

* UP NEXT *

Saturday, Feb 19: Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am PH 1; Wind Quintet, 1pm PH 1; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Sunday, Feb 20: Holy Communion, 8:45 & 11am Nave with Children's Church during each service; LEV training, 9:45-10:30 PH 1; **Christian Education 10-10:45am**—Children & Youth in PH 2, 3. Youth in Bsmt Asbly Rm; Adult Forum, in Asbly Rm; Youth Prayer, 6pm Nave; Youth Group 6:30-8pm PH

Monday, Feb 21: Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH/Kitchen; AA Fellowship, 6:30pm LL

Tuesday, Feb 22: Sword Guild practice, 7-9pm PH 2

Wednesday, Feb 23: Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30-12 Zoom; BKSM mtg, 9:30-11am PH 3; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH1/Kitchen; Staff Mtg, 1:30pm Lobby; Praise Band practice, 6:30pm Nave; Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship, 7:30 LL

Thursday, Feb 24: Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45am Zoom; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm PH 2; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm PH 1; AI-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Feb 25: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH/Kitch; AA Fellowship, 8pm LL

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 or 913-451-0512.

Worship Services

Sat, 5:30pm; Sun, 8:45am, 11:00am (Masks required)

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

"Almost Daily" Reflections with Fr. Gar

This video series typically posts Monday-Friday at 7am and includes 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 (link shown above).



Mark your calendars now for some fun youth and family events!

- March 1 will be our drive through Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras Pancake Event!

- March 27 we will bring back Taste of Youth Group! This year we will be adding in a Taste of Camp Wood!

This evening will be for all of our 3-5th grade friends. They will get to see what youth group is all about AND we will introduce them to what a week looks like at our diocesan summer event, Camp Wood!

- April 23 we will bring back Parents Night Out! A chance for parents to sneak away and drop their kids off here to be cared for by their older St. Thomas friends in the youth group.

Celebrating Our Children & Youth

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 or Kelly—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. Mark your calendar now for the return of our fundraising dinner!! April 2 we will have our dinner and auction. Which leads me to...
2. Do you have any goods or services you can donate to our auction? Talk to a youth or Mthr. Kelly!

Thank You!

Dear St. Thomas family,

Thank you very much for the amazing love, prayers and care you have given to our family throughout my knee replacement recovery. You fed us scrumptious food, checked in on my mom while I was in rehab, if you were going out called to see if we needed anything, brought fruit, helped solve rehab at home issues, and loved us as Christ loves us. Father Gar says it best, "Love your neighbor, as yourself." You do. Thank you.

Deep peace,

Susan Strom, Leila Potts, and Jeff Strom

TOWER TALK

FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2022

Christian Education this Sunday—10:00am

Adult Forum - will meet in the Asbly Room & Zoom.

PreSchool, Elementary & Middle School—in the Parish Hall

This Sunday (February 20) our 4th-8th Grade students are invited to gather in Parish Hall 2 and then support our Interfaith Hospitality Network "Host Week" by helping Ms. Dola and her team to set up the rooms that will host our guests for the week. This will be an additional 1 hour community service opportunity.

High School/Giving Project—Basement Assembly Room

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Tailgate - March 1!

On Shrove Tuesday, March 1, from 4-7pm, we will have the Great Pancake Tailgate OR Drive-Thru (Can't Wait!). The youth will have pancakes and sausage available that you can eat here or get some to go. It will be a freewill offering and the money will go towards our summer camp programming. In case of inclement weather we will just move to the drive through option.



Join us for an Ash Wednesday Service as we prayerfully enter into the season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday Services—March 2
7:00am, Noon, 6:00pm, 7:00pm

All services will include the imposition of ashes on the forehead, the "Litany of Penitence" (or list of things to repent of), and the liturgical invitation in the themes of a holy Lent. The 7:00pm service will include Holy Eucharist.

The 6:00pm service is a shorter, interactive service designed for families with children of any age, and the questions they often have regarding the use of ashes (Are they hot? Will they burn?), what Lent is all about, and the coming Mystery of Easter.

Please pray for the JoCo IHN

guests who will be staying at St. Thomas Feb. 20-27. We cannot imagine all the stress and problems they are experiencing during this time.

Please pray for the work of JoCo IHN. IHN has served 837 total individuals

480 of those served have been children under the age of 18
88 of those served have been single, unaccompanied female guests
To date, IHN has provided 53,761 bednights and 161,283 meals

We're thankful for the commitment of St Thomas Episcopal, clergy and members of our congregation. Our wonderful volunteers serve as the the hands and feet of Christ.

If you have questions, contact one of our IHN Coordinators: Dola McNown 913 526 3573 or 913 541 9226 or dolamcnown49@gmail.com; Margaret Walkenshaw mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net; or 913 302 2018 or 913 897 4766; Connie Snider, laundry coordinator, 913-709 1431 or conniesnider@hotmail.com 913 709 1431

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 "Saintly 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 "Saintly Sixteen," "Elate Eight," "Faithful Four" until the field is narrowed down to the "WINNER OF THE GOLDEN HALO!" 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 writeup for each Saint making adjustments to the wording as needed to best suit what you feel your children are prepared to hear as needed.*



Next LEV Training Class:

This Sunday, February 20 (Part 1) & **and Sunday, February 27** (Part 2). Training will take place between services 9:50-10:30am in Parish Hall 1.

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

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.





An Altar Flower Memorial has been given to the Glory of God and...

*In thanksgiving for Kelly Demo's
birthday—from Gar*

“LAST WORD” Lenten Lecture Series

Wednesdays thru Lent—begins March 9!

Noon—1pm

We will again be hosting Lenten Lectures during Lent. They will be live-streamed and/or offered on Zoom—more info to come. The theme is "Last Word" and is modeled after Carnegie Mellon University's The Last Lecture Series. We are inviting distinguished leaders to share thoughts on what really matters to them.

March 9: Toriano Porter is a national award-winning opinion writer for the Kansas City Star Editorial Board. A native of St. Louis, Toriano has called Kansas City home since 2007. He is a three-time author, distinguished motivational speaker and dedicated mentor to young people in the metropolitan area.

March 16: Michael Kleber-Diggs (KLEE-burr digs) (he / him / his) is a poet, essayist, and literary critic. His debut poetry collection, "Worldly Things", won the Max Ritvo Poetry Prize and was published by Milkweed Editions in June 2021. Michael's writings have or will appear in Reviews and anthologies. His essay "On the Complex Flavors of Black Joy," is included in "There's a Revolution Outside, My Love: Letters from a Crisis." Michael is a past Fellow with the Givens Foundation for African American Literature, a past-winner of the Loft Mentor Series in Poetry, and the former Poet Laureate of Anoka County libraries.

March 23: Barbara Cawthorne Crafton is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director and author. She was rector of St. Clement's Church in Manhattan's Theatre district. She was also a chaplain on the waterfront of New York, and served both historic Trinity Church, Wall Street and St. John's Church in Greenwich Village. She was a chaplain at Ground Zero during the recovery effort after the WTC bombing. An actress, director and producer, she has worked for many years in combining the lively arts and the life of faith. Her books, articles, and radio scripts have won many awards, including numerous Polly Bond Awards from Episcopal Communicators and the coveted Gabriel Award for religious broadcasting. She is seen frequently on television both as a preacher and as a commentator on Hallmark's "New Morning" and "America at Worship," and has been profiled extensively in electronic and print media throughout the world.

March 30: The Reverend Canon Mpho Tutu van Furth is an episcopal priest, an artist, an author, an accomplished public speaker and retreat facilitator. She has had many roles in non-profit leadership. She was the founding executive director of the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation. She continues to work for environmental justice, human rights and equal access to opportunity for all people without regard to race, class or gender. With her wife, Marceline she has established and is Executive Director of the Tutu Teach Foundation to enhance access to opportunity for women and girls. Ms. Tutu van Furth and her wife live in the Netherlands. They have four children and two (amazing) grandchildren.

April 6: Brad Hill is currently Executive Director of an incredible organization called Heart Connexion Seminars and gets to be heart deep in working with folks who truly want to do the work to move beyond surviving and embrace flourishing in their lives. He is originally from Louisiana and went to college in Oklahoma City. Kansas City has been home since 2000. He loves to help humans and leaders live and love well.