



# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



## First Sunday after the Epiphany – January 10, 2021

Opening Hymn LEVAS 141

“Shall We Gather at the River”

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; —  
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, —  
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; —  
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease, —

1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?  
2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.  
3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.  
4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful\_ riv - er;

Gath - er with the saints\_ at the riv - er That flows by the throne of\_ God.

### Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

### Glory to God - LEVAS 243

Glo - ry,

Glo-ry, hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, — Glo-ry,



**Verses:**

- 1 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
- 2 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
- 3 Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

**Refrain**

- 4 You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
- 5 You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
- 6 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
- 7 You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

**Refrain**

Amen.

**The Collect**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

**First Reading**

**Genesis 1: 1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

## Psalm 29

*(read by all)*

- 1 Ascribe to God, you heavenly beings, \*  
ascribe to God glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name; \*  
worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of God is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
God is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of God is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of God is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of God breaks the cedar trees; \*  
God breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 God makes Lebanon skip like a calf \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of God splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of God shakes the wilderness; \*  
God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of God makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the Holy One, \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 God sits enthroned above the flood, \*  
enthroned as Sovereign for evermore.
- 11 God shall give strength to the people; \*  
God shall give the people the blessing of peace.

## The Holy Gospel

## Mark 1: 4-11

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord. **People:** **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja

✠ *Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon*

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Father?

**People:** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People:** I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the  
dead.

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People:** I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

*Celebrant:* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the  
prayers?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever  
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of Christ's resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **Prayers of the People**

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Mariann and Chilton, bishops of the Diocese of Washington; for Lisa and Gene, clergy of our parish; for this online worship gathering; and for all ministers and people. We pray especially for our parish as we raise up and equip new leaders for our Vestry and thank outgoing leaders for their dedication and care.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the brokenness and division in our world, especially in our nation. We pray for guidance to examine and repent of our own individual and collective participation in institutional racism. We pray for Joe, our President-elect, Kamala, our Vice President-elect, and all who have been elected to lead in our government.

Pray for justice and peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.  
Pray that they may find and be found by God.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed, remembering especially the multitude of those who have died of COVID-19 around the world. We also pray for those who have died alone or separated from family. We pray comfort for those who grieve.  
Pray for those who have died, and those who grieve.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for those on our parish prayer list.

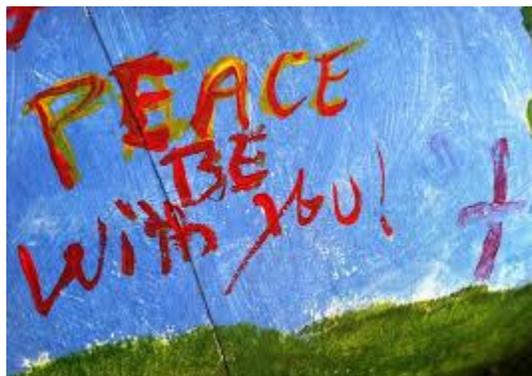
*Silence*

I invite you to share your prayers of petition or thanksgiving, in silence, aloud, or written in the chat or comment box.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.  
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*



## **The Peace**

Celebrant: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

✠*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

PADRE NUESTRO, que estás en el cielo.  
Santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos  
del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria  
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

**Spiritual Communion Prayer, adapted from the Prayer Book for Armed Services**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. The leader invites the following prayer to be said by all:*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you now in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Closing Hymn 490

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.  
I want to look at Je-sus.  
I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and  
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.  
show me the way to the Fa-ther.  
shall know the joy of Je-sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The

night and the day are both a-like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## Blessing

**Celebrant:** Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people. And the blessing of the Triune God, Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit rest upon you this day and remain with you forever.

**People:** Amen

## Dismissal

**Celebrant:** Go in Peace! Proclaim the Word made flesh!

**People:** Thanks be to God.

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# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

Announcements for First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 10, 2021

## A NOTE FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear St. Thomas' Parish,

Like many people who live in this city, I've been asked by family and friends if we are safe. And I've had calls to ask if the church is okay. And I've responded that Salil and I are safe at home, and the church is secure.

But like so many of you, I am also emotionally raw. The balm for my soul has been worship and companionship in our community and the larger Church. Yesterday, as photos and videos of the terrorism at the Capitol were shared on social media, the very next thing I viewed was a video from the Presiding Bishop. I was jolted from a place of fear to remembering that Christ is with us. And last night singing, reading scriptures, praying, and sitting with many of you in our evening worship reminded me of God's desires for this world. God desires justice, truth, peace, and a wholeness for us.



The events of this week have shown us, yet again, there is so much room for racial justice in our city and country. There is so much room for healing.

This Sunday we will read the story of the Baptism of Jesus in our worship, and we will then take time to reaffirm our baptismal vows. We will reaffirm the commitment to turn from evil and love and respect the dignity of every human being. I hope you join us for worship this Sunday, to be reminded that you are part of a larger community where love abounds, where together we are Christ's body here on earth with hunger for justice and commitment to walking faithfully together.

Please know that if you would like to talk or pray together, I would welcome your call.

God bless you,  
Lisa+

A LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP, THE RT. REV. MARIANN EDGAR BUDDE



**A Very Present Help In Trouble**



*The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea,*

*though its waters rage and foam, and through the mountains tremble at its tumult.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

*Psalm 46*



Dearly Beloved of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington,

With heavy hearts, we are all still absorbing what happened on January 6 in our nation's capital, and for many of us, our home city. We find ourselves reaching out to those we love, no matter where they are, and receiving calls of concern from around the country. It's an understandable response, given what's happened.

That is my purpose for writing today: to let you know that I am here, praying for you and your loved ones; and in particular, for your well-being and physical safety.

I am praying for all whose work requires them to be in public spaces in the midst of the pandemic and continued unrest, and for those experiencing homelessness in our city, with few options for safe haven. I am praying in gratitude for all in our diocese who are first responders, who serve in the federal workforce; for hospital personnel, social workers, and teachers. I know that we are united in prayers for our nation.

Washington, DC is no stranger to civic protest. Members of our congregations are among the first to offer hospitality and welcome, even to protesters with whom they disagree. We cherish the political freedom enshrined in our US Constitution guaranteeing the right of all Americans to express dissenting opinions in the public square.

That is not what we witnessed on January 6. We saw an attempted insurrection and desecration of the United States Capitol and what it symbolizes, encouraged by the President himself. We also witnessed a notably different response on the part of law enforcement as compared to the way protesters last summer were treated. Had the majority of yesterday's gathering been people of color, there is little doubt that the outcome would have been much different.

A word of profound thanks to diocesan clergy and lay leaders who virtually gathered their communities in prayer last evening. Please continue to offer such opportunities. As the Church, we need to be together in prayer.

For our part, Dean Randy Hollerith and I will offer a brief prayer service from Washington National Cathedral each evening at 5:00 p.m. from now until Inauguration Day, January 20. We will be joined by interfaith leaders across the diocese. If you'd like to join in these prayers, [please follow this link](#).

Among the more disturbing images of the last few days has been the grievous misappropriation of the Christian faith. It must be said by all who claim to follow Jesus as Lord that there was nothing Christian about what happened at the US Capitol. Those who claim the mantle of Jesus for such deeds and the worldview that justified them do great damage not only to themselves, but the witness of the Christian faith.

We are called to show another way, the way of love, to so embody love that others may see in us something of the mercy and goodness we have known in Jesus. May

God's love so fill your hearts, so inspire your minds, so gently touch your wounds with healing grace that you may know, without a doubt, that you are precious in God's sight.

And may God grant us all wisdom and courage for the living of this hour.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*Bishop Mariann*

**PRAYERS**  
*for our nation*  
JANUARY 7-19 • 5 PM  
*ORACIONES por nuestra nación 7-19 enero • 5 PM*

Episcopal Diocese of Washington  Diócesis Episcopal de Washington

 WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

### **End of the Year Financial Plans!**

A big thank you to our community for faithfully fulfilling pledges, and also for communicating when it has been difficult to fulfill your pledge. This has helped us to pay our bills and staff throughout the year and continue our mission even while mostly online!

Please do be in touch with Nolan in the parish office with any questions at [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org).



### **Annual Meeting- Save the Date – Sunday, February 7**

The St. Thomas' Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 following our 10:30 am service on Zoom. Never been to an annual meeting for a church? This year's meeting will include a celebration of the highlights from 2020, a presentation of the 2021 budget, reports from the Wardens and Rector, a written report from all of our ministries, election of new Vestry leaders, and the presentation of bylaw amendments for parish approval.

Documents will be sent out in a special packet of information through our Phoenix email list, but if you require a hard copy, we'd be happy to mail them to you. We will have an information session about the bylaw amendments the week prior to the Annual Meeting. Please email Nolan ([administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org)) if you'd like a copy mailed to you.

**Here is our Zoom online schedule for this coming week.**

- Sunday, January 10:**      **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
10:30 am                  Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)  
11:15 am                  Coffee Hour on Zoom  
3:30 pm                    **Spanish 101 with Al Llanos**
- Monday, January 11:**  
6:30-7:00 pm              Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
- Tuesday, January 12:**  
6:30-7:00 pm              Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
- Wednesday, January 13:**  
6:30-7:00 pm              Evening Worship with Taize Chant
- Thursday, January 14:**  
5:45-6:30 pm              Spanish Conversation with Al  
6:30-7:00 pm              Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
- Friday, January 15:**  
6:30-7:30 pm              Yoga and Prayer (different Zoom link -please see announcement  
below with details)
- Sunday, January 17**      **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
10:30 am                  Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)  
11:15 am                  Coffee Hour on Zoom

**Zoom Code for all of our Worship, Social (Coffee Hour, etc.), Study, and Open Office Hours.**

Meeting ID: 947 6442 4718

Password: 151718th

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94764424718?pwd=WFhJM0M5N2VxT2dVbVpaelljaVQ2UT09>

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

## Worship with St. Thomas'

Save the Date: Celebration of New Ministry and Installation  
of the Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja as Rector

*The Wardens, Vestry, and Members of  
St. Thomas' Parish  
Washington, DC*

*Request Your Prayers and Presence at  
the Celebration of New Ministry  
and Installation of  
the Reverend Lisa Saunders Ahuja  
as the Rector of St. Thomas' Parish*

*Sunday, January 31, 2020  
10:30 in the morning on Zoom and Facebook.  
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde,  
Presiding*

### Chair Dedications from the Chair\*ity Fundraiser

Back in 2018 many people made a financial contribution to the chairs for our sanctuary. We cannot wait to sit in that space once again! You may remember that in 2019 we started collecting dedications for these chairs, statements that chairs are in thanksgiving or memory of someone special to you. We do not have a dedication for all of the donations and want to ensure your dedication is included.

Please either email: [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org) with your dedication or fill in the Google form with your dedication: <https://forms.gle/ntRGEoBzop1KGJy46>

If you cannot remember how many chairs you donated, or you are new and would like to contribute to the capital expenses of these chairs in honor of someone special to you, please do write to Nolan at [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org). There are plenty more to be dedicated, and the cost of each was \$299. We aim to collect all of this information by January 30, 2021.

## Study with St. Thomas'

### Identifying and Sharing your Spiritual Gifts-

Join members of the Stewardship and Ministry Committee for a three-week class January 31-February 14<sup>th</sup> in Identifying and Sharing your Spiritual Gifts. We will meet from 9:30-10:15 am on our Zoom Code for study, worship, and fellowship.



### Yoga and Prayer Looks to the Light: Finding Sacred Ground in Fractured Times

In Partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, Evening Prayer on Fridays will be streamed from our building.

### ***New Class Schedule January 8 to February 12***

Join us in the Epiphany season for a return to the light. We will gather **Fridays at 6:30 pm (via Zoom)** to center ourselves with simple yoga and prayer.

Within a framework drawn from the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*, we explore ancient 'Wisdom' writings and contemporary poetry that resonate in today's world. Yoga sequences take us more deeply into a weekly theme tied to current events and Epiphany season miracles. Come as often as you like. Only one sign-up needed for all six weeks. You can begin any week and drop-ins and newcomers welcome.

### **About the Instructor:**

**The Rev. Diana V. Gustafson** has led innovative yoga and prayer at a number of churches in the Diocese of Washington. She is a Registered Yoga Teacher (500 -hour certificate) who trained at several studios in the Washington area. She received her M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary and most recently served as a Curate at All Souls Episcopal Church. This event is hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and St. Thomas' on Dupont Circle.

**A Zoom link will be emailed in advance of the start of each class.**

**[Sign up here now!](#)**

## Take Action with St. Thomas'

### **Responding to Grief and Joy (and everything in between!) in our Community:**

In this time when we cannot check in with one another face to face each week, you may wish to respond to the grief or joy in our community by sending a greeting card or making a phone call. If you do not have the individual's contact information, please check Realm or send your greeting card to that person % our church. We will make sure to share with them.

- **Healing: Jerry Donohoe:** Here is a link to his Caring Bridge page for updates on his health: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerrydonahoe>.

**Reverend Lisa's Contact Information:**

**The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja  
St. Thomas' Parish  
1517 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
1-202-361-2018 (cell)  
[lahuja@stthomasdc.org](mailto:lahuja@stthomasdc.org)**

**Celebrating Our January Birthdays**

Stacey George (January 1)  
Felecia Williams (January 1)  
Joe Bishop-Henchman (January 4)  
Samantha Fallon (January 5)  
Bob McDonald (January 16)  
Gregory Zitterkob (January 22)  
Tyler Ashworth (January 23)  
David Insinga (January 23)  
Rev. Linda Kaufman (January 23)  
Chris Hartenau (January 27)  
John Coonrod (January 31)

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at  
[administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org).*

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**Parish Prayer List**

Alan Allison	Jerry Donahoe	Mike Knapp
Charlotte Anderson	Jeremy Gee	Dave Kucharski
Anne Marie Bohler	Jan Harrison	Linda Long-Jarosik
Matthew Briggs	Mark Herzog	Sue Ray
Peggyann Cohen	Kristin Jones	Bishop Gene Robinson

*For the repose of the soul of:*  
Donna Norman

You may submit a name for the list by sending an e-mail to: [administrator@stthomasdc.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasdc.org)

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# ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

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*"As St. Thomas' Parish we are followers of Jesus, striving to see Christ in each person, and to be Christ in our community, our city, and our world."*

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## Vestry

Jessie Eddy, Senior Warden  
Stephen Schembs, Junior Warden  
Jennie Allison, Treasurer  
Jean Holman, Clerk  
Jennie Allison, Brian Crane, Jason Crighton, Bettina Hager,  
Jane Saari, Brett Snyder, Gregory Zitterkob

## Staff

The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja	Rector	lahuja@stthomasdc.org cell: 202-361-2018 @BishopGRobinson
The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson	Bishop in Residence	mldico@stthomasdc.org
Michael Lodico	Interim Music Director	administrator@stthomasdc.org
Nolan DiFrancesco	Administrator	
Kimberly Davis	Nursery Care Worker	
Clifford Bowens	Nursery Care Worker	

## St. Thomas' Parish

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[www.stthomasdc.org](http://www.stthomasdc.org) ✉ [info@stthomasdc.org](mailto:info@stthomasdc.org)

