



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community,
and to care, reach out,
and include all people in Christ's love.

Second Sunday of Advent



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

December 8, 2024

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest. We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

THE WORD OF GOD

Introit *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Verses 1, 3, & 4*

#56 Hymnal 1982

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Jon & Anne Spear

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

The light of hope has awakened our spirits.

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may be ready for the dawn of your salvation.

We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to guide us in the way of peace.

[Here light the two blue candles.]

With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love.

Procession *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry*

#76 Hymnal 1982

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 par a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.**

During the singing of the Trisagion, children from Pre-K to 3rd Grade are invited to follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel.

Trisagion *Trisagion on Picardy (sung three times)* **Dr. Lori Lind**

Andantino Ho - ly - God, Ho - ly and Migh - ty, Ho - ly Im - mor -

7 tal - One - - Have mer - cy - u - pon - - - us, - Have mer - cy on - - us.

15

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.
 Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the Book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Here ends the Reading.

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, *

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn can be found on Page 6

The Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People 1,2 / 3*

#67 Hymnal 1982



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olcarius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

The Sermon

Ms. Beth Clarke

The Nicene Creed

**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 man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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 Prayers of the People

During the season of Advent, our prayers use the word "Maranatha." This is an Aramaic liturgical expression that means, "Our Lord, come!" Aramaic was the language spoken by Jesus.

Deacon: The prayers of the people is a time for us to come together as we offer our prayers to God. Please kneel as you are able and offer your own prayers in the pauses, either silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Intercessor: In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus. Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Mark, Gayle, and Bud, our Bishops; for Fran, Will, Caroline, Rishabh, Lori, Mary and Nicole, our staff; for Beth, our Seminarian; for the teachers at the Early Learning Center; for the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas; and those whom you would name *[pause]*. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for all those you would name *[pause]*.

Before you rulers will stand in silence. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for **Ethan, Vincent, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Betsy, Yusuf, Bill, Barbara, Andrew, Grace, Andrew, Malcolm, Tony, Emily, Betsy and Michael, Melissa, Cassandra, Anne, Andy, those affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, Anatoliy, Laura, Jan, Tom, Scott, Vera, Jennifer, Steve, Megan, Steve,** and those whom you would name *[pause]*. Break into our lives, where we struggle

with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember those who have died, especially those whom you would name [*pause*]. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as the one who taught us how to pray. We remember Daisy Chapin, Anne Strahan, and all those celebrating birthdays this week, all those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week, and all the blessings you now name [*pause*]. Teach us always to have thankful hearts. Maranatha.

Amen. Come, Lord. Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with St. Thomas and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The prayers of the people were adapted by The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith from The Church of England's Common Worship resources for Advent.

Together let us pray for St Thomas Church.

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for St Thomas, build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence.* Together, let us pray: **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.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.

The Offertory

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exulted as head over all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

Offertory Anthem

Hark! A Herald Voice Is Calling

Richard Shepard

Hark! A herald voice is calling:
"Christ is nigh", it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the Day".

Wakened by the solemn warning,
Let her earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven.

So when next he comes in glory,
Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.
And with words of love draw near.

The Doxology

#76 Hymnal 1982, Verse 5



5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

Sanctus

Sanctus on Picardy

Dr. Lori Lind

f
ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and-might hea-ven and earth are

6
full - of your great glo - ry! Ho-san-na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high - est!

12 comes in the name of the Lord!-- Ho---san-----na!

Bless-ed is He who comes - in the name - of - the-Lord! Ho - san-na in the high - est

17

in- the - high- - est!
ho - san - na in the high - est!

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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
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.

Fraction

Fraction for Advent on Picardy

Dr. Lori Lind

Al - le - lu - ia Al le - lu ia! Al -
 9 - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ our pas-so - ver is sac-ri-ficed for
 17 us, there-fore let us keep the - feast. 10

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request. As the Eucharist is distributed, all who desire prayers for healing—for themselves or for others—are invited to come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.

A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom

While some are receiving communion at church, those worshipping on Zoom say the following prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. ~ from St.

Augustine's Prayer Book

Communion Hymn

The Desert Shall Rejoice

#722 Wonder, Love, and Praise

The des - ert shall re - joice and blos - som as a rose:

- 1. It shall
- 2. For the
- 3. For the
- 4. For the

blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
 ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.
 tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.
 ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

- 5. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:
 as the ransomed return to God and come singing back to Zion.
- 6. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:
 unto Zion we come with joy, for our God has come to save us.

Words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943). Music: *Sterling*, Joy F Patterson (b. 1931).

Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making 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 love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

The Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his countenance and set you free from all sin. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

#59 Hymnal 1982

Descant

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Improvisations on *People Look East (Bensaçon Carol)*

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Will Drosos
Preacher	Beth Clarke
Deacon	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Acolyte	Susan Cowart
Altar Guild	Jan Hamilton
Digital Usher	Bruce Allan
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Flower Guild	Melinda Fairchild
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons & Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Lector / Intercessor	Ed Rhodes
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Steve Wickman
Healing Minister	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Usher	Rick Montfort
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Jane Frierson

DECEMBER VESTRY PERSON

Melinda Fairchild

meldavid7815@gmail.com

240-274-4741

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



I hope that everyone who reads this has experienced the true warmth of a St. Thomas welcome. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to support St. Thomas. We are well on our way to reaching our twin campaign targets (pledges totaling \$410,000 and 70 pledgers). Progress updates can be seen on the hymn boards in church.

There is still time join us and make a pledge to support our church and community.

Pledge cards can be returned in the mail or by dropping in the offertory plate. Even better is to take a photo of your completed card and email that to Rishabh. Entering your own pledge online is not currently working if you try accessing via the internet. However, the ChMS app DOES support online pledging. If you did not receive instructions about pledging via the app please contact Rishabh (parishadmin@stthomasmclean.org). Thank you for your support!

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, <i>Rector</i>	540-532-5665 – fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org
The Rev. William Drosos, <i>Associate Rector</i>	513-638-8800 – will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell, <i>Assisting Clergy</i>	970-417-8417 – kfshplp@gmail.com
Dr. Lori Lind, <i>Minister of Music</i>	443-226-8270 – lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org
Ms. Beth Clarke, <i>Seminarian</i>	602-463-5289 – eclarke@vts.edu

THE VESTRY

Jan Grimes	Senior Warden	jangrimes5@outlook.com	571-213-5460
Melinda Fairchild	Junior Warden	meldavid7815@gmail.com	240-274-4741
Steven Miles		smiles19930@gmail.com	202-639-7951
Janette Thode		jlthode@hotmail.com	919-583-1542
Tanya Coogan		Tanya.coogan@gmail.com	703-727-9816
Chris Forward		christine.m.forward@gmail.com	703-963-6585
Lynne Montgomery		lkrmontgomery@gmail.com	703-298-7181
Rick Howe		rhowelaw@gmail.com	515-229-8414
Chris Johnston		christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com	410-299-9776

OTHER LEADERS

David Alton Smith	Register	dapy.smith@gmail.com	703-488-0442
Pat Smith	Treasurer	pysmith51@gmail.com	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	wickmansb@msn.com	571-393-8544
Becky Ventorini	Alternate Delegate	beckyventorini@gmail.com	202-390-4412

STAFF

Rishabh Bajekal	Parish Administrator	Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Mary Cyrus	Accountant	accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Nicole Warga	Cribbery Caregiver	ncwarga00@hotmail.com	703-476-9476

The Skinny at St. Thomas December 8th, 2024



More information about many of these events can be found on the Announcements page on our website. Scan the QR code to see them.

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Shakespeare Opera Theatre: La Vie de Bohème

December 6th thru 15th

Puccini's soaring melodies mingle with Murger's brilliant storytelling, bringing to life the spirited Bohemians of the Latin Quarter. Perfect for a holiday family outing or whimsical date night. Cabaret seating at our own Café Momus. Savor the best atmosphere and 'pub grub' that Paris has to offer plus traditional holiday treats. All performances are in Hudson Hall at St. Thomas. For details and to get tickets, visit <https://shakespeareoperatheatre.com/>

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ECW Treats and Treasures Sale

Please plan to stay after church today to shop at the Treats & Treasures Sale! This is the ECW's only fundraiser and we count on our parishioners' generosity to make our charitable giving throughout the year possible. We always allow time for the youth of St. Thomas to shop first (we'll even wrap!). Our Treasures this year include a fantastic array of home goods, jewelry, and purses. And we have amazing bakers at St. Thomas! This year promises to tempt you with a variety of sweet and savory items, all packaged attractively for gift-giving. You can also buy things from the Bake Table that will be delivered to First Responders later that day. A great way to share our thanks and talent with the Firefighters of McLean!

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Pints with Doubting Thomas

Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 pm

at High Point Pub in Whole Foods, Tysons. We will continue learning about and discussing how we interpret scripture. This time, we will talk about what scripture tells us about Jesus.

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Women Gathering Zoom Meetup (the 2nd Thursday of each month)

Thursday, December 12th at 4:30 pm

Join us as Rev. Fran leads a discussion *continued on back...*

of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. You can prepare by reading:

- The Walls
- Chapter 3: "War Stories"

The book is available on AMAZON in paperback, e-book, and audiobook.

For more details, contact Betsy ehelman2003@yahoo.com Audrey at audreyjadair@gmail.com for the ZOOM link

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Ladies Lunch Bunch

Monday, December 16th at 11:15 am

Bring lunch or order in advance from your favorite restaurant with an 11:30 delivery.

Audrey Adair's place
2014 Lakebreeze Way
Reston, VA 20191

(Audrey will furnish drinks and dessert)

RSVP (813) 956-7550

Please park on Ridge Heights Road.

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ECW Christmas Book Exchange Party Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 pm

ALL women of St. Thomas are invited to attend this fun evening even if you don't normally attend the monthly Book Group meetings. Buffet Italian dinner followed by the book swap. Bring a wrapped book for the exchange (novel or nonfiction) Bring cash for dinner (about \$25) and drinks and/or dessert to share. RSVP by Sunday, December 15th to Susan Cowart, sfcowart@aol.com or 703-893-2229.

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Christmas Flowers Form

We invite all parishioners to share in the beautiful experience of Christmas flowers at St. Thomas through a memorial or thanksgiving gift. You can fill out the Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/f3Nd8T1g74SWv8Z28>

Alternatively, you can fill out the physical form that is found in the Narthex. **Please return forms by Wednesday, December 18th.**

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Reminder to Check in on Your 2024 Pledge

With Christmas and the end of the year approaching, if you plan to make year-end payments against your 2024 pledge, make arrangements now. Donations should be received or postmarked by December 31st.

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This Week

Monday December 9th

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

7:30 pm – *Bohemian Rhapsody*

Tuesday December 10th

12 noon – Midweek Eucharist

Wednesday December 11th

10 am – Staff Meeting

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

6:30 pm – Pints with Doubting Thomas

7:30 pm – *La Vie de Bohème*

Thursday December 12th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

4:30 pm – Women Gathering Zoom Meetup

7 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday December 14th

7:45 am – Men Eating Breakfast

3 pm – *La Vie de Bohème*

7:30 pm – *La Vie de Bohème*

Sunday December 15th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship

11:30 am – ECW Treats and Treasures Sale (if there's anything left)

3 pm – *La Vie de Bohème*