

children & youth news

YOUTH & COLLEGE STUDENTS OFFER SERVICE TO

SHUT-INS—During this difficult period the Youth at St. Thomas and some college students who are home are going to offer their services to Shut-Ins who are staying at home to avoid the possibility of illness. They can run errands, pick up groceries, go to the post office, etc. If you are interested in getting some help you can reach out to Mtr. Kelly Demo—913-451-0512, X 224, or email kdemo@stthomasop.org.

TEXTING GROUPS HAVE BEGUN—We are starting two different texting groups for youth and their parents via the Remind app. You do not need the app to receive the texts. You may already get texts through this from your school, the diocese, or other organizations. Here is what needs to be done: Please have your youth text the word **@sttayouth** to the number 81010. For the parent group please text the word **@sttarent** to 81010. Please have your youth do this as soon as possible.

New!! ST. THOMAS FAMILY FORUM ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasOPFamilies>

Stay connected with other St. Thomas families with children & youth via our new page! This page will be where you can find Sunday School each week, along with activities/resources daily to keep the kids entertained during these long days at home. This is a challenging time, and we hope that this can be a source of connection and community until we can be together again. Also, please know that the church is here to support our families! If you have any needs during the extended school break, please reach out to Barbara McCall, Director of Children and Families, at bmccall@stthomasop.org or via call/text to (913) 909-7318 to let the church know how we can support you.

ST. THOMAS KIDS' CELEBRATIONS!

Let's keep 'em coming, friends! What awesome things have your kiddos been up to during their Homeschool experience? Have they gotten up before Noon? (Seriously, in some homes this is HUGE!) Have they been extra helpful around the house? Have they enjoyed learning something new or **achieving a new skill**? **Let us know - we want to share in their joy!**

Please email any special news about your child to Barbara—bmccall@stthomasop.org or Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org so that we may add it to our feature in each weekend's Tower Talk and in each month's Children & Families Newsletter!

• SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION •

Children & Youth Sunday School

"Children's Chapel" Video with the day's Gospel lesson, songs and prayers posted by 9:00am each Sunday on the following platforms:

St. Thomas You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop>
St. Thomas Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasop>
St. Thomas "Family Forum" Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/StThomasOPFamilies> (Please like and "follow" to receive updates.)

Children's and "Younger Youth" "Zoom Sunday School" classes meet online at the following times on May 10 and 17:

9:00am - Kindergarten/1st Grade	9:30am - Preschool
10:00am - 5th/6th/7th Grades	10:30am - 2nd/3rd/4th Grades

Our traditional "Summer Sunday Fundays" for children will begin at 9:30am on Sunday, May 31 with a virtual PENTECOST PARTY!! Following that our Sunday Fundays will follow the book "The Very Best Day" by Mr. Roger Hutchison and focuses on The Episcopal Church's *Way of Love* practices for Children. Sunday Fundays are open to anyone, but offer content approachable for ages pre-school through exiting 5th graders, and will incorporate social time with stories and activities including art, music, gardening, building, cooking and even a virtual CAMPING PARTY! Stay tuned for more details!

To ensure privacy and safety for our children meeting in the online space, Barbara McCall - Director of Children & Families, will send connection information via email to all Sunday School registered families the Friday prior to each Sunday gathering. If your child or family member is not registered but would like to join us, please do not hesitate to reach out to Barbara at bmccall@stthomasop.org to get on our email lists.

Youth Confirmation class and the Giving Project take place on Zoom.

Adult Forum will meet on ZOOM beginning at 9:45am.

The topic will be Spiritual Stress and Finding Peace. You will receive an invitation email from Fr. Gar to join the class.

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PI NOT'S PALETTE PAINTING PARTY

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 7 - 9PM

We're looking ahead with **HOPE** that our 2nd **Women's Night Out** will be a "GO!" We will be having a painting night at Pinot's Palette in Leawood! This will be a fun activity with a great deal of time to socialize with other women from our parish and guests. Of course, we are monitoring the situation with Covid-19 closely, and as we get closer to our date we will make a decision with regard to the safety of this gathering on this scheduled date. We do have the ability to postpone to a later date, if necessary. Save this date for now, and we'll keep you posted!



TOWER TALK

May 9 & 10, 2020

• WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE •

Saturday, 5:30pm—Evening Prayer service
Sunday, 8:45 and 10:45am—Morning Prayer services
Monday—Friday, 8:00pm—Compline services

Bulletins for the weekend services may be found on our website home page— www.stthomasop.org

LIVE services can be seen by visiting

www.stthomasop.org (on the home page click on the **Red Arrow** under "Live Stream")

And ALL services at: www.facebook.com/stthomasop
or www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop

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Photo by cottombro

GIVE ONLINE

During this time when we can only worship online, we hope you will consider giving online as well. Of course we still accept checks; however, if you would like the ease of paying online simply visit our website, www.stthomasop.org, and click the donate button at the top OR go to <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1377886>. There is a small fee to use this service, but it's a simple and easy way to support St. Thomas.

Small Groups now meeting

Small groups are a wonderful way to connect with people in the St. Thomas community and to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. We have several small groups that focus on particular interests and hobbies. These groups gather for fellowship, prayer, and study. At this time, all groups are meeting online with Zoom. If you would like to join a small group please contact The Rev. Kelly Demo—kdemo@stthomasop.org.

Young Adults – So many transitions in life happen post-high school! College, job, marriage!

Contemplative Prayer - This group meets to delve deeper into different forms of prayer and meditation.

Science and Theology - Where does God and science meet? This group reads and asks the big questions around creation, scientific discoveries, bioethics, and God.

God and Nature (Bibles and Bees!) - Do you connect with God best in nature? Join others who do too! Discuss beekeeping, gardening, and where to find the Holy Spirit moving in the world.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - This group meets at the parish and knits prayer shawls together, later to be blessed and given to those who are ill or have lost a loved one.

Coffee with a hint of Christ - This women's group meets at St Thomas and is involved with the packing of "Backsnacks" for at-risk youth in our community.

Classics Men's Group - This group is open to retired and semi-retired men, and meets at the parish for monthly conversation and Bible Study.

Journeymen – A couples' group that studies scripture.

Explorers - This group is interested in exploring Scripture and the World around them, and are involved with emergency relief bags.

Solos Dining Out - Solos Dining Out offers friendship, support and spiritual growth to people with no spouse/partner.

Faith Club - A gathering of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish friends meeting in small groups to share their spiritual journeys, to celebrate the commonalities between our three faiths, and to discuss and understand our differences.

Kansas 2 Kenya "K2K" Update

First of all let me update everyone on the status of the K2K mission trips scheduled for June 4. Until recently we held out some hope that our Community Team would be able to make the trip but we accepted the fact that too many unknowns exist and the scheduled departure date of June 4 was rapidly approaching so we made the decision to cancel the Community Team mission trip for 2020. The Medical Team had already made their decision to cancel a month or so ago as the health care providers who had signed up to go would be needed in their home towns to address the COVID-19 challenges locally.

A decision had been previously made to cancel the Annual K2K Fundraiser that was to be held at St. Thomas on April 18 and we had been looking forward to having a strong participation as always in the past to raise funds for the various projects that K2K has sponsored over the past dozen years. K2K Director Jim Cummins sent a letter to individuals who had participated in the annual event the past three years and asked folks to consider making a contribution so that we can continue to support our friends in Kenya who are also being challenged mightily coping with the coronavirus mandates to stay home. Most families have to work every day to provide food for their families that very evening!

St. Thomas has been a great supporter of K2K in general and has provided financial support to Agatha Amani House, the shelter for abused women founded by Nyakio Kaniu-Lake, Ngeya Primary School, a public school serving about 2,000 students from low income families, Osborne Library that provides students and others in the community access to e-readers as well as traditional books, All Saints Anglican Parish, by participating in worship services and pastoral visitations and by supporting Karati Boarding School that cares for and teaches approximately 40 disabled children with very little government assistance.

Notwithstanding the cancellation of the K2K teams I plan to travel to Kenya and join Nyakio on June 4 or as soon thereafter as possible. Together we will visit all of the K2K relationships mentioned above and let them know that they are not forgotten in this difficult time. I will carry any funds raised to support the various projects mentioned above. I join with Director Jim Cummins and my wife Nyakio in asking that you consider helping us out with a donation this year so that we can continue our important work. Donations may be made on the K2K website: <http://www.kansas2kenya.com> or by check made payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, 835 S.W. Polk St., Topeka, KS 66612-1688, with K2K noted on the memo line. Thank you very much for any help you might give us, God Bless you and stay safe.

Prayerfully,
Joe Bob & Nyakio Lake
Team Leaders - K2K Community Team
913-530-6366 Jlake10@kc.rr.com

Altar Flower Memorials have been given to the Glory of God and—



* *in memory of Natalie Taylor—always on our mind, forever in our hearts. Miss you more Nat—Ashley, Steve, Jack & Emily Fleischaker*

* *in loving memory of Kevin Lang. You are always in our hearts! Love you & miss you—Dad, Mom, and Matt*

* *honoring our two favorite mothers, Alice Shanks and Margaret Hansen—Geoff and Nancy Williams*

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During this time, we are still accepting altar flower commemorations and donations. Any donations received will be used when the Nave will once again be utilized for services.

Remember a special occasion, anniversary, birthday, or loved one! Contact us (451-0512) or send an email to stthomas@stthomasop.org. We'll need to know the weekend you prefer and what you'd like to include in the weekly Tower Talk and email update.

When you sign up in advance you will receive an e-mail or phone call about a month in advance asking for details of your commemoration. This information is needed at least a week before the date you signed up. Suggested donation for flowers is \$50.

The church office will be operating M-F, 9am-2pm, but will still remain closed to visitors. Until further notice, we suggest that you call or email instead.

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church,
12251 Antioch Rd,
Overland Park, KS 66213

913-451-0512
email address: stthomas@stthomasop.org
Visit us on the website: www.stthomasop.org
Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal OP