

# LENT OFFERINGS

## Small Group Training

Do you have a passion you would like to share with others? Would you love to engage in conversations around movies, or motorcycles, or Moses? Christ Care Small Groups are a wonderful way to connect with your fellow St. Thomasites who have similar interests. We will be starting new small groups in the spring and training new leaders Sunday afternoons throughout Lent. If you would like to know more about leading or becoming involved with a small group please contact Rev. Kelly Demo.

## Connecting Communities

Feb. 19, March 19, April 14

Olivia Rimmer & Emma Gordon

A Giving Project is a way to connect something you are passionate about with your service to an organization, a community, or a church.

Our Giving Project gives Middle School age youth the opportunity to volunteer their time. We will be working with different organizations throughout the community to help them find volunteers. A monthly event.



## Wednesday Lunch Series "Who Do We Serve?"

Our Mid-Week Lenten programs will begin Wednesday, Feb. 21 with an interview and discussion with Melanie. She and her two school age children were "guests" of JoCo IHN, an organization that serves situationally homeless families, and single unaccompanied (no children) women right here in Johnson Co. IHN provides a daytime facility with intense social services, budgeting assistance, phones and computers for job and housing searches and everything needed to keep families going. IHN includes 36 congregations that provides nighttime shelter and meals through the help of compassionate volunteers. Melanie is a recent graduate of IHN and will give us a unique opportunity to hear her personal experience as she shares her story of homelessness and success through compassion of others.

Simple soups will be needed each Wednesday. Please sign up in the narthex if you can make soup, bring bread or crackers, or if you would be willing to come the day before to make soup in our kitchen.

**Women's Retreat March 3:** Please join the women of the church for a one day women's retreat on Saturday, March 3. We will gather at the church from 10-2pm to enjoy fellowship and look to answer questions around service. Why do we serve? Is there a time when a ministry is not serving God? How do we balance taking care of ourselves with the call to take up our cross?

Consider adding this time together as part of your Lenten discipline. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or online from our Weekly Update. The cost is \$10 to cover the cost of lunch.

## Christian Education Classes this Sunday

Sunday School for Children & Youth  
Lent Beginnings—Parish Hall—9:45-10:35am

**Adult Forum—Parish Hall 3—9:50-10:35am**  
Join Facilitators Ray Wheeler and Fr. Gar as we take a look at some important themes for our Lenten journey. This week we will dive into "Embracing Forgiveness's" with Barbara Cawthorne Crafton. We watch a short video and then have an enlighten discussion. We will meet in Parish Hall 3 this weekend!

## Notes on Notes!

by Dr. Beth Elswick, Director of Music Ministries

The note today is that you will hear fewer notes in Lent. Notice that the opening and closing processions of clergy and choir are silent. The season of Lent coincides with Black History Month, and many of our songs of compassion and the Passion are a part of the songs of the rich body of Spiritual songs. We will sing many. In fact, the service music for the 8:45 service are all arrangements of Spirituals.

The 10:45 service will also include Spirituals, but the service music includes newly-composed music by member Elizabeth Niedt. Please listen closely, learn the melodies, and join us in singing her new Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei.

## Final Parents Night Out Mar 3

The final Parents Night Out of the year will be on Saturday night, March 3 from 5:30-10pm. Little ones from infant through 5th grade are welcome to come for an evening of games, cooking, crafts, and a movie. The youth of the parish (along with some adults!) have such a wonderful time leading this and playing with the kiddos. The suggested free will offering is \$20 per child \$40 per family for the evening. The proceeds help our youth attend summer camps and the mission trip.

## Easter Memorial Offerings

- Your generous gifts in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one
- helps provide special flowers and music for our celebrations of The
- Resurrection. Please use the offering envelope provided in your bulle-
- tin, enclose your contribution (of any amount), and place it in the offer-
- ing plate or mail it to the office. Offerings can also be in thanksgiving
- for a birthday or for family, for blessings received, etc.. Last day to sub-
- mit is **Sunday, April 25.**

# TOWER TALK

February 17 & 18, 2018

## "Lent Beginnings"

Sunday, February 18, during the Education Hour  
Parish Hall 1 & 2

All are welcome to join us for our 2nd Annual Lent Beginnings Prayer Stations in Parish Hall 1 and 2 on the morning of Sunday, February 18! Prayer stations will focus on crafts and activities to assist St. Thomas members, families and guests in developing prayer practices during the holy season of Lent. This will take the place of all Children's Sunday School classes, and most Youth and Adult programs, as families are encouraged to work together to complete the activities.

## Lenten Tuesdays:

**Contemplative Prayer with Mother Kelly**  
Every Tuesday thru Lent—February 20—March 20, 7-8pm

Tuesdays evenings during Lent from 7-8 pm in the sanctuary, join Mother Kelly Demo for a time of contemplative prayer with scripture. Using an ancient prayer form that came to us through Ignatius, we will use our imaginations to enter into scripture and listen to the Holy Spirit. Come quiet your mind, shut off your phone, and put a pause on the business of the world.

## Wednesday Lunch Series: "Who Do We Serve?"

**Sacred Stories from our Community**  
Wednesdays thru Lent—Noon—1 pm  
February 21—March 21 in the Parish Hall

Join us for soup luncheons during Lent to hear from people who have extraordinary stories. We will hear from people who have been incarcerated, experienced homelessness, live with disability, and others who have fled war in their country. Come live out the Baptismal Covenant call to "seek and serve Christ in every person."



We will be needing soups on a weekly basis. It will be greatly appreciated if you could provide a soup for 10-12 people (or more) or bring bread or crackers. Please bring to the Parish Hall by 11:30am. A sign-up is in the narthex.

Soup may be made at the church the day before if there are not enough signups. If you'd like to help, indicate your willingness on the sign-up also! You will be contacted if we need help!

## Naturalization Reception

Wed, February 21

Naturalization is the legal process through which a foreign citizen or national can become a U.S. citizen.

In order to be naturalized an applicant must be qualified to apply for citizenship, complete an application, attend an interview and pass an English and a civics test. (The actual civics test is *NOT* a multiple-choice test.) During the naturalization interview a USCIS officer will ask up to 10 questions from the list of 100 questions in English. 6 of these 10 questions must be answered correctly in order to pass the civics test. Upon completion of these things, a US citizenship or Naturalization ceremony is held and the new citizen is sworn in, takes the Oath of Allegiance, and is granted a naturalization certificate. Naturalization ceremonies are open to the public and provide an educational opportunity for promoting public understanding of not only the naturalization process, but to the federal courts as well.

We will be hosting a short reception immediately following the ceremony. **Volunteers will depart from St. Thomas by 10:15 that morning and will return by 2pm.** If you would like the opportunity to join others from St. Thomas in experiencing a new extension of hospitality by observing the ceremony and then helping to serve a few refreshments at the reception, please contact either Deacon Fran or Sue Eliott.

## THANK YOU from Comanche Elementary!

St. Thomas hosted a spectacular dinner for the teachers at Comanche Elementary on February 1. Thank you to Thom's Helpers, and to all the volunteers who contributed food, and their time. It was a delightful evening and was greatly appreciated by the teachers.



And...A **HUGE** heartfelt thank you for the overwhelming response to our urgent family need call for mattresses. The people of St. Thomas stepped forward immediately once the call was put out, and within two days we had all three of their mattress needs filled and delivered.

To quote the mother of the family: "Thank you; thank you very much. You guys are amazing Angels that God has put my way." The family sends with much gratitude their blessings to the people of St. Thomas.

**Articles for Tower Talk and our email update are due by NOON every Monday. Articles will run for two weeks unless notified otherwise. Send info and articles to Meribeth Risebig—mrisebig@stthomasop.org or call 913-451-0512.**

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

## Celebrating our Children & Youth!

- Benton Wandfluh will be going for a 3rd consecutive win in Pre-Algebra at the Shawnee Mission South Area Mathletics Competition.
- Joshua McCall will be performing in Indian Trail Middle School's upcoming 1 Act Plays on Thursday, March 1 and Friday March 2 at 7 PM. Tickets are available at the auditorium doors at ITMS (151st and Ridgeview in Olathe).

**\*\*\*If anyone would be willing to donate Southwest miles to the youth for their mission trip this summer to Houston for hurricane clean up work please contact Mtr. Kelly.\*\*\***

## Spring Training for Disciples

### Week 1 Prayer Focus: Accepting God's Forgiveness and Forgiving Myself

At the end of each day this week honestly recall any mistakes you made today today. Share these mistakes with God in prayer, ask for his forgiveness, and then remember to forgive yourself as you think about how you can do things differently the next day.

## Pajama Prayers start MONDAY, February 19!

Is your family looking to start or refresh a bedtime prayer routine? Join Ms. Barbara on our St. Thomas Facebook page each Monday night in Lent for Pajama Prayers! These short videos will be posted by 6 PM each Monday evening and will incorporate a variety of bible stories, songs, psalms and prayers to help children and families find a rhythm for nightly devotionals. Videos will remain on the Facebook Page for later or repeated viewing until the new installment is posted the following Monday.

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## A Pictorial Directory for St Thomas

Have you ever heard someone say, "I wish that St. Thomas had a pictorial directory of parishioners"? That remark is actually made rather frequently at our church. Perhaps it's time to do something about that!

Photo sessions are being planned to capture the images of the St. Thomas faithful. We will begin to take pictures on **Saturday, March 3, between the hours of 5:00 and 7:00pm** in Parish Hall 3. Photos will also be taken the following morning, **Sunday, March 4, between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00pm** in the same location. A second session of photo-taking will be held on the following weekend at the same times to make sure that every individual and/or family is covered. There will be no charge for the photo sessions. Hopefully, every St Thomas member will be included in the directory. If you would prefer to provide an existing photo of yourself or your family, that would be most acceptable.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Margaret Walkenshaw at (913) 897-4766.

# This Week's Calendar

## Sunday, February 18

- 8:45 AM Holy Communion-Nave
- 9:45 AM Coffee Hour-PH 1, 2, 3, K; Choir Practice-Nave Loft  
Lent Beginnings for everyone-PH 1, 2 (replaces Children Sun Sch); Adult Forum-PH 3
- 10:45 AM Holy Communion-Nave
- 11:45 AM Coffee Hour-PH 1, 2, 3, K
- 3-8 PM Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet-PH 1, 2, 3, K
- 6-8 PM Youth Group-Educ Wing

## Monday, February 19

- Connecting Communities day-location TBD
- 9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Nursery, Rm 145
- 10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 3, K
- 1:30 PM Staff Meeting-PH 1
- 6:30-9PM Westmont Neighbors Mtg-Asbly

## Tuesday, February 20

- 9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Nursery, Rm 145
- 7:00 PM Contemplative Prayer-Nave; Book Club-Asbly;  
Sword Guild practice-PH 2

## Wednesday, February 21

- 9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Nursery, Rm 145
- 10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 3, K
- 10:30 AM Wednesday Study Grp-Asbly
- Noon Lenten Lunch Series-PH 1, 2, 3
- 1-4 PM Actor's Choice-Asbly
- 5:00 PM Children & Youth Choir rehearsal-Asbly Rm
- 6:45 PM Praise Band practice-Nave
- 7:30 PM Choir practice-Nave

## Thursday, February 22

- 9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Rms 144,145
- 12:30 PM Bridge-Asbly
- 7:00 PM EFM-Rms 133-134; Sword Guild-PH 2; Classics  
Men's Small Grp-Asbly

## Friday, February 23

- 10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 3, K
- 1-4 PM Actor's Choice-Asbly
- 7-9 PM Explorers Small Grp-PH 2

## Saturday, February 24

- 9AM-2PM Vestry Retreat-PH 1, 2, 3
- 5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave