

## \* UP NEXT \*

**Saturday, Jan. 29:** CPR class, 8am-12pm PH 2 (E Barnes); Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

**Sunday, Jan 30:** Holy Communion, 8:45 & 11am Nave with Children's Church during each service; Christian Education 10-10:45am—Children & Youth in PH 1, 2. Wind Ensemble rehearsal, 1:30-3:30pm PH 1 or 2; Youth Group Prayer, 6pm Nave; Youth Group, 6:30-8pm PH; No Adult Forum this week.

**Monday, Jan 31:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH/Kitchen; AA Fellowship, 6:30pm LL

**Tuesday, Feb 1:** Blood Drive, 10am-3pm PH 1, 2, 3; Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7pm Nave; Sword Guild practice, 7-9pm PH 2

**Wednesday, Feb 2:** Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30-12 Asbly or Zoom; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH1/Kitchen; Staff Mtg, 1:30-2:30 Lobby; Praise Band practice, 6:30pm Nave; Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship, 7:30 LL

**Thursday, Feb 3:** Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45am online; Explorers Sm Grp, 7pm PH 2; AI-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

**Friday, Feb 4:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH/Kitch; SCA, 7pm PH 1; AA Fellowship, 8pm LL

**Saturday, Jan. 29:** Holy Communion 5:30pm

Church office hours: Mon.— Thurs. 9am to 5pm; Fri. 9am to Noon

To view the church calendar go to our website, <https://stthomasop.org/calendar/>. All mtgs and events must be cleared with Meribeth in the church office. [mrisebig@stthomasop.org](mailto:mrisebig@stthomasop.org) or 913-451-0512.

## New Day by Day Reflections available

Booklets for February, March, and April are now available in the Lobby. But... there are also some new ways to access your *Forward Day by Day*!

\* You can now listen on the go—*Forward Day by Day Podcast* is available on all streaming platforms including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and anywhere you listen to podcasts. They also publish morning and evening prayer podcasts, as well as special interest and discipleship podcasts. Listen on your morning walk, evening commute, or anywhere in between! Listen at [www.forwardmovement.org/podcasts](http://www.forwardmovement.org/podcasts)

\* Sign up to receive the free email version of *Forward Day by Day* devotion each morning. The email is sent overnight so it'll be waiting for you in the morning. This is an option if you forget to pack it while traveling. Subscribe at [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org)



## Updates on the Youth Community!

Mark your calendars now for March 1. We will have Shrove Tuesday Drive Thru Pancakes again this year! More information to follow!

## Celebrating Our Children & Youth

- ❖ *Mabel Senuta who was accepted into the Distinguished Scholars Academy at Olathe North!!*
- ❖ *Sophia Lindberg who got SIX personal records at her last swim meet!*
- ❖ *Congratulations to Allison Phillips who was selected and recently performed with the Kansas John Phillip Sousa Honor Bands at the University of Kansas's Lied Center for the Performing Arts in Lawrence! Way to go, Allii!*
- ❖ *Congratulations to Oliver Epp who made the most of his final Cub Scout Pinewood Derby by taking First Place for his den! (Those who've made a Pinewood Derby car or two know what a challenge it is to get all of the pieces and parts put together correctly to make a really fast car!) Way to go, Oliver!*

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!

## How You Can Help with Youth Mission Trip

This year we have a unique opportunity to travel to San Francisco for our mission trip! We will be doing work with the homeless population there as well as learning the history of the city and its efforts around creation care. What can you do to help?

1. Do you have Southwest air miles that you might be willing to donate? That would be a HUGE help!! Just talk to Mthr. Kelly about that.
2. Mark your calendar now for the return of our fundraising dinner!! April 2 we will have our dinner and auction. Which leads me to...
3. Do you have a goods or services you can donate to our auction? Talk to a youth or Mthr. Kelly!

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\*\* 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. \*\*

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# TOWER TALK

JANUARY 29 & 30, 2022

## Worship Services

Sat, 5:30pm; Sun, 8:45am, 11:00am

Masks required for all indoor services.

\*Children's Church (program geared toward children ages 3-10) is offered during the "Liturgy of the Word" during each Sunday Service.\*

All services will be live-streamed and available to watch afterward 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)

## Christian Education

January 23, 10:00am

*Until further notice Adult Forum will not meet.*

**PreSchool, Elementary & Middle School**—in the Parish Hall

*Sunday School for children and middle school youth will continue to meet in the Parish Hall for the time being due to the high rates of COVID-19 in our area. We will re-evaluate our location as we approach the season of Lent.*

*Over the next few weeks our younger children are invited to join Ms. Ann and Ms. Lauren for stories of Jesus' teachings during his time here among us as we move through this Growing Time after Epiphany, while our older children and middle school youth are invited to join Ms. Jenny, Ms. Addy and Mr. John for a celebration of People of Color Who Inspire us to make the world a better place for all.*

**High School/Giving Project**—Basement

## Annual Meeting Reports Available

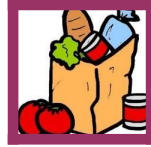
If you'd like to view a paper copy of the recent Annual Report, you can pick one up at church located on the ledge that opens into the kitchen. You can also view the report by clicking on this link:

<https://stthomasop.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Annual-Report-for-meeting-in-2022.pdf>



## Mobile Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities Available

**Next Volunteer Opportunity:** February 12  
**Location:** Comanche Elementary 8200 Grant Ave, Overland Park, KS  
**Time:** 11:30am—2:00pm



Additional information and volunteer signups for February 12 through May 14, 2022 may be found here:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4CA9AC2FA1FA7-mobile2>

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



## My Volunteer Pal (MVP) Comanche Elementary Volunteer Opportunity:

Comanche Elementary is actively looking for volunteers to participate in their My Volunteer Pal (MVP) program again.

My Volunteer Pal (MVP) program is a volunteer program that connects adult volunteers with students ages Kindergarten to 6th grade. Volunteer Pals choose from a range of in-school activities, including: Mentoring, Classroom or school volunteer, Sharing special talents or career interests, Tutoring, Being a friend who listens, Chaperones for Shawnee Mission School District approved field trip.

Volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, and all activities take place on school grounds during school hours with the exception of field trips.

A short training and a background check are required through the Shawnee Mission District. To learn more about the program and details on the training click here:

[Volunteer \(MVP\) - Shawnee Mission School District \(smsd.org\)](https://www.smsd.org)

Or contact Deacon Fran Wheeler for additional information: [fwheeler@stthomasop.org](mailto:fwheeler@stthomasop.org)

## Volunteers & Donations of Food & Supplies Needed for IHN Host Week See SignUp Sheets on Narthex Display Board

St. Thomas Host week serving situationally homeless families and single women will be February 20-27, 2022. As an IHN Host congregation St. Thomas will convert our classrooms to provide shelter during evenings and overnight. IHN trained volunteers will be present at all times providing support to our guests. Untrained volunteers are also needed for setup and takedown of classrooms.

JoCo IHN consists of 36 congregations of many different denominations. The families and women we serve are not required or pressured to profess faith or attend services at any church. JoCo IHN requires that all guests aged 12 and older must be fully vaccinated to be accepted into the program.

Sign up on the display board or contact one of our coordinators with questions or to help: Dola McNown [dolamcnown49@gmail.com](mailto:dolamcnown49@gmail.com) 913 526 3573 or 913 541 9226; Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018 or 913 897 4766 or [mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net](mailto:mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net); Connie Snider, laundry coordinator, at [conniesnider@hotmail.com](mailto:conniesnider@hotmail.com) 913 709 1431

## So, just what exactly is in that “Little Black Box?”

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are lay ministers who take communion from our Sunday service to shut-ins, primarily people in assisted living facilities/homes, hospitals, and others who cannot be with our parish family for service due to illness or special circumstances. The Lay Eucharistic Visitor tradition dates back to the earliest years of the Christian church serving the homebound and invalid. Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors are trained at St. Thomas and licensed by the Bishop. Each week they go forth and carry the sacraments of bread and wine to those they visit so that those they visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. “We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.” Lay Eucharistic Visitors care and tend to those they visit both spiritually and emotionally, and often reflect on the readings and/or the sermon. In addition, they share with one another what is currently going on in the life and community of St. Thomas, the world, and within our personal lives, enabling a growth in relationship with one another and with Christ.

### Next LEV Training Class:

Sunday, February 20 (Part 1) & Sunday, February 27 (Part 2)  
Training will take place between services 9:50-10:30am in Rm #137.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Visitor and would like to attend the training, or would like to hear more about this ministry, please contact Deacon Fran Wheeler. Email: [fwheeler@stthomasop.org](mailto:fwheeler@stthomasop.org)

## “Almost Daily” Reflections with Fr. Gar

Many of you have commented on the 30 Days of Gratitude Series and have asked for more reflections. Early in January I started a series of “Almost Daily” reflections using a similar format. Videos post typically Monday-Friday at 7am and include a reflection along with Scripture and/or other resources as a daily dose of spirituality and encouragement. Follow along each day on the St. Thomas Episcopal OP Facebook page or You Tube channel.  
[www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop](https://www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop) - Fr. Gar

## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT: “Last Word” Series

For the past several years we have had a wonderful Lenten series called “Last Word”. It asks speakers to reflect on what they might say to a crowd of people if they knew this was the last time in their lives they would give a speech. What is important? We will continue that this year and we will have the ability to host in person speakers as well as online speakers. That means we can get speakers from all over the world! Do you know someone who would be great for this series? Perhaps an author, performer, scientist or just really interesting person that you want your St. Thomas family to meet? If you have an idea for someone please reach out to Mthr. Kelly ([kdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:kdemo@stthomasop.org)) to see if they would be a good fit!

## LENT MADNESS is COMING!!

**Weekdays (and one Saturday) from March 3 thru April 13 - ONLINE!**

Looking for a fun and unique Lenten study discipline? Then join in the “Saintry Showdown”. Each weekday in Lent (excluding Sundays and most Saturdays) beginning Thursday, March 3, check in online for a NCAA “March Madness” style tournament match-up of two saints - read about each, ponder their work to bring about the kingdom, vote for your favorite and see who comes out on top! Follow through the season to find who makes it on to the “Saintry Sixteen,” “Elate Eight,” “Faithful Four” until the field is narrowed down to the “WINNER OF THE GOLDEN HALLO!” You can find a printable calendar, bracket AND signup for the nearly-daily emails here: <https://www.lentmadness.org/bracket/> (the email signup is slightly hidden near the top right, but it IS there) OR simply follow along with the posts that will be shared on our St. Thomas Facebook Pages!

\*\* A note to families with older elementary children and youth - this is a FUN way to engage with your young people in a Lenten discipline! As you know, however, many of the earthly lives of God's Saints came to unpleasant ends (martyrdom). While this is valid and important information, if engaging as a family, Ms. Barbara recommends a parent preview of the daily write up for each Saint making adjustments to the wording as needed to best suit what you feel your children are prepared to hear as needed.