

## This Sunday's Christian Education

10-10:45am between services in the following locations:

**Adult Forum:** Assembly Room

**Children & Youth Sunday School:** Parish Hall

Our Pre-Grade 3 kiddos will share the Godly Play Advent Stories while our 4th-8th graders meet with Ms. Barbara to share a time of devotions around the Advent Wreath, explore the Mystery of Christmas, and try a variety of centering prayer practices as a way to prepare our minds and hearts for the Feast of the Nativity.



**St. Thomas Children's Christmas Pageant is back and in person!**  
**Friday, December 24**  
**at the 4pm Christmas Eve Service**



All Children ages 3 thru 6th grade are warmly welcomed to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant! Our pageant offers all sorts of opportunities - from simply wearing a costume, to one-line parts, to singing/dancing, to reading from scripture - there is something for everyone! Practice will begin during the 11am service for children with speaking, singing, or dancing parts on DECEMBER 5; and we will have a Pizza Party and Practice on Thursday, December 23, from 11am to 1pm. \*\**Children may join at anytime, but if you know your child would like to participate, please sign them up at: <https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/060033>*

## Worship Services

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

All services will be live-streamed and available to watch afterward on both YouTube and Facebook.

[www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop](https://www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop) and  
[www.facebook.com/stthomasop](https://www.facebook.com/stthomasop)



**Saturday, Dec 4:** Holiday Cookie Sale!, 9am-4pm Parish Hall; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave;

**Sunday, Dec 5:** Possible continuation of Cookie Sale, 9:45am-12:45pm; Holy Communion, 8:45am, 11:00am Nave; Adult Forum, 10am Asbly Rm; Children/Youth Sun Sch, PH; IHN HOST Week begins at 5pm Educ Wind/Asbly Rm; Youth Group, 6-8pm PH, K

**Monday, Dec 6:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH, K; AA Fellowship, 6:30pm LL

**Tuesday, Dec 7:** Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7-8pm Nave; Sword Guild practice, 7pm PH 2

**Wednesday, Dec 8:** Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am Asbly Rm; PEO Mtg, (P Henricks), 10:30-2 PH 2; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH & K; Staff Mtg, 1:30-2:30 Lobby or PH 1; Pinehurst Estates Ann Mtg, 5:30-7:30pm PH 1, 2, 3; Advent Chat Series, 7-8pm Zoom; Praise Band, 6:45 Nave; Adult Choir, 7:30 Nave; AA Fellowship, 7:30 LL

**Thursday, Dec 9:** Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45am online; Classics Men's Sm Gr, 7pm PH 2; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm PH 1; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

**Friday, Dec 10:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH & Kitchen; Explorers Sm Grp, 6-9pm PH 2; AA Fellowship, 8pm LL

To see more meetings and events, check out the calendar on our website: <https://stthomasop.org/calendar/>

# TOWER TALK

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2021

## Advent Conversations

Each Wednesday of Advent we will gather at 7pm on Zoom to hear from and have conversation with spiritual leaders on the topic of intentionality in our spiritual life. Fr. Gar has shown us in his daily gratitude reflections how being intentional in a practice can change our thinking, our relationships, even our brain! We will take this idea and hear from people who have devoted their lives to intentional spirituality. One speaker is from our diocese and the other three are members of Episcopal religious orders.

**Dec. 8** The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care, Diocese of Kansas

**Dec. 15** Brother Desmond Alban SSF, San Damiano Friary, San Francisco, CA

**Dec. 22** Brother Abraham OSB, St. Gregory's Abbey, Three Rivers, Michigan

Link to watch the Advent Conversation each Wednesday:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89842867361>



## Christmas Services at St. Thomas

**December 24**

**Noon, 4:00, 7:00, and 9:00 pm**

**December 25**

**one service at 10:00 am**

**December 26**

**one service only at 10:00 am**

## Congratulations to Children & Youth

Huge Congratulations to:

\* Alli Phillips who not only won her 7th grade debate tournament (apparently due to skills gained while arguing with her older brother) but she also made the ECKMEA Honor Band AND the Kansas JP Sousa Junior Honor Band for clarinet! toot, toot!

\* Micah Geary who 2nd Team All Sunflower League at Defensive Back and Honorable Mention All Sunflower League at Wide Receiver.

We know your kiddos are up to GREAT THINGS! We want to hear and celebrate with them! Email any special news about your child or youth 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 newsletters!

## Outreach

### St. Thomas Host Week Starts December 5

Please pray for the JoCo IHN guests who will be staying at St. Thomas Dec. 5-12. We cannot imagine all the stress and problems they are experiencing during this time. Please also pray for our volunteers and supporters. Part of our compassionate care means we don't get into the guests' business and we don't make judgements. Our wonderful volunteers serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

We're thankful for the commitment of St Thomas Episcopal, clergy and members of our congregation. If you have questions, contact one of our IHN coordinators: Dola McNow 913 526 3573, Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018 or Laundry coordinator, Connie Snider 913 709 1431

### Mobile Food Pantry—Volunteer Opportunities

#### Next Opportunity: Saturday, December 11

Location: Comanche Elementary 8200 Grant Ave. Overland Park  
Time: 11:30am-2:00pm

Additional information and volunteer signups for December 2021 through March 2022 may be found here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4ca9ac2fa1fa7-mobile1>

Questions? Contact: Donna Fye djfyee@gmail.com, Rick Bush rickthelandlord@gmail.com, or Deacon Fran Wheeler fwheeler@stthomasop.org

### American Red Cross Results

St. Thomas sponsored a blood drive on November 23. There were 28 donors, one of which was a first timer; 27 units were collected; and we potentially saved 81 lives!

*Thank you!*

### Stewardship at St. Thomas

We are still accepting pledge cards. They are located in the lobby or in chair shelves in the Nave. Just place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. If you are joining us online, you can fill your pledge card out and mail it to us, or fill out the online pledge [HERE](#). <https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/pledge2021>.

It will be helpful to have them in as soon as possible. If you have any questions, or need more information about the Annual Stewardship Campaign, we're here to help. Please contact Bruce Henricks at 402-960-1709 or the church office 913-451-0512.

## The Season of Advent

### Take a Pause...

#### Contemplative Prayer during Advent

All Tuesdays, Nov. 30—Dec. 21

7:00-7:30pm

In this busy time it is good to practice a pause for focus and peace—a contemplative time of prayer to rest in the Lord for 20-30 minutes each week as we journey through Advent.

### Advent Quiet Day 2021

Saturday, December 11, 2021 from 9 am – 2 pm @ Grace Cathedral, Topeka

Registration Fee: \$20, includes lunch. Deadline to register: December 7, 2021

Canon Lisa Senuta invites you to spend some time with the Merciful One in community and nurture the seeds of new life in your spiritual heart during the season of waiting. Expect group learning, group conversation and guided periods of silence with individual reflection time.

Register online: <https://edok.formstack.com/forms/quietday2021>

Questions? Contact Canon Lisa Senuta at 913-488-2733 or [lisenuta@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:lisenuta@episcopal-ks.org).



### The next Second Saturday Gathering will be December 11

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

Everyone is welcome!

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

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

in Thanksgiving for the anniversary of Gar's ordination to the priesthood (24 yrs) and Kelly's ordination to the priesthood (24 yrs).



If you'd like to share your special events or memories with altar flowers, you can now sign up on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board by the church office. Details are posted above the signup chart.

You can also send an email to [stthomas@stthomasop.org](mailto:stthomas@stthomasop.org), or give us a call. 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/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 will receive an email or phone call about a month in advance asking for details about your commemoration.

Special envelopes for Christmas Offerings will be placed in the bulletins during Advent. Your gifts will help provide festive music and beautiful flowers at the altar during Christmas. No need to designate—your donation will be used where needed.

### Christmas Offering

If you wish to have your name included in the Christmas bulletins, please return the envelope found in your bulletin before Friday, December 17. On the envelope list the names of those you wish honored or the blessing(s) you wish to name, along with your donation inside (any amount).