

children & youth news

ATTENTION, ST. THOMAS CHILDREN AND YOUTH! STA SUMMER CAMP PRIORITY REGISTRATION STARTS MONDAY!

Summer 2020 will be here before you know it! Our Summer Camp PRIORITY REGISTRATION for St. Thomas Members begins on Monday, January 20! Last year we had MULTIPLE camps fill early - don't miss your child's/ youth's chance to participate (and your chance to pay a lower rate)! Watch your email Monday for a link to the online forms! *If you are not yet on our children's and/or youth email list, please contact Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org.*

CALLING ALL 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH GRADES! YOU'RE INVITED! Taste of Youth Group Sunday, January 26, 6-8pm

Join Mother Kelly, Ms. Barbara, the Youth Leadership Team and our amazing St. Thomas Youth for a sneak peek at what youth group is all about! The evening begins with dinner, followed by games, program time and a Compline prayer service. Please let us know you're coming in the sign up on the Sunday School bulletin board. See you there!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT IS COMING! Saturday, February 8 6-10pm in Parish Hall 2

Kids, join us for some valentine fun while mom and dad enjoy a night on the town! (Minus the Valentine's Day crowds!) The evening includes games, crafts, a special "culinary" creation, snack and a movie all under the great care of our wonderful St. Thomas Youth (and Mother Kelly and Ms. Barbara). Children are welcome to bring dinner, if needed, as well as a blanket, pillow, etc. to help them settle during our movie in the later portion of our evening. Wearing PJ's to the event is also perfectly acceptable!

This is a fundraiser for our youth working the event to help offset the costs of their many St. Thomas summer camps and Mission Trips, and your donations will be gratefully accepted. (Suggested Donation: \$20/child)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LUKE 3:11 DRIVE DONATIONS!

Many thanks to everyone who offered donations of clothing, winter weather wear, and toiletries to the families of Comanche Elementary and True Light Family Resource Center through our first annual Luke 3:11 Drive. The children and youth participants of our Winter Break ROTC program were thrilled to deliver three carloads of goods to these two locations on January 3, and the items were received with much gratitude from our contacts at these two locations. Thank you for spreading the Light of Christ to those in need!

Children & Youth cont. in next column

Children & Youth cont.

DONATIONS FOR ST. THOMAS YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP NEEDED!
The youth will be headed to Los Angeles this year to learn and help with eco-justice work. If you have Southwest points that you can donate it will greatly reduce our cost. Also, the annual silent auction dinner will be on March 28 this year. If you have goods and/or services that you can donate to the auction please talk to Mother Kelly. Thank you!!!

CELEBRATING CHILDREN & YOUTH

So excited for our wonderful young people!! Congratulations to...

Sophia Lyman who got three roles in her school's upcoming production of "The Brothers Grimm"

Joshua McCall who was accepted into a choral festival

Bennett Palmer who made the basketball team at his school

Mac McArthur who got to perform at a Jazz Festival in New Orleans

Tessa Parker who will be head of her yearbook staff

Also we wish good luck, happy thoughts, and many prayers for..

Coco Seyler and her dance and singing auditions

Josh McCall and his upcoming math test

Zoe Green-Lockwood who started at a new school

and Colby McArthur who was accepted to audition at Northwestern in their music department

ST. THOMAS PRESENTS:

WOMEN'S NIGHT AT THE THEATER! Thursday, March 12 - 7 PM at the New Theatre Restaurant

Join us to see the laugh out loud funny off-Broadway musical comedy, "Church Basement Ladies," starring Cindy Williams of the hit '80's sitcom, "Laverne and Shirley." Your ticket includes this hilarious show, a five star meal, and choice of coffee, hot or iced tea or soda, with dessert and other beverages available at an additional cost. Tickets are \$50 each and can be reserved by signing up in the Narthex. You will receive an invoice for online payment after signing up.

(Due to the popularity of this show, we have a limited number of tickets in our group, so don't delay - 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

TOWER TALK

January 18 & 19, 2020

SECOND WEEKEND AFTER THE EPIPHANY



Christian Education this Sunday

Children & Youth Sunday School—9:45—10:30am in the Education Wing and Lower Level of the church

"My Faith/My Life" Confirmation Class, 9:45am

Adult Formation—10:00am in Parish Hall 2 (middle section). Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join in! Led by clergy at St. Thomas.



Wednesday, January 29

Potluck starts at 6pm

Main course will be provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Annual Meeting at 7pm

Nursery care will be available from 7-8:30pm.

*Attention: Leaders, Coordinators, Directors, and Chairs of all St. Thomas Ministries: The deadline for getting your annual report to me is **Monday, January 20**.* You are encouraged to write an account of activities and interesting information about your ministry or ministries in 2019. If you'd like to see what was in last year's report, please contact Meribeth and she will send it to you via email.

Meribeth Risebig, mrisebig@stthomasop.org or 913-451-0512, X221

outreach * volunteer * donate

IHN HOST WEEK SIGNUPS ON BULLETIN BOARD

Signup Sheets for Volunteers and Food/Supplies

Our St. Thomas Host week serving situationally homeless families and single women will be Feb. 16 - Feb. 23, 2020. IHN guests will stay evenings and overnight here at St. Thomas, 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 training as a refresher at least every 3 years. Volunteers for setup or takedown of classrooms or launder bedding after Host week ends 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

Caring for Kids – Comanche Elementary

St. Thomas will be hosting dinner for teachers and staff at Comanche Elementary during their February Parent/Teacher Conference night. A signup sheet is posted in the Narthex and will also be available via Signup genius. Contributions of food items as well as a few volunteers to help with setup and cleanup will also be needed. All dessert contributions will need to be dropped off to the St. Thomas kitchen by Wednesday, February 5, by 3:00pm.

Contact: Deacon Fran Wheeler (fwheeler@stthomasop.org)

Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation

will be having a monthly meeting on January 27 from 6:30-8pm at 20 W. 9th St. Kansas City, MO 64110. Members of St. Thomas will be attending this meeting to discern our further response to the ongoing refugee/immigrant crisis in Kansas City. If interested, please contact Mthr. Kelly.

Notes on Notes—

Beth Loeber Elswick, Director of Music Ministry

The lessons today feature a variety of images all leading to the Gospel Lesson. God's faithfulness and love is expressed in John the Baptist's proclamation, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"

Isaiah refers to "the Lord, who is faithful." The Psalmist says, "let thy steadfast love and thy faithfulness preserve me forever." In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul says, "Jesus Christ will sustain you to the end. . . God is faithful."

John identifies Christ claiming, "Behold, the Lamb of God." What a loaded image! (Old Testament of Cain and Abel with grain vs. sheep sacrifice; later Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice until God provides a ram, the Blood of the lamb on the doorposts at the Exodus from Egypt, David tending sheep, and Christ as the Good Shepherd). Faithful shepherds, sacrificial lambs, the Lamb of God. All of the music today reflects the importance of God's faithfulness to his people and the ultimate sacrifice, "Behold, the Lamb of God."



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Flowers on the altar beautify the sacred space of our church and are a gift to God and those who attend our worship services. The Flower Guild prepares the arrangements weekly, always using fresh flowers.

You can sign up on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board in the hallway by the office, sign up on the link provided in your weekly email, send an email to the church—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 or 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 may receive a letter or email about a month in advance asking for details about your commemoration.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SECOND WEEKEND AFTER THE EPIPHANY

This Saturday, January 18

5:30 PM Holy Communion

This Sunday, January 19

8:45 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM Sunday School for Children & Youth-Educ Wing; Choir Practice-Nave Loft
10:00 AM Adult Formation-PH 2
10:45 AM Holy Communion
6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 1, 2, 3, K

Monday, January 20

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
11:30-2:30 Staff Mtg-PH 2
6:30 PM Westmont Neighborhood mtg-Asbly

Tuesday, January 21

12:30 PM IWC meeting-PH 1
2:30-7PM Asbly Rm reserved—voice lessons
7:00 PM Book Club-PH 1; Contemplative Prayer Small Grp-Nave

Wednesday, January 22

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
10-12 Wednesday Study Group-Asbly
6:45 PM Praise Band reh-Nave
7:00 PM EfM-Asbly
7:15 PM Adult Choir reh-Nave

Thursday, January 23

12:30 PM Daytime Bridge-Asbly
7:00 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, January 24

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

Saturday, January 25

10AM-2PM Boy Scout Derby-Asbly
5:30 PM Holy Communion

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

