

- 6 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours,* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Turn us again, thou God of hosts;* shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
- 17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand,* and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.
- 18 And so will not we go back from thee:* O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.
- 19 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;* shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
- Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son,* and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,* world without end. Amen.

The Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

Hymn 265

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

Gospel Alleluia

Please stand. This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading.



Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

People Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

The Rector

The Nicene Creed

The Prayers of the People

(Please kneel.)

After each petition the people say:

Lord, have mercy.

The Confession and Absolution

The Peace

The Greetings

(Please be seated.)

At the Offertory, Motet

William Byrd
(c. 1540-1623)

O MAGNUM mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepe.
Beata Virgo,
cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.

*O most awesome mystery
and sacrament divine and most wondrous,
that animals should look and see the Lord
a babe newborn
beside them in a manger laid.
O how truly blessed is the Virgin,
whose womb was worthy
to bear and bring forth the Lord Christ Jesus.
Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.*

Fourth of the Nine Responsories for Matins of Christmas Day

The Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus and Benedictus

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Invitation to Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.
The Sacrament is distributed at the High Altar and, for convenience and accessibility,
also at the Chantry Chapel Altar. Gluten free hosts are available; please ask the priest at the altar rail.*

At the Communion, Agnus Dei
and Motet

Cristóbal de Morales
(c. 1500-1553)

AVE Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Regina caeli,
dulcis et pia, O Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
ut cum electis te videamus.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven,
sweet and saintly, O Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, so that with the elect we
may look upon you.*

Saint Luke 1:28

The Postcommunion Prayer
The Blessing and Dismissal
Hymn 56
Voluntary

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL
Fugue on ‘Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme’
Max Reger
(1873-1916)

*Healing and intercessory prayer will be offered by clergy and trained lay volunteers in
the Chantry Chapel at the conclusion of today’s service for anyone who desires it.*

MUSIC NOTES

Published in 1566, Guerrero’s *Missa Inter Vestibulum* is scored for four voices and based on a motet by Morales of the same name. Guerrero took Morales’ opening motif (a descending scale of a fourth) and adapted it widely in his Mass, most notably at the beginning of each movement. The second Agnus Dei expands richly into six voices and like many of Guerrero’s other Masses, employs “trinitas in unitate,” or exact triple canonic imitation. This technique was studied and adopted by many other composers, including Guerrero’s younger contemporary, Tomás Luis da Victoria.

The greens today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of the following:
Margaret Crane Hurlbut

†

4 P.M. A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS*

*Please note that this service will be filmed for an online video presentation
by the Communications Office of the Episcopal Church
sung by The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Music of Britten, Litaize, Robinson, Scott, Wachner, Anonymous
Adams, Hancock, Bingham and Filsell*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

4 P.M. A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

*sung by The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Music of Britten, Litaize, Robinson, Scott, Wachner, Anonymous
Adams, Hancock, Bingham, and Filsell*

10:15 P.M. CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN

*(Doors open at 10 p.m.)
Benjamin Sheen and Nicholas Quardokus, organ*

**11 P.M. THE SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY
(MIDNIGHT MASS)**

Music of *Prendergast, Castagnet, Filsell, Hough, Wachner, Philips, Litaize, Hancock* and *Scott*
sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys with Brass
Sermon by the Rector

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

11 A.M. THE SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY

Music of *Prendergast, Victoria, Scott, Dupré, Adams, Hancock* and *Britten*
sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Sermon by The Rector

DAILY OFFICE AND MASS

Monday Services: 8 a.m., 12:10 and 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday Services: 12:10, 4 and 11 p.m. (see **Christmas Eve schedule above**)

Please note: in observance of the Christmas holiday, the Parish Offices will be closed on
Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26.
The church will also be open on a special schedule on Friday, December 27.

Thursday, December 26: **Saint Stephen, Holy Eucharist: 12:10 p.m.**

Friday, December 27: **Saint John, Holy Eucharist: 12:10 p.m.**

Saturday, December 28: **The Holy Innocents, Holy Eucharist: 12:10 p.m.**

Prayers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fifth Avenue

Thursday through Saturday at 12 p.m.

*Intercessions may be sent via the website by using the Prayer Request Tab
or by leaving a written request in the box near the Shrine itself.*

Confessions in the Resurrection Chapel, Saturday, December 28 from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Confessor – Father Bennett

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 - THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8 A.M. SAID EUCHARIST

9 A.M. SUNG EUCHARIST

Sermon by Father Spencer

11 A.M. FESTAL EUCHARIST

Music of *Guerrero, Schütz* and *Willaert*
sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir
Sermon by Father Spencer

PARISH NOTICES

If you are a visitor this morning, **we welcome you to Saint Thomas Church** and hope that you are with us again soon. We encourage you to complete a Welcome Card which you can find in the narthex at the front of the church.

You are invited to a **Special Coffee Hour**, which takes place in Andrew Hall following this service. Today, we are saying farewell to four, Saint Thomas staff members. More details below. To get there, take the Great Staircase to your left at the front of the nave. Also, if you would like to hear from us, please sign the Parish Guest Book.

Nursery: We welcome our youngest members and guests to Saint Thomas Church. Nursery care is available for infants and young children of parents attending the 9 and 11 a.m. liturgies. If your child would like to attend the nursery, please ask one of our ushers or staff who will kindly direct you. Once at the nursery, parents will be asked to sign their children in and will receive a silent pager for use during the service.

Sunday School. Children who are in pre-school through 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday School classes at Saint Thomas Church. Class usually meets on Sundays at 11 a.m., and the children are brought down to church during the service prior to Holy Communion. We will be on recess December 29, but classes will resume on January 5. Registration is open for both Nursery and Sunday school using an online form found on the Saint Thomas website under Families/Sunday School.

A quiet area is available in the Chantry Chapel for **Children and Families** who wish to worship together. Accompanied young children are welcome to use this space during the 9 and 11 a.m. liturgies, where they are invited to enjoy a range of Bible stories and soft toys.

Saying a fond farewell. There are four members of the Saint Thomas staff leaving after Christmas: Benjamin Sheen, Associate Organist; Fr. Charles Wallace, Headmaster of the Choir School; Eddie Thomas and José Martin. Eddie and José have an incredible 73 years of combined service to Saint Thomas Church! If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for any one of them, please send in your donation to the parish office. If you wish to send in a check, please mark the memo line with the name of the person you wish to gift (or names if you wish the donation to be split between them).

Saint Thomas Celebrates Burns Night on Friday, January 24, at 7 p.m. in beautiful Bonnell Hall at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Save the date because this is an evening you will not want to miss (in black tie or Scottish themed-dress). After a reception with wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres, we will have a traditional Scottish dinner accompanied by great music and dancing. You can purchase a single ticket for \$75, and we will seat you or you can reserve a table for 10 people for \$700. You can reserve online or leave a check at reception. Please include your phone number. It is to your advantage to reserve in December, as this event will be offered to a few groups outside of the parish in January. All reservations and cancellations must be made by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21.

Charitable Distributions from IRAs: When you are doing your year-end tax planning, please remember that if you are 70 ½ or older, you may qualify to make a tax-free gift to Saint Thomas from your IRA account of up to \$100,000. If you are considering such a gift, we suggest that you talk with your tax advisor before finalizing your decision.

Year-end contributions to Saint Thomas Church and Choir School. As the New Year approaches and you consider your year-end gifts, please remember Saint Thomas Church and Choir School. December 31 is the deadline for the following items to be received in order to qualify as a deduction for 2019 tax purposes: checks by mail must be postmarked by that date, or dropped off in person; cash and credit card instructions need to be received at the Finance office by Noon; gifts can be made online until 11:59 p.m. EST; gifts of stock must be received in the Church's investment account by December 31. For stock transfer instructions or other questions, please contact Ann Hall Kaplan at AKaplan@SaintThomasChurch.org or 212-757-7013 Ext 421. This is also a gentle reminder to pay all pledges to the 2019 Annual Appeal by December 31. (If your circumstances have changed and you are not able to pay off your remaining pledge balance or wish to increase your pledge, please contact Ann Hall Kaplan.)

The Bookstore and Gift shop is located on the first floor of the parish house, and is open following the 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. services. Currently in stock: *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity in Modern English*, by Richard Hooker; *The Art of Advent: A Painting a Day from Advent to Epiphany*, by Jane Williams; *Ancient Christian Devotional: A Year of Weekly Readings, Lectionary Cycle A*, edited by Thomas C. Oden and Cindy Crosby; and *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*, by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe; 2020 Christian Pocket Diary, Books on Advent and Christmas, as well as Advent Calendars. The Bookstore will also be open Monday, December 23, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, December 24, following the 4 p.m. service. The Bookstore will be closed next Sunday, December 29. Major credit cards accepted. Contact: Bookstore@SaintThomasChurch.org.

The Soup Kitchen meets every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the parish house to prepare bag lunches for distribution on foot along eight routes in mid-Manhattan beginning at 11 a.m. Distribution is completed about 12:15 p.m. You are welcome to join this ministry to the homeless. For further information, please contact Frank Reinauer 212-249-4026.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Theology Class. Today, at 10 a.m., on the fifth floor of the parish house, Fr. Cheng will conclude his five-part series on **Richard Hooker's** theological masterpiece, ***Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity***. Richard Hooker, a sixteenth-century priest in the Church of England, is widely acknowledged as the founder of the Anglican theological tradition and one of the great Anglican theologians. This week, we will discuss the **final three books** of *The Laws* and some reflections on the legacy of Richard Hooker. A modern English translation of the preface and first four books of *The Laws*, as well as an introduction to the life and thought of Richard Hooker, is available for purchase in the Bookstore and Gift Shop. The Theology Class will not meet next Sunday, December 29. The class will resume on Sunday, January 5.

Pilgrims' Course 2020. Newcomers to Saint Thomas Church and those not yet members of the church are invited to our "**Pilgrims' Course**," which is a comprehensive introduction to the Christian faith, as received and understood by the Episcopal Church. The first session will be on Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. Each session will begin with a simple meal at 6:30 p.m., and the class itself will run from 7 to 8 p.m. The sessions continue on most Tuesday evenings through May 19. Bishop Allen Shin will visit on Sunday, May 17, at 11 a.m., to confirm and receive candidates. Although the course is specifically designed for **adults who are considering baptism, confirmation, or reception** into the Episcopal Church, it is fitting for anyone who wishes to explore Christianity or to deepen his or her faith. A postcard containing the course schedule is available in the narthex. Please email Father Cheng at PCheng@SaintThomasChurch.org if you would like to attend the class.

Friday Bible Study will not meet the following two Fridays: December 27 and January 3, 2020. It will resume on Friday, January 10.

For regular email updates on the life of the parish and notices from the Rector, please contact Fr. Moretz at MMoretz@SaintThomasChurch.org, or text STC5THAVE to 22828. For more information about the parish's Adult Christian Education program, please contact Fr. Cheng, Theologian in Residence, at PCheng@SaintThomasChurch.org. For regular email updates on Adult Christian Education, please text THEOLOGY to 22828.



ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Matthew Moretz, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Adam Spencer, *Associate for Pastoral Care*
The Reverend Alison J. Turner, *Associate for Children and Family Ministry*
The Reverend Dr. Patrick S. Cheng, *Theologian in Residence*
The Reverend Ryan Bennett, *Assistant Priest*
Sister Marie Promise Atelon SSM, *Seminarian*

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