

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE
in the
CITY OF NEW YORK



One West Fifty-third Street
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: 212-757-7013
www.SaintThomasChurch.org
The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023 AT 4 P.M.
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

FESTAL EVENSONG

SUNG BY THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS



STC
200

Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

*Our mission is to worship, love, and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.*

contact us: welcome@saintthomaschurch.org

Please do not take photographs or videos, or make recordings during the service.

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Matthew Moretz

Vicar and Chief Operating Officer

The Reverend Alison J. Turner

Associate for Children & Family Ministry and School Chaplain

The Reverend Mark Schultz

Associate for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Prisca Lee-Pae

Associate for Pan-Asian Ministry

The Reverend Dr. Luigi Gioia

Theologian in Residence

The Reverend Preston Gonzalez-Grissom

Assistant Priest for Children and Family Ministry

STAFF

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*

Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*

Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*

Bruce Smith, *Chief Advancement Officer*

Adam MacDonald, *Director of Development*

Blake Martin, *Director of Communications and Digital Production*

Lizette Hernandez, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*

David Bryan, *Head Verger*

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

Christopher Seeley, *Head of School*

202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Telephone: 212-247-3311

www.ChoirSchool.org

email: admissions@choirschool.org

HONORARY CLERGY

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*

The Right Reverend Andrew R. St. John, DD, *Bishop in Residence*

The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Canon Anne Mallonee, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Stephen Morris, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, *Honorary Assistant*

THE LAY MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Lloyd G. Stanford, *Warden*

Karen Duncan

Christopher M. Haley, *Clerk*

Darren Littlejohn

Winnie Kung

Gregory Zaffiro, *Warden*

Samyel Lee

John G. Oghia

Benita Potters

Inge Reist

Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org.



PRELUDE

Ecce Advenit Dominator Dominus
from 6 Antiennes pour le Temps de Noël, Op.48

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

INTROIT

Gerre Hancock
(1934-2012)

PREPARE ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low:
the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed: the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:3-5

The People stand at the entry of the Choir and Ministers.

HYMN

BRISTOL

1. Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior prom - ised long:
2. He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's bond - age held;
3. He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing soul to cure;
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come shall pro - claim;
let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
the gates of brass be - fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
and with the trea - sures of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
and heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes, #53 from *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised* – Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751).
Music: Bristol, from Thomas Ravenscroft's *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1621.

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Gerre Hancock

The Officiant and Choir sing the opening responses.

- V. O Lord, open thou our lips.
R. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
- V. O God, make speed to save us.
R. O Lord, make haste to help us.
- V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
- V. Praise ye the Lord.
R. The Lord's Name be praised.



The People sit.

WELCOME

PSALM 62

Sung by the Choir

Anglican Chant (*How*)

NONNE DEO?

MY soul truly waiteth still upon God : for of him cometh my salvation.
He verily is my strength and my salvation :
he is my defence, so that I shall not greatly fall.
How long will ye imagine mischief against every man :
ye shall be slain all the sort of you; yea, as a tottering wall shall ye be,
and like a broken hedge.
Their device is only how to put him out whom God will exalt :
their delight is in lies; they give good words with their mouth, but curse with their heart.
Nevertheless, my soul, wait thou still upon God : for my hope is in him.
He truly is my strength and my salvation : he is my defence, so that I shall not fall.
In God is my health, and my glory : the rock of my might, and in God is my trust.
O put your trust in him alway, ye people : pour out your hearts before him, for God is our hope.
As for the children of men, they are but vanity :
the children of men are deceitful upon the weights,
they are altogether lighter than vanity itself.
O trust not in wrong and robbery, give not yourselves unto vanity :
if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.
God spake once, and twice I have also heard the same : that power belongeth unto God;
And that thou, Lord, art merciful : for thou rewardest every man according to his work.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35

The People stand for the Office Hymn and Magnificat.

OFFICE HYMN

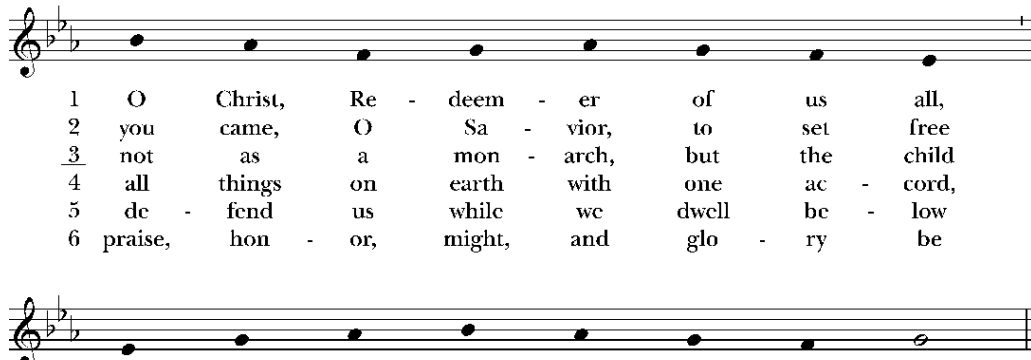
CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3 When this old world drew on toward night,
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
5 Come in your ho - ly night, we pray,
* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
5 re - deem us for c - ter - nal day;
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 6 from age to age c - ter - nal - ly.

Creator of the stars of night, #60 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
 Music: *Conditor alme sidenum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

MAGNIFICAT IN E FLAT

Charles Wood
(1866-1926)

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord,
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
 For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
 For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
 For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.
 And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
 He hath showed strength with his arm;
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.
 He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
 as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
The People sit.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:57-66

The People stand for the Nunc dimittis and the Creed.

NUNC DIMITTIS IN E FLAT

Charles Wood

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Sung by the Choir

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.

The People kneel.

Let us pray.

R. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*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. Amen.*

V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
R. And grant us thy salvation.

V. O Lord, save the State.
R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.



- ℣. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
℟. *And make thy chosen people joyful.*
- ℣. O Lord, save thy people.
℟. *And bless thine inheritance.*
- ℣. Give peace in our time, O Lord.
℟. *Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.*
- ℣. O God, make clean our hearts within us.
℟. *And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

STIR up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us;
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the
armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit
us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge
both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and
reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

OGOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:
Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give,
that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee,
we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The People sit.



ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Jesus Christ the apple tree

Anthony Piccolo
(b. 1946)

THE tree of life my soul hath seen laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see, in Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought and pleasure dearly I have bought.
I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil; here I will sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive; it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, 1784

SERMON

The Right Reverend Sean Semple
Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf



Please scan this QR code if you wish to give online from your mobile device or text **Give** to 855-938-2085.

HYMN

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vcl now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ca - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.



THE BLESSING

The Rector says

MAY the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE ADVENT PROSE

The People join in singing the antiphon after each verse.

Antiphon



BE not wroth very sore, O Lord,
neither remember iniquity forever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,
where our fathers praised thee. *Antiphon*

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind,
have taken us away:
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. *Antiphon*

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen:
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. *Antiphon*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud
thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. *Antiphon*

VOLUNTARY

Alma Redemptoris Mater
from Five Marian Pieces

David Adkins
(b. 1964)



Saint Thomas gives thanks for those who have given endowed funds to provide flowers to beautify the church in perpetuity. This week, we give thanks for the memory of *Mary Clark deBrabant, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, and Parsons Trotter*, and pray for the repose of their souls.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works. (Psalm 104:31)



Saint Thomas Church Angel Tree 2024: Please join us in helping children by participating in our annual Christmas Angel Tree. We provide gifts of toys and clothes for children of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church in the Bronx, children known to the EOP feeding program at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and children staying with their mothers at a temporary shelter for survivors of domestic abuse. We ask that you take a tag hanging on our Angel Tree, then sign the book letting us know that gift is accounted for. Unwrapped gifts should be brought to Saint Thomas TODAY. Monetary donations also gratefully appreciated – we'll do the shopping! To ensure that the children beneficiaries remain anonymous, the tags are numbered. Thanks, you're an angel!



Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials: The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day leaflets. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25 per name. You can make your donation to the parish house receptionist. Note: The deadline is MIDNIGHT TONIGHT.



Christmas Candles in Memory of Loved Ones: During Christmastide, the time between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will light an eight-day candle for your loved one(s), and place it before the Crèche of Saint Thomas Church. Each candle will be affixed with the **name(s)** you submit. The suggested donation for each eight-day candle is \$25. All of these names will be added to the prayer list for that day.



The Saint Thomas Book & Gift Store will be open in the Narthex Sundays after the 11 a.m. service through December 22, 2024. Additional times are Sunday, December 22 after 4 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols, and Christmas Eve December 24 from 12 p.m. until after the 4 p.m. Nine Lessons and Carols. Stop by and view our collection of Calendars, Mugs, Ornaments, Christmas cards, CDs, and books for Advent & Christmas.

ANNUAL APPEAL



We launched our 2025 Annual Appeal in October, which marked the close of our Bicentennial year. In his sermon, Father Turner preached: *Remembrance; thanksgiving; new beginnings: It's what we have done this past year, and prepares us for the future. Remember – give thanks – look forward: It is the vision of Saint Thomas Church, to be a community of love and praise, and an oasis of prayer in the middle of New York, actively weaving a tapestry of divine proportions. As we look ahead to the next century, we need your help. Make a pledge today!*



PILGRIMS' COURSE 2025



It's not the destination, but the journey that matters

The Pilgrims' Course explores the Christian Faith as the Episcopal Church has received it, and as Saint Thomas expresses it through its mission to worship, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the Anglican Tradition and our unique choral heritage. Classes are open to all and, each year, a number of parishioners attend to refresh their faith and support those who are new to the faith or to our community.

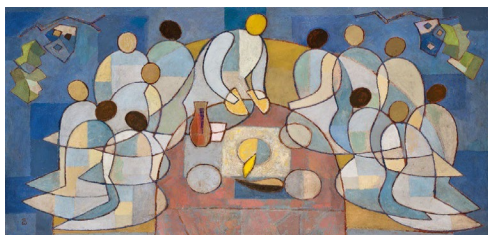
The first class will commence on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. A simple hot meal is available at 6:30pm, and the class runs from 7-8pm. Classes are hybrid, so if you cannot be present in-person, you can join us on-line.

To register please scan this code:





NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR
The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program



On October 26th we launched **Neighbor to Neighbor**, a service program which provides coffee, tea, croissants, and fresh fruit to community members in need. The program serves guests **between 9am and 10am every Saturday**, with volunteers arriving at the cloisters of the church on 53rd Street around 8:30am. Please note there is a **signup form** for interested volunteers to ensure we do not have too many or too few present. If you are interested in getting involved, **please register to the mailing list for this group using the QR code below.**



WORSHIP THIS WEEK

* indicates livestreamed.

Monday - Saturday

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers and Holy Eucharist*

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong*

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Thursday

5:30 p.m. Christmas on Fifth Avenue Concert*

sung by Boys of the Choir

Saturday

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

In the Chantry Chapel

12 p.m. Christmas on Fifth Avenue Concert*

sung by Boys of the Choir

Next Sunday: December 22,

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9 a.m. Sung Mass

followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish House

11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Sermon by Fr. Moretz

4 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

PARISH NOTICES

The Noble Singers, our parish children's choir for singers ages 5-14+, under the direction of Mrs. Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell, is accepting new choristers. The choir rehearses weekly on Thursdays and Fridays from 4:15-5:15pm. Choristers select one rehearsal to attend each week and sing weekly at the 9am Sung Eucharist on Sundays during the program year. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music. For more information, and to register your singer, contact Rkellerman@saintthomaschurch.org.

Saint Thomas Church Tours are available on Sundays after the 11am service. It is a great way to experience and learn about the church. If you are interested, please meet the Tour Guide on the south side of the Narthex near the "Tour Guide - Meet Here" sign.

Contemplative Prayer takes place on Fridays at 3pm in the Resurrection Chapel. You are welcome to join this sacred time of silent prayer and quiet praise in the presence of God. The service includes Taize Songs, Centering Prayer, and Lectio-Divina, and is led by Mo. Prisca Lee-Pae. For more information, please contact Mo. Lee-Pae at Pleepae@saintthomaschurch.org. *Note: We will not meet on December 20 or 27.*

You are cordially invited to the **Holy Eucharist in the Korean language** every second Sunday of the month at 1:30pm. It is preceded by brunch at 12:45pm in the Dining Room of the Parish House.

매달 둘째 주일 오후 1:30에 본당에서 올리는 한국어 감사 성찬례에 여러분을 초대합니다. 오후 12:45에 2층 식당에서 브런치를 함께 나누니 조금 일찍 오셔서 친교도 나누세요.

Friday Zoom Bible Study—Christ and Ekklesia: John's Wondrous Vision of Light. Led by Fr. Schultz Fridays at 1pm via Zoom. We have embarked on the Book of the Glory (John 13-21) in which we will witness Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. Bring your Bible, your questions, and yourself as, together, we deepen our relationship with God through scripture. Contact Fr. Schultz with any questions and for the Zoom link: Mschultz@saintthomaschurch.org. *Note: We are on hiatus until January 10.*

Saint Thomas Choir School exists to nurture and educate the boy choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Talented students in grades 3-8 come from the greater New York City area and beyond to sing, study, play, perform, and live together at the school. If you know a boy who loves to sing, encourage his family to contact Margaret White: Mwhite@choirschool.org.

The Saint Thomas Theological Education Program, rooted in Scripture, tradition, and spirituality, is for those who seek a deeper understanding of faith, worship and prayer. Lecturers are The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence, and internationally renowned guest speakers committed to making theology accessible to non-specialists. Classes are held Sundays at 10am on the 5th Floor of the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: Lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org.

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE



Tuesday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of Dirksen, Farrington, Hampton, Leighton, Lloyd, Pott, Rutter, and Sweelinck

5:30 p.m.

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Said at the High Altar)

10 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN

10:30 p.m.

PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY (MIDNIGHT MASS)

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys with Saint Thomas Baroque Orchestra

Music of Charpentier, Filsell, Hampton, Sweelinck, and Pott

Sermon by The Rector



Wednesday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

9 a.m.

SAID EUCHARIST at the High Altar

11 a.m.

PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY

sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Music of Farrington, Filsell, Pott, and Leighton

Sermon by Fr. Gioia

UPCOMING SERVICES

The Church is open for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche

Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shrine Prayers (Intercessions)

Thursday – Saturday at 12 p.m. *Live audio stream and then on-demand.*

Please send your requests for prayers via the website or emailed to: prayer@saintthomaschurch.org

The Daily Eucharist

Thursday – Saturday at 12:05 p.m. *Live audio stream and then on-demand.*

Thursday: Saint Stephen

Friday: Saint John

Saturday: Holy Innocents

Confessions, Spiritual Advice, and Healing Ministry

Saturday, December 28, 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Confessor: The Rector

Sunday, December 29, 2024

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9:00 a.m. Sung Mass

11:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sermon by Mo. Turner