

## ❖ children & youth news ❖

### Calling all of our little sheep, stable animals and angels!

We want YOU in our Covid-style Christmas Pageant!! Here's what you need to do:

1. Dress your little critter up in your best Angel, Sheep or Animal costume (you can be as creative as you like, or contact Ms. Barbara to borrow a costume piece from the church)
2. Take about a 30 second video of your little critter dancing, bouncing, making their animal sound, etc. on a cell phone held HORIZONTALLY.
3. Upload the video to our Pageant Google Drive HERE <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZcCUFal7Qp57ucu5m3weu6tDyV4Pk7L-?usp=sharing>

Then, just stay tuned for opportunities on Christmas Eve to see your little star shine in our Christmas Pageant!!

For questions or more information, please contact Barbara McCall at [bmccall@stthomasop.org](mailto:bmccall@stthomasop.org).

**Celebrating Children & Youth!** We think everyone should be celebrated for new levels of creative ways to spend your time, learning how to be alone, accomplishments in school, or maybe reaching new levels on video games!

- ◆ *Congratulations to Jackson Barrington and Grant Prettitjohn who played soccer for Olathe East. They took second in the state this year!!*
- ◆ *Josh McCall was recently cast as Couferac (one of those rebellious college students) in Olathe South's upcoming production of "Les Mis-erables"! Break a leg!*
- ◆ *And Micah Geary made the JV/Varsity basketball team for Olathe Northwest! Go Ravens! Go Micah!*
- ◆ *Josh McCall made the East Central District KMEA High School Honor Choir.*

Keep 'em coming, friends! Email any special news about your child to Barbara—[bmccall@stthomasop.org](mailto:bmccall@stthomasop.org) or Kelly—[kdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:kdemo@stthomasop.org) so that we may add it to our feature in Tower Talk and each month's Children & Families Newsletter!

### 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

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families! If you have any needs during the extended school break, please reach out to Barbara McCall, Dir. of Children and Families, 913.909.7318 or [bmccall@stthomasop.org](mailto:bmccall@stthomasop.org) or via call/text to let the church know how we can support you.

**Youth Group will meet outside this coming Sunday from 4-5:30pm, weather permitting.** Please watch for communication from us each week on the status of youth group on our Facebook page, texting, and emails. All 6th through 12th graders are welcome to come for fun distanced socializing and a time to connect with friends and God!

**HELP & SUPPLIES WANTED!** Our Sunday School Program is looking for a few hands and supplies as we begin the process of filling out our Godly Play Story collections! We are thrilled to have grant money coming in from the Diocese and we'd like to stretch these dollars as far as they can go by making as much as we can in-house and purchasing only the most specialized items. So, if you're looking for something to keep you busy while we're still limited on what activities we can do in the community, give Barbara McCall a shout! ([bmccall@stthomasop.org](mailto:bmccall@stthomasop.org) or 913.909.7318)

A few things we're looking for...

- Remnant/leftover wood stains/seals - any colors/shades welcome! (And any person interested in doing some staining/sealing of our wood pieces.)
- Any woodworkers out there looking for a project...scroll saw work, shelf building, maybe more!

Seamstresses and/or Felt/Fabric Crafters...we'd love some seasonal frontals and/or banners for our Family Worship Service and Children's Chapel when we're able to return to that!

**The church office will be open 9am-4pm Mon-Thurs and 9am-12pm Friday, but limited to staff. We ask that you continue to contact us by phone or email.**

# TOWER TALK

NOVEMBER 28 & 29, 2020

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

COME. GROW. SERVE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

### ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2021

Thank you to all who have made their 2021 pledge to St. Thomas. If you did not receive a Stewardship Campaign packet in the mail or a pledge card was not included, please contact the church office so we can send you one. 913-451-0512 or email [mrisebig@stthomasop.org](mailto:mrisebig@stthomasop.org).

You can also make your pledge commitment online—go to: The St. Thomas website—[www.stthomasop.org](http://www.stthomasop.org)  
Click on the tab “**Online Pledge 2021**”

Or click on this link:

<https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/pledge2021>

### ❖ Worship with us Online! ❖

Saturday, 5:30pm—Holy Communion  
Sunday, 9:00am—Holy Communion  
Monday—Friday, 8:00pm—Compline

Services will be available to watch anytime after that on both YouTube and Facebook. [www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop](http://www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop) and [www.facebook.com/stthomasop](http://www.facebook.com/stthomasop)

Visit our website [www.stthomasop.org](http://www.stthomasop.org) for bulletins for the weekend services and LIVE services (on the home page click on the **Red Arrow** under “Live Stream”)

## ❖ Outreach ❖

### American Red Cross Blood Drive - Thank You!

Thank you for sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Nov. 14. We had a great day with a pretty good turn out. Thank you for having us and supporting us in our mission to save lives!

Keana, Maddie, Trina, Ryan, and Tara

Results: Presenting donors—38; Total Units—41!

### IHN Host Week Holiday Support

We know many of you Donated, Supported and Attended the IHN Holiday party St. Thomas hosted for most of the last 15 years. IHN has reached out to past recent recipients and has a list of those needing assistance. Please see the information in Vicki's letter and consider donating gift cards which will be given to those IHN families and women.

From Vicki:

I hope this message finds you all doing well and staying healthy! This is such a challenging time for all; however, our IHN Family continues to work together to meet the needs of our guests!

The holidays are right around the corner. There will not be a holiday party due to the pandemic. We have reviewed the list of past recent recipients and have a list of those wanting assistance. **The plan is to collect ONLY GIFT CARDS (prefer Target & Walmart) for those who requested assistance.** We'll divide cards prior to the holidays and place them in an envelope for pickup. Guests will come to IHN on a scheduled day and time, remain in their vehicle wearing a mask and call the IHN phone. One of Family Center staff will take the gift cards to their vehicle.

For those wanting to donate gift cards, I would ask that you follow the same procedure for "dropoff" of cards. We are being very protective of our environment and would prefer to walk to your car masked, as opposed to having individuals step inside the office.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or Cheryl if you would like to donate gift cards for our past guests. Feel the love and gratitude, Vicki L. Dercher, MSW, LSCSW—Executive Director of Jo Co Interfaith Hospitality Network—913-345-2121

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\*\* You can access the parish database at any time by going to [stthomasop.breezechms.com](http://stthomasop.breezechms.com) and logging into your account. If you don't have access, let us know and we will get that to you. \*\*

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## ❖ Sunday Christian Education ❖

**Adult Forum this Sunday at 10:00am on ZOOM.** Links to follow and details will be sent in an email on Friday. Join us for a brief study video and lively discussion on Sunday Mornings!

### Children & Youth:

**\*SPECIAL Sunday School This week - Sunday, November 29!\***

9am - Zoom Thanksgiving with Friends and Advent Kickoff on Zoom! ALL Sunday School Children Welcome!

We'll enjoy some games, music and learn about the tradition of the Advent Wreath. Join us!

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81547741899?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81547741899?pwd=QTFONXhPYUI2TIV0QVMrT3VVL0o3QT09)  
pwd=QTFONXhPYUI2TIV0QVMrT3VVL0o3QT09

Meeting ID: 815 4774 1899  
Passcode: 338446

**Family Morning Prayers/Children's Church**—Available each Sunday by 8am on the St. Thomas Facebook Pages and You Tube Channel (Children's Ministry Playlist)

*Our upcoming videos (Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27) will center around the Advent Wreath with a short liturgy of prayers and bible readings you can share together for each week of Advent and Christmas!*

## ❖ The week ahead at St. Thomas ❖

**Saturday, Nov. 28:** Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online

**Sunday, Nov. 29—First Sunday of Advent:** Children & Youth Sunday School, 9-10am Online; Holy Communion, 9:00am Online; Adult Forum, 10am Online; Youth Group, 4-5:30 Outdoors

**Monday, Nov. 30:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1pm PH ; Nave or pH 1 reserved, 4-5pm; AA, 6:30pm Online; UMKC Brass Ensemble 6:30-8pm Online; Compline-8pm Online

**Tuesday, Dec 1:** Contemplative Prayer Small Grp, 7pm Online; Compline, 8pm Online

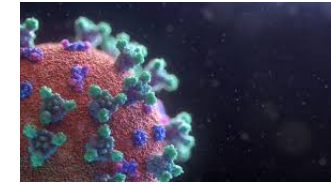
**Wednesday, Dec 2:** Coffee Small Grp, 9:30am Online; Thom's Helpers-10:30am-1pm PH; Wed. Study Grp, 10:30-12 Online; Staff Mtg, 1:30pm PH; Music Recording, 5:30-6:30pm Nave; \*\* Advent Conversations, 7-8pm Zoom; AA Fellowship-7:30pm Online; Compline-8pm Online

\*\* Join "Advent Conversations": <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87652095356>  
Meeting ID: 876 5209 5356, One tap mobile +13462487799

**Thursday, Dec 3:** Bible Study (Roller/Strom), 10-11am Zoom; UMKC Brass Ensemble, 6:30-8pm Nave; Classics Small Grp, 7pm Online; Explorer's Small Grp, 7pm Online; AI-Anon Family Grp-7pm Online; Compline-8pm Online

**Friday, Dec 4:** AA, 8pm Online; Compline, 8pm Online

## Ways to Get Connected!



### 2020 Advent Conversations

Mother Kelly Demo will be leading an Advent series called, "**Pandemic: Where is God in all of this?**" On December 2, 9, and 16 at 7pm we will gather via Zoom to hear talks from Biblical

scholars and historians. The first conversation will be with The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi. We will talk about where to find God and hope in this pandemic, and what good might come out of the times we are in. We will watch the video and then have a conversation together about what we heard. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87652095356>

Meeting ID: 876 5209 5356, One tap mobile +13462487799

### PEACE Challenge

We would like everyone to submit a new Peace video or picture to be used during the online St. Thomas service. Please submit your most creative Fall theme 'Peace Be with You' video to share with your fellow St. Thomas members. Send videos and pictures to Fr. Gar: [gdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:gdemo@stthomasop.org)



### Love your (St. Thomas) neighbor!

We have started St. Thomas neighborhood clusters so you can learn who from your church lives in your neighborhood! In this time of uber disconnectedness this is another opportunity to stay connected.

Our hope is that neighborhood groups will meet periodically in person (maybe your neighborhood park or someone's driveway) in a covid responsible way. Then neighbors can know each other and help each other as well. Need to borrow some sugar? Ask your St. Thomas neighbor! Going out of town and need someone to water your plants? Ask your St. Thomas neighbor!

### St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church

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email address: [stthomas@stthomasop.org](mailto:stthomas@stthomasop.org)

Visit us on the website: [www.stthomasop.org](http://www.stthomasop.org)

Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal OP