

HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY!

The Good News
HE LIVES!



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 • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**EASTER SUNDAY
THE SUNDAY OF RESURRECTION**

APRIL 5, 2026,

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

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

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



Scan the QR code or text "AECST" to 73256 to support our church and our ministries.

Please click on the link provided for the

6:00 AM [Order of Service](#)

10:00 AM [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
Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of Our Lord.

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. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcome 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. Whomever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Again, welcome!

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

YOU'RE INVITED: "Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Bunny Visit" at the AECST!



Video: Quentin Heyward
(St. Thomas Videography Ministry)



CALLING ALL CHILDREN: Grab your baskets and head to the Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:00 AM Mass. The Easter Bunny will be visiting with the children on the Great Lawn.



May God Bless the Newly Baptized.

Jasmine Alexandria Davis
Marie Lucille Wallace

An Easter wish from the Rector and clergy:

Wishing each one of you a very holy and blessed fifty days of Easter filled with joy and peace. The Rector will be away on Easter Holiday this week.

The Church and Parish Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, April 6, 2026, for the Easter Holiday.

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER-UPDATE

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 10, 2026, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

The African Episcopal Church of
St. Thomas-Anderson Hall

**Uncork the Conversation: A Congressional
Candidate Forum**

Your Candidates. Your Community. Your Future.
Join us for light refreshments and a Friday evening
of real civic dialogue.



**Uncork the Conversation:
A Congressional Candidate Forum
Your Candidates.
Your Community.
Your Future.**

**Friday, April 10, 2026
Meet & Greet - 5:30 PM
Discussion - 6:30 PM**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church
of St. Thomas - Anderson Hall
Join us for light refreshments
and a Friday evening of real civic dialogue.**



SCAN TO REGISTER



Sponsored by Lisa Rhodes,
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Omega Mu Omega Chapter
and the Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry
of The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.

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UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN 2026

April 12th – The Second Sunday of Easter

April 19th – The Third Sunday of Easter

April 26th – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

St. Thomas Men Are Cooking in Anderson Hall.

THIS WEEK AT AECST – APRIL 6, 2026

Monday, April 6th

Church and Parish offices closed
for the Easter Holiday.

~Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated~
meeting 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM in Anderson Hall

Tuesday, April 7th

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

Wednesday, April 8th

~St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal~
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Friday, April 10th

~Retired Persons Ministry~
10:00 AM – 12 Noon in the Undercroft
~Catto Ministry Event~
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

Saturday, April 11th

~Girls' Friendly Society~ 11:00 AM -1:00 PM
~Scout Troop #133~ 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

The Franklin Memorial Choir of Millennium Baptist Church presents
“Music in the Air Spring Concert” featuring
the St. Thomas Gospel Choir,
Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
Millennium Baptist Church
1630 N. 52nd Street, Phila, PA 19131
Dinners are available for a fee from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM.



Jazz Vespers, on Friday, April 24th, have been postponed until further notice. Please stay tuned for information to come.

ABC NEWS - ST. Thomas begins Holy Week.
Watch the video [here](#).



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER NEWS!
St. Thomas begins Holy Week
Read the article [here](#).



On Saturday, March 28th, St. Thomas Altar Guild and Acolytes were preparing for Palm Sunday.

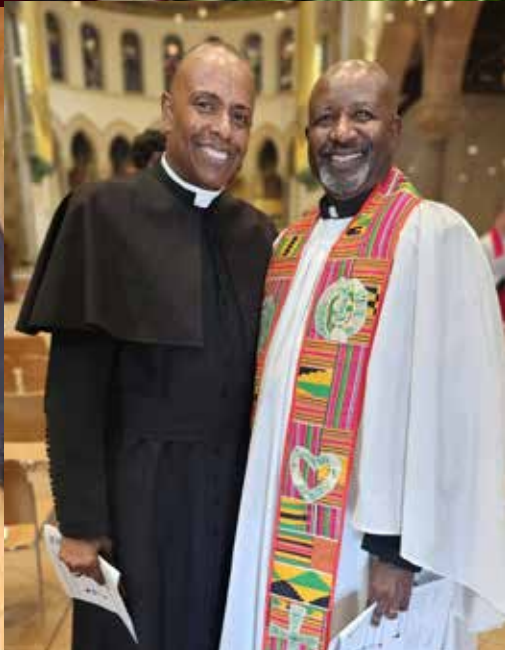
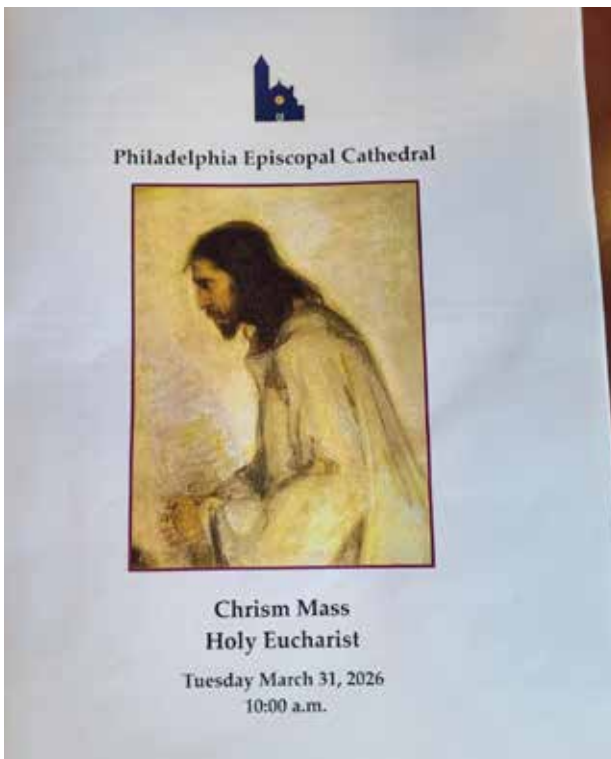


CONDOLENCES

Our prayers and condolences to the family of **Anita Reid**, who passed on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

A memorial service is pending. May the soul of Anita rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.





More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)

OUR LIVESTREAM MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Each week, many people who are away are able to worship with us via our amazing Livestream. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry. If interested, please communicate with the rector.

Palm Sunday Gospel Choir Concert
March 29, 2025

Watch the recorded Palm Sunday Concert [here](#).

Photos: Stephen Pugh
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography)





ATTENTION MEN OF ST. THOMAS:

We need volunteers to cook or volunteer for St. Thomas Men Are Cooking, Sunday, April 26, 2026, following service. To register, please contact Ed Geiger at: 716-207-0405 or text Tim Barksdale at 215-868-6766 with your name, telephone number, and either the dish you are making or indicate how you wish to volunteer. Donations are also accepted.

**The Men's Ministry & Fellowship Presents
St. Thomas Men Are Cooking**



Highlights

- Music
- Multiple Servings
- Indoor & Outdoor Seating
- Service by Men of St. Thomas
- Table Service for those in Need
- 50/50 Raffle
- Rector Serving His Special Dish

\$20.00 for ages 12 and up
\$10 for ages 4 to 11 - Free if younger

Sample Menu Items:

Meat Lovers

- Jerk Chicken
- Baked Ham
- Lamb Meat Stew
- Baked Chicken Fried
- Chicken Chicken
- Wings Curried Stew
- Breakfast Casserole
- Chicken Parmesan
- Chicken Pasta Salad
- Jerk Chicken Pasta
- Turkey & Beef
- Beef Lasagna

Non-Meat Dishes

- Pancakes
- Home Fries
- Green Salad
- Cole Slaw
- Caesar Salad
- Baked Snapper fish
- Vegetarian Enchiladas
- Shrimp & Rice
- Roasted Salmon
- Vegetable Lasagna
- String Rice & Beans
- Baked Beans



Date: SUNDAY April 26th, 2026

Time: Immediately After Service

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 Lancaster Ave., Phila., PA 19151
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector

ALL MEN INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING / FOR COOKING/FOR TICKETS

Tim Barksdale @ 215-868-6766 (Please text)

Ed Geiger @ 716-207-0405

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all those celebrating a Birthday in April

- 4/1 Justin Lyon
- 4/2 Linda Watson
- 4/3 Brandon Stiff, Nicola Knight
- 4/4 Edwin Santana
- 4/9 Deborah Sartin, Landon Leys
- 4/10 Jeffrey Chapman, Barry Frye
- 4/11 Irenda Gates
- 4/12 Barbara Wiley, India Lyon
- 4/13 Nicole Stanley
- 4/14 Debbie Harrison
- 4/15 Gloria Moses, Alexia Wells, Karen Ragland, Judy Tillman
- 4/16 Lynette Edwards, Rhonda Wilson, Carmen Randolph, Shelly Stewart
- 4/18 Darryle Tillman, Elaine Young
- 4/19 Rashanda Stiff
- 4/20 Theresa Bramwell, Katisi Henderson
- 4/21 Tim Barksdale, Julia Williams
- 4/23 Muriel Clifford, Richard Jones, Jr.
- 4/24 Judy Simkins Booth
- 4/25 Wanda Wood, Joseph Gobern
- 4/26 Simone Jeffers
- 4/28 Albert Dandridge, Tracy Jones
- 4/29 Tynecia Wilson
- 4/30 Shakerra Blair

WOOD FUNERAL HOME
VINE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

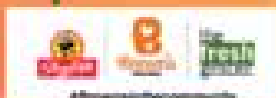
WOOD/VINE 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY LOVE FEST



A DAY OF FUN, LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP!

DATE: SAT. MAY 9, 2026
TIME: 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
PLACE: 56TH & GIRARD AVE AND VICINITY

Live Music & Entertainment
Free Food & Giveaways!
Vendors & Activities for Kids
Motorcycle & Corvette Show!
St. Thomas Gospel Choir





Flowers arrived on Wednesday for the Altar of Repose to be used during the Maundy Thursday Vigil.

(For those who wished to pray throughout the night during the Vigil, the Altar of Repose was available to be viewed on our YouTube, website, and Facebook outlets.)



More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)



Holy Thursday- 2026

Photos: Bill Edmonds

(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)









More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)

ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

Understanding Stress

Everyone experiences stress—it's your body's natural physical and emotional response to challenges like work, school, relationships, or health concerns. In small amounts, stress can actually help you stay alert and solve problems.

However, long-term (chronic) stress can negatively affect your health if it isn't managed properly. Chronic stress can also worsen existing physical or mental health conditions.

How Stress Affects Everyday Life: Stress can impact you in many ways:

- Emotional Effects: Fear, anger, sadness, worry, frustration, or numbness
- Mental Effects: Trouble concentrating; Difficulty making decisions; Feeling overwhelmed
- Physical Effects: Headaches or body pain; Stomach issues; Skin problems; Sleep disturbances or nightmares
- Behavioral Effects: Changes in appetite or energy; Loss of interest in activities; Increased use of alcohol or drugs

Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress:

Managing stress daily can prevent long-term problems.

Small steps make a big difference.

- Take Care of Your Mind: Take breaks from news and social media; Make time to relax and unwind; Practice deep breathing, stretching, or meditation; Keep a journal; Spend time outdoors; Do activities you enjoy
- Practice Gratitude: Write down things you're grateful for each day; Reflect on positive moments; Gratitude can improve both emotional and physical well-being.

- **Connect with Others:** Talk to trusted friends or family; Share how you're feeling: Engage with community or faith groups

Take Care of Your Body

- **Sleep:** Aim for 7+ hours per night
- **Exercise:** Work up to ~2.5 hours per week (even small amounts help)
- **Eat well:** Focus on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein
- **Limit alcohol:** Men: up to 2 drinks/day; Women: up to 1 drink/day
- **Avoid harmful substances:** drugs, misuse of prescriptions, smoking, vaping

Mind & Body Connection

- Physical activity is one of the most powerful tools for managing stress. It improves:
 - Mood
 - Energy levels
 - Overall mental health

When to Seek Extra Help:

- If stress feels overwhelming or hard to manage, reach out to a healthcare provider.

Key Point:

Small daily habits can prevent long-term stress and improve overall well-being.

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2026
A FULL HOUSE TO KICK-OFF HOLY WEEK!













More photos may be found on [Facebook](#)

**Attention St Thomas High School Seniors
and Graduate Students:**

The Jesse F. Anderson, Sr. Book Award and Graduate applications are now available.

Applications are on the table in The Great Hallway. Questions? Contact Paula Lamb, (215)620-7250, or Dr Diana Hutchins (610) 525-4322.

Application deadline is May 11, 2026.

**ATTENTION: All Groups/Ministries/Organizations
and Fellowships**

- Announcements and flyers for the Sunday Bulletin and digital Spearhead should be received on **Monday by 12:00 Noon**. If you have any questions, please contact Gladyce in the church office, (215) 473-3065.
 - Please submit a "**Request for Meeting Space**" form to the office for all meetings in the Church, Anderson Hall, Absalom Jones House, parking lot and/or the Great Lawn two weeks prior to the event. Please refrain from approaching the sextons. The church office maintains the calendar for all events. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact the church office at (215) 473-3065 or email 1792@aecst.org.
-

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2026
A FULL HOUSE TO KICK-OFF HOLY WEEK!



Photos: Bill Edmonds, Quentin Heyward, Justin Trotman, Stephen Pugh, Brenda Johnson Best, (St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry) and Dr. Gregory Allen



You're invited to **St. James Day**,
celebrating the Feast of St. James
on **Saturday, May 2, 2026**,
from 1:00 PM -3:00 PM,
St. James School,

3217 West Clearfield Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132.

Join them for the blessing of new spaces on campus,
outdoor games, tie-dyeing, and food. Please use the QR
Code to RSVP and reserve a spot on the St. James bus
departing St. Thomas at 12:30 PM.

May 2nd

1:00-3:00 PM



RSVP HERE

& reserve a spot on
the St. James Bus departing
from AECST @12:30 PM



**ST. JAMES
DAY**

Join us on our Saint's Feast Day
for the blessing of new spaces
on campus, outdoor games,
tie-dyeing, and food!



3217 West Clearfield Street
Philadelphia, PA 19132

St. James Annual Dr. Audrey Evans Benefit
“Sharing the Spark” is on Wednesday, May 20, 2026,
at 6:00 PM at the Simeone Foundation Automotive
Museum. Suggested ticket amount \$150.00 per person
or pay what you wish. Please use the QR Code below to
purchase tickets online.

We're Invited!
SHARING THE
spark

ANNUAL DR. AUDREY EVANS
BENEFIT



Wednesday, May 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum

6:00 PM MINGLE & DINE | 7:30 PM PROGRAM | 8:30 PM DESSERT & COFFEE



PAY WHAT YOU WISH TICKETS

We want this event to be inclusive and affordable for all! **\$150** suggested amount per person. Or pay what you wish.

Visit StJamesPhila.org/Spark to purchase tickets online.
For more information, contact Gillian Golson at ggolson@stjamesphila.org or 484.224.3891.

HONORING
Two impactful organizations

EPIPHANY SCHOOL
Which sparked the idea
for St. James School

**CHURCH OF
ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS**
An extraordinary St. James
church partner





NEWS FROM THE CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY COMMITTEE

In addition to our member and family photographs, the new pictorial St. Thomas Church Directory will include:

- our bountiful history
- a special in memorial page (listing members who have transitioned since 2017)
- greetings from the rector
- group photographs of AECST ministries

A new category has been created entitled:
“With Love and Blessings.”

You can add your name to this section with patron, business or ministry ads. It would be wonderful to have your support and expressions of gratitude included in the directory.

Patron ads - \$5.00 per name

Business or Ministry ads:

- Full page \$150.00 - 8”x10” portrait
- 1/2 page \$75.00 - 8”x5” landscape
- 1/4 page \$50.00 - 4”x5” portrait
- 1/8 page \$35.00 - 4”x 2 1/2” landscape

Email: Camera ready ads to: churchdirectory@aecst.org

Checks may be mailed and payable to:

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

Are you receiving the weekly electronic Spearhead? If not, please email Gladyce DuBrey at 1792@aecst.org with your mobile number and email address.

**CONFIRMATION / REAFFIRMATION /
RECEPTION CLASSES**

have started for in-person and Zoom
classes are as follows:

In Person (8:45 AM)

Sunday, 03/01/2026

Sunday, 04/05/2026

Sunday, 05/03/2026

Zoom (6:00 PM)

Monday, 03/16/2026

Monday, 04/20/2026

Monday, 05/18/2026

Sunday 6/7/2026 – Confirmation Day!

Please connect with Fr. Daren, 215-473-3065 or email, associaterector@aecst.org if you have not received any information or have questions, ASAP.



Our **AECST Podcast Series** returns with an important new episode! Fr. Daren is joined by Licensed Clinical Social Worker **Mrs. Lasheena Riley Duval** for a conversation on **supporting children through medical care**. Tune in!

REALM CONNECT CONVERSION COMPLETE

As a reminder St. Thomas went through a system conversion this year. Realm Connect is an updated solution for the management of our ministries, stewardship, media, communications and church events calendar. The staff will use Realm Connect to perform administrative and accounting tasks.



Church Online Giving

GIVI is no longer available for online contributions. Realm Connect has taken its place. Realm Connect is not just a tool for electronic giving; it affords one the opportunity to access their giving records and offers congregants the ability to interact and communicate directly with each other. If you give directly via the church website, or by using the QR code, you will see a new <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/-/form/give/now> webpage link on the website and a corresponding QR code that will take you to that new webpage. Please note that we offer online electronic giving which provides an easy, secure method to contribute weekly, monthly, yearly or simply whenever you desire. Donations can be made at <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/give/now> or through the Realm Connect App. (If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's safe and easy to obtain. Download the app Realm Connect from the app store.

AECST members have begun and will continue to receive email invitations from the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (notifications@onrealmmail.org) titled, "African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas: Join our online community!", which will enable you to register on the site and view many of the available functions. Please request a **Membership Information Form** from the Stewardship Ministry (Stewardship@aecst.org) and one will be sent to you. Please complete and return the form so that your profile can be updated accordingly. Once the form is returned corrections can be made and you will be sent a Realm Connect invite.

IMPORTANT, for your contributions in Realm Connect to be successful, **your email address and cell phone number must match exactly with realm connect records.** Envelope numbers serve as an additional layer of security, especially in cases where members may have similar names (soon those people without an envelope number will be issued one). We want to make sure contributions are properly credited to your account.

Powered By



African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas: Join our online community!

Hi [REDACTED]

We at African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas have an online community where we can connect with each other outside our Sunday gatherings. We'd love for you to take part!

Create an account: <https://onrealm.org/AfricanEpiscopa/account/CreateAccount?token=NTA0MzUyN2QtODBhZS00NDJhLTg5MWQYjMzZTAxMDViMzVI>

Sincerely,
African Episcopal Church Of St. Thomas

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.



VOCALISTS & MUSICIANS *Wanted*

**To Join
A Professional Recording Gospel Choir**

The St Thomas Gospel Choir
Directed By, Walt Blocker
of the
African Episcopal Church of St Thomas
Philadelphia, PA

WWW.STTHOMASGC.ORG

(484) 816-STGC (7842)

OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES

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

Constance Anderson - Florida

The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach & Dr. Julie Hergerather - Bloomsburg, PA

Christopher Burks - Rhode Island/New York

Deadra Cannon - Georgia

Nora Corbin - Illinois

Dr. Ted Corbin - Illinois

Paula Cropper - North Carolina

Lee Daniels - New York

Stacey Davis - New York

Andrew & Lisa Renee Dumas - Portugal

Rashid, Christie, & Gabrielle Faisal - Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney - Texas

Bradley Hammond - Mississippi

Richard & Gwenda Hart - South Carolina

Yvonne Hyde-Carter - New York

Dr. Calvin Johnson - Florida

Bettie Jones - North Carolina

Richard Jones, Jr. - Virginia

Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith - South Carolina

Steven & Jameela Lewis - Colorado

Gregory Lyles - Switzerland

Nohjay Nimpson - Texas

Zennetta Peters - North Carolina

Dr. John Rich - Illinois

Richard & Rebecca Scales - Florida

Shelly & Ann Stewart - Florida

Howard Tucker - Brazil/Philadelphia

Allison Young - Maryland

**The Bible Readings For
EASTER SUNDAY -
THE SUNDAY OF RESURRECTION
April 5, 2026**

The First Lesson– [Acts 10:34-43](#)
[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)

The Second Lesson – [Colossians 3:1-4](#)

The Holy Gospel – [John 20:1-18](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
week of April 6, 2026**

Monday - [Matthews 28:9-15](#)

Tuesday - [John 20:11-18](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 24:13-35](#)

Thursday - [Luke 24:36-48](#)

Friday - [John 21:1-14](#)

Saturday - [Mark 16:9-15, 20](#)



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY

BIBLE STUDY will resume this Tuesday,
April 7th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom.
If you are interested in joining
the ministry, please contact Fr. Jay
at associatepriest@aecst.org.

WEDNESDAY IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

with Fr. Daren will resume this Wednesday,
April 8th, beginning at 6:00 PM in the A.J. House.

ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to
Alfreda Brockman or Gladyce in the church office.

Flowers on the High Altar - \$80.00 each
Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$70.00 each
Flowers on the Columbarium - \$60.00

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





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.

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](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB:

Francine Norris - St. Francis Nursing Home

Patricia Walker Ellison - Rydal Place, Jenkintown, PA

IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Linda Holmes - Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill;

Ola Bass - Atria Lafayette Hill; Ridart "Butch" Farmer - Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

AT HOME:

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Mary Ann Jones,

Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum,

Joyce Stewart, Virginia DuBrey, Regina Meacham Devero,

Alice Bowman-Cropper, Katrina Harris, Karen Ragland,

Guy Booth, Alletta Parris Olday, Linda Tapper Smith,

Jurdina Koilor

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Daryn Stewart,

Adinah Edwards, Teena Watson-Matthews, Waltier Blocker,

Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips,

Yvonne Syndor, Carl Dean, Arlene Gray, Adrian Gray,

Sharon Harper, Quincina Edmonds, D. Lynn Joell,

Edita Gauthney, Carmen Brown, Stephen Pugh, Lisa Woodley,

Richard Jones, Jr.

WE PRAY FOR:

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

CALLING ALL YOUTH



What's an Acolyte? Am I old enough? Why do I want to be one? These and other questions can be answered by Father Daren! No prior experience is necessary to serve in the **Acolyte Ministry**. Rehearsals are on Sundays, immediately after service. This is an excellent opportunity for children and youth to become involved in the life of the church. Contact [Fr. Daren](#) for details.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

We want to highlight the achievements of our youth and young adults! If your child has excelled in academics, sports, the arts, or community service—or you are a young adult working on a significant personal or professional project—we would love to hear about it. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) so we can share your story with the congregation!

THE YOUNG ADULTS (ages 20's and 30's) meet immediately after service every 4th Sunday of the Month in the Absalom Jones House.



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW, but also the church of TODAY! We welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

Church School begins at **10:00 AM** in the **Undercroft**.

You need to register your child for church school for the 2025-2026 school year. Please use this [link](#) to register your child/children.

Call for Church School Teachers - If you feel the calling by God to volunteer your time in church school, please fill out the registration [link](#). If you were a teacher last year, please fill out this year's registration.



Tiny Tykes Temple is now located in the beautiful library of the Absalom Jones House for infants, children (under 3 years old) and parents. Parents who may find it necessary to step away from mass for a moment are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful space.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

HOW CAN I 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”. 2 Corinthians 9:7. NIV

The **Stewardship Committee** of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or 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 treasure.

Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below:



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

1) Sunday Offering Plate

2) 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

3) Bring your check directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. 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> 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.

5) REALM CONNECT - Members and visitors who use GIVI must use **Realm Connect**. If donate via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will soon see a new webpage and corresponding QR code.

6) Cellphone: Text "AECST" to 73256 to donate.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, envelop number and amount is placed on the offering envelope. This is particularly important for bookkeeping accurate. If you are unsure of your number, please email stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure your name, number, and amount is placed on your offering envelope. This is very important to keep bookkeeping accurate. If you're unsure of your number, please email stewardship@aecst.org. We appreciate your assistance.

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](#) and select the Building Fund button on our Capital Improvement Donation button on our [website](#).

Bishop
Rector
Associate to the Rector
Associate Priest
Associate Priest
Associate Priest
Associate Minister
Executive Asst. to the Rector
Sexton
Asst. Sexton
Chancel Choirmaster
Gospel Choirmaster
Rector's General Counsel
Altar Guild
Baptism Co-Chairs

O. V. Catto Voter Education Ministry
Church School Superintendent
Ed Muse Photography Ministry
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector
Girls' Friendly Society
Health Ministry
Jazz Ensemble Director
Live Stream Ministry
Memorial Flowers
Memorial Tribute Ministry
Roy Ellison Monarch Greeters
Parish Vergers
Parish Webmaster
Property Chair
Scout Pack 133

St. Thomas Daughters of the King
Stewardship Chair
Videography Ministry
Visitor's Ministry
Voices of Comfort
William Burke Ushers Ministry

MINISTRY STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw rector@aecst.org
The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans associaterector@aecst.org
The Rev. Fr. Gerald (Jay) Collins associatepriest@aecst.org
The Rev. Patricia Downing psdowning@verizon.net
The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney wilgafney@gmail.com
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Sharon Bullock scmci@aol.com
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Quentin Heyward recordedvideo@aecst.org
Edita Gauthney | Michele Green visitorsministry@aecst.org
Robert Davenport 1792@aecst.org
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 - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William J. Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale
Judith Simkins Booth
Deadra Cannon

Clare Mae Daniels
Mary Sandra Dean
Elaine Gillison

Eugene Golson
Monica Lewis Jones
Deborah Matthews

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Johnson Best
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins

Gwenda Hart
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson

Cynthia Muse
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Sandra Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller