



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE



*Christ
is
coming*

Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022

Welcome to St. Thomas' Parish and to the season of Advent! Your presence amongst us overflows our joy. Together, we all tell the Good News of God's love in Christ. Sing and pray with us as you are comfortable. You are welcome to fully participate in every part of this service, including Holy Eucharist (aka the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, or Mass). Nursery Care with a lesson for the day is on the fourth floor. If you would like to learn more about St. Thomas' Parish, the Episcopal Church, or deepening your faith with us please fill out a welcome card and hand it to an usher or clergy person. We will continue to require mask wearing during public worship. Masks will remain optional for meetings, coffee hour and most serving opportunities. Our worship in the season of Advent engages us in expectation and hope for the coming of Christ.

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn #56 in Blue Hymnal

O Come, O Come Emanuel (verses 1-3,6)

Advent Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God:

In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by God's holy Child Jesus. Let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. We remember in our prayers those who are on our prayer list today.

Finally, let us remember before Christ his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. All of these prayers we offer to you, our loving God. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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

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 grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

Trisagion S102 from Blue Hymnal

(Service music is found at the beginning of the hymnal)

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 146:4-9 (read by all)

Saint Helena Psalter

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, *
whose hope is in their God;
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
whose promise abides for ever;
6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed *
and food to those who hunger.
7 God sets the prisoners free
and opens the eyes of the blind; *
God lifts up those who are bowed down;
8 God loves the righteous
and cares for the stranger; *
God sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9 God shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia!

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn #72 in Blue Hymnal

Hark! the glad sound!

We will sing verses 1-2 before the gospel, and 3-4 after.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

(The Gospel will be proclaimed in both Spanish & English)

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

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Juan, que estaba en la cárcel, tuvo noticias de lo que Cristo estaba haciendo. Entonces envió algunos de sus seguidores a que le preguntaran si él era de veras el que había de venir, o si debían esperar a otro.

Jesús les contestó: «Vayan y díganle a Juan lo que están viendo y oyendo. Cuéntenle que los ciegos ven, los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios de su enfermedad, los sordos oyen, los muertos vuelven a la vida y a los pobres se les anuncia la buena noticia. ¡Y dichoso aquel que no encuentre en mí motivo de tropiezo!»

Cuando ellos se fueron, Jesús comenzó a hablar a la gente acerca de Juan, diciendo: «¿Qué salieron ustedes a ver al desierto? ¿Una caña sacudida por el viento? Y si no, ¿qué salieron a ver? ¿Un hombre vestido lujosamente? Ustedes saben que los que se visten lujosamente están en las casas de los reyes. En fin, ¿a qué salieron? ¿A ver a un profeta? Sí, de veras, y a uno que es mucho más que profeta. Juan es aquel de quien dice la Escritura:

“Yo envío mi mensajero delante de ti, para que te prepare el camino.”

Les aseguro que, entre todos los hombres, ninguno ha sido más grande que Juan el Bautista; y, sin embargo, el más pequeño en el reino de los cielos es más grande que él.

~~~~~

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Luis León

✠ Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon

## Nicene Creed

**W**E 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 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

Prayers for the Rev. Lisa Ahuja on the anniversary of her ordination.

## The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of Christ be always with you. All: And also with you.

## Welcome and Announcements

### *Birthday Prayer: (said by all)*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up when they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Anniversary Prayer: (said by all)*

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, for which your Son gave his life, and surround this couple with your love. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Offertory Music: How lovely are the messengers Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*Sung by the St. Thomas' Choir*

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.

To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

– Romans 10: 15 & 18

*Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord. The ushers will collect a financial offering during the Offertory. If you'd prefer to give electronically to our operating funds, please text STTHOMASDC (\$) to 73256 or follow the QR Code.*

When you scan this QR Code with your phone's camera, it will take you directly to St. Thomas' Giving Page.



## The Great Thanksgiving Enriching our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

**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 our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,  
source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation.  
Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being:  
sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways.  
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;  
and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.  
Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.  
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels  
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,  
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

### Sanctus: LEVAS #255

The musical score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
 To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
 and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
 you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
 that she might conceive and bear a son,  
 Jesus the holy child of God.  
 Living among us, Jesus loved us.  
 He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
 healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
 He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
 yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of his life,  
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,  
Jesus was at table with his friends.  
He took bread, gave thanks to you,  
broke it, and gave it to them, 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.  
Again, he gave thanks to you,  
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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.  
In the fullness of time bring us,  
with St. Thomas and all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared  
from the foundation of the world.  
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

PADRE NUESTRO, que estás en el cielo.  
Santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria  
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amén

## The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: 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.

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*All are welcome to receive holy communion here at St. Thomas' Parish. The bishop has given the diocese permission to share the bread and wine at communion again. She does not permit us to intinct, or dip, our wafers in the wine. An usher will invite the congregation to come forward row by row to receive. When you come forward, there are two stations to receive bread. Gluten free wafers are available. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this to the priest.*

**Communion Anthem:** Love bade me welcome Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Sydney Black, soloist, with the St. Thomas' Music Interns

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back  
Guilty of dust and sin  
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lack'd anything  
A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:  
Love said, You shall be he  
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear  
I cannot look on thee  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply  
Who made the eyes but I?  
Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame

Go where it doth deserve  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
My dear, then I will serve  
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
So I did sit and eat

Text by George Herbert (1593-1633)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

✠ All pray together

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**

Celebrant:

May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgment  
and flame to our longing that our hearts might be ready  
to be born again in love; and the blessing of God Almighty:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn Paperless:**            Open my heart                            Composed by Ana Hernandez

### **Dismissal**

Celebrant:    As we await our coming Savior, go in the peace of Christ.

People:        Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**                            **Menuet gothique**                            **Léon Boëllmann**

The flowers are given to the glory of God,  
and in thanksgiving for the Rev. Lisa Ahuja on her 15<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary.

# DECEMBER 2022



Join us

December 3-4 from 12-5 pm  
Global Holiday Market with One Journey

December 11 at 10:30 am  
Advent 3/Rose Sunday with prayers for Rev. Lisa Ahuja  
on her 15th ordination anniversary

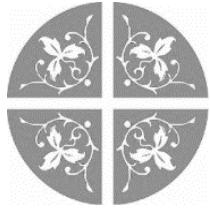
December 14 from 6-8 pm  
Tacky Sweater Christmas Party with Caroling

December 18 at 10:30 am  
Advent Lessons and Carols Service

December 24 at 5 pm  
Christmas Eve service followed by Christmas Dinner

December 25 at 10:30 am  
Christmas Day service with carol singing

St. Thomas' Parish – 1517 18th St NW  
Washington, DC 20036



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

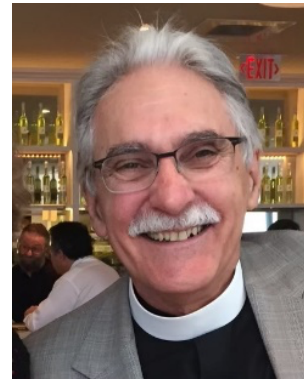
## EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

### Letter from the Rector

Welcome to our worship on this third Sunday of Advent! This Sunday is also called Rose or Gaudete Sunday, and is a time for rejoicing. The Rev. Herschel Wade serves as a deacon in our worship today, just one week after his ordination.

Today is also the Sunday before my 15<sup>th</sup> ordination as a priest! I've invited the Rev. Dr. Luis León to preach today. Luis is a mentor and friend and one of my favorite preachers. He was the first rector I served with as a new priest at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square. Luis preached at my ordination to the priesthood on December 15, 2007.

The Rev. Dr. Luis León retired in 2018, after serving for 24 years as Rector of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square. While there, our Rector and Director of Music enjoyed serving with him! He founded and contributed to many outreach and justice initiatives in his many years in ministry in the dioceses of North Carolina, Delaware, Maryland, Newark, and Washington. Since retirement, Luis has served as an Assistant Chaplain at St. Ann's Church, Kennebunkport, Maine. He enjoys playing tennis, spending time with his wife, reading history books, and submarine movies. Please join me in welcoming him back to St. Thomas' Parish today.



After our worship today, please join us on the fourth floor for a festive reception for Rose Sunday. You are also invited to stay and help decorate the Christmas trees on the second floor. If you have an ornament you'd like to add to the tree, please do!

As you read through these announcements which include several Advent and Christmas invitations, please consider who you might invite to join us as we prepare Christ room to enter in again this Christmas.

Advent blessings,

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja, Rector

## Decorating for Christmas

This week, members of St. Thomas' joined the Capital Clubhouse in decorating the fourth floor! Following today's service, we will decorate the Christmas trees on the second floor.



## End of the Year Financial Plans

A big thank you to our community for faithfully fulfilling pledges, and for communicating when if it has been difficult to fulfill your pledge. This has helped us to be good stewards of the gifts shared with us this year, and to plan well for ministry at St. Thomas' Parish.

### End of the year pledges, capital pledges, Christmas offerings, and financial gifts

Our parish office will be closed the week after Christmas (December 26– December 30). Please do know that if you have a pledge or financial gift you would like included in your 2022 taxes, we need to receive it electronically by December 31, or by check no later than January 10. Please ensure your check is dated prior to December 31 if you are sending it in the mail or dropping it off by January 10, 2023. This helps us to follow healthy financial reporting practices.

### Pre-paying your 2023 Pledge

If you plan to pre-pay your 2023 pledge before December 31, 2022, please indicate this in the memo of your check or when paying online. This will appear on your end of year giving statement, and on Realm appear as a fulfilled 2023 pledge on your profile.

### Workplace Matched Charitable Giving

Does your employer match charitable giving? If so, please know that many employers are happy to match your charitable giving to St. Thomas' Parish. We are registered with Benevity, and happy to assist with paperwork necessary to receive charitable giving from your employer.

## Vestry Slate Announced

Save the date! The St. Thomas' Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023 following our 10:30 am service.

Never been to an annual meeting for a church? This year's meeting will include a celebration of the highlights from 2022, presentation of the 2023 budget, reports from the Wardens and Rector, written report from all our ministries, and the election of new vestry leaders.

Thank you to the Vestry Nominating Committee for their work of discernment on behalf of the parish. The following slate was adopted by our vestry at our November meeting.

### Wardens

1. Senior Warden- Reggie Greer
2. Junior Warden- Karen Garlick

### Vestry Members

3. Noel Miller (current vestry, continuing for optional 3rd year)\*
4. Brett Snyder (current vestry, continuing for optional 3rd year)\*  
Nominated for a new term
4. Amy Doolittle\*
5. Willis Tatterson\*
6. Elizabeth Terry\*

Vestry Members moving into their second year of service

8. Jasper Knight Champion
9. Jennifer Mahle

\*Candidates up for election are bolded.

## New Vestry Candidate Bios



**Amy Doolittle** grew up near Dayton, Ohio, but has lived in D.C. for over 25 years. She moved here right after law school and works at the same law firm where she started her career. Amy and Tom moved to Dupont Circle in 2015 and joined St. Thomas' parish in 2020 right before the pandemic. Amy has appreciated being part of the Stewardship Committee for the past several years. In her free time, Amy enjoys running (although the miles are fewer and slower the older she gets) and taking care of two energetic coonhounds (Ophelia and Oberon).



**Willis Tatterson** grew up in the Episcopal church and has been an active member ever since. He and his partner, Matt Cohn, have attended St. Thomas' Parish since 2019 and they are active members with the refugee, ushering, and alter guild ministries. Willis found a renewed dedication in his spiritual journey during a recent pilgrimage in Israel, where he studied closely with Bishops, clergy, and parishioners from around the world. Willis says his own personal spiritual goal is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. He is excited to join the vestry and share his knowledge and business acumen to support St. Thomas' parish life, ministries, and financial health. He's thrilled about this new challenge and opportunity.



**Elizabeth Terry** is a DC native and works in higher ed communications. Raised Roman Catholic, she began attending Episcopal services in college and has been active in several churches since then. She first came to St. Thomas' in 2020 and has been very involved in the refugee and migrant welcome ministry over the past year. She's a novice gardener, an excellent cook, and a doting auntie to 7 nieces and nephews.



# St. Thomas' Parish

December 11th, 2022 – December 18th, 2022

## Weekly Schedule

### **Sunday, December 11th**

9:30 am to 11:30 am Nursery and Christian Education/Kids Activities (4th floor)  
9:30 am to 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal (2nd floor Nave)  
10:30 am to 11:30 am – Holy Eucharist (2nd Floor Nave) Advent 3/Rose Sunday  
with prayers for Rev. Lisa Ahuja on her 15th ordination anniversary  
11:30 am to 12:30 pm – Rose Sunday Reception (4th Floor)  
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm– Tree Decorating (2nd floor Nave)  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm – East Sea Sword School (4th Floor)

### **Monday, December 12th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)  
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm – AA Meeting (4th floor)

### **Tuesday, December 13th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)  
11:00 am to 12:00pm – Staff meeting (1st floor)

### **Wednesday, December 14th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)  
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Tacky Sweater Party + Caroling (1<sup>st</sup> floor + Garden)

### **Thursday, December 15th** – Office Hours: 10am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse with Employment Dinner (4th floor)  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm – Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

### **Friday, December 16th** – Office Hours: 12am to 3pm

8:30 am to 4:30 pm – Capital Clubhouse (4th floor)  
8:00 pm to 9:00 pm – NA Meeting (2nd floor)

### **Saturday, December 17th**

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm – Refugee Christmas Party (Capitol Hill Churches)

### **Sunday, December 18th**

9:30 am to 11:30 am Nursery and Christian Education/Kids Activities (4th floor)  
9:30 am to 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal (2nd floor Nave)  
10:30 am to 11:30 am – Advent Lessons and Carols (2nd floor Nave)  
11:30 pm to 12:30 pm – Coffee Hour (1<sup>st</sup> floor + Garden)  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm – East Sea Sword School (4th Floor)



## WORSHIP WITH ST. THOMAS'

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### Christmas Eve Worship at 5 pm followed by Dinner

Our Christmas Eve service this year will be on December 24 at 5 pm. We will have a drop-in Christmas Pageant (no rehearsals required) for people of all ages. Following the service, you are invited to a Christmas dinner potluck. Please follow this link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/mkDnFny7a42HZQmz5>

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend to join you at St. Thomas' Parish.

### Next Service with Baptism is on January 8 at 10:30 am

If you or someone you love would like to explore baptism at St. Thomas' Parish, please be in touch with the Rev. Lisa Ahuja. Our next service with baptism will be on January 8 at 10:30 am. Contact Rev. Lisa at [lahuja@stthomsc.org](mailto:lahuja@stthomsc.org) or 202-361-2018.

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## CELEBRATE WITH ST. THOMAS'

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### Welcome Iris Emilia Aberg



Iris Emilia Aberg was born on November 19 and was 8lb 12oz. Big brother Adam (2.5) is loving his new role! Eric and Lindsey look forward to introducing Iris to the community at St. Thomas' Parish when she is a little older.



*O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon this family in giving them a child. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## Blessings be upon the Rev. Herschel Wade

Our seminarian, the Rev. Herschel Wade was ordained a deacon last Saturday. Members of our parish attended the ordination, and we look forward to his ordination to the priesthood on June 6, 2022. Many blessings be upon him in his ministry.



## Another successful One Journey Holiday Market!

What joy to have 1 Journey Festival back for their Global Holiday Market last weekend. Many talented refugee vendors sold out of their inventory and were thrilled by the warm welcome. Photo credit: Eric Whitaker.



## STUDY WITH ST. THOMAS'

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### Children's Bible Story and Activity

Each week we have a story from holy scripture and activity on the fourth floor during our worship. All children are welcome to attend and will be brought back to worship at the time of the peace. Ushers and greeters are happy to show you the way to the fourth floor.

## TAKE ACTION WITH ST. THOMAS'

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### Welcoming Refugees at St. Thomas' on Saturdays

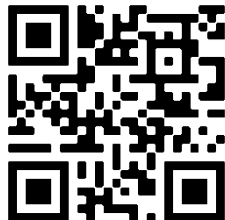
#### Welcome Refugees at St Thomas' on Saturdays

Since May, our parish has served as a welcome site for hundreds of asylum-seekers bused to DC from the southern border. Bus arrivals have been more sporadic in recent weeks, and we now are holding Saturday "mini respites" - shorter timeslots (8 am until about noon) where we welcome newcomers who have arrived in recent days. We have openings scheduled into early January. You can sign up for a volunteer slot here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n77sx2y>, or e-mail Carol Coonrod ([cscoonrod@gmail.com](mailto:cscoonrod@gmail.com)) and/or Elizabeth Terry ([elizterry@gmail.com](mailto:elizterry@gmail.com)) if you'd like to be on a standby list to be called in as needed.

#### Christmas Celebration with Refugees

We are partnering with Mutual Aid and other respite partners to plan a Christmas party for refugees bused to DC who have remained in the city. This event will take place on Saturday, December 17 in the Capitol Hill area. We will need many volunteers to make this a success, on the day of the party and leading up to it. Please sign up to volunteer for the party at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4ea8ae22a02-2022> or by emailing Carol Coonrod ([cscoonrod@gmail.com](mailto:cscoonrod@gmail.com)) and/or Elizabeth Terry ([elizterry@gmail.com](mailto:elizterry@gmail.com)) Please note, this link does not include locations in Capitol Hill for the parties. More information will be shared after you sign up. We are also collecting money for party supplies and for gift cards to distribute via St. Thomas' Realm account - please make your contributions to the "Refugee Support" category. And if you are interested in donating gifts, see the QR code posted around the building or e-mail Carol and Elizabeth for the links and other info. Thanks in advance! Please keep all migrants and refugees around the world in your prayers.

Amazon Migrant Respite Xmas 2022



Realm dedicated financial contribution



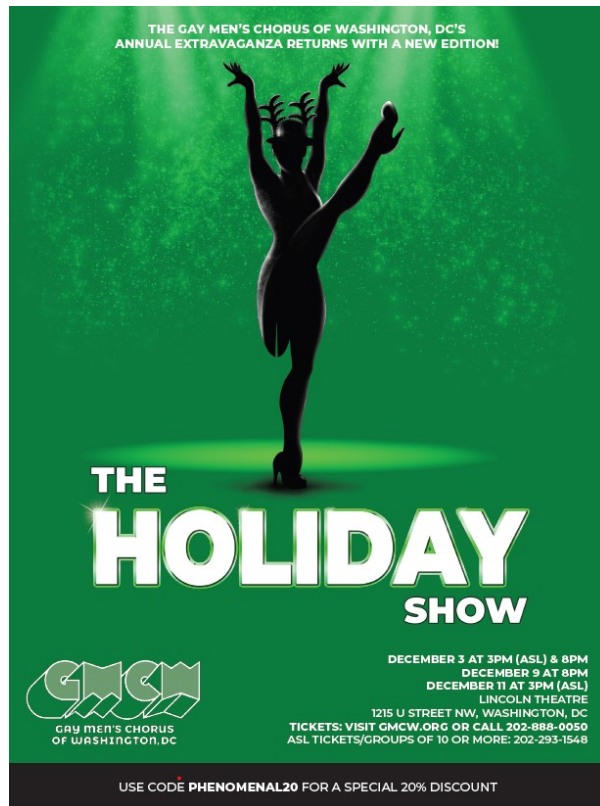
## OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sharing your announcements in the Sunday bulletin and Phoenix

Please send all announcements to [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org) on or before the Sunday prior to distribution. We aim to send announcements out three weeks prior to the event or service opportunity in order for sufficient time to plan.

### Tacky Christmas Sweater Party with Caroling on Wednesday, December 14 from 6-8 pm.

Join us for a fun night of Christmas caroling, conversation, and food on Wednesday, December 14. You are invited to wear your tackiest Christmas outfit and bring something festive to share for dinner. The party will be in the Commons on the first floor of our church and caroling will be in the garden.



## Celebrating Our December Birthdays

Fiadh Kennedy (December 7)  
Ryan Winfield (December 8)  
Stephen Schembs (December 13)  
Chris Norman (December 14)  
Benny Young (December 14)  
Al Llanos (December 15)  
Noel Miller (December 16)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at  
[administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org)

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## Parish Prayer List

Lynette Alexander  
Alan Allison  
Shaune Bazner  
John Bisco  
Peggyann Cohen  
Liz Dahlen  
Craig Evertt  
June Gangler  
Karin Garcia's fiance  
Carol Goldman

Pam Greer  
Jan Harrison  
Betsy Hollingsworth  
James Insinga  
Judy Johnson  
Mike Knapp  
Dave Kucharski  
Hugo Llanos  
Cecilia Manibusan

Joe Rivas  
Bishop Gene Robinson  
Jane Saari  
Eric Scharf  
The Sommer Family  
Chris Spangler  
Chester Thompson  
A loved one starting recovery

You may submit a name for the list by sending an e-mail to: [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org)



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

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*"As St. Thomas' Parish we are followers of Jesus, striving to see Christ in each person, and to be Christ in our community, our city, and our world."*

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## Vestry

Gregory Zitterkob, Senior Warden  
Karen Garlick, Junior Warden  
Clay Dursthoff, Treasurer  
Jocko Fajardo, Secretary  
Knight Champion, Brian Crane, Reggie Greer, Jennifer Mahle,  
Noel Miller, Brett Snyder, John Trumbo

## Staff

|                                                 |                                                                      |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja                    | Rector                                                               | lahuja@stthomasdc.org<br>cell: 202-361-2018<br>@BishopGRobinson |
| The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson<br>Michael Lodico | Bishop in Residence<br>Director of Music<br>and Community Engagement | mlo dico@stthomasdc.org                                         |
| Maria Teresa Baustista-Berrios                  | Seminarian                                                           |                                                                 |
| Fabian Berrios                                  | Sexton and Nursery                                                   |                                                                 |
| Diana Diaz                                      | Nursery Attendant                                                    |                                                                 |
| Brynn Farlow                                    | Music Program Assistant                                              | bfarlow@stthomasdc.org                                          |
| Hamida Gawhari                                  | Administrative Assistant                                             |                                                                 |
| Araceli Ma                                      | Temporary Admin                                                      | ama@stthomasdc.org                                              |
| Jafar Lesani                                    | Sexton                                                               |                                                                 |
| Candace McLamore                                | Sexton                                                               |                                                                 |
| Tyrone Moore                                    | Sexton                                                               |                                                                 |

## St. Thomas' Parish

1517 18th Street NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 808-3326

www.stthomasdc.org ✉ [info@stthomasdc.org](mailto:info@stthomasdc.org)

