

children & youth news

Celebrating our Children & Youth

If your child or youth has a celebration (got in a play, won an award, aced a test, whatever!) please let Mother Kelly or Ms. Barbara know so we can all celebrate with you!

So, just what exactly *is* in that “Little Black Box”?

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are lay ministers who take communion from our Sunday service to shut-ins, primarily people in assisted living facilities/homes, hospitals, and to others who cannot be with our parish family for service due to illness or special circumstances. The Lay Eucharistic Visitor tradition dates back to the earliest years of the Christian church, serving the homebound and invalid. Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors are trained at St. Thomas and licensed by the Bishop. Each week they go forth and carry the sacraments of bread and wine to those they visit so they may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. “We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.” Lay Eucharistic Visitors care and tend to those they visit both spiritually and emotionally, and often reflect on the readings and/or the sermon. In addition, they share with one another what is currently going on in the life and community of St. Thomas, the world, and within our personal lives, enabling a growth in relationship with one another and with Christ.



Next LEV Training Class:

Sunday, 11/24

12:15pm-2:30pm in Parish Hall 3

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Visitor and would like to attend the training, or would like to hear more about this ministry, please contact Deacon Fran Wheeler: **Email: fwheeler@stthomasop.org**

The Bible Challenge 2

The Bucket List: Impossible Dream?

Some folks think of a bucket list as a wish list, an impossible dream. What if things on your bucket list became goals? When we have a goal the next thing to be done is to create a plan for achieving that goal. With The Bible Challenge 2, we have created a reading plan that will help you read the entire Bible in only 15 minutes per day! The **One Year Bible** has 4 scripture readings for each day: Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. Open the **One Year Bible** to each day's date and spend about 15 minutes reading! That's all there is to it! (And if you don't have a 15 minute block of time, you could read it in 4 shorter periods.)

Sign up today. We'll order **One Year Bibles** (a \$12 voluntary donation) for those who request one and begin reading January 1.

Cookies! Cookies! Cookies!

Now it's time for Cookies; lots and lots of Cookies! Start looking through your cookie recipes and look for Yummy, HEAVY cookies. Please bake 4-6 dozen cookies. We also like brownies and baked goods; but mostly cookies! Please sign up on the Cookies Sale signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Scrumptious Cookies Sale—Saturday, December 7, 2019 9am - 4pm

Notes on the Notes

Dr. Beth Elswick, Director of Music Ministries

El Shaddai is a sacred ballad written by Michael Card and John Thompson. The title comes from a Judaic name for God, often translated as “God Almighty.” Approximately half of the lyrics of the chorus are written in Hebrew. “Erkamka na Adonai” is based on Psalm 18:1, meaning “I love you, my Lord.”

Coffee

We are looking for more volunteers to help with Coffee Hour after the 8:45 and 10:45 services. Food and beverages are already provided; we just need assistance in brewing the coffee, setting out the morning refreshments and help with cleanup. If you're interested, please sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board. Contact: Deacon Fran Wheeler at fwheeler@stthomasop.org

TOWER TALK

NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2019

This Sunday: Sunday School, Youth, Adult Forum

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

10:00am—Adult Forum will meet in Parish Hall 2

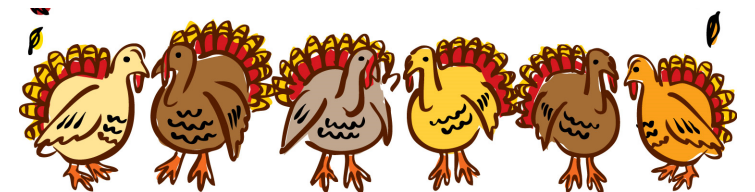
Continuing this week in Adult Forum we will listen to some important work on Gratitude. The films contain conversations inspired by Diana Butler-Bass' book *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*. In her book Diana not only offers us an opportunity for a personal and systemic transformation, but welcomes us into her own personal journey with gratitude. My hope and prayer is that these films lead you into a deeper truth in your spiritual growth and inspire you to move outward into the world with the kind of generosity and gratitude that defies systems of scarcity and brings healing to the world.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet

Thanksgiving means the expression of gratitude, especially to God. What better way to celebrate here at St. Thomas than by coming to church for a Thanksgiving meal. We will be serving a traditional meal with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving Day from 12:30-3pm in our Parish Halls. No need to cook; just come and enjoy some food and fellowship whether you will be alone or have the whole family for the holiday. We will be offering our meal to others in the community that want to come and eat with us. What a wonderful way to reach out to the community and offer food on such a special day by breaking bread (and turkey legs) with each other. We can use some help all day long or for a couple of hours with cooking, serving, or clean up. Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex and a link in your Weekly Email Update. Come whenever you can for as long as you can to either eat, help or both.

Any questions contact Donna Fye 913-963-5815 djfyee@gmail.com.

Psalm 107:9 *For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.*



outreach * volunteer * donate

HOST WEEK Set-up/Take-down Good News!

With part of the 2019 Outreach Budget we will be able to purchase some new air mattresses for Host week. **These new beds self-inflate and deflate in approx. 2 Minutes!** That's great news for those who help with Set Up and Take Down.

Set up and take down volunteers are critical to our Hosting. When guests arrive at 4:45 on Sunday afternoon they settle their personal belongings in the classroom assigned to them and put the sheets on their beds. At the end of Host week we need to clear beds, etc. from rooms and quickly get the rooms ready for Sunday School classes. This new equipment will help make both transitions easier. The beds are also more comfortable so guests should sleep well here at St. Thomas.

Set Up and Take Down Volunteers do not need to attend IHN training. We still need a few more people to help with both positions. Please consider helping with this important work and sign up on the bulletin board!

Set Up is Sunday, Nov. 24, immediately following the 10:45 service. Take Down is Sunday, Dec. 1, at 7:30am. (IHN Family Center opens at 8am on Sundays so guests leave at 7:30am.)

FOOD & SUPPLIES DEADLINE REMINDER- ALL DONATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY NOON ON SUNDAY, NOV. 24.

Caring for Kids – Comanche Elementary “Operation Rudolph”

When: Friday, December 13

Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Where: Tomahawk Ridge Community Center
11902 Lowell Ave. Overland Park, KS 66213



The Overland Park Police Department will be holding their annual “Operation Rudolph” Event on 12/13. This event sponsors children from Overland Park and Shawnee Mission School Districts for a day of Christmas shopping. Overland Park Police officers will take 5 students from each school shopping at Target, and they each will be provided with Target Gift Cards so that they may shop for Christmas gifts for their families.

Volunteers are needed to assist during shopping day at Tomahawk Ridge Community Center with craft activities, snacks, and gift wrapping for the kids. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Sgt. Richard Breshears with the Overland Park Police Department by phone (913) 895-6287 or by E-mail at richard.breshears@opkansas.org

Laughter Yoga Workshop
November 23, 6:30pm in Parish Hall 1

The workshop will be conducted by Maurine Pachter, a certified Laughter Yoga leader. Maurine leads the program at Village Shalom and works with preschool children around the KC area. For all ages! Laughter Yoga allows you to let yourself go and involves the physical and the spiritual. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Maurine at 816-437-1926 or email mssunshine07@hotmail.com.



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

- In loving memory of Brian Carman on his 39th birthday. We miss you every day! - from Jerry, Susan, and Will*
- In thanks for Thom's Helpers and those blessed with the opportunity to work alongside them— from Cathy McCormick*

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.

To view the church calendar go to our website, www.stthomasop.org, and click on Calendar on the upper right.

THE WEEK AHEAD

This Saturday, November 16

Women's Retreat-Heartland Center in Parkville, MO
8AM-1PM Blood Drive-PH 2, 3 (walk-ins welcome!)

10-12	Prayer Shawl Small Grp-PH 1; Asbly reserved (C. Campbell)
5:30 PM	Holy Communion

This Sunday, November 17

8:45 AM	Holy Communion
9:45 AM	Children & Youth Sunday School-Educ Wing
10:00 AM	Adult Formation-PH 2
10:45 AM	Holy Communion
12:30-2PM	PH 1 reserved for Docking Book-Signing
2-3:30 PM	PH 2 reserved for Empowering Minds Intl. mtg
6-8 PM	Youth Group-PH 1, 2, 3, K

“Coffee Hours”
after each
service in PH 1

Monday, November 18

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, November 19

2-3 PM	Walking the Mourner's Path-PH 3
2:30-5 PM	Asbly reserved for Voice Lessons
5-6 PM	Girl Scout mtg-PH 1
7-8 PM	Sword Guild-PH 2; Book Club-PH 3; Contemplative Prayer Small Grp-Nave

Wednesday, November 20

9:30 AM	Coffee Small Grp-Rm 137
10:30 AM	Wednesday Study Group-Asbly
10:30-1:30	Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K, Rm 134, 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, November 21

7-9 PM	SCA-PH 1; Sword Guild practice-PH 2
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Friday, November 22

10:30-1:30	Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
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Saturday, November 23

5:30 PM	Holy Communion
6:30 PM	Laughter Yoga Workshop-PH 1

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

****To hold a meeting or event at St. Thomas you must first clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office. ****

