

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 7, 2025 AT 11 A.M.
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GREAT LITANY AND SOLEMN EUCHARIST

SUNG BY THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS
AND THE CHOIR OF SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, UK
DR. DAVID SKINNER, DIRECTOR



STC
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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 Dr. Alison J. Turner

Associate for Children and 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

Associate Priest for Children and Family Ministry

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Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*

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

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SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

The Rev. Dr. Alison J. Turner, *Director of Transition*

202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Telephone: 212-247-3311 email: admissions@choirschool.org

www.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*

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



THE ORDINARY OF THE MASS

Mass for five voices

William Byrd
(c. 1540-1623)

PRELUDE

Felix namque VI

Thomas Preston
(d. 1559)

THE GREETINGS

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

THE GREAT LITANY

Henry Loosemore
(fl. 1627-1670)

○ GOD the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy upon us.

○ God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

○ God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy upon us.

○ holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
Have mercy upon us.

Saint Mary, Mother of God our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Pray for us.

All holy Angels and Archangels, and all holy orders of blessed spirits,
Pray for us.

All holy Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs; and all the blessed company of heaven,
Pray for us.

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers;
neither take thou vengeance of our sins: spare us, good Lord, spare thy people,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and mischief; from sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from thy wrath,
and from everlasting damnation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice,
and all uncharitableness,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine;
from battle and murder, and from sudden death,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion; from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism;
from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and Commandment,
Good Lord, deliver us.



By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and Circumcision; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church universal in the right way;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the heart of thy servant, The President of the United States, that he may above all things seek thy honour and glory;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and preserve all Christian Rulers and Magistrates, giving them grace to execute justice, and to maintain truth;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illuminate all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth, and show it accordingly;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth labourers into thy harvest;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us an heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give all thy people increase of grace to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted; and to raise up them that fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to succour, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.



That it may please thee to preserve all that travel by land, by water, or by air;
all women in childbirth, all sick persons, and young children;
and to shew thy pity upon prisoners and captives;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to defend, and provide for, the fatherless children, and widows,
and all that are desolate and oppressed;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all men;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth,
so as in due time we may enjoy them;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences,
and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according
to thy holy Word;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
Blessed Michael the Archangel, Blessed John the Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul,
Blessed Thomas our Patron, and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God: we beseech thee to hear us.

Son of God: we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world;

Grant us thy peace.

O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world;

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.



THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

MERCIFUL God, who didst send thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

Anglican Chant (*T. Tertius Noble*)

DEUS, JUDICIUM

GIVE the King thy judgements, O God : and thy righteousness unto the King's son.
Then shall he judge thy people according unto right : and defend the poor.
The mountains also shall bring peace : and the little hills righteousness unto the people.
He shall keep the simple folk by their right :
defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong-doer.
They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth : from one generation to another.
He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool : even as the drops that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish :
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.
Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel : which only doeth wondrous things;
And blessed be the Name of his majesty for ever :
and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty. Amen, Amen.
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 EPISTLE

Romans 15:4-13

The Subdeacon concludes The Word of the Lord.
The People respond **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.



HYMN

MERTON

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,

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.

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. #59 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.
Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor *People*

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God:
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

People

Al - le - lu - ia.



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

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



After the Gospel, the Deacon says

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

The Vicar

A period of silent reflection may follow the sermon.

THE NICENE CREED

Said by all, standing. It is customary to bow at the underlined words.

I BELIEVE in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;



who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PEACE

The Celebrant says

IN the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 And with thy spirit.

The People offer one another a sign of peace.

The Celebrant says the Offertory Sentence, and the People sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Sung by the Choir

*Orlando Gibbons
(1583-1625)*

THIS is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him,
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

John 1:19-23



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



The People stand.

HYMN

PSALM 42

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.

Comfort, comfort ye my people, #67 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

People
It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant continues

IT is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

SANCTUS, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory,
Glory be to Thee, O Lord most High.*

*Blessed is he that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The People kneel or stand.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which concludes

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

The People respond **AMEN.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Celebrant says

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then is said

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

BEHOLD the Lamb of God: behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

People **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof,
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

The People remain kneeling until the bell rings.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

I BELIEVE in thee, O my Jesus, present in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar;
I love thee above all things, and I desire to receive thee into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace thee, and I unite myself to thee as if thou wast already there.
Never permit me to be separated from thee!
O Lord Jesus Christ, let the sweet and consuming force of thy love absorb my whole soul,
that I may die for the love of thee, who wast pleased to die for the love of me. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.

The Sacrament is distributed at the Crossing. Intinction (dipping the host in the chalice) is not permitted.

You are welcome to receive in one kind only. Gluten free hosts are available - please ask the priest.

MIDDLE VOLUNTARY

Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam, BuxWV 180

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

AGNUS DEI

Sung by the Choir

AGNUS Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

MOTET

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
(c. 1525-1594)

FUIT homo missus a Deo, cui nomen erat Joannes.
Hic venit in testimonium, ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine,
et pararet Domino plebem perfectam.

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
This man came as a witness, to give testimony about the light,
and to prepare for the Lord a perfect people.*

John 1:6-7



After Communion, silence is kept for a while.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People kneel.

Celebrant and People

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant 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.**



HYMN

LLANGLOFFAN



1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see
up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Rejoice! rejoice, believers, #68 from *The Hymnal* 1982 – Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: Llangloffan, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Praeludium in C, BuxWV 137

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Please join us for Coffee Hour in the back of the Lady Chapel after the service.

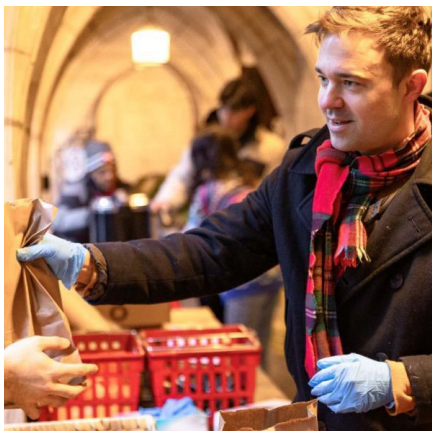


Saint Thomas gives thanks for those who have given endowed funds to provide flowers to beautify the church in perpetuity. This week, we give thanks for the memory of *Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hamilton Kissam, Arthur Trumbull Hill, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, and Linda Griffith Vorsanger.*

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

Neighbor To Neighbor

The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program



The Saint Thomas Social Outreach program **Neighbor to Neighbor** 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 knowing more about the program and getting involved, **please register to the mailing list for this group using the QR code:**





The Blessing of the Crèche Service

A Telling of the Christmas Story

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 4pm

*You're invited to worship with us as we await the arrival of Jesus this Advent season.
Join the Children and Family Ministry for our biggest celebration
of the year as we build and bless the Crèche.*

WORSHIP & RECITALS THIS WEEK

* indicates livestreamed.

Today

4 p.m. Solemn Evensong*

sung by the Choir of Men and Boys and the Choir of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, UK
Sermon by Fr. Gonzalez-Grissom

Monday 8th December – Friday 12th December

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers*

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist*

Friday 12th

3 p.m. Contemplative Prayer

Saturday 13th

11-11:45 a.m. Confessions, Spiritual Advice, Ministry of Healing in the Lady Chapel
Confessor: The Rector

4 p.m. The Blessing of the Crèche Service*

A Telling of the Christmas Story

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers*

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist*

Next Sunday: December 14th

The Third Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete*

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9 a.m. Sung Mass

Sung by the Noble Singers
followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish House

11 a.m. Festal Eucharist*

Sung by the Choir of Men and Boys
followed by Coffee Hour at the back of the Lady Chapel
Sermon by Fr. Gioia

1:30pm Korean Holy Eucharist

한국어 감사성찬례

4 p.m. Festal Evensong*

sung by the Choir of Men and Boys
Sermon by Mo. Turner

5:15 p.m. Organ Recital

LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR– Olivier Messiaen
(Nine Meditations on the Birth of Our Lord)

Richard Tanner, organ *The Nancy B. and John B. Hoffmann Organist and Director of Music*



December 9 & 11 | Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 PM

George Frideric Handel
MESSIAH

Tickets available at saintthomaschurch.org/concerts

Parish Notices

Children and Family Ministries: The Blessing of the Crèche Service, a telling of the Christmas Story, is Saturday, December 13th at 4pm and all are invited! 10am Children's Formation is available for children Pre-K - High School from 10-10:45am following the 9am Mass. The Children's area (near the icon of Saint Thomas) is available for families during all services, with quiet activities for young children. The Nursery also continues to be available for the sole use of babies and toddlers with their parents/caregivers, from 9am-1pm on Sundays in the Parish House, 3rd floor. To receive more information, contact childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org.

The Noble Singers, our children's parish choir for singers (ages 5-14+) sing in the 9am Mass. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 4:15-5:15pm, and new singers are always welcome. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music! For more information, and to register your singer, contact JLane@saintthomaschurch.org.

Saint Thomas Choir School is home to the boy choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Since September 2025, the Choir School (grades 4-8) has partnered with Professional Children's School for the boys' academic education, while they continue to live and train at STCS in a close-knit, music-centered environment. They sing five weekly services at Saint Thomas Church and perform in the Concerts at Saint Thomas series. If you know a boy who loves to sing and may thrive in this unique setting, please contact Margaret White at mwhite@choirschool.org.

Concerts at Saint Thomas presents the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys in their annual performances of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by the period instrument ensemble New York Baroque Incorporated on December 9 and 11 at 7:30pm. The Choir is joined by soloists Margaret Carpenter Haigh, Daniel Moody, James Reese, and Paul Max Tipton, led by conductor Richard Tanner. Tickets for in person and livestream are available now at www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts

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. 아래 주소로 등록하시면 월요일 아침묵상글을 이메일로 받아볼 수 있습니다. <https://mailchi.mp/saintthomaschurch/korean>

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 Taizé 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.

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.

Explore the Beauty and History of Saint Thomas Church each Sunday following the 11am service with a guided tour. These tours offer a unique opportunity to delve into the rich history, sacred art, and exquisite architectural details of our landmark building. To take part, please meet the Tour Guide at the "Tour Guide - Meet Here" sign on the south side of the Narthex. All are warmly welcome.

Friday Bible Study occurs at 1pm on Zoom, currently focusing on the book of Ecclesiastes. To receive the zoom link, contact Fr. Brown at mbrown@saintthomaschurch.org

The Angelus Tree. We invite you to donate gifts for disadvantaged children and children who will spend Christmas Day in a municipal shelter this year. We also give gifts to children who are with their mothers in a shelter for those who are escaping domestic violence. Simply take a gift tag from the tree and bring your gift unwrapped before Christmas. If you prefer to make a donation and for us to shop for the gift, use the QR code:



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 during Christmastide.



Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25 per name. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. You can also email your list to giving@saintthomaschurch.org. We cannot guarantee that any names received after December 8 will appear in print, but will be printed and placed on the altar for the Christmas services. The deadline is Monday, December 8 for names printed in the leaflets.



The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program **Neighbor to Neighbor** provides coffee, tea, water, muffins, fresh fruit, yogurt and hot oatmeal to neighbors in need. The program serves guests between 9-10am every Saturday, with volunteers arriving at the Parish House on 53rd Street around 8:15am. Please note that there is a signup form for interested volunteers. If you are interested in knowing more about the program and getting involved, please register to be on the mailing list for this group using the QR code:



THE PILGRIMS' COURSE 2026

The Christian Faith for Newcomers

The **Pilgrims' Course** offers a warm and inviting introduction to the Christian faith and to how Saint Thomas lives out the Gospel in the Episcopal tradition through worship, love, and service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is it for?

Designed especially *for those new to Saint Thomas*, this fifteen-week course pairs thoughtful talks with shared reflection and the chance to experience community over a light meal.

When?

Tuesdays, January to May
Beginning January 13, 2025
6:30 to 8:00 pm
In Person Only

Where?

Saint Thomas Church • Parish House, 1 W 53rd Street

What to Expect?

- A warm and friendly welcome
- Meaningful conversation and shared learning
- Clear, accessible introductions to Christian belief and practice

Register today and receive the full schedule and details!



