

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

For those of you who have pledged to the operating budget, it is important that your payment (check or cash) or gift is received or post-marked **by Tuesday, Dec. 31**. However, please make every effort to get your payments in before Christmas as the office will be closed several days and the last week of the year is very busy. THANK YOU!

As you make decisions about your charitable giving, St. Thomas hopes you will consider making use of the income tax charitable deduction. Gifts of stock are a great way to reduce your tax liability, while making a gift for ministry. If you own appreciated stock, you can deduct the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift and not be subject to capital gains tax on the increase in the value of the stock.

Please contact Meribeth Risebig—mrisebig@stthomasop.org if you are interested in making this type of gift.

Notes on Notes—

Beth Elswick, Director of Music Ministry

O come, O come Emmanuel is a paraphrase of a Latin text that was found in plainchant antiphons attached to the *Magnificat* sung at Vespers before the final days before Christmas. Even today, our hymnal shows the days when each verse is appropriately sung. Chant based, the hymn is not metered. However, many modern hymnals set the tune in common time using a 4/4 meter signature. Our praise band setting uses the original Dorian mode with the modern time signature.

The Bible Challenge 2: Snippets and Sound Bites

Is seeing 5 minutes of a movie enough? Or 30 seconds of a music video? Snippets and sound bites are designed to pique your interest without giving away the best parts. It is tempting to believe/hope that reading/hearing the scriptures in church every Sunday is good enough. Hearing snippets on Sundays is a good beginning, but it isn't enough to nourish or feed you for a season. Snippets of scripture will not support you through a lifetime of challenges. With a mere 15 minutes of reading each day, you can create the unshakeable foundation you need to survive and flourish. Sign up today!

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.

children & youth news

FOLLOW THE WANDERING WISEMEN!

Thursday, December 26 - Monday, January 6
on the *St. Thomas Facebook Page* and
on our *Children's Ministry Instagram @STA_KidMin*

Following the birth of the Christ Child, a star rose, and three Magi followed it through the wilderness seeking the new king. Keep the miracle of Christmas in your hearts and minds as we follow our "Wandering Wisemen" through the "wilderness" of St. Thomas Church each day by looking for a picture post on the Facebook Page and Instagram to see where our Wisemen land on their great journey. Will you recognize the great and sacred sights they see as they follow the great star?

MS. BARBARA'S "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

STORYTIME ONLINE

Thursday, December 26 - Monday, January 6
on the *St. Thomas Facebook Page*
videos will post by 5 PM each evening

Will you be traveling, or just plain missing your Sunday School teachers and friends during the Christmas Season? Join Ms. Barbara online for some favorite Christmas stories each evening between Thursday, December 26, and Monday, January 6. Maybe you'll hear one you've never heard of before, or maybe you'll recognize some old favorites. Got a favorite one you'd like to hear? Let Ms. Barbara know by having your mom or dad email her at bmccall@stthomasop.org with the title and author, and she'll do her best to get it on the list!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL/

YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christmas Break

There will be no Children's Sunday School or Youth Christian Education on Sunday, December 29.

There will be a one-room Children's Sunday School celebration of the Baptism of Jesus on Sunday, January 5.

Youth Christian Education, and regular Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 12.

TOWER TALK

DECEMBER 21 & 22, 2019



Christmas Services at St. Thomas

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

4:00pm—The Children's Pageant and Holy Communion
(childcare available)

7:00pm and 9:00pm—Holy Communion with special music
by St. Thomas choirs, soloists, and organ

Christmas Day

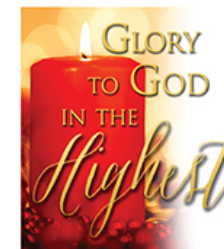
10:00am

The Church Office schedule for Christmas and New Years:

December 24—the office will close at Noon.

December 25, 26, 27—office closed.

January 1 and 2—office closed.



Christmas offering

*If you wish to have your name included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletins, please return the envelope found in your bulletin by **THIS SUNDAY, December 22**.* On the envelope list the names of those you wish honored or the blessing (s) you wish to name, along with your donation inside (any amount).

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 carols and anthems.

outreach * volunteer * donate

Luke 3:11 Project

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 through January 3.**

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

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Cookies Sale

This year's Scrumptious Cookies Sale was Our Best Ever!!!

Thank you to our Youth, their parents, our clergy and director of education, all of our gracious bakers, outstanding sellers, those who put out cookies sale signs, set up and cleaned up... Thank You All! St. Thomasians are amazing!!!!

All proceeds go to Youth scholarships for Mega Camp and the summer Mission Trip.

Drum roll, please ... Scrumptious Cookies Sale grand total = \$3,108.50! Best Ever!

Thank you!
Sue Strom

Thank You Prayer to Shawl Ministry

Thank you and God Bless you all for making the Prayer Shawl that Nancy Dotson recently sent me. I have had open heart surgery and your beautiful shawl gives me Peace, Comfort, Love, and Hope. I am recovering well and almost back to normal! Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas.

Peace & good,

John Long—Buckeye, AZ

CAN YOUR INVITATION BE A BLESSING?

In Season One-Episode 6 of Bishop Michael Curry's Podcast 'Way of Love,' he talks about BLESS. Being a blessing to others is not just sharing our faith, but **really LISTENING** to each others' faith stories. We are on this journey of faith together, so by listening to each other's stories, we develop a deeper relationship with others and God. What a blessing it is to make *connections* with our fellow St. Thomas members.

So, be that blessing and listen (without having a response ready), just listen and be present in the moment. Caring for each other can make a real difference.

IWC Team

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

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

To celebrate the birth of the Christ child and to give thanks for our many blessings! - from Ron & Margaret Walkenshaw



THE WEEK AHEAD

FOURTH WEEKEND IN ADVENT

This Saturday, December 21

10-12 Prayer Shawl Small Grp-PH 1
1-5 PM AA Fellowship Holiday Dinner-PH 1
5:30 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM Laughter Yoga Workshop-PH 1

This Sunday, December 22

8:45 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM Sunday School for Children & Youth-Educ Wing, LL
10:00 AM Adult Forum-PH 2
10:45 AM Holy Communion
11:30 AM Christmas Pageant party and dress reh-Nave, PH 1
5-6 PM Youth Musicians reh for Christmas Eve-Nave
6-8 PM Youth Group Holiday Christmas Party-PH 1, 2, 3, K

Monday, December 23

Office Work Day-getting ready for Christmas Eve!
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
11:30-2:30 Staff Mtg-PH 2
5:45 PM Finance Committee-Rm 137 or PH 1
6:45 PM Vestry mtg-PH 1

Tuesday, December 24

Church Office Closed at Noon
4:00, 7:00, 9:00 PM—Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 25

Church Office Closed
10:00 AM Christmas Day Holy Communion

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed
7-8:30 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, December 27

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

Saturday, December 28

1-4 PM K2K Community Team mtg-PH 2
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 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

