

The Bible Challenge 2: Mechanics

How does The Bible Challenge 2 work? First, sign up on the participation list. On the list, indicate if you would like us to order a **One Year Bible** for you. Then, tell us if you prefer to receive encouragement to continue reading through a closed Facebook group or through e-mail. During your reading, if you have questions or comments (and we hope there will be lots!), you are encouraged to email our priests. The Bibles will be distributed about mid-December. When the Bibles arrive, a \$12 voluntary donation (a check made payable to St Thomas) is requested. Sign up today! You can do this! And we will help.

INVITE/WELCOME/CONNECTION - IWC INCLUDES YOU!

Advent - is the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world. It is a time to remind us to invite those we know into our preparation for Christmas. On the welcome desk in the narthex, there are *Christmas Invite cards* that you can use to invite someone to church. You don't have to wait until Christmas, include them in our Advent too.

Think about what St. Thomas means to you and be willing to share that with others as we make ready for the Christmas season.
- Invite/Welcome/Connect Team -

IT'S TIME FOR VESTRY NOMINATIONS! The vestry, along with the Rector of the parish share in the work of vision and oversight of the congregation. By canon the Vestry is to care for the building and the fiduciary matters of the congregation. At St. Thomas the vestry takes on the "big" picture items and works to move the congregation toward its mission and vision. The vestry is made up of 12 elected members. To qualify a person must be 18 yrs of age, a communicant in good standing, regular in attendance and contributor of record for the last 12 months. Members serve for three years. They meet on the 4th Monday of each month and in addition, they help lock and unlock the church on the weekends.

This year Les Ganninger, Charlotte Brotherson, Ann Clements, and George Phillips will conclude their terms in January. If you would like to have your name put forward for nomination or would like to nominate someone, please be in contact with any of these people who comprise the nominating committee of the Vestry.

Les Ganninger: les.j.ganninger@sprint.com
Charlotte Brotherson: charlotte@yahoo.com
Ann Clements: kclements1@kc.rr.com
George Phillips: hawkdocmba@gmail.com

children & youth news

YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Any youth who would like to sing in the choir for the 7pm Christmas Eve service are welcome to come practice at 5pm before youth group on **Dec. 8, 15, 22.**

Celebrating our Children & Youth

Three Cheers for:

- * Weston Curnow who did an AMAZING job starring in Olathe West's recent production of *Xanadu!* Rock on!
- * Mac McArthur got first chair at All District Band!
- * Colby McArthur got third chair at All District Band!

Good luck to:

Ian Gordon and Garrett Seyler who have started their swim season and to Bre and Micah Geary who will be playing basketball for Olathe Northwest!

Calling all children ages 3 through 5th grade...

WE WANT YOU in our CHRISTMAS PAGEANT! to be shared at our 4pm Family Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2019

We are looking for children to play all sorts of roles - from walk-on sheep and stable animals, to "dancing angels," to speaking roles such as shepherds, the 3 Magi, Archangels, and the Holy Family. If your child is interested, please sign up online or on the Education Wing Bulletin Board for the type of part he/she would like to have. (Age suggestions and greater details can be found on the sign ups.) Opportunities to practice for our older students in speaking roles will begin during the 10:45 service on December 1 (encouraged, but not required). We will have a dress rehearsal/pizza party for all participants following the 10:45 service on December 22. **Please note - we ALWAYS have extra parts & costumes available for kiddos who come on Christmas Eve. So, if you have special guests joining you (cousins, friends, grandkids, etc) they are VERY welcome to join in our story and will be able to easily follow along.** For questions or more information, please contact Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org.

Notes from the Church Office

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 or call 913-451-0512.

TOWER TALK

NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1, 2019

The season of Advent begins this Sunday

"ADVENTure" Advent Wreath Making & Crafting Sunday in Parish Hall 1, 2, 3—Join us following both services for our annual Advent Wreath making event. Learn about a variety of Advent/Christmas decorations, create some of your own, and help us to create a special community work of art. A variety of Advent Wreath making materials will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Remaining supplies will continue to be available following the 10:45 service. A "FreeWill" donation to our Children & Family Ministries to assist with the cost of the Advent Wreath supplies will be collected and greatly appreciated.

Lessons & Carols during the 10:45 service—In this service, we'll listen to six Scripture lessons and each lesson is followed by an Advent hymn or anthem that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

The traditional service of lessons and carols began in England in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge. The Christmas Eve tradition of A Festival of Lessons and Carols continues there to this day, and has been widely adopted and adapted by other Christian denominations for almost a century.



Cookies! Cookies! Cookies! Scrumptious Cookies Sale—Saturday, December 7, 9am - 4pm in the parish halls

Are you ready St. Thomasians, our Cookie Sale is almost here! We are looking for your cookies. Yum! We need cookies with nuts and without nuts, decorated cookies, "Special" cookies, sugar & spice and everything ... Scrumptious! We are looking forward to lots and lots of cookies and baked goods—wonderful, yummy, COOKIES!!! 2019 will be our Best Year Ever!

Please note: Bake 4-6 dozen cookies and put them in non-returnable containers. The cookies are sold by the pound, and we encourage our customers to choose their own cookies.

**Cookies Drop-Off Times in Parish Hall 2:
Friday, Dec 6, 12:30-7pm; or Saturday, Dec 7, by 9am**

outreach * volunteer * donate

Luke 3:11 Project

"Anyone who has two coats should share with the one who has none..."

This year for our Upper Winter ROTC project the youth will be gathering gently used or new coats, mittens, hats and other warm items (adult and child sizes) AND full size deodorants, shampoos, soap, and feminine hygiene products and other toiletries. These items will be donated both to our partner school, Comanche Elementary and to True Light Church, an inner-city ministry where we will be doing our ROTC day.

Items can be placed in the donation center (large boxes) in the St. Thomas narthex. We will be accepting items from December 1 through January 3.

Thank you! *The season of Thanksgiving is all about Giving! It is a season to share the much or little we have, a season to be thoughtful of the less privileged and grateful for what we have. Your church is a shining example of what the Thanksgiving season is all about. We are so blessed to be the recipients of your donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to pay for our IHN van expenses. You can trust that your generous gift will be put to good use providing the services necessary to empower homeless families and single females in our program. Thank you for investing in IHN and those we serve!*

Vicki L. Dercher, MSW, LCSW—Executive Director

Dialogue Institute cordially invites you to "Turkic Food and Art Festival December 14, 11am—3pm

They will also have "Live Sufi Music" at 12pm and 2 pm. A Water Marbling Demo will be at 11 30am, 12 30 & 1 30pm.

You will have a chance to taste Turkish Doner (Gyro), Baklava, Turkish Pizza, stuffed flatbread, cakes and more.

They will also have water marbling, personalized folded books and pottery for sale. Pre-orders for the books accepted! Please invite your friends to this wonderful gathering!

RSVP by December 10 on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/turkic-food-and-art-festival-tickets-77868826757>

Thanks in advance!

This Sunday:

Sunday School & Adult Forum will not meet.
Come to ADVENTure!

Classes will resume on December 8.

9:45am—Children/Youth in the Education Wing
10:00am—Adult Forum will meet in Parish Hall 2

Notes on the Notes—Dr. Beth Elswick, Dir. Music Ministries

The readings for the First Sunday in Advent pairs the coming of Christ with the second coming. The music reflects this wonderful correlation. Two of my favorite hymns detail the second coming. *Days of Elijah* vividly depicts the imagery, "Behold He comes riding on the clouds, Shining like the sun at the trumpet call. Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee, And out of Zion's hill salvation comes." This hymn was written by Robin Mark and released in 1997. Similarly, the traditional hymn *Lo he comes in clouds descending* illustrates Christ's coming and was written by Charles Wesley in 1758.

Your gifts will help provide festive music and beautiful flowers at the altar during Christmas. Flowers and greens are designed and provided by the flower guild in our parish, and special music for Christmas Eve services will feature favorite carols and beautiful anthems.



If you wish to have your name included

on a special insert in the Christmas bulletins, please return the envelope found in your bulletin before Friday, December 20. On the envelope, note either flowers or music or both, and list the names of those you wish honored or the blessing(s) you wish to name, along with your donation inside (any amount).

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



**• In thanksgiving for our family—
Dan & Parthy Evans**

• Happy birthday, Susan! from Nancy Johnson

THE WEEK AHEAD

This Saturday, November 30—First Weekend in Advent

HOST Week-Educ Wing, 5:30-7:30am Sunday
5:30 PM Holy Communion

This Sunday, December 1—First Sunday in Advent

8:45 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM ADVENTure—PH 1, 2, 3, K
10:45 AM Lessons & Carols service
11:30 AM ADVENTure-PH 1, 2, 3, K
6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 1, 2, 3, K

Monday, December 2

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
1:30 PM Staff Mtg-PH 2
7:30 PM Prayer Shawl Small Grp-PH 1

Tuesday, December 3

5-6 PM Girl Scout mtg-PH 1
7-8 PM Contemplative Prayer Small Grp-Nave; Sword Guild-PH 2

Wednesday, December 4

9:30 AM Coffee Small Grp-Rm 137
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
10:30 AM Wednesday Study Grp-Asbly
6:45, 7:30 Choir rehearsals-Nave
7:00 PM EfM-Asbly

Thursday, December 5

7-8:30 PM Classics Men's Small Grp-Asbly; SCA-PH 1;
Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 7

9AM-4PM Annual Holiday Cookie Sale-PH 1, 2
5:30 PM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 8

8:45, 10:45 Holy Communion
9:45 AM Children & Youth Sunday School; Pageant Rehearsal-Educ Wing
10 AM Adult Forum
4-6 PM Youth Group Music reh for Christmas Eve -Nave
6-8 PM Youth Group Holiday Field Trip

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.

**** 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

