

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...we are welcoming the flowers of May



Drive Through/Walk Up Communion and Prayers

continues every Sunday
10-11am

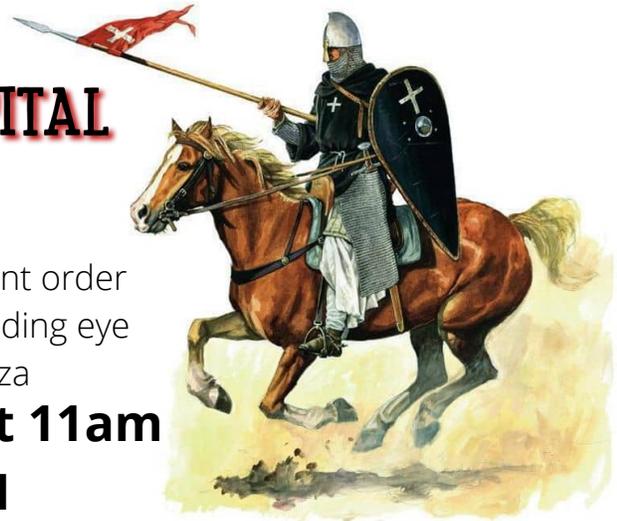
ALL are Welcome!

Join us in learning more about the Hospitallers

THE ORDER OF KNIGHTS OF THE HOSPITAL OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM

A special guest will tell us more about the work of the ancient order of the Hospitallers (now called the Order of St John) in providing eye care at hospitals and clinics in the West Bank and Gaza

Sunday, May 16th at 11am
LIVE via ZOOM



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.



A Secret Garden?

There are so many lovely vignettes around the church building. I'm really enjoying looking around with fresh eyes for the weekly "eye spy", and I hope you are as well. This week, I looked right out of the church office door, and noticed what looks like a mini secret garden.



The first thing I saw was a newly pruned flowering tree, sheltering the sweet space. Rue has confirmed it to be a Camellia. In Latin, the word "camellia" translates to "helper to the priest." The flower was named after the Jesuit botanist Father Georg Joseph Kamel, a man who practiced botany for pharmaceutical purposes in the 1600s. Kamel worked extensively in the Philippines, where he dedicated much of his life and his work to creating new medicinal treatments from plants. Generally, camellia flowers symbolize love, affection, and admiration. Pink camellias, in particular, symbolize a longing for someone and can represent someone who is missed.

Looking under the tree, you will see a Celtic stone cross, maybe 3 feet high, wearing a soft patina of moss. In this special spot, there is a small bench. Asking around, I've learned that the bench was placed there in memorial for Susan Hechter's daughter, Diana. It is bordered by the beginnings of the stained glass procession.



This is a quiet, out of the way spot, that is available even when the building is closed. Anyone is welcome to come and spend some time in this place meditating, praying, resting, and reflecting.

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you
Iona Community

The Iona Community is a dispersed Christian ecumenical community in the UK, working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.

Baptism and Confirmation

On May 16th at the 9am service, Bishop Kevin will be visiting St Thomas. He will be baptizing and confirming those who have been faithfully waiting, during this pandemic, for a safe time. This will be a service of celebration! We will also be reaffirming our own baptismal promises. If you have questions about baptism or confirmation, please reach out to Fr Howie.

