

## 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 would like to hear more about this ministry, please contact Deacon Fran Wheeler: **Email: [fwheeler@stthomasop.org](mailto:fwheeler@stthomasop.org)**

## Cookies! Cookies! Cookies!

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

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! Are you ready St. Thomasians, our Cookie Sale is almost here!

## 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 Face Book 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.

## children & youth news

### Congratulations to:

- \* Henry Revare who got third trumpet chair in SM East's Symphonic Band (that's a big deal for a freshman!!)
- \* Asher Demo who will be playing young Don Lockwood in SM Northwest's production of Singin' in the Rain!
- \* Gwen Campbell whose cheer squad got 2nd place in Dance and Cheer at a recent competition!
- \* Mac and Colby McArthur. Their marching band placed 37th out of 120 bands at NATIONALS! What a great season!
- \* Bre Geary was named Olathe Northwest Heisman Scholarship Winner. She is one of 1800 female athletes nationally, 70 in Kansas and one of three in the Olathe district.

### 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 1st (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](mailto:bmccall@stthomasop.org).

## 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](mailto:fwheeler@stthomasop.org)

# TOWER TALK

NOVEMBER 23 & 24, 2019

## 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 sign-up 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 [difyee@gmail.com](mailto:difyee@gmail.com) or 913-963-5815.

## Get Ready for an "ADVENTure!"

### Sunday, December 1, following each Sunday Service

Join us for this all-parish hands-on workshop as we begin this special season of waiting for the arrival of the Christ Child. As is tradition, our activities will include an opportunity to create a take-home advent wreath, as well as a variety of other crafts and a potluck continental breakfast. If you have purchased a metal wreath form from us previously, or you have a special wreath form at home you would like to decorate, you are more than welcome (and encouraged) to bring it with you as we work to re-use/re-purpose as many materials as possible with care for Creation in mind. Decorations will be provided, but there is always room for more if anyone would like to bring extra ribbons or crafting materials they would like to get rid of. Other activities at our ADVENTure workshop will include prayer beads (shared with us by Donna Fye and our 5th, 6th and 7th grade Sunday School class), special ornaments called "Chrismons" to decorate a special tree here at St. Thomas, and creating Christmas Cards for members of our parish who are unable to attend worship to be delivered by our Lay Eucharistic Visitors during the month of December. This workshop takes the place of our Sunday Morning Christian Ed classes, and families are highly encouraged to work together on these special projects (as some materials, such as hot glue guns, floral pins and wire trimmers, require adult supervision for our younger members).

Please consider bringing a continental breakfast item to share, or joining us for help with cleanup following each coffee hour - all help will be greatly appreciated. A Sign-Up is available online and in the Narthex to help us know what areas need the most help.

## outreach \* volunteer \* donate

### HOST WEEK Prayer Request

IHN guests are staying here at St. Thomas this week. We currently have 3 families with children and a single female. They will be here Nov. 24-Dec. 1 for the evening meal, spend the evening and sleep overnight here. We ask prayers for all those we serve as well as the volunteers from St. Thomas, Church of Jesus Christ, First Christian of Olathe and Overland Park First Assembly of God.

Thank you to all the volunteers and members of St. Thomas the Apostle. With the help of many in the parish, We Make a Difference.

**FOOD & SUPPLY REMINDER- ALL DUE BY NOON ON SUNDAY, NOV. 24. Help is needed with Setup – Sunday, Nov. 24, as soon as 10:45 service ends!**

### 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

(Note that for student safety a short background check is required with all volunteers.)

### 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](mailto:mrisebig@stthomasop.org) or call 913-451-0512.

### 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

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*. 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.

**Sunday School & Adult Forum will not meet on Dec 1.  
Come to ADVENTure!**

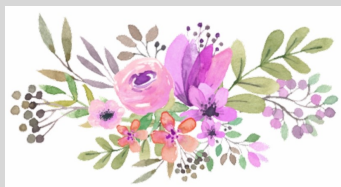
### Notes on the Notes—Dr. Beth Elswick, Dir. Music Ministries

*My Song Is Love Unknown* is a hymn based on a text by Samuel Crossman (1624-1683) and set to music by John Ireland (1879-1962). The music features a text-based melody that includes a change of meter at the outset of the tune and again near the end of the text. These meter changes create musical stresses highlighting the more important words in the song. The hymn is so compelling that contemporary composer Chris Tomlin has set the tune for praise instruments, adding a change of key for the second verse. Hence, the hymn is most appropriate for all three services on this last Sunday after Pentecost.

### Laughter Yoga Workshop—All ages welcome!

**November 23, 6:30pm in Parish Hall 1—come after the service!**

The workshop will be conducted by Maurine Pachter, a certified Laughter Yoga leader. For all ages! Laughter Yoga allows you to let yourself go and involves the physical and the spiritual.



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

- In loving memory of Dan's mother, Mary Elman. Her laughter and spirit for life are missed. With Love—Dan, Lynn and Bre Elman*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### This Saturday, November 23

5:30 PM Holy Communion  
6:30 PM Laughter Yoga Workshop

### This Sunday, November 24

8:45, 10:45 AM Holy Communion  
9:45 AM Children & Youth Sunday School-Educ Wing  
10:00 AM Adult Formation-PH 2  
12-3 PM LEV Training-PH 3  
1-3 PM Faith Club gathering-PH 1, 2  
4:30-6 PM Nave reserved for recital (Risebig)  
5 PM—HOST Week begins-Educ Wing, K  
6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 1, 2, 3, K

### Monday, November 25

HOST Week-Educ Wing—5:30pm-7:30am  
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K, Rm 137  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg-PH 2  
5:45 PM Finance Committee-Rm 137 or PH 1  
6:45 PM Vestry mtg-PH 1

### Tuesday, November 26

HOST Week-Educ Wing—5:30pm-7:30am  
7-8 PM Sword Guild-PH 2

### Wednesday, November 27—Church Office closed

HOST Week-Educ Wing—5:30pm-7:30am  
9:30 AM Coffee Small Grp-Rm 137  
6:45, 7:30 Choir rehearsals-Nave  
7:00 PM EfM-Asbly

### Thursday, November 28—Church Office closed

HOST Week-Educ Wing—5:30pm-7:30am  
12:30-3 PM Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet-PH 1, 2, 3

### Friday, November 29—Church Office closed

HOST Week-Educ Wing—5:30pm-7:30am  
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K

### Saturday, November 30

HOST Week-Educ Wing—5:30pm-7:30am  
5:30 PM Holy Communion

**Sunday, Dec. 1—ADVENTure will take the place of Sunday School & Adult Forum. Both will resume on Dec 8.**

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](http://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

