

MONDAY, MAY 10TH, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Please call the Parish Office for more information
at 215-473-3065.

THE CIRCLE OF PRAYER MINISTRY

Thank you Verger Lisa New, Cynthia Muse, Gloria Thomas, Carla Spates, Elizabeth Derr, the members, and our other friends who continue to participate and support our weekly Circle of Prayer Call. We welcome all who are interested in joining us for this brief time of prayer and praise on **Monday, May 3, 2021.**

The Prayer Call starts promptly at 6:30 AM.

You are encouraged to reach out to us at circleofprayer@aecst.org to submit prayer requests or if you are interested in leading the Intercessory Prayer, the Prayers for the People, or a Meditation in Song.

The teleconference call number is 605-313-6361: access code is 268105.

FROM JFA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Attention St. Thomas High School Grads!

The Jesse F. Anderson Sr. Scholarship St. Thomas Book Award applications are now available. These awards are given to graduates who are active members for at least one year and plan to attend an institution of higher learning in 2021. **Application deadline is May 17, 2021.**

Please contact:

Paula Lamb (215) 620-7250 for application.

**ST. THOMAS
CIRCLE
OF
PRAYER MINISTRY**

**PLEASE JOIN
US WEEKLY FOR
MONDAY MORNING
PRAYER CALL**

AT 6:30 AM

**THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER IS:
(605) 313-6361 CODE: 268 105**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND
AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER
REQUEST TO:**

CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG

**PHYLLIS B. CATER * DAPHNE GILSTRAP
FACILITATORS**

**THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW
RECTOR**



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065

GOOD EVENING, SAINTS!

The St. Thomas Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry would like you to know that KYW Newsradio and NBC 10 Philadelphia are co-sponsoring a prime time debate between the 2 candidates for Philadelphia District Attorney.

Incumbent District Attorney Larry Krasner and his challenger, former homicide prosecutor Carlos Vega, will face questions from a panel of reporters who cover issues around crime, justice, and politics: KYW Newsradio crime and justice reporter Kristen Johanson and community affairs reporter Cherri Gregg, and NBC 10 political reporter Lauren Mayk. NBC 10 anchor Jacqueline London will be the moderator.

Krasner and Vega will square off in a live radio and TV simulcast on **May 5th starting at 7:00 PM**. Sticking with COVID-19 safety protocols, the event is not open to the public, and there will not be a live audience. The event will also be streamed live. Listen on-air at 103.9 FM or 1060 AM, on the Audacy app, or on your smart speaker. Just ask your smart speaker to “play KYW Newsradio.”

PLEASE BE ADVISED

The St. Thomas Thrift Shop is NOT taking donations at this time.

PARISH GIVING

Quarterly Statements will be mailed in July to cover mid-year giving.

THE BLACK CLERICUS EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PA & UBE

invite you to attend a
Virtual Healing from Internalized Oppression Conference
on **May 8, 2021.**

The Rev. Canon Ronald Charles Byrd, Missioner for Black Ministries for the National Episcopal Church, returns to Philadelphia to continue his conference series on The Health of Black Episcopal Churches.

The third offering in his Stewardship Series follows Acquiring New Skins to Hold the New Wine: The Challenges of Today's Black Episcopal Church and The Theology of Giving. Healing from Internalized Oppression delves into the emotional and spiritual health of Black Episcopalians.

Registration is through Eventbrite and can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/the-black-clericus-episcopal-dioocese-of-pa-amp-ube-17901057347>

The Zoom link will be sent to all registered participants on **Friday, May 7, 2020.**

Please join us for this most important conversation.

THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR

has been nominated once again for the Rhythm of Gospel Awards! They are nominated in the categories of: Special Event CD of The Year "Jesus"; CCM Christian Song of The Year, Church Choir of The Year; Traditional Choir of The Year; and Special Event/Instrumental Artist of The Year. The online voting has started, it's from **April 5th - June 5th.** You must vote for someone in each category. Please share the link with family and friends. Make sure they know to vote for us! The link is <http://hstrial-therhythmofgo.homestead.com/voting.html>



SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

**VIRTUAL SERVICE 10:00 AM
(FACEBOOK, WEBSITE OR YOUTUBE)**

**ANNUAL
MOTHER'S DAY
CELEBRATION**

THEME:

**“LEGACIES OF
FAITH,
HOPE,
AND LOVE”**

SPEAKER:

ASHLEY WILLIAMS
**TELEVISION MEDIA PERSONALITY
AND MEMBER OF ST. THOMAS**

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings For The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2nd

First Reading: Acts 8: 26-40
Psalm 22: 24-30

Second Reading: 1 John 4: 7-21
The Holy Gospel: John 15: 1-8

Week of 5/3/2021

Monday - Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
Tuesday - Matthew 6: 7-15
Wednesday - Matthew 6: 19-24
Thursday - Matthew 6: 25-34
Friday - Matthew 7: 1-12
Saturday - Matthew 7: 13-21

Readings For The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 9th

First Reading: Acts 10: 44-48
Psalm 98

Second Reading: 1 John 5: 1-6
The Holy Gospel: John 15: 9-17

TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE CLASSES

with Fr. Jay on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM..

Please send your email to:

Fr. Collins at JayCollins@comcast.net or
267-634-6185 to be added to the list.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 9th

Annual Mother's Day Celebration - Virtual Service

(Facebook, Website or Youtube) at 10:00 AM

Theme "Legacies of Faith, Hope and Love"

Speaker: Ashley Williams, television media personality
and member of St. Thomas

May 16th

Annual Women's Day Celebration - Virtual Service

(Facebook, Website or Youtube) at 10:00 AM

Theme - "Women of God"

Fashioned for His Grace and Purpose

Guest Preacher: The Very Rev. Canon Sandye A. Wilson

15th National President of the Union of Black
Episcopalians; present Interim Dean of The Cathedral of
All Saints, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

May 23rd

Day of Pentecost (Birthday of the Church) 11 AM - Noon

Holy Communion will be distributed outside the church
following the viewing of the Virtual Service.

May 30th

Memorial Day Observance

Memorial Day is the day we remember those who died
in war. We thank the men and women who gave
their lives for our freedom.

Flowers on the High Altar

are in Loving Memory of Jesse F. Anderson Jr.,
on what would have been his heavenly birthday,
given by Constance Anderson.



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



You're Invited!

Join us for our
2021 Annual
Celebration of Women

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Virtual Service at 10:00 AM
(Facebook, Website or YouTube)

This year's Women's Day theme
will focus on
Purpose

*Women of God:
Fashioned for
His Grace and Purpose*

Guest Speaker:

THE VERY REV. CANON SANDYE A. WILSON

former National President of the U.B.E.

and

Present Interim,

Dean of the Cathedral of the

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

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

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Recovering At Home

Linda Holmes, Waltier Blocker, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Kenneth Dow, Carl Dean, Suzanne Closson, Carl Dean, Joan Hall, Georgia Sawyer, Adinah Edwards, Tyrone Keller, William Edmonds, Isedora "Gwen" Francis, Francina Norris, Shirley Winkfield, Joseph Stevenson, William Edmonds, Judith Simpkins-Booth, Lisa Woodley, Joyce Jackson, Donald Young, Robert Brown, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Leatrice Snowden

We Pray For

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

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Sheryl Johnson and family on the death of her uncle, Edward Alfred Johnson.

Dorothy Smith and family on the death of her husband Langston Smith.

May the souls of Edward and Langston rest in peace and rise in glory!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

is now being scheduled. If you or someone or you know wish to be baptized, please go to our website www.aecst.org, go to "About The AECST". Use the drop down to click on Holy Baptism. All the information about baptism and the electronic application form can be found there.



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

The African Episcopal Church
of
St. Thomas
Church School

Calling ALL AECST
Students K-12, Parents
and Teachers

JOIN US
FOR OUR
VIRTUAL CLASSES
EVERY
SUNDAY @ 12:00 NOON

KNOW JESUS.
CHANGE THE WORLD!

Registration required via email
To RSVP contact Supt. Dottie Archey
(215) 837-6941 or email at churchschool@aecst.org

Interested in becoming a Church School Teacher?
Contact Dottie Archey to learn more.

The Very Reverend Canon Fr. Martini Shaw, Rector

"Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old, they will not turn from it"

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)



FROM THE RECTOR

There is still time for you to prayerfully submit your 2021 Faithful Giving Card. You may do so by several methods: mail; drop off in the office; on our website: www.aecst.org or [www.facebook/aecst1792](https://www.facebook.com/aecst1792).

If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from 10:00AM-1:00PM 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.

A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

Our theme for this year's Stewardship - "Our Doors Are Open" 2021 St. Thomas Offering Envelopes are now ready for pick up in Anderson Hall. You may pick them up during Parish Office Hours (M-F 9:00 AM - 4:00PM) by entering through the A.J. House entrance with the ramp.

Please don't forget your mask. If by chance you live in the same neighborhood of a church member who is unable to pick up their envelope, perhaps you can pick it up for them and put it in their mail slot or between their doors.

If you have changed your address, home/cell phone number or email address, please send your changed contact information to Judy Tillman at: tillman_72@msn.com or the church email: 1792@aecst.org so that we can update the church records. Thank you.

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

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

- 1) Mail in your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151

- 2) 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**.

- 3) Bring your check directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 9AM-2PM). After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

- 4) Church website <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, Church School, Chosen 300, 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.

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

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.

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please visit <http://eepurl.com/djyGiD> to subscribe. 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.

Please join us for service on the St. Thomas Website www.aecst.org or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aecst1792> every Sunday morning.

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	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Thomas G Snowden	
Associate Minister	The Rev Dr Paul Bach	
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	
	Lisa Steward-New	
	Karen Ragland	
Executive Assistant to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Assistant to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	
Investments Advisor to the Rector	Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq	
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	
Asst Sexton	James Brown	
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	215.875.0609
Chancel Choir Master	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	drjfluellen@gmail.com
Gospel Choir Master	Waltier Blocker	
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevenson	
Church School Superintendent	Dottie Archey	
215..474..2815	Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail H Harris	215..450..9312
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	215..643..7223
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	302..502..6375
	Dale Williams	
Social Media Manager	Gregory J Allen, PhD	215..477..2672
Scout Pack 133	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Sound Ministry	Joe Stevenson	
Transportation Ministry	J Reggie Kimble	610..585..8053
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Brenda Johnson Best	
Parish Webmaster	Gail H Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	Deborah Harrison	215-473-3065

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard C. Jones
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Johanna W. Daye
Treasurer - Kelvin Johnson

Alister Allman	Albert S. Dandridge	Jonathan Muse
Patricia Bantom	Deborah Harrison	Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Ronnie Collins	D. Lynn Joell	Judith Tillman
	Brenda Johnson Best	

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.
