

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES THIS SUNDAY

Sunday School for Children & Youth - Education Wing & Lower Level—9:45-10:35am

Adult Forum—Parish Hall 2—9:50-10:35am—We will continue with “Embracing Forgiveness” with Barbara Cawthorne Crafton. We watch a short video and then have an enlightened discussion. We will meet in Parish Hall 2 this weekend!

LENT OFFERINGS

Lenten Tuesdays:

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER WITH MOTHER KELLY

Every Tuesday thru Lent—thru March 20, 7-8pm

Tuesday evening, March 20, 7-8pm 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?”

Join us to hear the sacred life stories of these remarkable people

Wednesdays thru Lent—Noon—1pm in the Parish Hall

March 21—Leonard Hall and Fritz Edmunds are highly successful Kansas City attorneys who both live with profound disabilities. Come hear their stories of success.



Thank you to everyone who contributed soup for our Lenten Lunch Series, brought bread and crackers, helped set up and cleanup, and those who helped to make soup on Tuesdays!

SMALL GROUP TRAINING—SUNDAYS 2-4PM

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—MARCH 19 **CANCELLED**

APRIL 14 IS STILL ON! Meet at St. Thomas at 9am

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. Olivia Rimmer & Emma Gordon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

SPRING TRAINING FOR DISCIPLES

Week 5 Prayer Focus: **Pray for the World**

Let your heart have open eyes this week. Be on the lookout for those who need our love and prayers. If you see someone who is sad or hurting, offer a prayer for them at that time. Each evening, pray for the needs of people in our world.

NEXT PAJAMA PRAYER VIDEO POSTED ON MON, MAR. 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 6pm 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.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY BRUNCH & EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 8 - ****Children's Easter Egg Hunt at 10am***

All are welcome to join in the fun as we celebrate our Risen Christ with some Easter fun! Brunch will be offered following both services, and everyone is encouraged to sign up to bring an item to share in the narthex or on our Sign Up Genus (which you can access via the weekly email or by scanning the QR Code on the poster in the Narthex with your phone. KIDS...We've got LOADS of Easter Eggs that will need to be found! Join Ms. Barbara in the Narthex at 10am to start your search! (Egg Hunt will be held outside - weather permitting).

Easter Egg Help Wanted: It takes lots of goodies and trinkets to fill all those eggs...if you would like to donate a bag of individually wrapped *non-chocolate* candies or small trinkets (little party favors, erasers, stickers, tattoos, etc....think "Dollar Bin" at Target!), please deliver them to the marked bucket in the Narthex or to the Education/Music Office anytime through Palm Sunday! If anyone would like to assist with filling eggs, please contact Barbara McCall, 913-909-7318 or bmccall@stthomasop.org to arrange to pick up a bag of eggs to fill. (These are GREAT community service hours for kids who need those for school - and a letter of verification IS available!)

TEX-MEX FIESTA SILENT AUCTION & DINNER

Please mark your calendars for **April 28** for the Tex-Mex Fiesta Silent Auction and Dinner that will support the youth group's mission trip to Houston this summer. In the coming weeks we will have more information and be selling tickets for the event.

We are also starting to take donations for the silent auction. Do you have a business or hobby that can donate goods or services for our silent auction? Please contact Mthr. Kelly if you do!



SAVE THE DATE! ST. THOMAS @ SPORTING KC

Sunday, May 27, at 5:00

Join your St. Thomas friends on Sunday, May 27, to watch Sporting take on the Columbus Crew! Tickets are \$35 per person and are limited. Sign up in the Narthex and see Barbara McCall for payment, or visit our Sign Up Genus in the weekly email, or by scanning the QR code in the Narthex!

TOWER TALK

March 17 & 18, 2018

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!! Last year we had a great turnout to make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday! So now we have more experts to help train newbies in this almost lost art! We will meet in Parish Hall 3 on **Saturday, March 24, at 9:30am**. Come One, Come All! Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to let us know if we have enough hands to make these beautiful crosses. BRING SCISSORS!

SIGN UP FOR A PART IN A PASSION! St. Thomas parish follows the custom of reading the passion gospel in parts on **Palm Sunday week-end—Sat, March 24 at 5:30 and Sun, March 25 at 8:45**. Readers are also wanted on **Good Friday at the 7 pm service**. You can sign up on the display board in the lobby or online from your *Weekly Update* where a link is available. There you will also find a link to the scripts so you can decide which one to read.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT ST. THOMAS

Maundy Thursday – March 29 – 7:00 pm

Good Friday – March 30

Stations of the Cross – Noon Solemn Liturgy – 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil – March 31 – 7:00 pm

Holy Communion

Easter Sunday – April 1

Sunrise Service with Holy Communion – 6:00 am

Apostle's Garden (in Nave if inclement weather)

**Communion at 8:45 am, 10:45 am,
and 5:00 pm** (incense at this service only)

The Nursery will be open for children birth through age 3 during the Good Friday service, Easter Vigil services, and the 8:45 and 10:45 am Sunday services.

Dear St. Thomas people, A few weeks ago Kelly Lillis let me know that she is resigning from her position as Director of Nursery. Kelly has served St. Thomas in this position for the last five years. I am very grateful for her loving and professional presence to the children of our parish. Over the last years we have experienced a lot of growth in our children's program and Kelly has been an important part of that! Her last Sunday will be on Easter Sunday. I hope all of you will join me in thanking her for her ministry. She has let me know she plans to be active at St. Thomas as a parishioner going forward! I will begin the process of finding a new director in the coming weeks. If you know someone that would be a good fit, would like to work for about 5 hours on average a week, that would be very helpful! Fr. Gar

OUTREACH

BREAKFAST AT ST. PAUL'S MARCH 31! St. Thomas will be helping at the "Breakfast at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 31. There are two volunteer shifts—stay for one or both shifts!

- Shift 1—arrive by 7:30am to prepare and set up a nutritious home cooked breakfast. Shift one is done by 9:30am.
- Shift 2—arrive by 9:15am to serve breakfast and to clean up. Shift two is done around 11:45am.

There will always be veteran volunteers there to help guide & support.

ALL DETAILS are included on the sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex or online in your Weekly Update. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Elman (dan.elman@yahoo.com / 913.620.5100)

COMANCHE COMMUNITY COOKOUT EVENT

When: Thursday, April 5, 2018
Community Event 6pm -7:30pm
Volunteer times vary 4pm-8pm



Where: Comanche Elementary, 8200 Grant Ave. OPKS

Volunteers Needed! St. Thomas and other organizations will again host the Annual Community Cookout event for children and families of Comanche Elementary. There will be a variety of community info booths and activities for the kids with the hopes of growing the relationships between the families and staff of Comanche and the organizations within the school's community.

We will be providing the burgers, hotdogs, desserts, and drinks and volunteers will be needed with setup/cleanup, grilling, providing dessert, and serving. If you are able to help, please sign up via SignUp Genius (linked on the Weekly email Update), or on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. *Contact: Deacon Fran Wheeler - fwheeler@stthomasop.org*

IHN UPDATE- APRIL HOST WEEK SIGN-UPS

Trained Volunteers are needed Wednesday, April 11, and Thursday, April 12, to help at First Christian Church of Olathe during their April Host Week. April will be the final Host week at FCC. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the St. Thomas church office.

Our St. Thomas congregation makes this ministry possible by donating food and supplies. A donation sign-up sheet is also on the bulletin board. All items are due at St. Thomas by Sunday, April 8, before the

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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.

K2K BENEFIT (Kansas to Kenya) - Sat., April 14, 2018

Cocktails 6:30pm • Dinner 7:30pm

Join us for a fun filled evening at St. Thomas featuring: Silent Auction • African Entertainment • Dinner catered by A Taste of Africa, benefitting: Agatha Amani House, a shelter for women of domestic violence/ Osbourne Library in Maai Mahiu & St. Nicholas Library in Nakuru / Ngeya Primary School, and other various projects.

Tickets: \$75/person or \$500/table and may be ordered by calling the Diocesan Office at 1(800) 473-3563 or at (785) 235-9255. Or you can order online at: <https://edok.formstack.com/forms/k2k2018>.

Kansas to Kenya is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas that works with other organizations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya. Contact: Joe Bob Lake—jlake10@kc.rr.com or Deacon Fran Wheeler—fwheeler@stthomasop.org.

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ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP TO BEGIN IN APRIL—Starts April

8—St. Thomas will begin an Alzheimer's Support Group sponsored by the Heart of America Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The group will meet every second Sunday from 4-5:30pm in the Assembly Room. Contact: The Rev. Kelly Demo, 451-0512, X224 or kdemo@stthomasop.org.

FAITH CLUB UPDATE—We now have four faith clubs formed and

meeting!! Several male parishioners have asked if we could start a men's group. I do believe this could work. We also have plans to begin a college age-mid 20's female group. If you are interested in either, **OR** you wish to be put on a list to jump-start a new women's group, call Charlotte Brotherson 913-441-9262 or e-mail charlotteb@yahoo.com.

There will be another informational meeting on Sat, **March 24**, from 10:00-12:00 in Parish Hall 1. Faith Club members and those who have an interest in meeting some Faith Club members, will socialize and snack on amazing food. Bring a friend and join with us and meet the lovely ladies we now call dear friends.

THE ST. THOMAS TRASH ENCLOSURE UPDATE—Our trash enclosure

is being locked again to deter others from putting trash in our bin, causing overage charges. For those who are in charge of events and may need to dispose of trash afterwards—**your key will work in the padlock to open the doors of the enclosure!** We ask that you please inform others in your groups of this change! Thank you.

THANK YOU TO THE PRAYER SHAWL SMALL GROUP

To the wonderful people at St. Thomas, You've no idea how much it meant to me to receive the beautiful prayer shawl. As I wear it, I can feel your prayers and it gives me comfort. Thank you for thinking of a stranger in need of comfort. You have truly been a blessing. The love of Christ to you all—Betty—Topeka

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, March 18

8:45 AM Holy Communion-Nave
9:45 AM Choir Practice-Nave Loft; Children & Youth Sun Sch-Educ Wing & LL; Adult Forum-PH 2
10:45 AM Holy Communion-Nave
1:30-3 PM K2K mtg-PH 1
2-4 PM Small Group Training-Asbly
6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 2, 3, Educ Wing

**COFFEE HOURS
AFTER EACH SERVICE
IN PH 1—9:45
AND 11:45**

Monday, March 19

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
7:00 PM Westmont Neighborhood mtg-Asbly

Tuesday, March 20

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

Wednesday, March 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
11:15 AM Setup for Lenten Lunch-PH 1, 2, K
Noon-1PM Lenten Lunch Series-PH 1, 2, K
1-1:30 PM Lenten Lunch Cleanup-PH 1, 2, K
5:00 PM Children & Youth Choir rehearsal-Asbly
6:45 PM Praise Band practice-Nave
7:30 PM Choir practice-Nave

Thursday, March 22

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

Friday, March 23

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

Saturday, March 24

10AM-Noon Palm Cross Making-PH 3; Requiem Reh.-Nave; Faith Cllub PH 1, 2
Noon-2PM Walk thru Holy Week reh-PH, Asbly, other locations
5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave

EASTER MEMORIALS ARE DUE SUNDAY, MARCH 25!