

The Carpenter's Helper

December 2, 2018

St. Thomas's Parish, Newark, DE

302-368-4644

www.StThomasParish.org



WELCOME! Please introduce yourself to any of our parish family and complete our yellow Welcome Form found in the pew card-holder. Place the form into the alms basket or give it to an usher. Join us for fellowship in the Great Hall following services. Guests are invited to put on a handwritten blue name tag which an usher or greeter can give you. The ushers will also be glad to help with any questions you may have. Keep in touch via St. Thomas's web site at <http://stthomasparish.org/> or via St. Thomas's **Facebook** page. To join our Facebook community, you can go to our web site at <http://stthomasparish.org/> and click the Facebook ("F") link at the **top right**, log on to Facebook and *like* us.

Our Heavenly Creator, who has blessed this dedicated church family for 175 years, serving our community in your faith and love, we ask for guidance for our Parish, Search Committee and Vestry as we embark on the journey to mutual ministry with our next Rector. Bless us with your grace and fill us with knowledge and fortitude throughout this process. In the holy name of Jesus Christ, our savior, and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

Transition Topics

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS:

After a much-needed respite in July, the search committee is recharged and ready for all that needs to be done to call a new rector for our Parish. We have recently started interview training and will soon receive candidate names from the Diocese. We have much to prepare and plan for as we begin this next phase in our search process. It is our hope to have the candidate interviews and visits completed by mid to late November. We ask for your continued prayers for the candidates, the vestry and the search committee as we all move forward together to find a new leader for St. Thomas's Parish.

Stewardship -- Responsible Vestry Members – Rich Wadman & Denise Burgher

DID YOU KNOW YOU MAY BE ABLE TO USE YOUR IRA TAX-FREE?

In December 2014 Congress enacted legislation making QCDs (qualified charitable distributions) permanent. If you're over age 70 1/2, you can send up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity -- including St. Thomas's. The distribution is excluded from your gross income making it tax free. For more information, contact Amy Keach or your tax advisor.

Worship – Responsible Vestry Members – Judy Grabowski & Ronnie Wilbur

ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS – On Sunday, December 9 we will be having our service of lessons and carols as is our tradition. The service will begin at 4:00 pm in the afternoon. Come out and be a part of this Advent tradition of retelling the story of our Savior's birth as foretold in the Old and New Testaments.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS – During the season of Advent the altar is decorated with greens and no flower memorials are accepted. This presents a grand opportunity to remember your loved ones, celebrate special occasions, or express your thanksgivings by sharing in the floral display for Christmas. Pink forms for this purpose will be available starting Sunday, December 9. The completed forms and accompanying donation should be placed in the alms basin or returned to the church office by Monday, December 17 for inclusion in the Christmas season bulletins.

FOURTH SUNDAY CHOIR - This year I am trying a new idea to help interest anyone out there to sing with the choir. Here is my plan: It is called *Fourth Sunday Choir*.

On the 4th Sunday of each month (not necessarily the last Sunday....) anyone who is interested in singing with the choir will be encouraged and welcomed. This will also involve the Thursday evening rehearsal just before that Sunday, for the first part of the rehearsal. The anthems for these Sundays will be fairly uncomplicated and the choir will already have rehearsed them. New singers will be able to sing either the melody or try one of the other parts, depending on their voice range.

This idea is different than the Summer Choir in that new singers will be expected to attend the prior Thursday's rehearsal for the first half-hour or so. If they can't then they wouldn't sing on the Sunday.

The strong choral tradition of St. Thomas's is in jeopardy unless a new wave of singers comes forth to make a commitment to our parish and our liturgy. Experiencing the joy and fellowship in the rehearsal room is an essential ingredient in understanding how important and rewarding this way of giving time and treasure is to the life of our parish.

Please consider giving this a try!

Thank you, and....CHEERS!

Marc Cheban

CENTERING PRAYER AT ST. THOMAS - *Be still and know that I am God.* Psalm 46:10

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our body, mind, and spirit to receive this gift. For more information contact Joe Corsello at 302-369-0330 or jmcorsello@gmail.com.

Education - *Responsible Vestry Member* - Kristin Sausville

CAMP ARROWHEAD - Brochures are now available in the Narthex for the summer of 2019 at Camp Arrowhead. Additional information regarding applications and costs are available from Belinda Young-Payne.

COPING WITH GRIEF - The daily struggle of missing loved ones that are no longer with us is always hard. The holidays are a time of gathering with family and friends, a time full of traditions and memories. It can be particularly difficult for those who are dealing with loss to navigate through the holiday season.

The Reverend Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon, LCSW, and Dr. Lisa DiRenzo will offer a grief workshop beginning November 4 between the two Sunday services starting at 9:15 am. We will accept input from the group as to whether to continue meeting at that time or choose another more convenient time for members. Please call Adele Meredith at the church office, 302-368-4644, to register.

DISMANTLING THE NEW JIM CROW - *What can I do?* Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, Newark Monthly Meeting, Monday, December 17 at 6:00 pm. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Cami Seward at 907-321-3336 or at camiseward@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS NEEDED -: Please consider the INVITATION to join the St. Thomas's children's ministries team. It is a wonderful ministry that richly blesses everyone involved. The children teach and inspire us as much as we do them. And the team members are tremendous supports and inspiration to each other. We are so thankful for all the children and adults who have been and still are a part of the program. However, we need new faces to join us. Maybe God is calling you?

"Teaching" involves an average commitment of two Sundays a month and an hour or two of preparation the week you are the lead teacher. We teach in teams of two so you would be lead teacher an average of once a month. If you are more comfortable being the helper teacher each time, that is fine too. If you feel called to be a part of children's ministry in any way, please contact Belinda Young-Payne via email at belmar43@aol.com or by phone at 302-388-4017 (cell) or 302-832-8834 (landline).

NOVEL THEOLOGY – The reading list for the coming year’s Novel Theology is below.

December 9 *Letters from a Skeptic: A Son Wrestles with His Father’s Questions about Christianity* Dr. Gregory A. Boyd
January 13 *The Hidden Flame* Davis Bunn
February 10 *The Centurion’s Wife* Davis Bunn
April 14 TBA
May 12 *Remarkable Creatures* Tracy Chevalier

For further information or questions please contact Susan Hechter at susanahechter@gmail.com or 302-738-9918.

Evangelism– *Responsible Vestry Members –Joe Corsello, Cana Hartman & Joy Lynam*

LADIES NIGHT OUT FOR THE FALL - Happy Fall!!

Ladies Night for Dec. will be Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:00 pm at Taverna (Main Street Newark)

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY – New parish directories are available in the office. Look for the directory with the BRIGHT PINK cover!!

Pastoral Care– *Responsible Vestry Members – Rejane DeMoraes & Marilyn Prime*

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY – The Pastoral Care Ministry provides many services to our parish family. When you know of a need or can lend a hand, please contact Donna Weaver at dweaver214@gmail.com, your Vestry leaders Marilyn Prime and Rejane DeMoraes, or the parish office.

Service– *Responsible Vestry Member*

ANGEL TREE– This year, St. Thomas's will once again provide Christmas gifts for local families through the Angel Tree. The tree will be available beginning November 29. Take a tag-or two or three. Purchase the gift and wrap it, putting the tag on the package. Return the gifts to the church by Monday, December 17. Then feel the glow of knowing that you have shared the love of Christ by helping our neighbors in need. Any questions, contact Connie Cooper at 302-731-7595 or cjcooper15@verizon.net. Thank you!

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND - December 2 is the first Sunday of the month, when the loose offering (bills and coins; also checks with "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line) is given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The fund enables St. Thomas's to provide speedy, confidential assistance to people with financial emergencies. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

BLUE HEN BOUNTY NEEDS RE-STOCKING- *Blue Hen Bounty*, ECM’s and St. Thomas’ food pantry for U of D students is in need of food for the fall semester-*especially instant food like Easy Mac, canned tuna, and other instant one-serve meals, snacks such as crackers and granola bars, and non-perishable breakfast foods.* Please bring your contributions to the stage in the Great Hall.

HOLY HEARTS AND HELPING HANDS - We ask your prayers and help to purchase a gift card that could help provide a tank of gas or buy some needed grocery staples at a local store. The office is currently out of gas cards. Please give them directly to Adele Meredith or put in an envelope marked to Adele’s attention and place in the offering plate. **Donations of gift cards are always welcome – will you help??**

NEWARK AREA WELFARE COMMITTEE'S FOOD CUPBOARD - There is a current need for folks to transport the food that has been collected over to Newark United Methodist Church. There is also a continuing need for **small jars of mayonnaise, grape or strawberry jam or jelly, canned fruit, and canned tomatoes.** Contributions go in the baskets as you enter the nave. The NAWC Food Cupboard **also needs volunteers** to

distribute food at the Cupboard housed at the United Methodist Church on Main St. The Cupboard hours are from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information contact Susan Hechter at 302-738-9918 or susanahechter@gmail.com.

GO BAGS NEEDED - NEC is currently at a critical shortage of Go Bags. *There are none in stock.* Please ask your congregation to provide Go Bags as quickly as possible. Don't wait until you've collected supplies for 50 or so. Even 15-20 will help for now. Use your social media. Host a Go Bag Party. Ask your office friends. Don't keep it a secret!

The contents, all assembled in a 1 gallon zip lock bag, with a napkin and spoon are: individual Chef Boyardee meals in microwaveable container, snack cracker packs (cheese or peanut butter), granola type bars, individual fruit cup or applesauce, box or pouch drink.

UTO – December 2 will be St. Thomas' Fall Ingathering for the United Thank Offering (UTO). Offerings received here are combined with the offerings of other parishes in our diocese and around the country to fund projects in underserved areas. UTO makes grants for new ministry all over the church and beyond! Participating in UTO is easy and convenient. Pick up a "mite box" and put it together. Then every time you feel thankful, place a coin or two in the box. When the next ingathering is announced, remove the money from the box and either write a check (designate UTO in the memo section) or place the cash in the blue and white UTO envelope found in the bulletin. Bring the offering forward at the designated time.

Parish Calendar

*Location Key C: Classroom CO: Counter's Office GH: Great Hall K: Kitchen MR: Music Room
N: Nave P: Parlor U: Undercroft TBD: to be determined*

Sunday, December 2, 2018

8:00 am **N Holy Eucharist – Rite I**
 9:00 am GH Craft Fair
 9:00 am U Youth Confirmation
 9:15 am U Nursery
 9:15 am P Adult Education
 9:30 am U Children's Worship
 10:30 am **N Holy Eucharist – Rite II**
 11:45 pm GH, K Hospitality Hour
 12:00 pm C C.R.E.W. Youth
 7:00 pm GH UD Dance Team

Monday, December 3, 2018

Work on the roof continues
 6:30 am C Serenity at Sunrise
 7:00 pm P Search Committee
 7:30 pm GH Scottish Dancing

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

6:30 am C Serenity at Sunrise
 5:00 pm CO AIDS Delaware
 6:30 pm U Dusk Patrol
 7:30 pm GH UD Dance Team
 8:00 pm U AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

6:30 am C Serenity at Sunrise
 10:30 am C Bible Study
 6:00 pm P Centering Prayer
 8:00 pm GH South College Speakers

Thursday, December 6, 2018

6:30 am C Serenity at Sunrise
 7:30 pm MR Choir

Friday, December 7, 2018

6:30 am C Serenity at Sunrise
 12:00 pm U Al-Anon
 6:30 pm U Women's AA Meeting

Saturday, December 8, 2018

10:00 am K Holiday Cookie Bake

Sunday, December 9, 2018

8:00 am **N Holy Eucharist – Rite I**
 9:00 am U Youth Confirmation
 9:00 am C Novel Theology
 9:15 am U Nursery
 9:15 am P Adult Education

9:30 am	U	Children's Worship
10:30 am	N	Holy Eucharist – Rite II
11:45 pm	GH, K	Hospitality Hour
4:00 pm	N	Advent Lessons & Carols
7:00 pm	GH	UD Dance Team



*St. Thomas' Annual
Holiday Craft Fair
Sunday, December 2 – Between the services*

WE WISK YOU A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

So let's bake, for goodness sake!

Saturday, Dec 8th 10am

In Saint Thomas's joyful kitchen

Let's stock the kitchen for Coffee Hour
By coming together to bake some treats!

There will be plenty of batter ready,
Just bring your holiday spirit!

Donations of other freezable or non-perishable
Coffee hour treats are always appreciated.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Questions? Ask Cana:

(302) 354-3277 cana.hartman@gmail.com

Contact Information

276 South College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19711
Office phone number - 302-368-4644
Church office hours Monday – Thursday 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Parish Office: **302-368-4644**
Website: <http://StThomasParish.org>
Facebook page: StThomasEpiscopalChurchNewarkDelaware
Parish Email: email@StThomasParish.org

Interim Rector: The Rev. Edward E. Godden
302-373-7999 eegodden@gmail.com
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon
302-530-3493 csawhar@udel.edu

Organist & Choir Director: Marc F. Cheban
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adelemeredithstthomas@gmail.com

Children's Ministry: Belinda Young-Payne belmar43@aol.com
302-368-4644

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acookbook27@gmail.com

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