

Easter Celebrations for Children & Families

EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY FUN - Join us in the Parish Hall between the 9am and 11am in-person services for a socially distanced Family Easter Story Egg Hunt, games and goodies! Each family will be offered their own special space to hunt eggs containing symbols of the Holy Week and Easter Stories...bring them in, match them up, and get a bag of Easter goodies! Other games, activities, and outdoor social time near the fire pit will be available as families' schedules allow (this is a "come and go" style event).

ONLINE Easter Egg Hunt!

Our photo egg hunt is making a return and ALL ARE WELCOME to join in the fun!! If you can't join us for our in-person activities, check out the St. Thomas Facebook Pages beginning **EASTER MONDAY** throughout the first week of the Easter Season for a new egg hunt photo **EACH DAY!!** Look closely—how many eggs can you find???? Ms. Barbara will post the answer in the comments around 7pm each evening.



Congratulations to Children & Youth

Three cheers for...

- ❖ Gwen Campbell who made JV cheer for Shawnee Mission South!
- ❖ Josh McCall who will be in Olathe South's showing of "Shakespeare In Love" (with sword fighting!)
- ❖ Asher Demo who will be in Shawnee Mission Northwest's production of "She Kills Monsters" (he plays a demon!)
- ❖ Coco Seyler who will be in Pioneer Trail Middle School's production of "Schoolhouse Rock"!
- ❖ And to Bre Elman who was inducted into the National Honors Society at Olathe North and making Varsity soccer!

Email any special news about your child or youth to Barbara—bmccall@stthomasop.org or Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org so that we may add it to our newsletters!

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 is a challenging time, and we hope that this can be a source of connection and community until we can be together again. The church is here to support our families! If you have any needs during the school break, please reach out to Barbara McCall, Dir. of Children and Families, 913.909.7318, or bmccall@stthomasop.org or via call/text to let the church know how we can support you.

Recent Graduate Alert!

Are you a recent graduate? Do you know someone who is? Send us their name! St. Thomas will be recognizing all recent graduates (high school, college, trade school, etc.). Help us by sending the name of any recent graduates to [Mthr. Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:Mthr.Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org).

Calling all gardeners and nature lovers!

We would like to plant our garden again this year but we need a team of people to make it happen. You can get involved in two ways:

- On the afternoon of **April 3** we will be working in the garden to do cleanup and plant some initial spring veggies.
- We would also like to have a list of people who would be willing to be on a rotating schedule to come water the garden and tend to it (weed, glean, etc) throughout the spring and summer.

All are welcome to reap from the harvest but we need hands to make it happen! Please email kdemo@stthomasop.org if you are interested.



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Thank you

THANK YOU for your EGG CARTONS! We have all we need! Dear friends, thank you so much for the egg cartons that have been donated to us. We know it feels great to have something that can cover our earth with trash go to a good cause like our children's activities! Our children are now well stocked for spring, summer and beyond (and our storage space is very limited). We will let you know what our next needs are when they arise! Thank you again! Barbara McCall - Director of Children's Ministries.

Dear Apostle Church, I want to thank you for the love and constant prayers during my heart surgery in November! My Aunt Joyce Moriarty was so kind to have your church include me in prayer! I am doing so much better. Thank you again! Michelle Pulley

Dear STA family, my dearest aunt Agatha Ohadomere who died in Dallas, Texas on Nov 2020 was laid to rest January 28th, 2021 in Nigeria. It was so meaningful to me for you to share in my grief and support me during this difficult time. I am deeply grateful for your condolences, kindness, embrace, prayers and care that you showed to me. It was like a refreshing wind to my saddened spirit. I realized how important this Congregation is to me, during this time. Your words and actions were so comforting. Thank you for all the support and sympathy. May God bless you all abundantly. With Love, Njideka Umeh

TOWER TALK

APRIL 3 & 4, 2021

- Worship this Week -

April 2—Good Friday

- Noon—Online and In-person reading of the Stations of the Cross
- 7:00pm—Online

April 3—Easter Saturday

5:30pm—In person in Sanctuary (live-streamed) and Parking Lot

April 4—Easter Sunday:

- 6:00am—In-person Sunrise service in Apostle's Garden
- 9:00am—In-person Holy Communion in Sanctuary (streamed), parking lot, and Online
- 9:00am—In-person Family Oriented with children's liturgy—Parish Hall
- 11:00am—In-person Holy Communion in Sanctuary (live-streamed) and parking lot

Monday—Thursday, 8:00pm—Compline—Online

Services will be available to watch anytime after that on both YouTube and Facebook. <https://www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop> and <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasop>

Visit our website <https://stthomasop.org> for bulletins for the weekend services. To watch services LIVE click here: <https://stthomasop.org/livestream/>

Register for all in-person services by clicking this link: <https://rsvp.church/r/e2dW8tj0>



Happy Easter everyone!

Saturday, April 3: Music Recording sessions TBA, 9:30-11am Nave; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Parking Lot & live-streamed; UMKC Brass Ensemble Reh, 7pm Nave

Sunday, April 4: See service schedule on front page. Children & Youth Sunday School and Adult Forum on recess until Apr. 11. Easter Sunday Family Fun 10:00am

Monday, April 5: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH; AA, 6:30pm LL; Outreach team mtg, 6:30pm online; Prayer Shawl Small Grp, 7:30pm online; Compline, 8pm online

Tuesday, April 6: Contemplative Prayer Small Grp, 7pm Nave; Compline, 8pm online

Wednesday, April 7: Coffee Small Grp, 9:30am PH 2; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH 1/Kitchen; Staff mtg, 1:30pm PH; Music recording session, 5:30pm; UMKC Brass reh, 7:30pm Nave or PH; AA Fellowship-7:30pm LL; Compline-8pm online

Thursday, April 8: Bible Study, 10am online; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm PH 2; AI-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL; Compline, 8pm online

Friday, April 9: Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30, PH/Kitchen; AA, 8pm LL

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Vaccine Report for St. Thomas

As of this week, there have been 394+ people vaccinated in the congregation which is 67% of those over the age of 16. Many of our groups and ministries now have 100% of their members vaccinated, or a large majority, and have started to meet. This helps as we keep our community safe and consider everyone's safety.

Please continue to let us know if you are able to start the process for vaccinations. This is a huge help as our leadership discerns the next steps as we reopen the building to in-person meetings and worship.

As per CDC guidelines we will continue to ask that everyone coming inside St. Thomas wear a mask, practice safe distancing, and stay home if they are symptomatic. We have extra masks for you if you need them as well as hand sanitizer throughout the building. It has been wonderful to have many of you returning to in person activities. Continue to watch for further announcements as we move toward full reopening in the coming months.



FIRST St. Thomas Cooking Show! This Saturday, April 3, 10am on Zoom

Join in a zoom gathering to learn how to cook two wonderful dishes that you can serve the next morning on Easter. Our celebrity chef will be Carol Hamilton (Kelly Demo's mother).

Join the Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82607697794>
Meeting ID: 826 0769 7794 One tap mobile +13462487799

If you didn't sign up to participate, you can still join the Zoom meeting!

Sign up here to participate!

<https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/45ccaf>

Ingredients to have on hand if participating:

Traditional Kedgeree (originated in colonial India and is now a cherished and popular British recipe.)

3 cans of salmon (Mom says, "Don't be cheap! Get the good stuff!")

1 box Uncle Ben's converted rice, 1 cup of butter

1 dozen eggs (leave eggs out overnight)

1 1/2 cups heavy cream (Lent will be done! Go for it!),

1 bunch parsley (to keep it healthy), salt/pepper to taste

Savory Fruit Salad: 1 fresh pineapple, 1 honeydew melon, 1 container strawberries, 1 bunch fresh basil, 2 limes, honey, 1 bunch fresh mint, crystalized ginger (you can find it in the spices section of the grocery store)



Youth Fundraiser Yard Sale is coming!! April 24 & 25

We will start collecting items for the Yard Sale on **Saturday, April 17 from 8 am- 5pm**. We will be accepting items all that week and the Yard Sale will be the next weekend on Saturday and Sunday. Here is what we need for donations:

- we need to borrow some tables that we can display items on. Card tables, folding tables, etc.
- we need plastic or paper bags that people can use to shop
- we need items to sell! **household items, yard/gardening items, sports/exercise equipment, and you name it! We will take it!**

Items that don't sell will be donated to one of the organizations we work with for ROTC. If you have large items that you want a particular price on please indicate that when you drop it off. Clothing is fine, we will take it, but it does not generally sell very well at yard sales.

Thank you all for your support of our youth!!



❖ Sunday Christian Education ❖

Adult Forum will be in recess for the next two weeks.

We will return to the *Spiritual Practices* class by The Rev. Christopher Martin on April 11. Please see the Tower Talk for further updates.

Children & Youth Sunday School

***Friendly Reminder: There will be no Zoom Sunday School on Easter Sunday, but we will return with our final Faces of Easter on April 11, followed by the Legend of the Easter Eggs on April 18! (Zoom Sunday School will continue online each week through May 16!)*

Easter Family Worship at 9:00am in the Parish Hall

This wiggle-friendly worship service invites our children into the liturgy with understandable wording that remains meaningful for our adults. Children will have opportunities to assist with leading worship activities (serving as readers, prayer leaders, song leaders, ushers) and we will creatively celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus, in Covid-mindful ways! ***This worship service is designed to stay under 30 minutes in length for the comfort of our younger children.*

ONLINE - Easter Sunday Children's Church

Join Ms. Barbara on our Facebook pages and the Children's Ministry Playlist on the You Tube channel for a brief service to celebrate the Mystery of Easter with a special story from Ms. Ann Clements, prayers, music and movement!

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Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and...

In celebration of Bill and Kathy Werner's 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless the love in their hearts and their life together with an ever-deepening faith.



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 (stthomas@stthomasop.org)

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