

December 20, 2020

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE
302.368.4644 StThomasParish.org

weekly newsletter

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week..we share the Joy of Jesus!



DRIVE THROUGH COMMUNION

and prayers

Sundays in Advent
Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20
10-11AM

ALL are WELCOME!

Every precaution will be taken to make sure that we care for the health of our community. Please wear a mask.

Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century and has long been a St Thomas tradition. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons and each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer. LIVE ON YOUTUBE

December 20 at 5pm- lessons for Advent

December 27 at 9am- lessons for Christmas

Thank you for wearing a mask in the church building. It protects those who are worshiping, and communing.

Your mask protects the clergy, staff, faith family members, and community.

Let's keep our church building safe, healthy, open, and a respectful place for all.

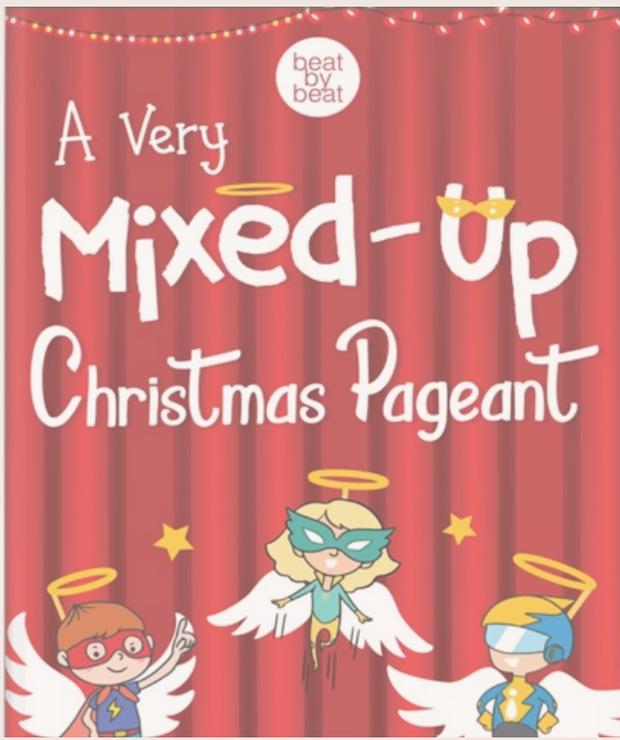


During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well.

We are worshiping via live streaming on YouTube (See our YouTube Channel and hit Subscribe!). The full-text bulletins for our services can be found on our website, and by email request.

We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark community through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page.

Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them, and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times. May God bless you and keep you, now and always. For more, see the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware COVID-19 site.



The Youth and Children's Ministry
of St Thomas Episcopal Parish

Saturday, December 19th
7pm YouTube presentation

*this production will be available to view
for the remainder of the season*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Email an invite to your friends and family!

Letting our light shine



St Thomas is participating in Newark's Festival of Lights Holiday Tour. Walk or drive by to check out our display. It includes a banner at the Grove intersection, our Holy Family, masked and socially distanced from the wise men, as well as some festive lights in the front yard. Thanks to everyone who donated lights to this project. It is my hope that this will continue every year, and we will continue to be a light in our community. For a full listing of the Festival's displays, visit the Newark Parks and Rec Facebook page, and click through to the event.



**MERRY
& BRIGHT**

Who is my neighbor?

The answer to this question, asked by St. Thomas's Parish, came from a partnership with the Tarbiyah Islamic School in Newark.

This year especially, we have many neighbors in need. Tarbiyah has been diligently feeding children since the pandemic closed schools where so many of our children, facing food insecurity, received their meals. Tarbiyah now provides 5,000 -7,000 meals to these children each day. They also reach out to families to help in other ways. With a structure already established in the community, St Thomas's asked how we could help support their efforts.

We received a request for coats, hats, mittens as well as goody bags for children who are living in shelters. We also discovered there was a great demand for diapers. At first it seemed that the needs were more than one church could handle, but St Thomas's parishioners were amazing.

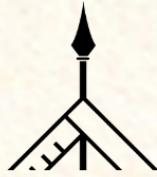
Parishioners were engaged at all levels. A student created a poster announcing the project and started a Sign-Up Genius. All ages wanted to be involved- from filling the goody bags to delivering our gifts to Tarbiyah. Some Elves contributed money, other coats, handmade hats and scarves, school supplies, and of course, candy canes. Christ Memorial Episcopal Church in Danville, Pennsylvania has a diaper bank from which we purchased multiple cases. A kind Elf even delivered them to Newark. A local dentist (certainly an Elf in disguise) provided toothbrushes at cost.

It took four cars to deliver everything: 40 new winter coats from sizes 2T-3X, 1100 diapers, 400 pull-ups, games, toys, and 50 goody bags- filled with pens, pencils, a notebook, toothbrush, post-it notes, crayons, markers, candy as well as a stuffed animal.

There are so many needs that it is easy to feel overwhelmed, but each act to meet them sparks joy in the givers as well as the receivers. We are blessed that we are able to help our neighbors. We are blessed to learn how to depend on each other. We are blessed to make new friends.

It wasn't just a village; it was the community that brought this together. And we are grateful.





St Thomas Episcopal Parish

2020 Christmas Schedule

First Sunday in Advent – Nov. 29

9 am Sunday Worship live on YouTube
10 am In-Person Drive-Through Communion and Prayers
5 pm Advent Evening Prayer (chanted) live on YouTube

Second Sunday in Advent – Dec. 6

9 am Sunday Worship live on YouTube
10 am In-Person Drive-Through Communion and Prayers
5 pm Advent Evening Prayer (chanted) live on YouTube

Third Sunday in Advent – Dec. 13

9 am Sunday Worship live on YouTube
10 am In-Person Drive-Through Communion and Prayers
5 pm Advent Evening Prayer (chanted) live on YouTube

Christmas Pageant - Sat., Dec 19

7 pm YouTube presentation
available throughout the remainder of the season

Fourth Sunday in Advent – Dec. 20

9 am Sunday Worship live on YouTube
10 am In-Person Drive-Through Communion and Prayers
5 pm Lessons and Carols for Advent

Christmas Eve - Thurs., Dec. 24

5pm family-friendly worship service on YouTube from St. Nicholas
11 pm Worship live on YouTube from St. Thomas's

Christmas Day - Fri., Dec. 25

10 am Sunday Worship live on YouTube

First Sunday in Christmas - Dec. 27

9 am Lessons and Carols for Christmas