

Christmas Flower Dedications

In Loving Memory of
Charles H & Elizabeth Baxter
Mr and Mrs Michael Petroski Sr
Mike Petroski Jr
and Joseph Petroski Jr
from
Charles & Diane Baxter

With Thanksgiving for Franklin F Wheeler from Marc Cheban

In Loving Memory of Grier & Hammond family loved ones from Jo-Ann & George Grier

With Thanksgiving for our wonderful faith family from The Hartman Family In Loving Memory of
Margaret & Winthrop Reed
and Tippy & Caleb Holyoke
from
Caleb W and Martha AR

With Thanksgiving for family & friends from Madeline & Greg Johnson

> With Thanksgiving for family from Beryl King

With Thanksgiving from Jack and <mark>Marge O'Donne</mark>ll

With Thanksgiving for Michael, David, & Michelle from Carol Palermo In Loving Memory of
Raymond & Helen Boddington Gast
Wilmer E & M. Pauline Sharpe
Garlin S Smith, Jr
from
Deacon Sheila & Richard Sharpe

With Thanksgiving for
47 years of marriage to Stan
and Stan's 68th birthday on Dec 31st
from
Helen Spence

In Loving Memory of
Nick Witmer
and With Thanksgiving for
Meagan, Angie, Finley,
& Spencer Prime
and Chad Whitmer
from
Marilyn Prime & Roy Whitmer



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!

standing PROCESSIONAL HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymnal 83 1.0 all faith - ful, phant, come, у́е joy and tri υm 2. God from__ God,_ Light Light from ter nal, е 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ех U ta tion,_ shep - herds, See how the sum - mon'd to his dle,_ cra Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap ру morn ing;_ 6 cdme fo Beth ýe, come_ ye hem; lo! ab the Vir gin's he hors_ not womb; all ci - ti zens of bove; sing, ye heav'n_ a leav ing their flocks,_ draw_ nigh. to gaze; glo thee___ giv'n; Je SUS, to be_ the come, and be hold him, born King of gels; an ther; be got ten of the Fa on ly Son_ to God .. in the high est; glo ry glo ry we too will thith er bend our joy ful foot steps; Word of the Fa ther, in flesh pear ing; now ap 0 0 come, let dore him US 0 dore him, 9 come, let US a σ come, let dore him,___ Christ, _ Lord. the

THE WORD OF GOD

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

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

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your

holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria



Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS seated

First Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,

who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,

together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to 7ion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, * for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; * lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And.

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual



Deacon The Lord be with you. **People** And also with you.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring an end to and terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As the Holy Family left Bethlehem and traveled together to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As we join with Christians everywhere in the joy of God-With-Us, we remember those dear to us, those who serve in the military, those who go in harm's way to serve and protect us, and especially those who have no one to pray for them. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this day, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord

Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy

Spirit keep you in eternal life. 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

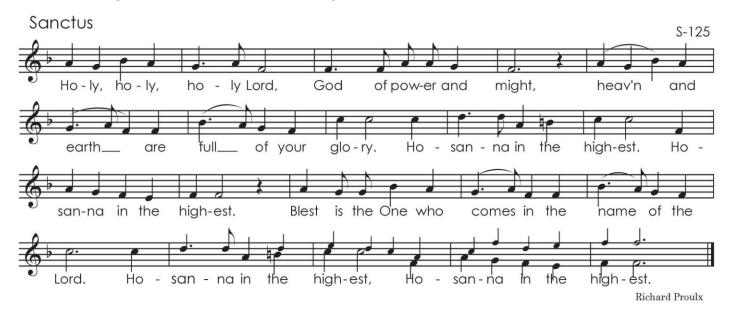
People
Celebrant

Cele

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:



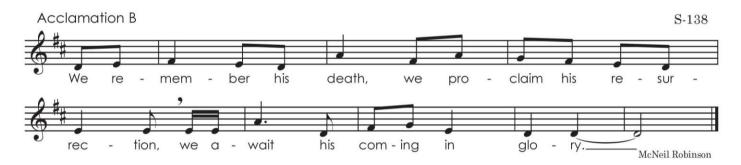
The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues 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 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.



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

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

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
 - 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:

- **CHRISTMAS DAY**, 12/25
 - o 10am, one service only
- 1/6, Saturday at 6pm-Epiphany Compline and Potluck

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 <u>StThomassOffice@googlegroups.com</u>.

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

Parish Calendar

Monday, 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY

• 10am, one service only

Tuesday, 12/26

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

Wednesday, 12/27

No current reservations

Thursday, 12/28

• (Z) Compline Evening Prayer, 7-7:30pm

Friday, 12/29

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

Saturday, 12/30

No current reservations

Sunday, 12/31

- Holy Eucharist, Rite I spoken, 8-8:45am
- Sunday School, 10:15am
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, 10:30-11:45am
- (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

Michael C Adele T Christine D Jeanne M Archer family Chuck & Paula R Jim T Mike G Austin M & Krissy V Claire L John D Morgen and family Mullens family Barry G Connie L Jonny K Bernice R Nancy G Court W Judy B Betty H D Green Julie Pam D Blackman family Pat & Emmett J Dana June G Bob M Daphne D Paula B Karen R Bob P Darren M Kathryn D Richardson family Bob S Denise B Kay Rick R Bob T Dennis R Kelly K Ricky G Brendan S Krista B Sabhi Devon MD Brighton P Elaine W Lane family Shannan D Carew family Eley family Shannon Larry Carol G Elmer T Liz R Sharon O Carol M Erin & family Lorraine CS Sondra B Carolyn V Flora R Mara, Mike, Sophie A Cecily SH South family Frank W & Martha K Charles B Fred & Lori Marge C Stephen M Stover B Charlie H Freddie B Margy H Charlie M & Ellen S Geoff C Maria P Susan & family Chaun George H Marian S & family Terri B Chris C Gina H Thomas M Marianne A Chris E Giorgio & family Tom H Mary T Chris G Harrison family Tom P Mary Ellen H

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

Matt S

Maryanne & Bob

Nicholas

Adam Christie J Kate Stacy Stuart Annie R Duncan P Kathy Tina Ben Grace H Kevin Bob James Luke Tyler Bradley Marvin Victoria Jeremy Brett Joe Matthew Brian Nate Josh

Janice F

Kagen

Jean & Richard P

Christine & Erich

Charlie K

Christine A & Francis

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.

Vicki G

Walelgne

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

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