

* UP NEXT *

Saturday, Feb 5: Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

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

Monday, Feb 7: Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH/Kitchen; Outreach Team mtg, 6:30pm PH 2 or Zoom; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 7:30pm PH 1; AA Fellowship, 6:30pm LL

Tuesday, Feb 8: PEO mtg, 10am PH 2 (Roller); Sword Guild practice, 7-9pm PH 2

Wednesday, Feb 9: PEO mtg, 10am PH 2 & Sanctuary, 10am (P Henricks); Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30-12 Asbly or Zoom; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH1/ Kitchen; Staff Mtg, 1:00pm Lobby; Praise Band practice, 6:30pm Nave; Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship, 7:30 LL

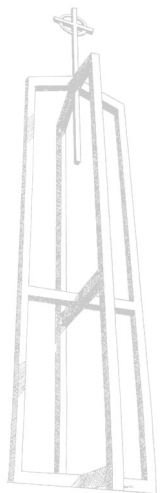
Thursday, Feb 10: Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45am online; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm PH 2; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm PH 1; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Feb 11: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH/Kitch; SCA, 7pm PH 1; AA Fellowship, 8pm LL

Saturday, Feb 12: 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 or 913-451-0512.



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. 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!

Upcoming Events:

February 20 & 27: 9:50am	Eucharistic Visitor Training
February 20-27	IHN Host Week at St. Thomas
March 1: 4-6:30pm	Shrove Tues Pancakes Drive-Thru
March 2: 7am, Noon, 6pm, 7pm	Ash Wednesday services
March 3: Noon and 7pm	first Lenten "Last Word" series

** 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. **

TOWER TALK

FEBRUARY 5 & 6, 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 and
www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Christian Education

February 6, 10:00am

Adult Forum will meet this week in the Asbly Room & Zoom.

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.

This week 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 Assembly Room

"Almost Daily" Reflections with Fr. Gar

Early in January I started a series of "Almost Daily" reflections. 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

- Fr. Gar



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, Rick Bush rickthelandlord@gmail.com, or Deacon Fran Wheeler 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

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 913 526 3573 or 913 541 9226; Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018 or 913 897 4766 or mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net; Connie Snider, laundry coordinator, at 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

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 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 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.*

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 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.