

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, is the first Sunday of the Church's year.

And with a new year comes a new theme for the bulletin covers.

This year, the pictures on the covers of the bulletins will all be on the theme of embroidery. The queen of the sewing arts, embroidery takes an ordinary piece of fabric and turns it into an object of extraordinary beauty. That seems like a good metaphor for the action of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives.

So enjoy this year of pictures, and may you see

God stitching away in your soul also!



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.

Welcome! It is wonderful have you with us. Everybody you see here was a newcomer at one time, and we've all had questions—possibly like some that you may have today.

The faith community of St. Thomas's Parish believes that everyone has been invited to follow the Way of Jesus, who commands us to love God and to love our neighbors. Therefore, we are committed to embrace and respect people of every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity; people who live with all mental and physical abilities, in all socio-economic conditions, in all household compositions, and with every citizenship status, including immigrant and refugee; people who hold diverse political and theological backgrounds, beliefs, and questions. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, as God's beloved, you are worthy and welcome here!

Today's Service

We are worshipping both in-person and via live-stream on YouTube. Full-text bulletins are distributed at all services and posted on our parish website. At the in-person service, "busy bags" for children and a dedicated sensory-friendly "soft space" can be found at the back of the sanctuary. We follow directions from our diocese for in-person pandemic precautions; masking is currently optional.

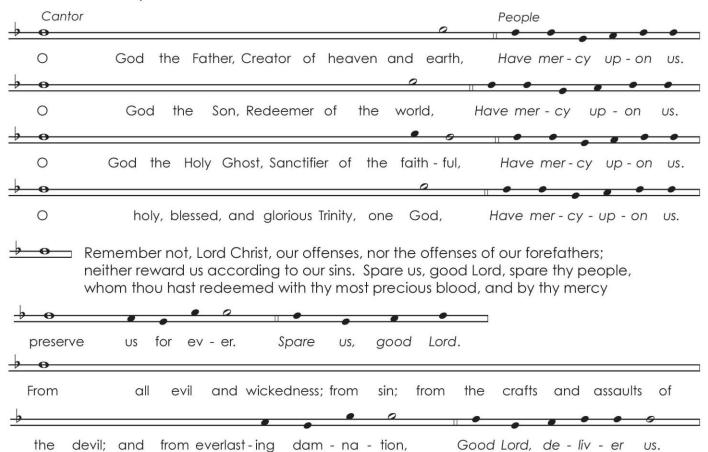
We commit ourselves to ensuring that our place of worship is a safe place where all can feel comfortable and know that they are accepted and loved. In the Episcopal church, everybody doesn't always do things in the same way. But **when you're worshiping God, you can't get it wrong!** If you would like help, ask anyone in the pews around you or speak with Fr. Howie.

Learn More about St. Thomas's

At the end of this booklet, as well as on our website, you will find information about our weekly worship services and about opportunities to learn and grow in the faith through our Christian education programs for all ages. There also you can explore opportunities to join us in service to the Newark community through the Episcopal Campus Ministry and "Blue Hen Bounty" food pantry, through our work in support of the Newark Empowerment Center, through refugee resettlement and other programs of community service.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence is a blessing to us. Fill out a visitor card in your pew and leave it with a clergyperson or an usher if you would like to be contacted. We hope to see you again soon!

The Great Litany



From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all `want of charity, Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, `and the devil, Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word `and commandment, Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pesti`lence, and famine, Good Lord, deliver us.

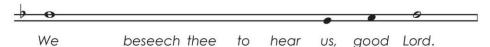
From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and `unprepared, Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, `and Temptation, Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the `Holy Ghost, Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity, in the hour of death, and in the `day of judgment, Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in `the right way,



That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee the preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or `torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit, and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing `and infirm,



That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and `tribulation,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon `all mankind,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy `holy Word,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

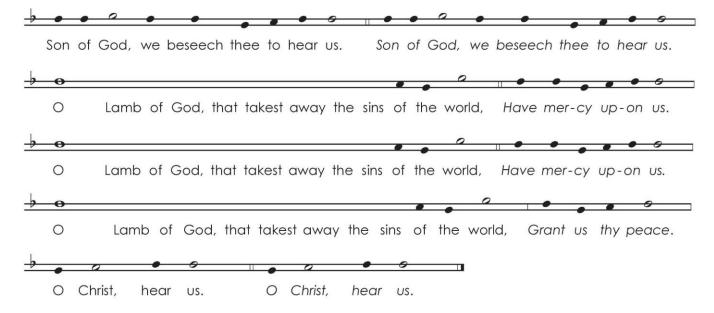
That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to `turn their hearts,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall, and finally to beat down Satan un`der our feet, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal `life and peace. We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary Blessed Thomas, and all the saints, we may attain to thy hea`venly kingdom, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS seated

First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph / like a flock;* Shine forth, you that are enthroned up/on the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma/nasseh.* stir up your strength and / come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O / God of hosts;* show the light of your countenance, / and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD / God of hosts,*
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers / of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the / bread of tears;* you have given them / bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors,* and our ene/mies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O / God of hosts;* show the light of your countenance, / and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your / right hand,* the son of man you have made / so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn a/way from you;* give us life, that we may call / upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD / God of hosts;*
 show the light of your countenance, / and we shall be saved.

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual music

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

seated at the preacher's invitation

THE NICENE CREED standing

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PEACE standing

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Our offerings are an act of worship through which we respond with gratitude to God's grace, love, and mercy, putting our trust in the Lord into action. You may place your offering in the plate, or—you can give electronically though our website (QR code on the back of this booklet) and place an "online giving" card in the plate. With the bread and the wine, these donations are carried to the altar and offered to the Lord on our behalf.

Offertory Hymn



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

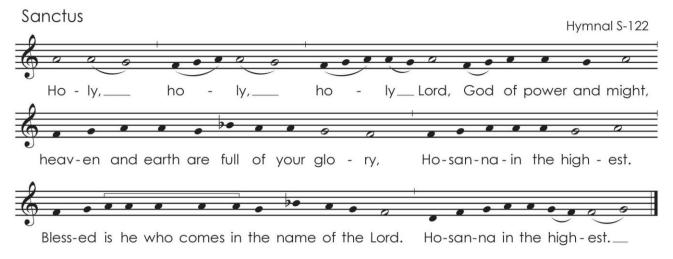
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*Proper Preface*] Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The people stand or kneel.



Plainsong, adpt. M. Martens (b.1933)

The Celebrant continues We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

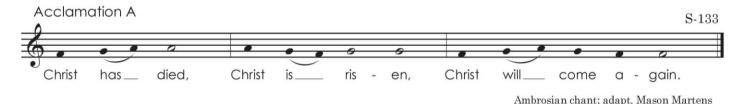
In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People



The Celebrant continues And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done.

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

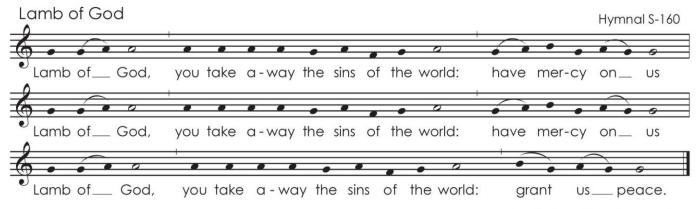
for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens

Celebrant

Behold the Lamb of God,

Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world;

Happy are they who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

All

O Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

All are welcome to come forward up the center aisle to receive from the priest either the sacrament of Christ or a blessing. If you desire a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Receive the host in open hands. Gluten-free bread is available; you may request it from the priest when you come to the front of the line. Receiving the wine is optional. To take the wine, drink from it or intinct (carefully dip) the bread into the cup. Please use the side aisles to return to your pew. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher to let the clergy know, and communion will be brought to you

THE COMMUNION

-silent prayer-

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

ΑII

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Processing into the community



Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please take this service booklet home with you, and mark your calendar with upcoming events. These dates are also noted on our parish calendar, found in the emailed weekly newsletter "The Carpenter's Helper" as well as through on our website. If you choose to leave this service booklet, please know that it will be recycled as part of our commitment to care for creation.

Worship Opportunities:

- Sundays at 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I spoken, in-person and via YouTube
- Sundays at 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, in-person and via YouTube
- Wednesdays at noon Intercessory Prayer with Holy Communion, in-person
- Thursdays at 7 pm Compline Evening Prayer, live via Zoom

Growth and Fellowship:

- Scheduled Sundays at 9:15 am- adult education in the great hall classroom
 - o Check our parish calendar for a complete listing
- Sundays at 10:00 am Children's Ministries in the Undercroft
- 3rd Sundays at 9:15 am Novel Theology in the parlor and via Zoom
- Last Sunday of the month Family Church Sunday
- Last Sunday of the month Coffee and Fellowship between services
- 3rd Monday of the month- Hope Dining Room service
- Wednesdays at 10:30 am Lectionary Bible Study

Upcoming Parish Events:

- 12/10, noon-1pm-Incarceration Reform presentation, lunch provided
- 12/13, noon-2pm- St John's Bible presentation and training, lunch provided
- 12/21, 6-8pm- ALL are Welcome to learn about and celebrate St Thomas' ties to Indian culture
- 12/17, beginning at noon
 - LIVE animal nativity
 - Full faith family cookie exchange
 - o 1-2pm Children and Youth Christmas Party

If you have anything to add to the <u>Parish calendar</u> or the <u>Carpenter's Helper newsletter</u>, please email the office at StThomassOffice@googlegroups.com.

To see a full listing of parish worship, events, or news, visit our website: www.stthomasNewarkDE.church

Parish Calendar

Monday, 12/4

- (U) Private Meeting, 6-7:30pm
- (G) Scottish Dancing, 7-9:30pm

Tuesday, 12/5

- (G) Private Meeting, 4:30-6pm
- (G) Ballroom Dancing, 6-10pm
- (U) Private Meeting, 6-8:30pm
- (U) AA group, 8-9:30pm

Wednesday, 12/6

- (C) Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am
- Service of Intercessory Prayer, 12-1pm

Thursday, 12/7

- (U) private meeting, 6-9pm
- (Z) Compline Evening Prayer, 7-7:30pm

Friday, 12/8

- (C) Blue Hen Bounty, 9am-12pm
- (P) Al-Anon, 11:30am-1:30pm
- (P) Women's AA Group, 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, 12/9

No current reservations

Sunday, 12/10

- Holy Eucharist, Rite I spoken, 8-8:45am
- Sunday School, 10:15am
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, 10:30-11:45am
- **(G)** Incarceration Reform presentation, noon. Light lunch provided.
- (G) Private Meeting, 3-6pm
- (G) Ballroom Dancing, 6-10pm

Location key:

- (C) Classroom off the Great Hall
- (G) Great Hall
- (Gr) Grove
- (K) Kitchen
- (M) Music Room
- (P) Parlor
- (S) Sanctuary
- (U) Undercroft
- (Z) Zoom

Parish Prayer List

Archer family Chuck & Paula R Austin M & Krissy V Connie L Barry G Court W Bernice R D Green Betty H Dana Blackman family Daphne D Bob M Darren M Bob P Denise B Bob S Dennis R Bob T Devon MD Brendan S Elaine W Brighton P Eley family Carew family Elmer T Carol G Erin & family Carol M Flora R Carolyn V Frank W Cecily SH Fred & Lori

Charles B

Charlie H

Chaun

Chris C

Chris E

Chris G

Christine D

Charlie M & Ellen S

Christine & Erich

Christine A & Francis

Freddie B Geoff C George H Gina H

Giorgio & family Harrison family Janice F Jean & Richard P Jeanne M Jim T

John D Jonny K Judy B June G Karen R Kathryn D Kay Kelly K Krista B Lane family Larry Liz R Lorraine CS Lynn D

Mara, Mike,

& Martha K

Marge C Margy H Maria P Marian S & family Marianne A Mary T Mary Ellen H Maryanne & Bob

Matt S Michael C Mike G

Morgen and family Mullens family Nancy G Pam D

Pat & Emmett J Paula B

Richardson family

Rick R Ricky G Shannan D Shannon Sharon O Sondra B Sophie A South family Stephen M Stover B

Susan & family Terri B Thomas M Tom H Tom P

Vicki G Walelgne

We pray for all who serve our country abroad, in the military, in embassies, and in non-governmental organizations, especially...

Adam Christie J Annie R Duncan P Ben Grace H Bob James Bradley Jeremy Brett Joe Brian Josh Charlie K Kagen

Kate Kathy Kevin Luke Marvin Matthew Nate **Nicholas** Stacy Stuart Tina Tyler Victoria

To update or add to our parish prayer list, please contact the office or speak with Fr Howie directly. Please include a last name initial, and let us know if your loved one would like to be contacted by our pastoral care ministry or have a visit from a priest.

December Birthdays

James Law December 2 Christine Wilbur December 2 Hanna Grabowski December 3 Christopher Donnelly December 11 Edwin Smith December 14 Keith Flemming December 15 Robert Tartala December 16 Eleanor Williams December 16 Natalie Flemmina December 17 December 17 Lucas Quinones Tracy Branigan December 18 Eloise Barrow December 20 Jennifer Rockhold December 21 Scott Ennis December 22 Lucas McGough December 24 James Wilkins December 24 Steve McGough December 27 Amy Wilbur December 29 Stan Spence December 31

December Anniversaries

Rob & Cami Seward	December 3
Bob & Vicki Gilley	December 28
Stan & Helen Spence	December 28





LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

StThomasNewarkDe.church 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Kristin Sausville Treasurer: Amy Keach People's Warden: Philippa Sunnergren Clerk of the Vestry: Sally Price

Class of 2024
Larry Duggan
Cami Seward
Philippa Sunnergren

Class of 2025 Joan Bennett Mike Grabowski Marilyn Prime Class of 2026
Sally Price
Robert Sido
Belinda Young-Payne

RECTOR		
The Rev. Howell Sasser	704.578.4724	howell.sasser.jr@gmail.com
CURATE		
The Rev. Clay Brown	302.368.4644	
DEACON ASSOCIATE		
The Rev. Deacon Sheila Brigid Sharpe, AF	302.593.9951	sgsharpe@comcast.net
PRIEST ASSOCIATE		
The Rev. Juan George	302.834.8341	georgevjtaurus@yahoo.com
ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR		
Marc F. Cheban	302.220.9680	a1b2celeste@yahoo.com
CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES		
Belinda Young-Payne	302.388.4017	belmar43@aol.com
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR		
Cana Hartman	302.354.3277	cana.hartman@gmail.com
REGISTRAR		
Wendy Campbell	302.368.9562	wjcampbell7@yahoo.com
SEXTON		
Jonathan Mincey	302.368.4644	