

January 2022

The Story

*All are Wel-
come
No Exceptions!*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church accepts all people and we commit:

Celebrate the Eucharist regularly
Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and study

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting justice, peace, and love.

Nurture God's people as we grow in Christ

Live with thanksgiving, wonder, and openness to God's love

Restore all people to unity with God and each other

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Experiencing Christmas Eve with an in-person congregation after not being able to do so in 2020 was glorious and memorable. Thanks to everyone who worshipped in person and online! Considering that we're still dealing with a pandemic, our turnout (60 in person and 20+ livestream) was robust! As we begin a New Year and transition from Christmas to Epiphany, we hope for a fresh start individually and as a faith community. Here are a few things to look for in 2022:

Vestry & Delegate Elections. The terms of three Vestry members (Joshua Craft-Rutan, Robin Kares and Jan Skopecek) are set to end at Annual Meeting on January 30. I deeply appreciate their service. If anyone would like to serve in this important ministry, please contact a Vestry member or me. We will also accept nominations for two lay delegates to the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Indianapolis. As in 2021, when Teresa Voorhees attended in person and Josh online, a "hybrid" gathering is planned.

Pray Compline in Lent. Compline (p. 127 in the BCP) is a short, lovely service typically prayed in the evening. Through Lent last year, about twenty St. Thomas households prayed Compline with me by phone and I'd like to offer the opportunity this year from early March to early April. It's optional but was a fun way to keep in touch and pray together last year. I'll reach out to those who took part in 2021 to see if they'd like to set an appointment. If you didn't take part or didn't attend St. Thomas then but would like to sign up, please email me at whitinindy@hotmail.com.

Holy Week. With God's help, we pray all Holy Week services can be in church with in-person congregations. The dates are Maundy Thursday on April 14th, Good Friday on the 15th, Holy Saturday on the 16th and Easter on the 17th.

Blessings to you in '22!

--Fr. Whitney

Interchurch Pantry Seeks Items

Thanks to everyone who donated items in December on behalf of St. Thomas for the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County.

For January the Food Pantry is asking for paper goods (paper plates, napkins, paper towels, cups, etc.) and personal hygiene items. We will be collecting donations at church on **January 16th**, the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Cheryl Faust if you would like to help: 317-374-3197 or mammyfaust@hotmail.com



ANNUAL MEETING

St. Thomas Episcopal Church's Annual Meeting will take place on January 30th following the 10 AM service. We will gather in Halladay Hall. There may be an online version available to those that are not able to attend in person, please watch your email for information. Yearly reports will be given. Vestry members and Diocesan convention delegates will be elected. If you are interested in serving, please contact a Vestry member (listed on the last page of the newsletter).

Pay Pledges Online

The Bishop's office is continuing to process online gifts on behalf of congregations. If you wish to pay your pledge online, visit [Give Now \(onrealm.org\)](http://onrealm.org) and select Give to a Congregation. Then select St. Thomas—Franklin.



Ideas for your New Year's Resolution:

- Start a Journal
- Give more compliments
- Put your bills on autopay to save time and money
- Send more cards
- Practice saying 'no'
- Take a break from social media
- Join a gym
- Reduce your single-use plastic consumption
- Go to bed and wake up at the same times each day
- Read more books
- Choose the stairs or park farther from the door
- Drink more water
- Volunteer at least once a month



Poinsettias and Trees

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Greenery Fund and to those who helped green the church. You are appreciated!



Soon it will be time for all of it to be put away until next Christmas season. If you would like a poinsettia or one of the trees, please help

yourself. The trees can be planted in your yard. Please take the poinsettias from in front of the altar before choosing ones from behind the altar. Questions? Contact Karen Smith at 317-201-8128.

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CHURCH OR CLINIC?

CONTACT INFO:

St. Thomas Church
600 Paul Hand Blvd
Franklin, IN 46131
317-535-8985
stthomasepis@aol.com

St. Thomas Clinic
317-535-6057
stthomasclinic@aol.com

January Celebrations

Birthdays

9 Dave Buchholz
13 Paul Jump
19 Carolyn Ohlsen
20 Katy Alexander & Eric Smith
21 Jim Phillips
24 Bill Glass

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries



ST. THOMAS VESTRY

The 25th Vestry of St. Thomas (2021--2023)

2021Robin Kares, Joshua Craft-Rutan
2022Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke
2023Rachel Allen, Brandi Ashlock, Cheryl Faust, Steve Wahlberg

The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

Rector.....Fr. Whitney Smith
Senior Warden Dave Buchholz
Junior WardenSteven Wahlberg
Clerk Karen Smith
TreasurerJim Lewis
Parish AdministratorJoy Tucker
Organist/Choir DirectorHeather Orvek

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please submit it to Father Whitney at whitinindy@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.