

Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God...

- *In honor of Dan Elman's birthday. We are so grateful for such a loving father and husband.—Love Bre and Lynn Elman*
- *In celebration of our 62nd wedding anniversary—from Lea & Maryanne Rowland*



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You are invited to share your special events with the congregation by making a donation to the flower fund for altar flowers. A beautiful arrangement to commemorate thanksgivings or remembrances will be displayed and noted in the weekly news.

You can sign up on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board down the hallway by the office, sign up on the link provided in your weekly email, send an email to the church—stthomas@stthomasop.org, or give us a call. Let us know the weekend you prefer and what you'd like to include in the weekly Tower Talk and email update. More than one person/family may sign up on a given weekend. Information is needed *at least a week before* the date you sign up. Suggested donation is \$50.

When you sign up in advance you will receive an email or phone call about a month in advance asking for details about your commemoration.

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.**



Interfaith & International Youth Movie Night- Friday, August 10—5:30-8:30pm

Interfaith and International Youth Movie Night! On Friday, Aug. 10, from 5:30-8:30. All junior and senior high youth are invited to come to St. Thomas to join the Pan-Africa Leadership delegation for an evening of dinner, a movie, and conversation. This event is sponsored by the Faith Always Wins Foundation (Mindy Corporon, CEO), and St. Thomas is honored to be hosting this event. There is no cost for the event and vegetarian options will be available. If you are interested in attending or have questions please contact Mthr. Kelly Demo or Brian Gordon.

Ministry Opportunities await YOU with our Children & Youth Ministry!

You've noticed our amazing Children & Youth Ministries...here's an EASY way to get in on the action on Sundays when you're already here for church! We currently have need for...

- Sunday School Teachers—primarily in our upper elementary and youth classes (Teachers work in teams of at least 2 with an easy to follow curriculum, trading off duties, and substitutes are ALWAYS available.)
- NEW! Sunday Morning "Buddies" - primarily in our younger elementary and preschool classrooms. These individuals age 16+ will act as helpers to teachers and children in the Sunday School classroom. (This job can be shared!)
- Children's Church Leaders—choose the Sundays and services at which you lead a short easy story and activity for children during the lessons at our regular church services.

Many of our newer teachers are surprised when they realize how much they themselves learn about their own faith through sharing the Gospel with children. Teaching or participating in a Sunday School class can be a beautiful and meaningful part of an adult's own spiritual development—not to mention the amazing feeling you get when you know that you have been important in the life of a child!

Celebrating our Children & Youth

During the summer PLEASE send us your kids' accomplishments! New positions for next year? Please share! We want to celebrate with you! Send them to Kelly Demo—kdemo@stthomasop.org or Barbara McCall—bmccall@stthomasop.org.

TOWER TALK

August 11 & 12, 2018

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES
WILL NOT MEET THROUGH AUGUST.
THEY WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 9.

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THE CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING CLASS HAS BEEN POSTPONED.
WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED WHEN WE HAVE A NEW DATE!



Join us for

RALLY DAY

Blessing of the Backpacks/Blessing of the Teachers All-Parish Picnic Sunday, August 19

All students (at any age) are invited to bring their backpacks, laptop/tablet cases, etc. to either Sunday service for a blessing and a small gift from the church.

After each service join us in the parish hall for a potluck picnic, children/youth/family ministry sign up, and all kids are invited to bring their swimsuit & towel for fun on our inflatable Slip n' Slide!



Please sign up in the Narthex or click the QR code to bring a side dish, dessert or to assist with clean up. See you there!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...Fall Christian Education for
Adults and Youth and Sunday School begin on Sunday,
September 9!

Outreach • Volunteer • Donate

IHN Important Dates:

August 19—Blessing of Classrooms & Assembly Room

9:45—Fr Gar and Mtr Kelly will bless these areas which will now be used 4 times a year to provide hospitality and overnight shelter to IHN guests. **All parishioners are invited to the Blessing.**

August 26—St. Thomas HOST week begins

11:45 Set up rooms with air mattresses, etc
12:00 Food & Supply deadline
4:45 IHN Guests arrive at St. Thomas

August 26—Sept 2 IHN guests spend evenings and overnights at St. Thomas

Sept 2—St. Thomas HOST week ends

7:30am IHN Guests last morning
7:30am Take Down- deflate mattresses, reset for Sunday School

Sept 19—6:30-8:30 IHN Volunteer Training in Parish Hall

Next Training - Wednesday, Sept. 19, at St. Thomas

All volunteers interacting with guests must complete the 2 hour training conducted by the IHN Training Team. Trained volunteers must attend every 3 years as a refresher. Attendees must arrive on time and stay until the program is completed to be considered trained.

Check the bulletin board beside the church office for food or items needed. Untrained volunteers are needed for set up and take downs; trained volunteers for all other positions.

Questions about our IHN Host week? Please contact Margaret Walkenshaw 913 897 4766 or Dola McNow 913 526 3573

IHN serves situationally homeless families and single women in Johnson County. Currently being served by IHN:
2 families (Mom & Dad+ 1 child; Mom + 3 children) and
2 single women (approx. ages 40/60yrs) in IHN.

For more information about IHN go to www.jocoihn.org

Outreach cont. in next column

Comanche Elementary

Comanche Elementary is a school in the Shawnee Mission school district that we have supported with various ministries. A Title I school with an 86% rate of students on free and reduced lunches; 44% percent are ELL Students, and also has a high count of families being deported. Often times one parent is left behind to care for the family. In many cases families are doubling up in the same household, and frequently, many young children are considered latch key kids as they are left home alone after school. St.

Thomas initially began supporting this school as a community partner with the distribution of Harvester's BackSnacks, a ministry which provides healthy snack type food for the weekend on a weekly basis throughout the school year. Our ministries with Comanche have grown over the past several years, and we now have many ways in which we continue to support this school. As part of these ministries St Thomas again offered to reach out to 50 Comanche students by assisting with their needs for backpacks and school supplies.



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PHOTO DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE

The photo directories have been printed and are on a table in the narthex. If we run out, don't panic—we'll make more copies. One per family, please. If for some reason your picture was not included in the photo section, please send a photo to Fr. Gar—gdemo@stthomasop.org—and we'll make sure it's included in the next updated directory.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SMALL GROUP

We are a regular small group as we will build community and start off with a book, but we don't really want to be a book study. We want to pray together, experience God and care for each other. Also, it is my hope that we will always be open and inviting to whoever wants to participate however much they can participate. We are grounded in Christ and St. Thomas but these are not prerequisites to participation—simply our roots and foundation. Culturally Contemplative Prayer is the cousin of Mindfulness and has some similar characteristics. As Christians this is a pivotal way to learn to listen to that "still, small voice" of the Holy Spirit since God rarely yells. We aren't experts or gurus and no experience is required. Please join us!

We will meet the 1st (August 7) and 3rd (August 21) Tuesdays of the month in the sanctuary of St. Thomas at 7:00pm.

If you have any questions you can email Steve Connelly at stevencps12@gmail.com or call him at 913-221-9618.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, August 12

8:45 & 10:45 AM Holy Communion
"Coffee Hours" after each service in PH 1

9:45 AM Choir Practice-Nave Loft
No Sunday School or Adult Forum through August

Monday, August 13

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K

1:30 PM Staff meeting-PH 2

7:00 PM Outreach Team-Rm 134

Tuesday, August 14

Floors cleaned in Education Wing

10-12:30 Actor's Choice reh-Asbly Rm

7:00 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Wednesday, August 15

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K

Thursday, August 16

7:00 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, August 17

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K

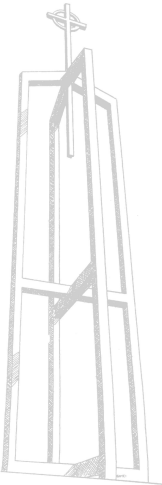
7PM SCA-Asbly

Saturday, August 18

10-12 Prayer Shawl Small Grp-PH 1

5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave

Asbly = Assembly Room in Education Wing; K = Kitchen;
Educ Wing = Education Wing | PH = Parish Hall



To view the church calendar go to our website, www.stthomasop.org, and click on *Calendar* on the upper right side. To hold a meeting or event at St. Thomas you must first clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office.
