EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

GRAPEVINE

Beverly Kimball, Editor

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Monday thru Friday
8:30 am—1:30 pm
www.stthomastaunton.com

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Assistant Treasurer
Joanne Stevens

Our Daily Bread Treasurer
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KRivard@tauntonfcu.com

Vestry Members:
2024 Renee Vitale, Jacqui White, Sandi Mongiovi

2025 Joanne Stevens, Marge Largey, Dane Kimball

2026 Calvin Dwuye, Steven Kimball, Sam Kimani

From our Rector's Desk

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. I would like to thank you most sincerely for the efforts that each one of you has made in active participation and generosity over the last ten months. Throughout this year you responded to your individual vocation and call by generously giving yourselves to God, your time, energy and your resources, all for the goodness of God in our lives and for the support of this parish.

I am grateful to God that despite the prevailing difficult economic circumstances in our world today, we can still come forward and take up our position in building God's kingdom. Hardship and challenges were almost an everyday experience with the first Century Church, such as the Macedonian Churches, yet due to their devotion to God's kingdom, they received a lot of praises from Apostle Paul for their generosity as we read in the **2 Corinthians 8:1-3 "And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own."**

We are also encouraged by Apostle Paul in the same letter of **2 Corinthians 9:7-8** that **"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."**

With these encouragements from Apostle Paul's letter to Corinthian Churches, I invite each one of us to prayerfully consider how we will support the ministry of St. Thomas with our pledges, gifts and other donations in order to meet the needs of our Church and the budget of the year 2024.

You will soon be receiving a mailing asking you to prayerfully contemplate your 2024 pledge offering. We ask that you reflect on God's abundant blessings as you make your pledge to financially support the ministries of St. Thomas and the facilities that enable these ministries.

I pray for God's blessings upon your life and family.

In Christ,

Rev. Joseph Mumita – Rector.

December 14
~ 10 AM

Save the Dates

Join us for our *Breakfast Club*

Deacon Virgilio

Deacon Virgilio will be hosting bi-monthly breakfasts in the Garniss Hall beginning on December 14th.

Rather than individual men's/women's breakfasts each month, the *Breakfast Club* will allow for couples or singles to join together for this social. It will be held on the third Saturday **every other month**. The breakfast will be held at 10 AM and will consist of food, fellowship and faith. Following the breakfast, a small program or discussion will be held. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A great chance to get to know one another better while enjoying some good food and fellowship on a Saturday morning.

2023 Schedule of Events

October	~	50/50 Raffle (*to be drawn at the Fall Festival)*
November 4/5	~	Fall Festival
December 14		Breakfast Club meets ~ 10 AM, Garniss Hall
December	~	Calendar raffle
On-going	~	Sale of sweatshirts, t-shirts and polo shirts continues
Sundays (4th)	~	Building & Grounds Meeting in Coram Lounge
Sundays (3rd)	~	Fundraising Meetings in Coram Lounge
		(*All are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings)*
Sundays (2nd)	~	Finance Committee Meetings
Wednesdays (3rd)	~	Senior Sack Program (seniors 55+ eligible/register in office)
Thursdays ~ weekly	~	Senior Luncheon in Parish Hall

Building & Grounds ~ Bathroom Renovations

The bathrooms in the parish hall have been renovated to allow for a handi-cap/ family bathroom.

The previous men's room has been updated with new fixtures and continues to have two stalls. This is the new ladies' room. The previous ladies' room has been updated with one large stall with grab bars, a changing table for parent's use and new sink and fixtures. A lock has been added to the door for privacy as this will be a handicap/family/men's room.

Thanks to **Brian Healey Contractor, Inc.** of Bridgewater for his quick work.

~ GRAPEVINE DEADLINE ~ *November/December Grapevine deadline November 15th.*

Please forward articles/information to Beverly Kimball at:
(h) (508) 697-6667 ~ e-mail: bevdanek@outlook.com

Pastoral Care Team
Avis Leary
Paul Boudreau
Sandi Mongiovi

Please pray for all who are sick & shut-in…

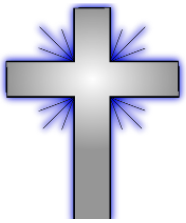
...and we pray for their families and caregivers

Athena Athas
Sergio Bento
Wayne Bessette
Jen Boyts
Frank Capron
Cash Doughty
Kim Goulet
Agnes Kofa
Dinis Loura
Annemarie Matulis
Edna Michaels
Jay Medeiros
Linda Perkins
Wayne Perkins
Cindy Quinn
Lou Raposa
Carol Russell
Carole Silvia
Dan Stevens
Sandy Trauterman
Paul Yagman

Contact the church office with any pastoral emergencies. Please be sure to notify the church office of anyone in the parish who is ill and/or in the hospital.

Pray for our Military

Nicholas Ceriani
Jay Devenger
Megan Drewniak
Adam Dyke
Christopher French
William Marsh IV
Scott Larson
Donald Souza
Noel Souza
Ryan Vohnoutka



Prayer for our Mission

O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving and healing your people and your creation. In your Son, and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the work. Then, God, into our communities, our nation and the world, send us to serve with Christ taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Study to Resume

Those interested in participating in the Bible Study should register with Fr. Joseph or Christina Latour or call the church office at (508) 824-9595 to register..

Special Texts for Everyday Use

Before the church service	~	*read Psalm 84*
When you are discouraged	~	read Isaiah 40
When you want Christian assurance	~	read Romans 8: 1-30

St. Thomas Wear Available

With the cooler weather and the holidays coming —now is a good time to think about purchasing some St. Thomas wear—t-shirts, polos, sweatshirts and hoodies:

Short-sleeve T's ~ $15.00 Long-sleeve T's ~ $20.00
Men/Women Polo's ~ $35.00 1/4-zip Sweat shirt ~ $40.00
Hoodies ~ $40.00

Contact Paul Boudreau.

Music Notes

Ed Seaholm

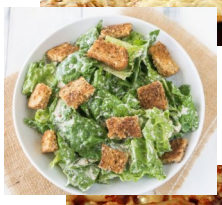
As the fall season unfolds, we have much going on at St. Thomas. Our children in Joyful Noise have come back in grand style and everything points to a great year for the children.

As a result of our music committee meeting on September 24, you may have noticed some changes. We are expanding our musical opportunities and you can look for these very soon.

- We have an instrumental ensemble that will be sharing their talents in the near future.
- A newly formed Praise Band is working very hard on some new music as well.
- We will be using songs from the 'Blue Book' used in the past at St. Thomas. We have started using some for the Gradual Hymn and in the future we will use them in other parts of the service.
- There's also a possibility that our Teens and Tweens may also get together in song.

There's a lot going on here at St. Thomas this fall. Please feel free to talk to me for more information.

Annual Fall Festival Dinner



Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

FALL FESTIVAL DINNER

Sunday, November 5, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM Social / 6:30 PM Dinner

Harry's La Casa Mia ~ 840 Broadway; Raynham, MA

(*Rte. 138 near Milk Bottle)*

Dinner consists of: Caesar salad, bread, baked ziti, eggplant parmesan, chicken parmesan, Chicken broccoli ziti alfredo, assorted pastries, coffee, tea, water

Price: $30.00

Children 12 & under: $15.00 / Children under 5: Free

Cash Bar

(Tickets available through Paul Boudreau or church office.)

RAFFLE TICKETS

available
$2.00 each or
3 for $5.00

Tickets available now through the fair.

Money Wreath *($150)*

Lottery Tree

Help Needed:

Booth Set-up
(Sunday, 10/29)
immediately following coffee hour

Working booths
(Saturday/Sunday)

Booth Clean-up
(Monday morning)

Annual Fall Festival Coming Soon

We need your help!

Cafeteria Open all day

Enjoy LUNCH and treats

PLEASE COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Our favorite VENDORS are returning.

November 4 (Saturday, 9-4) and November 5 (Sunday, 9-3)
Set-up of booths on Sunday, October 29th
November 5 (Sunday wrap-up dinner) **~ see Paul Boudreau for tickets**

BOOTH CHAIRS looking for donations:

Bakery ~ Anna Loura / Dane Kimball	Pies/cakes/cookies/breads
Bid Board ~ Lisa Benedetti	New items of all values
Cafeteria ~ Steve Lombardi/Bob McNamee	
Farm Stand ~ Alix McNamee	All produce, jams/jellies
Jewelry & Jazz ~ Kim Belenger Avila	Jewelry, belts, pocketbooks, etc.
Raffles ~ Lottery Tree ~ June Perkins	Lottery tickets
Baskets ~ Gayle Raposa	Themed Baskets/items for them
Roll-ups ~	
Kids ~ Nicole Kimball / Jocelyn Cameron / Kaylee Kimball	
	Donations of kid-appropriate prizes ~ new
Adult ~ Paul Boudreau	Beer/wine/lottery tickets, etc.
White Elephant ~ June Perkins / Joanne Stevens	
	Donations of gently used, CLEAN items

Please NO clothing, glassware, electronics, or furniture

Contact Christina Latour to volunteer or with any questions.

THE UNCOMMON ARTISAN Handcrafts Photography
A LIFE Worth Living, Corp. TRANSFORMING THE SOUL-SPIRIT-BODY
Chocolates by Jeanne
Norwex INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT Christina Latour
WILLOWSONG STUDIO LENDING FORM TO MYTH, LEGEND AND THE NATURAL WORLD

Last Home Plate PROFITS

$177.59 Restaurant

$195.50 Raffles

$131.00 50/50 Raffles
Winner
Anne Kimani

BIG THANK YOU

To Lorna Medeiros

Who made several baskets for the raffle

Home Plate Fundraiser

TICKET

Supports
Episcopal Church of St Thomas

Bring this ticket to
Home Plate Bay St. Grill on

Tuesday,

December 19, 2023

Good for dine-in, take-out and gift card purchases.
Tickets cannot be distributed at any time at Home Plate.

20% of your bill- will be donated to

Episcopal Church of St Thomas

Home Plate ~ Bay Street Grille
December 19, 2023

Enjoy lunch or dinner with your family and friends and **present this ticket with your bill.** St. Thomas Church will receive 20% of your bill. This offer is good on sit-down meals, take-out orders as well as gift certificates purchased.

This ticket should be cut out, copied and given to your family and friends, and take one with you to Home Plate.

NOTE: No tickets are allowed to be distributed at Home Plate Restaurant at any time.

Photo courtesy of Paul Boudreau

Think Christmas giving and purchase Home Plate gift cards for the holidays. All proceeds go toward our profits. Don't forget to cut out the above ticket and take it with you.

Join us for Sunday Worship

10 AM service in the church
(10 AM service can also be viewed on Facebook Live)

For Sale at the Fall Festival

Bev and Dane Kimball

We will have a variety of 4 x 4 pictured tiles that are sealed and can be used for coasters or decoration. A sampling is included here. The tiles are for sale for $5.00 each.

If you have a *favorite* picture of your child or pet and would like to have a tile made, give it to Dane/Bev Kimball before the fair. NOTE: the picture must be pre-cut/ or able to be cut to a 3 3/4 x 3 3/4" square. It must fit inside the 4 x 4 tile.

The McKinstry House (*St. Thomas Rectory*) gets decked out for Christmas.

Deacon Virgilio is in the process of gathering decorations and setting up his ***awesome*** Christmas village display in hopes that we can get our historical rectory on the list of places to visit during the City's Lights On Festival during the Lighting of the Green. Deacon Virgilio has a few families to decorate the trees and will probably be looking for more volunteers. More information to come.

PLEASE HELP

Coffee Hour Schedule

October 15~ Christina Latour, Bob Feltmate, Linda Moss, Ed Seaholm
October 22~ Anne Kimani
October 29~

November 5 ~ **CHURCH FAIR**
November 12~ Kimballs/Cameron families
November 19~ Lucy Gitau
November 26~ Grace Mumita

December 3 ~ Paul Boudreau/Lisa Benedetti
December 10~
December 17~ Renee Vitale, Steve Lombardi
December 24~
December 31~ Josephine & Sandra

Church School snacks each week ~
Renee Vitale/Steve Lombardi

Many dates available, please call the church office to schedule YOUR date to host a coffee hour.

Senior Lunches

Sponsored by Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center and the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, lunches will be served in the Parish Hall on Thursdays at noon. All seniors 55+ are invited to join us to enjoy appetizers, a meal, fellowship and a game. You will leave with a recipe and ingredients to make it!

Senior Sack Program

Each month (**3rd Wednesday unless otherwise noted**) from 9—11 AM senior citizens 55+ may receive a bag of groceries that includes pantry staples as well as fresh fruits, vegetables and meats. **Call (508) 824-9595 to enroll** so the necessary number of bags will be prepared. Please bring your ID when you arrive for the first time.

Offered with a grant from Senator Marc Pacheco, this program is run by St. Thomas Church and Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and Resource Center.

How You Can Help

USHERS / GREETERS

Give a smile and a happy welcome to those entering our church.

Greeters are the first contact people have with St. Thomas and first impressions are lasting. For those who cannot minister in other ways, please consider serving as a Greeter—not time-consuming, no heavy lifting and a critically important part in growing our parish community.

ACOLYTES WANTED

Youth in grades 3 through high school are encouraged to serve as an Acolyte. Acolytes carry the cross and candles during procession and assist in other ways during the service.

If you are interested, see Deacon Virgilio or Fr. Joseph.

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS WANTED

Members work with others to prepare the Altar for Sunday worship and other special services.

Training is offered.

Many hands make light work!

Contact Sandi Mongiovi with questions or to volunteer.

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An important part of greeting visitors/ potential members is to welcome them at our coffee hour after church.

There is a sign-up sheet in the church with available dates. Please offer your help as coffee hour host/hostess.

Please contact the church office to schedule a date.

These are just a few of the important ways you can help and be an active part of your church family.

Stewardship Pledge Card

We Are Partners with God

In thanksgiving for God's abundant blessings, I choose to participate

in giving towards God's work and service in our church.

In 2024, I/we pledge $_____per week OR $_____per month

Totaling _____per year.

Name_____

Address_____

Email_____

Telephone_____

Thank You for your financial and service contributions to
St. Thomas throughout 2023

Before completing your pledge card, take time to reflect on your abundant blessings. With abundant gratitude, give back to God knowing that our giving sustains God's work in this world in ways you will never know. Returning your card with your financial and service commitment is one way we can all serve in the ministry. Your early response is also a great help as we plan the coming year's budget.

Please return your card in person by Sunday, November 12 or by mail. Electronic contributions can be set up using the link in our newsletter or website.

Your generosity helps us spread God's love in this world.

Our goal is 100% participation

...in gratitude of God's abundant blessings and faithfulness.

When submitting your pledge card, PLEASE fill the information in fully and clearly. The office will be updating our parish directory, and we want to be sure to have your correct information. Thank you.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

111 High Street
Taunton, MA 02780

The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

To Welcome and Grow in Love.

***BRIEF HISTORY**—Thomas Coram, a wealthy sea captain and philanthropist, arrived from England in the 1690's and established a successful shipyard on the Taunton River. He returned to London in 1703 and left behind 59 acres of land in trust and a substantial collection of books to help found a Church of England in Taunton.*

Twenty-five years later Thomas Coram's intent was carried out. In 1728 a congregation of lay persons gathered and a small church was built on the outskirts of town near the Three Mile River on what is now Tremont Street. Although the land trust was no longer available, Coram's library of books became the basis for the young parish's ministry. The church was named St. Thomas.

During the Revolution, St. Thomas Church, like most Episcopal Churches, fell upon hard times and was closed for a number of years as were many others in the area. The building itself stood unused and blew down in the Gale of 1815. In 1820 the parish was incorporated. In 1828 the Vestry voted to seek a minister who was called and then a new building was erected in the center of Taunton on High Street across from the present building.

The church grew rapidly leading to the enlargement of the building in the 1840's and this, too, was soon outgrown. The third and present structure designed by Richard Upjohn was consecrated in 1859. A chapel was added in 1869. A fire gutted the Church sanctuary in 1898, but it was rebuilt with the addition of a large three-manual Jardine organ in 1899.

The historically significant 1759 McKinstry House (present rectory) adjacent to the church was purchased in 1907 for use as a Sunday School. In 1910 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cabot Baylies donated a Sunday School building. This parish house has proven to be of immeasurable value throughout the years to the church and to the entire community. In 1960 ground was broken for an addition to the parish house which completed the complex of buildings as we know it today.

On-Going Committees

Consider joining one or more of these committees

Acolytes—Deacon Virgilio Fortuna
Altar Guild—Sandi Mongiovi
Archives—Marge Largey
Branding Committee—Andrew Francis
Building & Grounds—Paul Boudreau, Bob Feltmate (Jr. Warden)
Christian Education— Renee Vitale, Lisa Benedetti
Coffee Hour - Robertha Dwuye
Communication Committee—Lisa Benedetti
Counters—Joanne Stevens, Vestry
Facebook—Joan Blake
Fair— Vestry
Finance Committee— Susan Cameron, Renee Vitale, Marge Largey, Cheryl Medeiros, Paul Boudreau, Joanne Stevens
Flower Committee—Cheryl Medeiros
Fundraising Committee—Paul Boudreau / Vestry
Garniss Parish Hall Rental—
Grapevine—Beverly Kimball
Healing Prayer Ministry—
Hospitality—Jacqui White, Christina Latour
Historian—Marge Largey
Lobster Roll Day—Paul Boudreau
Mission Trips— Paul Boudreau, Lisa Benedetti, Andrew Francis, Kim Avila
Haiti Micah Fund—Paul Boudreau
Music Committee—Ed Seaholm, Lou Raposa, Marge Largey, Susan Cameron, Beverly Kimball
Our Daily Bread—Maribeth Ferreira
Our Daily Bread Liaison—
Pastoral Care Team/Team— Avis Leary, Alan Dennen, Paul Boudreau, Sandi Mongiovi
Planning & Strategy– Christina Latour
Property Rentals—Paul Boudreau, Andrew Francis
Scholarship Committee—Kirk Cleathero
Senior Ministry—Avis Leary
Senior Sack—Maribeth Ferreira, ODB
Spiritual Development—Christina Latour
Ushers/Greeters— Robert Feltmate
Wine & Cheese Reception Coordinator—
Yard Sale—Paul Boudreau