

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...is unusual

Please join together with our St Thomas faith family as we build a bridge around the world with a sign of solidarity in support of those working to contain the COVID-19 virus, health-care workers, and those who are most vulnerable.

On Sunday, March 29, at 7 pm, we invite you to light a candle in the window of your home as a visible message of hope and symbol of the light of God's love.

Please also consider taking a photo and posting it on Facebook, or Instagram (#FaithOverFear, #WayOfLove). Tag @st.thomas.newark.de to link your post to our website to show our community stands together and with the world.

Online Worship Services for Sunday, 3/29

Online services for Sunday, March 29, will be updated as the information becomes available. REMEMBER ... You do NOT need a Facebook account to join a Facebook Live video. There are instructions available as well as an updated list of available online services:

www.Delaware.church/covid-19-response

Holy Eucharist with Bishop Brown

St. Albans Center

11:00am

Facebook LIVE

downloadable service leaflet available

St. Thomas's Parish

9:00am

YouTube LIVE

downloadable service leaflet available

Washington National Cathedral

Every Sunday, the 9 am, 11:15 am, and 4 pm

YouTube and Facebook Live.

Let Us Pray

Please visit our website
for news and information.

Under the category "News and Sermons",
you will find resources such as:

- online resources for prayer
- Christian blogs
- Christian literary journals

<http://stthomasparish.org/let-us-pray/>

Public Health Information

The Episcopal Church encourages everyone to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations to prevent the spread of this virus to not unintentionally harm neighbors at home, at school, at work, or others in the community. Please check in with the DE Dept of Health and Social Services for updates.

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/>

Cycles of Prayer: *praying for our sisters and brothers near and far*

One of the characteristics of the Christian community throughout the ages has been our commitment to pray for the whole world and for our Christian sisters and brothers in churches closely linked to our own as well as in other branches of the religion.

The Anglican Communion's Cycle of Prayer is a much-used and highly valued resource that unites Anglicans around the world in prayer for each other: a collection of intercessions for provinces, dioceses, and bishops representing all corners of the globe. The Anglican Cycle of Prayer is published annually by Forward Movement Publications.

In addition to the global Anglican Communion's Cycle, we also have a Delaware Diocesan Cycle. This cycle represents our immediate neighbors in the Episcopal Church of Delaware. Each Church or Parish is assigned a day of the year: St Thomas's date for 2020 was February 23rd. Beyond praying for individual faith families, also included are groups such as the Episcopal Campus Ministry (August 16, 2020), and the Diaconate Ministry (October 13, 2019).

Here at St Thomas, we include these two prayer cycles in our Prayers of the People each week. But, did you know that there are designated intercessions Monday-Saturday as well? On Sundays, the Anglican Cycle of Prayer typically lists provinces rather than dioceses. In 2020, to assist you in your prayers, the Anglican Communion News Service is publishing a blog each week with an introduction to the province and containing prayer pointers.

This blog is an AMAZING prayer tool! Each entry gives life to what we pray for. There are pictures, stories, maps, messages of faith, and specific prayer requests. If you ever find that the Prayers of the People are feeling stale or that you are distant from those we pray for, I cannot recommend this narrative enough! I'll admit, I cannot even pronounce some of the names of the places and people we pray for, let alone consider their specific needs. However, with this new tool, I feel like a window has been opened and I can see outside of my small reality.

As we pray each Sunday: with all our heart and all our mind, let us come before the Throne of Grace and ask God's mercy for ourselves and for the whole world. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Delaware Diocesan Cycle:

<https://delaware.church/diocesan-cycle-of-prayer-19-20/>

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

<https://aco.org/acp>

Cycle of Prayer profiles blog:

<https://www.anglicannews.org/features/2020/01/acp.aspx>