

TOWER TALK

August 18 & 19, 2018



THIS SUNDAY IS RALLY DAY!

Blessing of the Backpacks

All students will be invited to bring their backpacks/school bags forward during the announcements at each Sunday service for a special blessing & gift from the parish to honor the start of their school year. We will also call forward all of our educators for a blessing as they prepare to teach new groups of students this year.

Children/Youth Ministry Fair, All-Parish Picnic and T-Shirt Sale

Join us in the Parish Hall for food, fun and an opportunity for everyone to sign up for worship ministries for children & youth (including Jr. Ushers/Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes, Children/Youth Choirs) and adult volunteer positions (Children's Church Leaders). We will also have Our Inflatable Slip & Slide available from 9:30am to 1:00pm on the patio in front of the West Entry Doors to the Narthex. Lastly, don't miss your chance to pick up your own St. Thomas Summer 2018 t-shirt in the parish hall and help our youth kick off their fundraising for the 2018-19 year! This year's shirts are available for \$10, and last year's are available for \$8.

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

PHOTO DIRECTORIES

More 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.



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

Breanne Geary finished 10th in the nation in the Jr. Olympics 4 X 800 event. Congratulations Bre!

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.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP will begin their fall study on Wednesday, September 12—10:30am until Noon.

Loving the Two Halves of Life:

The Further Journey

All are welcome!

For information call Jan Summers 913-522-7938.

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

- *In thanksgiving to God for His blessings on fifty-two years of marriage—Jerry & Connie Snider*
- *In celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary—Geoff & Nancy Williams*



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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 stthomas@stthomasop.org, use the QR code below, 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.



THANK YOU!

To one of the summer youth ROTC groups: Hillcrest Transitional Housing would like to thank you all for coming out to our Kansas campus and volunteering your time. So much work was accomplished in keeping our campus clean and beautiful for our residents. Your help was much needed and truly appreciated. Thank you! - The Hillcrest Team

To Thom's Helpers: Nyakio and I want to say thanks for helping set up the Parish Hall this April for the K2K Fundraiser. You guys are great!

- Joe Bob & Nyakio for K2K

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 McNown 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

A huge thank you for all the support provided with our school supply collection for Comanche Elementary.

Our packing party and breakfast was a morning filled with great food, fun, fellowship and successful packing!

Thanks to you, all 50 backpacks were filled and delivered just in time for the first day of school!



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GUILD OF THE CHRIST CHILD—MANY THANKS!

Thank you all very much for your generous contributions to our collection of baby things and monetary donations for the Guild of Christ Child bags. We received many diapers, wipes, onesies and other baby needs. Our new bags have arrived and we are planning a packing party for Saturday, September 22, from 10am-Noon in Parish Hall 1. If anyone would like to help pack bags for babies please come join us. All are welcome!!

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 (Sept 4) 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.

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.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, August 19

RALLY DAY & BLESSING OF BACKPACKS DURING SERVICES
8:45 & 10:45 AM Holy Communion
"Coffee Hours" after each service in PH 1

No Sunday School or Adult Forum through August

9:45 AM Choir Practice-Nave Loft
6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 1, 2, 3, K

Monday, August 20

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
1-4 PM Actor's Choice reh-PH 1
1:30 PM Staff meeting-PH 2
6:30 PM Westmont Neighborhood Mtg-Asbly

Tuesday, August 21

Carpets cleaned in Offices & Main hallway
10-12:30 Actor's Choice reh-Asbly Rm
7:00 PM Contemplative Prayer small grp-Nave
Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Wednesday, August 22

Carpets cleaned in Nave/Narthex; Kitchen floor grouted
10-12:30 Actor's Choice reh-PH 1 or 2
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
6-8 PM Pinehurst Estates HOA mtg-PH 1

Thursday, August 23

12:30-2:30 Daytime Bridge-Asbly
7:00 PM Classics Men's small grp-Asbly
Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, August 24

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

Saturday, August 25

5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave

Sunday, August 26—September 2

IHN HOSTING WEEK-Educ Wing, K—Rooms TBD

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.

