

BELONGING AND TRUST



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

2022 ANNUAL APPEAL



Hope is one of the greatest gifts of Jesus that we read about in the Gospels. We know that hope grounded in God's love triumphs over any challenge. Over the past year, many of us have been carried by that hope, and we have tried to care for one another with a deep and abiding sense of belonging and trust.

- CARL F. TURNERRector

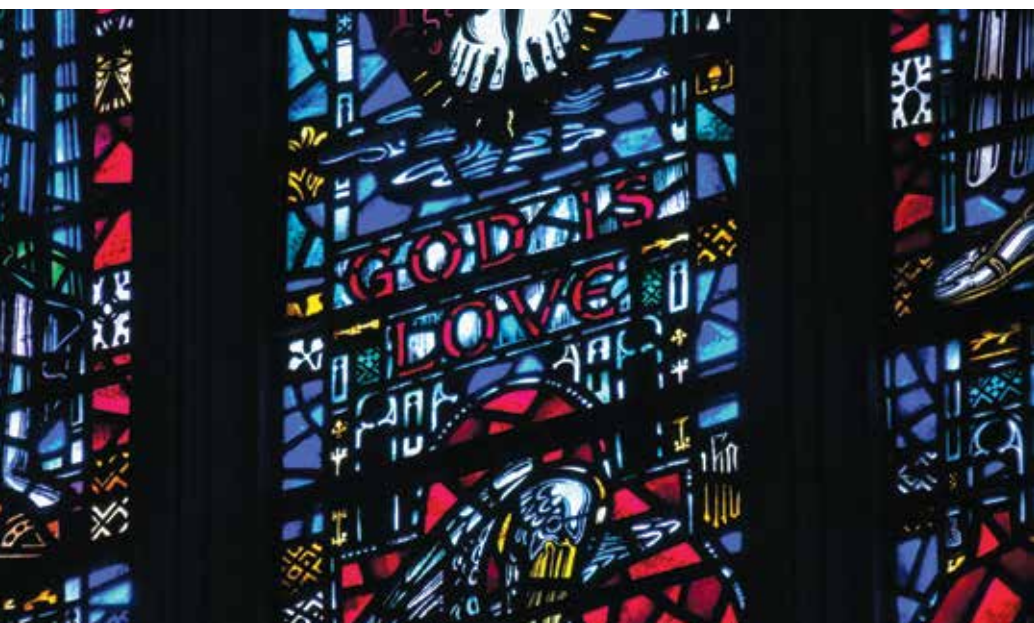
Doing God's Will on Earth can come in many forms, and I firmly believe that financial support for the church and committing to pledge to Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue for the upcoming year are among them. Please join us as we help steward this sacred space in Manhattan for the next generation of Christians.

- ERIC BLAIR-JOANNOU Chair

Annual Appeal Committee 2022: Diana Beck, Eric Blair-Joannou, Eric Hartline, Edward Gibson, Christopher Haley, Ann Hall Kaplan, Winnie Kung, Steve Kelly, B. Franklin Reinauer, Greg Zaffiro, Fred Zonsius

“One of the first adult conversations I recall having with my mother was when I was a young teen not terribly interested in adding confirmation classes to my already busy schedule. She said, “I want you to know you’ll always have the church for support if you come on difficult times in life.” Of course, I was confirmed, and these last 18 months with Saint Thomas have proven her correct.”

KARL B.



BELONGING AND TRUST

WORSHIP

PRACTICING OUR FAITH

Saint Thomas Church is an oasis of prayer in the middle of bustling midtown Manhattan. From daily intercessions to glorious liturgy; from spiritual direction to Gospel preaching, we aim to make connections with the world around us and be a place where heaven touches earth.

Your recipe of excellence and beauty in traditional worship and music, together with friendliness and welcomeness is a complete winner. - GRAHAM A.

PASTORAL CARE

RESILIENCE

During the pandemic, we have become more connected than ever before. As a diverse community of faith with many supporters, we try to share the love of God in Jesus Christ.

This Tuesday, I listened to the webcast. Tears rolled down my face when I was listening to your praying. It was as if you read my mind. - MIYUKI M

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

GROWING IN FAITH

In 2021, our Children and Families Ministry grew in faith, and numbers, despite the pandemic. In 2022, we've dedicated ourselves to family-oriented worship, music, and outreach that is both remote and in-person, allowing us to reach children in New York and as far away as London, while our new Children's Choir carries the gift of music to local children of any level and experience.

Our purpose is to encourage parents as their child's first, formative Christian teacher to make the message of the gospel relevant throughout the week. - ALISON TURNER

ADULT EDUCATION

FORMATION & UNDERSTANDING

Formation in our Christian faith and greater understanding of our sacred tradition is at the heart of our mission. We are with you on this common pilgrimage through our bourgenoing in-person and online classes, groups, and events.

I was fascinated. This was a whole new world. I had the best time. - BENITA P.

MUSIC

OUR UNIQUE CHORAL HERITAGE

Choral music is the heartbeat of our worship and the foundation of our school. We continue to sing, perform, and nurture. Our melodies are bound up in stone and story.

Saint Thomas offers a spiritual journey by way of aspirational liturgy and music. We uphold the finest in musical offering, presenting it in the context of an ancient, historic, and unique tradition; we are doing something grounded in the highest aspirations of humankind over thousands of years. - JEREMY FILSELL

OUTREACH

TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Grants Program: Over \$150,000 awarded to nearly a dozen organizations.

It was extremely satisfying to support the families in our Washington Heights community which was hit especially hard during the pandemic. We are proud of what we were able to accomplish during this very difficult year and very appreciative of the help Saint Thomas Church gave our community.

- WASHINGTON HEIGHTS CHOIR SCHOOL

Thanks to your generosity and support, BEST is preventing human trafficking and supporting survivors during their journeys to safety and healing.

- BUSINESS ENDING SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING

I can't express sufficient gratitude for this vital support. Thank you for your wonderful assistance shepherding this important grant. - FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES (for its program for vaccine awareness and outreach initiative)

FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (1 Cor. 3:6)

Through our Strategic Plan, efforts are underway to reduce our over reliance on our invested funds by increasing the contribution from the annual appeal, expanding our planned giving societies, rationalizing expenses, and growing our ministry.

Everything that happens at Saint Thomas happens because of someone's generosity, past or present. There has been an expansiveness of vision here since 1823. The annual appeal is a chance for those of us who participate in the life of the parish today to contribute to that vision and ensure the vitality of our mission for decades to come. - BRUCE SMITH Chief Advancement Officer



Photo Credit: Ira Lippke

*“There are not enough words to express our gratitude for the education that our son has received at Saint Thomas Choir School. **From the classroom to the choir room, our son has been stretched and supported musically, academically, and socially. The education he has received is unparalleled.**”*

JULIA A.

CHOIR SCHOOL

MUSICAL TRAINING IN THE ANGLICAN TRADITION

As we continue our journey into the second hundred years of Saint Thomas Choir School, we remain buoyed by the confidence of many friends and supporters and driven by the exemplary work of the men and women who provide a stellar education to our students. Our nurturing and inclusive boarding community and our rich choral tradition ensure a unique and transformational experience for all boys who attend the school. There is no doubt that the boys of Choir School benefit from an experience like no other, and that their chorister years will have an enduring impact on their lives.

CHRISTOPHER A. SEELEY Head of School



Those who pledge \$5,000 and above are members of our Keystone Society

A keystone is the central stone placed at the top of an arch. The keystone is placed last when constructing an arch, locking all the other stones in place. It allows the arch to bear its own weight. The word keystone is often used figuratively to mean the central idea of a philosophy, process, business proposition or principle upon which it may stand. These commitments are foundational to our mission and ministry.

Planned Giving

Donors who make a commitment in their estate planning for the Church and/or Choir School are members of the Duffie and/or Noble Guilds.

Remembering Saint Thomas - endowing your pledge - can ensure the future sustainability of our institution. On your pledge card you can indicate your interest in our Planned Giving opportunities; thank you for considering this important arrangement for the future.





Mr. Christopher Seeley, Head of School, greets parishioners after his Installation Ceremony on September 12, 2021

The 2022 Annual Appeal: ***Belonging and Trust*** is an opportunity to practice our faith together. We will work to provide what is possible today and what we can hope for tomorrow as we worship, serve, and love Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for all that you do to grow and sustain our church.

“I’m giving to something that I think changes life for the better around us.”

STEVE K.



Our Children and Family Ministry is flourishing and we have launched a Children’s Choir as part of the re-imagined 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.