

Children & Youth



Children's Church is offered as an option for our children during both Sunday Services. Children's Church is a time of story, prayers, movement and song open to all children but with programming geared towards ages 3-8 (older children may join as "helpers" if they wish). Children are "invited to follow the cross to Children's Church" right before the first reading and return to their families at the

Passing of the Peace. Children are welcomed, but never required, to join us for Children's Church.

**Due to the ongoing pandemic, we ask that children over the age of 2 attending Children's Church wear masks.*

Congratulations to Children & Youth

We know your kiddos are up to GREAT THINGS! We want to hear and celebrate with them! Please brag away! 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!

Join us for the **ALL-PARISH HAYRIDE!**

**Sunday, November 7
5:30-8pm**

**Sharp's Country Hayrides
20915 Mission Rd, Bucyrus, KS**



Join us for an evening of outdoor food and fellowship at Sharp's Farm. We'll enjoy hot dogs, chips and s'mores, outdoor games for the kids, fellowship and a twilight horse-drawn wagon ride around the grounds at the return of this St. Thomas favorite Fall event! Cost is \$8 per person (max. \$35 for family/group of 5 or more) and covers food, cost of the hayride and support for the staff that sets up the area and campfire for us.

Sign up and payment are available online via Breeze:
<https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/094e89>

For questions or more information, please contact Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org

You can also Scan this QR code to register



Stewardship 2022

Friends and Fellow Parishioners:

This weekend marks the beginning of our 2022 Stewardship Campaign at St. Thomas the Apostle. Over the next four weeks we will focus upon how our stewardship commitment sustains our parish financially and its many activities, including our numerous programs of outreach, St. Thomas small groups, and the leadership position we hold in the Diocese. St. Thomas continues to be the largest parish in membership and attendance while our clergy, staff and parishioners serve on a host of important Diocesan committees. We are considered by many within our Diocese and the national church as a model congregation.

Over the past 21 months and the broad impact of Covid 19, your unwavering attention to fulfilling your pledge commitment has been remarkable. Your generosity has allowed St. Thomas to adapt, create new virtual opportunities for worship and actually grow in membership. As the waves of Covid have arisen, and at intervals moderated, we have altered our activities, created new ones and continued to flourish as a vibrant parish committed to the safety of our members and the community. Our congregation has embraced Covid vaccinations to a degree that those eligible are nearly 100% immunized. Together we have endured this trying pandemic, remained resourceful, and continued our commitment to our faith within our church home and its role in serving God.

Here is an outline of activities planned over the next four weeks.

On the weekends of October 9-10, October 16-17, October 23-24, and October 30-31, there will be four different Tower Talk articles focusing on Stewardship and how your financial support is utilized to sustain St. Thomas' mission. On each of those weekends at our three in-person services individuals will share their thoughts on St. Thomas and what it means to them personally, their families, and how stewardship is an opportunity to be part of something very special at St. Thomas. Pledge packets will be mailed on Wednesday, October 27.

Our Consecration and Pledge Commitment weekend will be November 6 and 7.

Subject to the level of Covid activity later this month we may also include a more in-person activity similar to our drive through event last year. The details are obviously unknown at present but will evolve in accordance to what is safe and allowable.

Laura Bond has graciously agreed to co-chair our 2022 Stewardship campaign with me. I am quite pleased to have her involved and utilize her talents and tenure at St. Thomas to strengthen the endeavor.

In closing, we want to say thank you for your ongoing and generous commitment to St. Thomas and for being part of a unique church that continues to serve each of us and the larger domain of God's community. The value of our faith has been tested over and over again through this pandemic and offers us comfort and hope as we acclimate to a world forever changed.

May blessings be yours,
Bruce Henricks
Jr. Warden / Co-chair of Stewardship

TOWER TALK

OCTOBER 9 & 10, 2021

This Sunday's Christian Education

Christian Education groups will meet from 9:45-10:45am between services in the following locations:

Godly Play/Godly Exploration - ages PreK-8th Grades - outdoor altar area (or Parish Hall in case of inclement weather)

"The Giving Project" - High School - Basement Assembly Room

Adult Formation - Assembly Room (or Parish Hall)

Worship Services

Sat, 5:30pm, Sun, 8:45am, 11:00am—Holy Communion in Nave
Masks required for all indoor services.

The 5:30 and 11:00 services will be live-streamed and available to watch afterward on both YouTube and Facebook.

www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

The Second Saturday Gathering is this Saturday, Oct 9

Get together after the 5:30 Saturday service—meet new members and reconnect. We'll provide the beverages. We will meet in Parish Hall 1.

Everyone is welcome!

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and...



** Celebrating all birthdays after
2020 and Remembering those
we lost—Jack & Judy Dutra* ❤️

** In celebration and thanksgiving
for another year—Njideka Umeh/
Efrain Rojas*

Connect * Learn * Volunteer

Mental Health & Wellness: YOGA and You

with Angela Minard, E-RYT

Thursday, October 14, from 7—8pm

PH 1-3

Cost: \$5 per person. Registration is Required:
<https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/5bc977>

Join us and take a break from the stress and chaos of your life. This practice will be a floor-based practice with minimal props required. You will need a yoga mat and a folded blanket or towel to sit on. We will focus on some simple breathing practices for calming the nervous system, some breath initiated movement, along with gentle seated and reclined stretches to release tension in the body. We will close our practice with a guided relaxation. No previous yoga experience is needed.

JoCo IHN Volunteer Training at St Thomas

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

IHN is an organization that transforms the lives of families and single women experiencing homelessness. The comprehensive approach to case management helps create new patterns to break multi-generational cycles of poverty and struggle. It also educates and provides tools to navigate current financial and housing regulations in our community.

IHN includes "Host" churches which provide meals and evening/overnight shelter in their buildings. St. Thomas is a Host church. IHN also includes "Support" churches which provide some food/supplies and volunteers. All volunteers interacting with guests must complete one 2-hr training session conducted by the IHN training team. Training also qualifies the trainee to volunteer at the IHN Family Center as a receptionist or driver for appointments.

IHN statistics since 2004: 823 Total Individuals, inclusive of 474 children and 85 single females. Total Bed nights provided: 53,048. Total Meals provided: 159,144

Host week vol positions- there must always be at least 2 trained volunteers at church when guests are present.

Positions descriptions:

** **Dinner Vol- 5-7pm** Prep food at home and bring to St Thomas or prep at church. Volunteers eat with guests and remain until 7pm.

** **After Dinner- 7-9pm** Volunteers provide a "ministry of presence", interacting with guests if guests want to talk, etc. Vols are just available while watching TV or if guests have questions.

** **Overnight-9pm- 6:30am**- OP Fire Dept requires we conduct an hourly "fire safety" check. Vol walk through the building 1 time each hour during the night. There is a vol sleeping room and volunteers rotate shifts. One walks through the building doing the check while the other sleeps. Halfway through the night volunteers switch positions.

** **Volunteer Driver**- some guests do not have their own vehicle so volunteers transport guests from St Thomas to IHN in the morning and bring them back to St Thomas at 5pm. (We do not drive to school) IHN has a van but some volunteers prefer to use their own cars. Drivers must attend training and also sign a background release form.

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IHN Volunteer Training, cont.

Church membership is NOT a requirement for volunteers. Some volunteers are community based and learn about the work of IHN through friends & relatives, organizations that support IHN or newspaper articles, etc.

If you are interested in being part of this ministry please attend IHN training at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Wed, Oct 27. Training is 6:30-8:30pm in Parish Hall 2. Attendees must be on time and remain until end of session to be considered "trained". While reservations for training are not required it would be helpful for us to know how many people are planning to attend.

Please email or text if questions or want to attend training. Dola McNown 526 3573 or dolamcnown49@gmail.com; Margaret Walkenshaw 302 2018 or 897 4766 mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net

Thanksgiving in Action

St. Thomas will be joining with First Christian Church in Olathe and other community faith partners, local businesses, and organizations in providing groceries for a Thanksgiving meal for the food insecure in Olathe. Grocery items will be collected during October and part of November then distributed to the community on Thursday, November 18, at the Food Pantry at First Christian Church.

Here's how you can help:

1. Starting October 9 we will have boxes located in the Narthex.
2. Select a box, take it home and fill it with items listed on the grocery list attached to the box.
3. Drop off your filled box between 9am-1pm directly to First Christian Church, Olathe on any of the following days:

November 8 ♦ November 9 ♦ November 10

November 11 ♦ November 15 ♦ November 16

(Note: The church address will be indicated on your grocery list)

In addition to the groceries that we will be providing, each family will receive a frozen turkey, frozen container of whipped topping, and a package of dinner rolls. Last year this ministry provided meals for 99 families that included about 450 people. By all of us joining together, we hope to support many more this year as we share Christ's love by putting faith, with thanksgiving, into action.

Thank you from IHN

None of us got to where we are alone. We thank you and appreciate all you have done. Your generosity has given IHN guests new hope.

St. Thomas is a wonderful blessing to IHN and those we serve. We are so grateful to you and your dedicated members. Accept our heartfelt thanks for hosting our families the week of Sept 19. You are the reason someone feels welcomed, seen, heard, loved and supported!

Sincere Thanks, Vicki & Cheryl



Saturday, Oct 9: Baguyos Funeral & Reception 10am -12:30 Nave & PH 1, 2, 3; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Sunday, Oct 10: Holy Communion, 8:45am, 11:00am Nave; 9:45am: Children & Youth Sunday School (Outdoor Altar or PH and Bsmt Asbly Rm) and Adult Formation (Asbly); Youth Grp, 6-8pm PH, K

Monday, Oct 11: Organ practice, 10-11am Nave; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH, K; AA Fellowship, 6:30pm LL

Tuesday, Oct 12: Organ practice, 10am Nave; PEO mtg, 10am PH 2; Sword Guild practice, 7pm PH 2

Wednesday, Oct 13: Organ practice, 10-11am; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am Zoom; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH & K; Staff mtg, 1:30pm Lobby; Music recording TBA, 5:30pm Nave; Praise Band, 6:45pm Nave; Adult Choir, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship-7:30pm LL

Thursday, Oct 14: Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45-11am, Zoom; Organ practice, 10-11am; Spiritual Yoga program, 6-7pm PH 1, 2, 3; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm Nave or Asbly Rm; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Oct 15: Organ practice, 10-11am; Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH & Kitchen; Neighborhood Grp, 4:30-5:30pm PH 1; The Village People Neighborhood Grp, 5:30-7:30pm Fire Pit; SCA, 7pm PH 1; AA Fellowship, 8pm LL

Church office hours: Mon—Thurs 9am to 4pm; Fri 9 to 12

PLEASE SCHEDULE ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS with Meribeth in the church office to eliminate scheduling conflicts. If you decide NOT to meet at the church let her know that as well. 913-451-0512 or email mrisebig@stthomasop.org.

Articles for Tower Talk are due by NOON every Monday. Articles will run for two weeks unless notified otherwise. Send info and articles to mrisebig@stthomasop.org, or call 913-451-0512.

Join a Choir!

Singing is fun! Supporting worship is important!

Join the Praise Band. We rehearse at 6:30pm every Wednesday. We have a quick warm up every Sunday before the 8:45am service.

OR

Join the Traditional Choir. We rehearse at 7:30pm every Wednesday. We have a quick warm up every Sunday before the 11am service.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Beth Elswick, Director of Music at 816-392-7906 or belswick@stthomasop.org

