

May 16, 2021

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish  
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE  
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weekly newsletter

# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week...we are renewing our Baptismal vows*



## Drive Through/Walk Up Communion and Prayers

continues every Sunday

10-11am

**ALL are Welcome!**

## Summer Worship Schedule (June, July, August)

**Wednesday**, 12 noon  
Intercessory Prayer

**Thursday**, 7 pm  
Evening Compline



**Sunday**

8 am, Rite 1 spoken

9:30 am, Rite 2 with music



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.



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF ST THOMAS

Our parish family at St Thomas includes a number of families with children. The inclusion of these children in worship and parish life is of great importance in the life of our Parish. We take seriously the Baptismal vow "to do all in our power to support these persons in their life with Christ."

Each year we continue to strive to give our children new and exciting ways to discover more about God and who God is calling to them to be. Our children are encouraged to share God's love by serving each other, their families and their community. During "normal" times, the children are invited to serve as ushers, readers and acolytes in St. Thomas's regular Sunday services. Many of them sing in the Lights choir and a few occasionally join the adult choir. In addition, the children help in various ways with fundraising and fellowship events such as the annual Annual Bazaar. They help their global community by participating in Trick or Treat for UNICEF. And at the end of each year, the children share the Christmas story in a pageant service for the congregation.

During the past year, the Youth and Children of St Thomas have not been as visible. However, that does not reflect their participation. The younger children have joined together with Christ Church Greenville, in remote Sunday School. Each week, they receive a packet in the mail with the lesson, the discussion, and a craft. Additionally, a weekly email gives parents tips and insights, and a link to the corresponding video. The older Youth, "CREW", have also been meeting virtually. Sue and Mike Houghton have been absolutely inspirational with the way that they have carried this program. The CREW meet bi-weekly via Zoom, and also participate in monthly activities. They have invited guests from the parish to participate in their Zoom meetings, enjoyed some fellowship with the college age group, ECM, and done some community service. Some of the youth have even participated in ministry meetings via zoom, such as the finance committee. We all came together in the fall for a fun trunk-or-treat, and the Christmas pageant went on, virtually. The diocese has hosted a number of online events, and there are more upcoming both online and in-person.

This Sunday, we will get to see several of our children take the next steps in their religious life. Noah will be receiving the Holy sacrament of Baptism. Amelia, Oscar and Zach will be confirmed, after faithfully and patiently waiting for over a year. This will be a joyous occasion!

We are all looking forward to the day when we can see our youth participate, and hear little voices during the services. This will be done with the utmost care for the health and safety of our community, and will not happen all at once. But be assured, that even if you are not seeing and hearing much of our young pilgrims, their spiritual journeys are continuing. A HUGE thank you to all of the adults who support them. If you are interested in participating in any way, on one occasion or for a season, you are most welcome! Please contact the office or Fr Howie to discuss how you can contribute.

**THEN LITTLE CHILDREN WERE BEING BROUGHT TO HIM IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT LAY HIS HANDS ON THEM AND PRAY. THE DISCIPLES SPOKE STERNLY TO THOSE WHO BROUGHT THEM; BUT JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT STOP THEM; FOR IT IS TO SUCH AS THESE THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS."**

**MATTHEW 19:13-14**

# CREW

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECT MAY, 2021



Recently, St Thomas' CREW spent a day at the Judge Morris Estate, While Clay Creek State Park, clearing out garlic mustard. Garlic mustard impacts the growth of our native forest trees, shrubs, and other plants. It is an invasive plant, native to large parts of Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. It was brought to North America as a source of food, medicine, and erosion control, however, it has spread widely into natural areas in the northeastern United States since the 1860's, and has been nicknamed the "thug of the woods".

