



Beverly Kimball, Editor

GRAPEVINE

OFFICE HOURS

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

Rector

Rev. Joseph Mumita
mumitajoe7@gmail.com
(774) 340-8853

Deacon

Rev. Bro. Virgilio Fortuna
revbrovirgiliofortuna66@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Linda Moss
Office phone: (508) 824-9595
Office fax: (508) 977-2460
stthomasepiscopalchurch@comcast.net

Music Director

Ed Seaholm
madorganist1@gmail.com

Guitarists

Lou Raposa, Volunteer
louisr3@hotmail.com
Linda Moss, Volunteer

Sexton

Paul Boudreau
paulboo67@yahoo.com

Senior Warden

Christina Latour
cmlatour97@gmail.com

Junior Warden

Bob Feltmate
rfwelding60@gmail.com
bob@rf-welding.com

Clerk ~ Lisa Benedetti

lisa_benedetti@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Susan Cameron

Assistant Treasurer

Joanne Stevens

Our Daily Bread Treasurer

Keith Rivard
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

Happy new year brethren in Christ, hope our Lord has kept you well since the year 2024 started. As we walk by faith with God this new year, I pray that the one who started good work in you will bring it in completion for His own glory. I look forward to new experiences of spiritual, numerical, and financial growth of our parish community. This kind of growth is attainable if we all focus on regular devotional practices like prayer and attendance to our church services and Bible study. You can develop your relationship with your own spirituality by increasing your mindfulness of searching the scriptures.

This year, think of your Bible as a handbook. There is more about how to live your life within the pages than you may realize. Books like Proverbs and the letters to the churches (such as Ephesians and Philippians) teach you how to live Christian life. The Bible is full of life lessons.

You can find Jesus' teachings throughout the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and then follow the disciples' teachings in the rest of the New Testament. The Old Testament introduces you to Jesus' lineage and stories of people of great faith. The more you mature in God's Word, the less you will allow external factors to cause you to falter.

If you can, try to delve deeply into a particular book and you don't understand, please let me know, we can create time and go through it together. This will also make clearer how this truth applies to your life.

Happy and blessed new year to you all! Rev. Joseph Mumita – Rector.

297th Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Luncheon

February 11, 2024 ~ following the 10 AM service

The 297th annual meeting of the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas will be held in the parish hall following the 10 AM service on February 11th. Reports will be read. We will elect a Clerk, Treasurer, 3 Vestry persons to hold a position for 3 years, 1 representative to Episcopal City Mission, 2 Deanery representatives, 2 Diocesan Convention delegates. (If anyone is interested in running for these positions, contact the church office).

Pot Luck luncheon will follow the Annual Meeting. Please bring a dish of your choosing to share and come to enjoy the fellowship.

Save the Dates

2024 Schedule of Events

Now to March 26 ~ Savers' clothing drive
February 6 ~ 7 PM Vestry Meeting (**note change of date**)
 February 10 ~ Breakfast Club ~ 9 AM in the Rectory
 February 11 ~ Annual Meeting and Pot Luck luncheon ~ Garniss Hall ~ 11:30
 February 14 ~ Ash Wednesday
 February 18 ~ Music Committee Meeting ~ following 10 AM service
 March 26 ~ Home Plate Fundraiser
 March 31 ~ Easter Sunday
 June 30 ~ Commencement Sunday

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)

Wednesdays (3rd)~Senior Sack Program (seniors 55+ eligible/register in office)
Thursdays ~ weekly ~Senior Luncheon in Parish Hall

Join us for our *Breakfast Club*

Deacon Virgilio

Our next *Breakfast Club* will be held on Saturday, February 10th in the rectory.

The *Breakfast Club* will allow for couples or singles to join together for this social. It will be held on the second Saturday **every other month** from 9 to 11 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.

February 10 ~
9AM—11 AM

The first event was well attended with 17 people enjoying a delicious breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, French toast, cereal and lots of special side dishes.

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

Savers Clothing Drive

Paul Boudreau



Once again Paul is looking to fill trash bags full of clothes (clean and in good condition), including coats, sweaters, boots, shoes, handbags, belts and accessories, bedding including sheets, pillows, blankets, comforters. Clean your closets now to make room for all those new clothes Santa brought you at Christmas. Changing color schemes? We'll take all your old blankets and comforters. Fill your bags and drop them off at the church during working hours.

Bags will be collected now through March 25.

Your **PARISH DIRECTORY** is available at the rear of the church.
 If you see an error in your entry, please inform the church office so we can correct it.
 Thank you! office@stthomastaunton.com

Please pray for all who are sick & shut-in...
...and we pray for their families and caregivers

- Athena Athas
- Sergio Bento
- Becky Bleakley
- Jen Boyts
- Frank Capron
- Cash Doughty
- Bob F.
- Kim Goulet
- Kendra
- Agnes Kofa
- Dinis Laura
- Annemarie Matulis
- Edna Michaels
- Jay Medeiros
- Julie Moore
- Linda Perkins
- Wayne Perkins
- Melanie Pollard
- Cindy Quinn
- Lou Raposa
- Carol Russell
- Carole Silvia
- Dan Stevens
- Sandy Trauterman
- Paul Vitale

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.

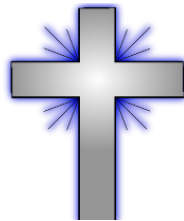
**CALENDAR
RAFFLE
PROFIT**

Plus/minus

\$1,200

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

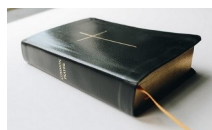
O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving and healing your people and your creation. In your Son, and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and 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.

Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our calendar raffle winners from weeks 1 and 2:

- 1/1 \$100 cash prize ~ Linda Deubner
- 1/2 Snuggle up Basket w/2024 calendar ~ Jocelyn Cameron
- 1/3 \$30 Home Plate Gift Card ~ Johnny Cameron
- 1/4 Set of 4 coasters ~ Gordon Roderick
- 1/5 \$30 scratch ticket ~ Monica Shearer
- 1/6 Bottle of One Hope red wine & 4 wine glasses ~ Gordon Roderick
- 1/7 \$25 cash prize ~ Monica Shearer
- 1/8 Bob's Furniture Store gift certificate ~ Camden Cleathero
- 1/9 \$25 Cumberland Farms gift certificate ~ Monica Shearer
- 1/10 \$50 cash prize ~ Suzanne Burns
- 1/11 Pamper Yourself Spa Basket ~ Bill Mc Garryl
- 1/12 \$30 scratch ticket ~ Joe & Sarah Brewin
- 1/13 \$50 Home Plate gift card ~ Jace Cameron
- 1/14 \$25 Cash ~ Kirk Cleathero

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..



Children decorate their tree for the Rectory Open House.



Taunton High School Senior, Condoleezza Dwuye, is recognized for her outstanding academic achievements and has been accepted into Harvard University for the Fall. Wish her well!

Condi assists with the church school program here at St. Thomas and has served on many committees.

Church School News

Renee Vitale / Lisa Benedetti

Children's Church School Schedule Sundays 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. in the Parish House	Joyful Noise Sundays 10:00 - 10:45 In the Flower Room at the back of the Chapel
--	---

January 2024

Date	Topic & Leader
January 7th	<i>13 Promises of God</i> , chapter 4 "God's Promise to David; God Knows the Future" (Mr. Steve & Ms. Renee)
January 14th	Joyful Noise (Ms. Linda & Mr. Lou)
January 21st	<i>Godly Play</i> (Ms. Lisa & Ms. Renee)
January 28th	Joyful Noise (Ms. Linda & Mr. Lou)

February 2024

February 4th	<i>13 Promises of God</i> , chapter 5 "God's Promise for a Savior; God Sent Jesus for Us" (Mr. Steve & Ms. Renee)
February 11th	Joyful Noise (Ms. Linda & Mr. Lou)
February 18th 1st Sun. of Lent	<i>Godly Play</i> (Ms. Lisa & Ms. Renee)
February 25th 2nd Sun. of Lent	Joyful Noise (Ms. Linda & Mr. Lou)

March 2024

March 3 3rd Sun. of Lent	<i>13 Promises of God</i> , chapter 6 "God's Promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth; God does what he promises." (Mr. Steve & Ms. Renee)
March 10 4th Sun. of Lent	Joyful Noise (Ms. Linda & Mr. Lou)
March 17 Palm Sunday	<i>Godly Play</i> (Ms. Lisa & Ms. Renee)
March 24 Easter Sunday	Joyful Noise (Ms. Linda & Mr. Lou)
March 31	Youth & Family Sunday

**December
Fundraiser
Profits**

~~~

Restaurant  
\$353.00  
Raffles  
\$140.00

Total Profit  
\$493

~~~

Thank you
Paul!

Home Plate Fundraiser



Home Plate ~ Bay Street Grille
March 26, 2024

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.

TICKET



Supports
**Episcopal Church of
St Thomas**

Bring this ticket to
Home Plate Bay St. Grill on

**Tuesday,
March 26, 2024**

**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



2024

January 17
February 21
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19

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.



Music Notes

Ed Seaholm

*Music Committee
will meet on
Sunday,
February 18th
following the
10 AM service.
All are welcome
to attend.*

We hope that all had a wonderful Christmastide and a happy and healthy new year.

Joyful Noise will be resuming Sunday January 14 led by Linda Moss. All the children are welcome to join her in the room off the chapel.

The "Praise band" will resume rehearsals Sundays, starting January 14th at 9am and will sing at the February 11th Service. If you play an instrument, we'd love to talk to you. Please contact Linda Moss at office@stthomastaunton.com or show up on January 14th at 9am.

During Advent, we heard, Condoleezza and Calvinne Dwuye, and Becky Bleakley play a beautiful trio on 'Let us break bread together' and Robertha Dwuye sang a wonderful version of 'Mary, did you know.' Julie Moore and Nancy Trevino sang a lovely duet of 'O Holy Night.' We are most thankful for their offerings adding to our worship. We look forward to all the musical offerings going forward.

A new meeting of the music committee will be announced shortly. Watch for it!

We will be looking to restart the choir as we head towards Easter, stay tuned for information on that.

These are some of the things coming up. If any of them interest you, please see Ed Seaholm or Linda Moss after Mass or via email.



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!



St. Thomas Wear Available

With the cooler weather 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.

P
L
E
A
S
E

H
E
L
P

Coffee Hour Schedule

January, 2024

- 7 ~ Renee Vitale & Steve Lombardi
- 14 ~ Dwuye Family
- 21 ~
- 28 ~

Renee & Steve provide church school snacks each week.

This is a nice time for fellowship—please help us provide some simple snacks to enjoy.

Many dates available, please call the church office, (508) 824-9595, to schedule YOUR date to host a coffee hour.

Scholarships Available



ATTENTION
College Bound Students

Members of the church who will be attending college in the fall can apply for the **Tom Crum Scholarship**. Contact the church office for applications. They should be filled out and returned by mid February. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in the spring to consider all candidates based on active participation and contribution to the church (including acolyte, church school, fairs, fundraising), its mission and the community.

For those who would like to contribute to the fund, donations can be made to St. Thomas Taunton, Reverend Tom Crum Scholarship.

Committee members include: Kirk Cleathero (Chair), Rev. Mumita (Clergy), Kim Avila, and a Vestry member (open).

The following individuals were awarded scholarships for 2023:

Elizabeth Boudreau (Anna Maria); Julia Boudreau (Massasoit Community College); William Kimani (University of Chicago); Kassidy Murray (University of New Hampshire); Kirstyn Murray (Westfield State University)

Open House at the Rectory ~ December 2nd



Our 1st (and hopefully annual) open house was held in our historic rectory (McKinstrey House) on December 2nd in conjunction with Taunton's Festival of Lights. We hosted about 80 visitors.

Deacon Virgilio worked hard in the planning and putting together his Christmas village which was displayed in the dining room. Eleven donated and decorated trees adorned the living room. Cookies and hot apple cider were available for our guests.

Annual Christmas Pageant



Multicultural Dinner ~ December 9th

Many parishioners joined forces and prepared a special dish representing their nationality. More than 15 delicious dishes were prepared with more than 40 people in attendance. Watch for more to come this year.



...and they are never too young to help with the clean-up..

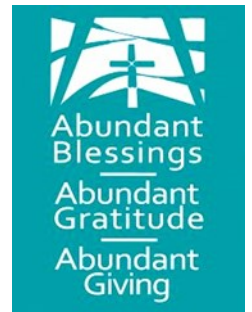


Stewardship Pledge Card

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 _____

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.

Pledges can be made on line using VANCO or Cash App ~ (508) 933-9652.

Pledges to Date

*To date:
50 Pledges*

*\$75,000
pledged*

A BIG thank you to all who have returned your pledge cards. We are at 75% participation with a goal of 100%.

50 pledges have been received for a total of approximately \$75,000. 16 of those are first-time pledgers.

February GRAPEVINE DEADLINE ~ January 25th

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

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

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

Consider joining one or more of these committees

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