

'the story'

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Franklin, IN

APRIL 2022

Spring at St. Thomas: A Time for New Beginnings

- After two years of worshipping with restrictions, St. Thomas, Franklin, is finally taking major steps more in keeping with what many of us knew and loved before the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm aware many of you have grown tired of the restrictions. I have, too. Still, I remain grateful that we haven't had any known COVID-related hospitalizations or deaths attributable to St. Thomas worship. I'm also grateful for the careful, prayerful deliberations of my fellow St. Thomas Regathering Committee members: Dave Buchholz, Maggie Lewis, Joshua Craft-Rutan and Ryan Craft-Rutan. We hesitate to say things are back to normal. But spring 2022 does seem like a time for new beginnings and partnerships. Here are some updates:
 - St. Thomas will once again offer the common cup at communion, starting Sunday, April 3rd.
 - Congregational singing will resume on Easter Sunday, April 17th. Some favorite hymns will be back, and Heather and I plan to include congregational chant.
 - Coffee hour will return on Easter Sunday, then start back regularly on May 1st. (See separate article for more details).
 - St. Thomas has begun collaborating again with worship leaders at Franklin College. The parish has a history with the college going back years. I was pleased to be asked to preach and preside at a communion service in mid-March (on a St. Patrick's theme) at Franklin's Richardson Chapel.

Look for more new beginnings in the future. Meanwhile, a Blessed Lent and Holy Week, and a Happy Easter!
--Fr. Whitney

St. Thomas Seeks Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers

If any St. Thomas parishioner, adult or youth, is interested in serving during worship services, your help would be greatly appreciated. Your worship team is seeking additional acolytes, altar servers, readers, and ushers. Contact Fr. Whitney or Cheryl Faust if you have questions or would like to serve.

--Cheryl Faust

Coffee Hour

Ann Kieffer and Beth Stephens have graciously volunteered to host coffee hour on Easter Sunday after services. Coffee, cross buns and fruit will be served.

Coffee Hour will be starting up again on May 1st. Brandi Ashlock will be coordinating these events. A sign up sheet will be provided in the hall by the Rector's office. Join us for coffee, food and fellowship.



From the Junior Warden



There will be a church workday on Saturday, April 9th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will focus on grounds pickup of branches, some pruning of trees and bushes. For the inside, there will be a little cleaning of the fellowship hall, and other areas to ready us for Easter. Lunch will be provided! For more info, please contact me at 720-220-2920.

—Steve Wahlberg



St. Thomas 2022 Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—April 10th, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 14th, 7:00 p.m. This is the first day of the Triduum, three holy days before Easter. Maundy Thursday celebrations commemorate Jesus's institution of the Eucharist. There will be Holy Eucharist.

Good Friday – April 15th, 7:00 p.m. On the Friday before Easter Day, the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. At St. Thomas, the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ is traditionally read by various parishioners. It is a day of fasting and special acts of discipline, and self-denial.

Holy Saturday – April 16th, 5:30 p.m. This service recalls the day when the crucified Christ visited among the dead while his body lay in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. There will be no Eucharist.

Adult Forum Features Mary, the Mother of Egypt

During Lent at St. Thomas, the third in our series of four Adult Education Forums featuring saints in the Anglican Communion will focus on Mary, the Mother of Egypt. The session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, April 3rd.

It has often been said in Christianity that there are three Marys of great renown: Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Mary of Egypt. We know of the first two but who *is* this third Mary?

Today in western culture, Mary of Egypt is little known or recognized but in the early Christian church she was renowned as the model of the repentant sinner. Her life and story are considered one of the greats, and her story has been told in ecclesiastical literature, two French novels, and two operas. Mary of Egypt is considered one of the “Desert Mothers,” marginal women brave enough to choose to live “outside the camp” at the fringes of civilization. Mary’s story went out of favor in the western church at the time of the Reformation, but this story of mercy and repentance is just as relevant today as it was back in the fourth or fifth century, especially during the season of Lent.

—Joshua Craft-Rutan

Pantry Seeks Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items

St. Thomas will be accepting April’s donations for the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County on Easter Sunday. This month, the pantry is seeking non-perishable food and personal care items as well as cleaning products. Monetary gifts are also appreciated; checks should be made payable to St Thomas, with food pantry on the memo line.

--Cheryl Faust



*All are Welcome
No Exceptions!*

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

Celebrate the Eucharist regularly

Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and
study

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting jus-
tice, 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

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

2nd—Juanita Wahlberg
10th—Sydney Anderson
16th—Mike Foster
27th—Gavin Merriman

ANNIVERSARIES

23rd—Joshua & Ryan Craft-Rutan
24th—Dennis & Judy Thompson

ST. THOMAS VESTRY



Meeting: Sunday, April 3rd.
After Church
The 26th Vestry of St. Thomas (2022--2024)

2022.....Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke
2023.....Steven Wahlberg, Rachel Allen, Brandi
Ashlock, Cheryl Faust
2024.....Julie Stogsdill, Eric Smith

The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

Rector.....	Fr. Whitney Smith	Clerk.....	Julie Stogsdill
Senior Warden.....	Dave Buchholz	Treasurer.....	Jim Lewis
Junior Warden.....	Steve Wahlberg		
Clerk.....	Julie Stogsdill		
Treasurer.....	Jim Lewis		
Assistant Treasurers.....	Robin Kares, Eric Smith, Mike Ramsey, Marti Ramsey		
Parish Admin.....	Joy Tucker		
Organist.....	Heather Orvek		

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please submit it to Fr. Whitney at whitinindy@hotmail.com or church email stthomasepis@aol.com by the 15th of the previous month.