



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!

#### **Prelude**

**Procession** standing



#### THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

#### The Gloria



#### Collect

Celebrant God be with you. **People** And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

THE LESSONS seated

First Lesson Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



- 24 My praise is of you in >> the **great** as-sembly; \*

  I will perform my vows in the presence >> of **those** who worship you.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who >> seek **you** shall praise you: \* "May your >> heart **live** for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember, >> and turn to you, \* and all the families of the nations >> shall bow be-fore you.
- 27 For yours is the royal >> po-wer O God; \* you rule >> o-ver the nations.
- **B** 28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth >> bow **down** in worship; \* all who go down to the >> dust **fall** be-fore you.
- 29 My soul shall live for you; my de->> scend-ants shall serve you; \* they shall be known >> as yours for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a peo->> ple **yet** un-born \* the saving deeds >> that **you** have done.

#### **New Testament Lesson**

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect

love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

#### Gradual anthem

Round the Lord, in Glory Seated

arr. R. Shephard

Round the Lord in glory seated,

Cherubim and seraphim filled his temple,

And repeated each to each the wondrous hymn:

Hallelujah, earth is with its fullness stored; Holy, holy, holy, Lord.

Heav'n is still with glory ringing; earth takes up the angels' cry,

"Holy, holy," singing, "Lord of hosts, the Lord Most High!"

Hallelujah sings His holy Church below,

Bid we now our anthems flow.

"Lord, Thy glory fills the heaven, earth is with its fullness stored;

Unto Thee be glory given, Holy, holy, holy, Lord."

Hallelujah, with Thine angel hosts we cry,

Blessing Thee, Lord of Hosts Most High.

Deacon God be with you. **People** And also with you.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly 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, 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.

With joy and gladness, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Church throughout the world, that it may be a sign of new life to the weary and the lost, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For all the leaders of the Church, that they may lead us in paths of peace and renewal, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For the nations of the world and those who lead them, that they may strive for justice and a new birth of freedom, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For the peace of the world, that those who use violence and those who condone it may have a change of heart, mind, and soul, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For all whose labor eases our lives, especially those who work in health care, long-term care, and hospice, that they may know themselves to be the hands of God, and may see God's holy angels at work among them, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For the sick, the disabled, and all who suffer, especially those we name now, aloud or in our hearts, that they may see new growth from branches long barren, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.** 

For The Church of Bangladesh, and for St Martin's in the Field Church, Selbyville, that they may know and share the joy of the empty cross and empty tomb, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.** 

For all who serve in the armed forces and all who go in harm's way to protect others, especially those we name now, aloud or in our hearts, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.** 

For those who have died, especially those we name now, aloud or in our hearts, that they may have light and peace, and rest with all the saints, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.** 

With saints and angels, we proclaim:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death with death, and bringing life to those who dwell in tombs. Amen.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

ΑII God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,

in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,

the evil we have done.

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the arace of 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 Christ be always with you.

And also with you. People

#### **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 through 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.

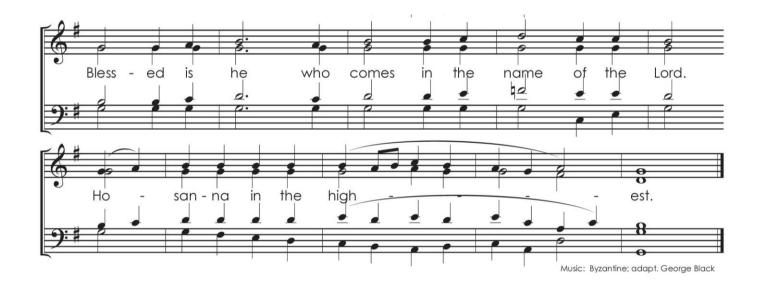
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:





standing or kneeling

The Celebrant continues Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Celebrant and People



The Celebrant continues Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name forever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and 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,

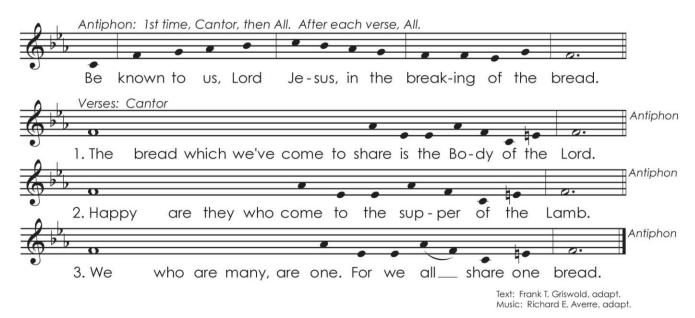
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

#### **Fraction Anthem**



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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 -

Celebrant Let us pray.

All God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of

salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

Amen.

# Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries Announcements

seated

Please visit the "Worship Opportunities" and "Parish Events" page in the back of this booklet. Then, look on the following page for "Birthdays and Anniversaries" and wish your faith family blessings!

## The Blessing

Celebrant Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People The maker of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

People From this time forth for evermore.

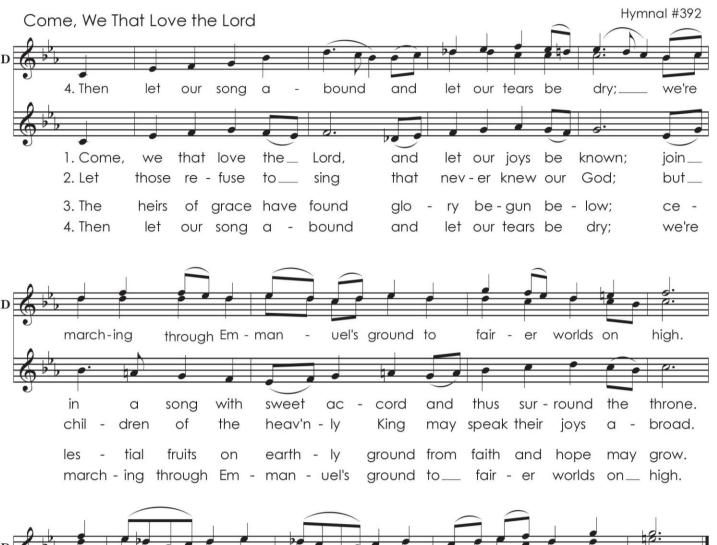
Celebrant The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon

you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.



## standing





#### Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

#### **Postlude**

The altar flowers this week
were given by
Joy & Alan Lynam
in thanksgiving for
the blessings of
family, children, and friends



## Land Acknowledgment

The Episcopal Church in Delaware

The churches, buildings, and properties of the Episcopal Church in Delaware are located on land that was and continues to be home to the Nanticoke and Lenni-Lenape people.

We honor and express gratitude for the native peoples who have inhabited, cultivated, and nourished this land for thousands of years. In paying our respect to their rich and diverse cultures, we acknowledge and lament the violence and systematic oppression inflicted upon indigenous peoples.

We repent of these historic and ongoing sins. With God's help, we will strive for justice and peace among all peoples, and respect the dignity of every human being.

**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
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

- May 19th Pentecost
  - o 8am, rite I indoors as usual
  - o 10:30am indoor/outdoor worship and picnic immediately following

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, 4/29

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

## Tuesday, 4/30

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

## Wednesday, 5/1

- (C) Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am
- Service of Intercessory Prayer, 12-1pm
- (G, K) Private meeting 6-9pm

## Thursday, 5/2

• (Z) Compline Evening Prayer, 7pm

## **Friday**, 5/3

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

## Saturday, 5/4

• (G) Private event, all day

## **Sunday**, 5/5

- 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

Adele T Chuck & Paula R Jim T Mullens family Archer family Claire L John D Nancy G Austin M & Krissy V Clove & Jamie L John M Pam D Barbara H Cole M John S Patty & David F Barbara S Connie L Jonny K Paula B Barry G Court W Judy B Reggie I Bernice R D Green June G Richardson family Daphne D Karen R Rick R Betty H Blackman family David W Kari F Ricky G Shannan D Bob M Denise B Kathryn D Bob P Dennis R Kellie Shannon A Bob S Devon MD Kelly K Sharon O Bob T Diane B Krista B Sheron H Brendan S Elaine W Lane family Shirley B Laura G Sondra B Brennan family Elmer T Brighton P Erin & family Liz R Sophie A Carew family Lorraine CS South family Faith L Stacey & family Carl J Flora R Mara, Mike, Carol G Frank W & Martha K Stephen M Fred & Lori Marge C Stover B Carol M Carolyn V Freddie B Margy H Sue L Cecily SH Maria P Susan & family George H Charles B Gina H Marian S & family Terri B Charlie H Giorgio & family Marianne A Thomas M Charlie M & Ellen S Harrison family Martha M Tom H Chris C Janice F Mary T Tom P Chris E Jean & Richard P Maryanne & Bob Tom S Chris G Jeff S Matt S Vicki G Christine & Erich Michael C Walelgne Jim B

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

Mike G

Morgen and family

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

Christine A & Francis

Christine D

Jim C

Jim R

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.

# **April Birthdays**

David Payne	April 3
Judy Grabowski	April 6
Julie Hall	April 8
Dawn Law	April 10
Catherine Westbrook	April 10
Francine Belinski	April 14
Joline Fincher	April 14
Tracy Tunis	April 14
Donna Weaver	April 15
Lisa DiRenzo	April 16
George Grier	April 16
Tammy Gregg	April 18
Barbra Eldred	April 22
Georgio Melloni	April 22
Dan Moore	April 23
Cameron Mathias	April 29

# **April Anniversaries**

Frank & Stephanie Belinski	April 24
Brook & Nicole Cebula	April 25
Bob & Cathy Wojewodzki	April 25





#### **LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S**

StThomasNewarkDe.church 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Marilyn Prime Treasurer: Amy Keach People's Warden: Joan Bennett Clerk of the Vestry: Sally Price

Class of 2025 Joan Bennett Mike Grabowski Marilyn Prime <u>Class of 2026</u> Sally Price Robert Sido Belinda Young-Payne Class of 2027 Mark Bastianelli Jinglan Redder Justin Sausville

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