

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

- In memory of Maxine Ott & James Ott, Chrissy, Monique and Cheryl Ott—from John Kovelan



- In thanksgiving for 60 years of wonderful marriage and for our four "perfect" children and their families—Fred & Shirley Roberts

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You can sign up on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board by the office, send an email to stthomas@stthomasop.org, or give us a call 913-451-0512. 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 to Meribeth in the office—mrisebig@stthomasop.org

This Sunday: Sunday School, Youth, Adult Forum

9:45-10:35am—Children/Youth in the Education Wing

10am—Adult Forum (Parish Hall 2)

This week you'll hear all about the adult mission trip to San Antonio.

St. Thomas Annual HAYRIDE & HOT DOG ROAST Sunday, November 3, 5-8pm Cost \$8/person



Hot Dogs & S'more Fixins provided; feel free to bring chips/salad/sides to share. Sign up with the link provided in your weekly Email Update or on the display board in the Narthex. ****Signing up ahead of time helps us to know if we can offer TWO hayride times (which means an earlier option for those who wish to get home earlier in the evening).****

Newcomer Lunch - Sunday, Nov. 10

New members and visitors are invited to attend our next Newcomer lunch on Sunday, November 10, at 12pm in Parish Hall 2. We would like to welcome you at the lunch and introduce you to the staff, clergy, leadership of St. Thomas as well as other new members. Please let us know if you can come by contacting the St. Thomas office 913-451-0512 or Jean Adam 913-530-9097 jean_adam2004yahoo.com.



St. Thomas Women's Retreat 2019

***Taking Sunday to Monday and Beyond:
Practical Spiritual Practices For Everyday Life***
November 15-16 (Friday 5pm-Saturday 3pm)

You can now sign up online with the link in your weekly email update. Copies of the registration form are also in the Narthex. Turn them in to the office once completed.



Remember: Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday, November 2. Don't forget to fall back!.

TOWER TALK

OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2019

All are invited to The DEDICATION of the NEW ORGAN This Sunday, October 20, 3:00pm

During this special service we will hear the wonderful new sonic possibilities from the new digital/pipe organ: a Bach toccata; *Nova*—an exploding star; *Litanies*—pray without ceasing; *Trumpet Dialogue*—reeds spectacular; hymns and choir; and of course, prayers of dedication and thanksgiving for the wonderful new instrument. A reception will follow.

You won't want to miss the IWC Ministry Fair

October 26 & 27

Do you know all of the ministries that take place at St. Thomas or by St. Thomas parishioners out in our community? Make plans to stop by the Invite/Welcome/Connect Ministry Fair on Saturday, Oct. 26, after the 5:30pm service or before or after each of the Sunday services on Oct. 27. It's a great way to see how St. Thomas supports its members as well as the outreach we do for our neighbors. If you sign up for a ministry you will get a raffle ticket and be entered in a prize drawing. ***You can even sign up if you are already a member of a ministry.*** Invite/Welcome/Connect Team

TRUNK OR TREAT and BBQ COOK-OFF!

Sunday, October 27, 5-7pm

Bring out the costumes & candy bags...join us in the St. Thomas Parking Lot for your first round of loot at our annual Trunk or Treat! This free event is open to EVERYONE (so bring friends & neighbors)!



Then, after you've worked up an appetite...join us in the Parish Hall for some dinner, games and more treats at our FIRST ANNUAL BBQ Cook-Off in the Parish Hall!! Cost is \$5/person or \$20/family. All are welcome!!



We invite everyone who loves to BBQ to **ENTER OUR COOK-OFF!** Maybe you love to smoke ribs or brisket or have the best smoked sausage recipe. You will use your cooker at home to smoke the meat, then bring to the Cook-Off.

Please sign up on the display board in the narthex or the link to an online sign up in your weekly email updates. Yes, there will be prizes! If you have questions contact Mother Kelly.

IHN FAMILY NEWS

Please join us in welcoming the newest addition to our IHN Family, Lori (58). We are also currently on hold with a new family admission, Tracy (29), and Lianna (4), of whom we are covering the cost of a motel for two nights (they would otherwise have been sleeping in their car). Thanks to the consistent and overwhelming generosity of our IHN Family, we were able to cover the cost of a motel. Tracy and Lianna slept well and safely. Tracy has started a new job, and we will obtain reference checks and national background checks with a planned admission soon.

We CELEBRATE Brenda M., single, who will be graduating into her new apartment one week from today. She is so excited and we are so proud of her accomplishments! She got her name on the income-based single individual housing list on admission. On her graduation date she will have successfully worked the program in 55 days!!! :-)

Finally, our other Brenda and grandson David, were involved in a serious car accident last week. They were on I-70 when two tires blew out and her van hit the concrete barrier between lanes. Thankfully, beyond some bruises and PTSD, she and David are doing well. Sadly, her vehicle was totaled. I told her last Friday that I was going to e-mail out a request for a donated vehicle. It has been some time since a vehicle was donated and today our prayers were answered. A donor reached out with a 2002 Toyota Camry that we will gladly accept as a donation. God had a hand in their safe return to IHN, as well as the donation of a vehicle!

As I reflect on the progress of all of our guests, I am reminded that their successes are your successes! We are all blessed to be a part of our guests journey to stability! **As always, thank you all for ALL you do to "lift up" and support IHN! Feel the love and gratitude,**

Vicki L. Dercher, MSW, LSCSW
Executive Director—Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network

IHN Host Week Signups on bulletin board Sign Up Sheets for Volunteers and Food/Supply Donations

Our St. Thomas Host week serving situationally homeless families and single women will be Nov. 24 - Dec. 1. IHN guests will stay evenings and overnight here in our church, sleeping in classrooms converted to sleeping rooms. With help from our Support Congregations we will also provide all meals that week.

IHN consists of 40 congregations of many different denominations. Twelve "Host" congregations provide evening/overnight shelter and meals for families and women. The other "Support" congregations help by sending volunteers and supplies needed. At the daytime Family Center guests receive intense, one-on-one counseling, opportunities to learn financial and budgeting skills, with additional support to improve needed skills such as computer assistance, job searches and interview skills.

Volunteers interacting with guests must have completed one 2-hr training session presented by IHN trainers. IHN also asks that all trained volunteers attend

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IHN cont.

training as a refresher at least every 3 years. Other volunteers to help set up or take down St. Thomas classrooms or laundry bedding after Host weekends do not need to be trained by IHN.

Questions? Contact one of our St. Thomas coordinators: Dola McNown 913 526 3573 - dolamcnown49@gmail.com or Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018 - mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net or Connie Snider, laundry coordinator, 913 913 709 1431, conniesnider@hotmail.com

Stewardship at St. Thomas: Dealing with Curveballs (or Snowballs!) in Life

As Chairperson of the Finance Committee, let me start by expressing how appreciative I am of the support each of you provides to our St. Thomas family through your commitment of "treasure". We could not deliver on our mission of serving God's Kingdom in our community without your generosity in time and talent, but we also need the financial support too! Through August 31, our pledge payments are almost right on track with the proportion budgeted: 65% received vs. 67% of the year.

Our church's expenses are not so different from any household's expenses: we have lights and water to keep on; we have a mortgage to pay off; we have kids to educate. We all owe a debt of gratitude to our entire staff at St. Thomas for being such excellent stewards of our resources. Through August 31, our total expenses are just above the proportion budgeted: 70% spent vs. 67% of the year.

Just like your family might encounter an unexpected car repair or medical expense, our parish incurred one major unexpected expense: snow/ice removal during this past winter. We had an unusually heavy amount of ice, and rather than close the church, we took on additional expense to keep the parking lot and sidewalks as safe as possible so that we all could continue to access the building for worship and many other activities. The extra expense was \$12,000 over our year-to-date budget, and this currently accounts for the majority of our projected overage in spending for 2019. (And of course, we also don't know what the weather holds for the rest of 2019!)

We've done the hard work of "tightening our belts" by cutting back on some expenses, finding new cost-saving measures, and keeping other necessary expenses within our budget. As we enter Stewardship season, thank you for completing your pledge payments for 2019 and for prayerfully considering what your 2020 pledge may be. I have confidence that together we will resolve the shortfall in our current budget during the end of the calendar year. I also have faith that the Holy Spirit will guide each of us to give of our time, talents, and treasure as we are each able, and that those gifts will grow and advance our service to God in our parish and the greater community.

Peace, George Phillips



All Saints' and Stewardship Weekend services
November 2—5:30pm. BBQ dinner & beverages following.
November 3—10:00am. BBQ lunch & beverages following.

THE WEEK AHEAD

This Saturday, October 19

5:30 PM Holy Communion

This Sunday, October 20

8:45 & 10:45 Holy Communion-Nave
9:45 AM Children & Youth Sunday School-Educ Wing; Choir Practice-Nave loft
10 AM Adult Forum-PH 2
3:00 PM Organ Dedication, Reception following in PH 1
6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 1, 2, 3, K
7-9 PM Scouts Religious Emblem Program-Asbly, Rms 133/134/137

Monday, October 21

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K, Rm 137
1:30 PM Staff Mtg-PH 2
6:30 PM Westmont Neighborhood mtg-Asbly

Tuesday, October 22

2-3 PM Walking the Mourner's Path-PH 3
2:30-7:30 Asbly reserved for Voice Lessons
7-8:30 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 3;

Wednesday, October 23

10:30 AM Wednesday Study Group-Asbly
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K, Rm 137
6-8 PM Pinehurst Estates HOA mtg-PH 1
6:30 PM Walking the Mourner's Path-PH 3
6:45 PM Praise Band rehearsal-Nave
7:00 PM EfM-Asbly
7:30 PM Adult Choir rehearsal-Nave

Thursday, October 24

12:30-2:30 Daytime Bridge-Asbly
7-9 PM PH 1 reserved for Emily Barnes; Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, October 25

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
7-10 PM PH 1 reserved for SCA

Saturday, October 26

5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave
6:30-7:30 Ministry Fair-PH 1, 2, 3

Sunday, October 27—Ministry Fair after each service in PH 1, 2, 3; Trunk or Treat and BBQ cook-off 5-7pm in parking lot and Parish Hall

Asbly = Assembly Room in Education Wing; K = Kitchen; Narthex = Lobby
Educ Wing = Education Wing; PH = Parish Hall; Nave = Sanctuary

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. ****

"Coffee Hours"
after each
service in PH 1

