



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

- 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 2 Youth Fundraising Dinner and Auction
- 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

A big congratulations goes out to...

- * *Garrett Seyler who went to State swimming for Olathe East. He finished 7th on his personal events (200 free and 100 fly.) and 3rd in the 200 free relay. Then, with his three best buddies since freshman year, they WON the 6A 400 free relay. Garrett was named 2nd Team All State. Way to go!!*
- * *Kelsey Phillips also took first in State at the Business Professionals Association Competition in TeleHealth!! So cool!*

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

Easter Offerings



Special envelopes for Easter offerings will be placed in the bulletins during Lent. Your gifts will help provide special music and beautiful flowers at the altar during Easter. No need to designate—your donation will be used where needed.

If you wish to have your name included in the Easter bulletins, we ask that you return the envelope in the offering or to the church office by Monday, April 11. On the envelope write the names of those you wish honored or the blessing(s) you wish to name, along with your donation inside (any amount).

Worship Services

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

Children's Church (for children ages 3-10) is offered during the "Liturgy of the Word" during each Sunday Service.

All services are live-streamed and available to watch afterward: www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop



DON'T FORGET... Summer Camp Registrations are OPEN NOW!!

Registration is currently only open to our former participants and members, but they are already starting to FILL. Do not delay - register your St. Thomas child TODAY!

Episcopal Diocese of Kansas MEGA CAMP (Sleep Away at Camp Wood YMCA in Elmdale, KS) - June 5-11
Register Here: <https://www.ultracamp.com/info/upcomingSessions.aspx?idCamp=986&campCode=1sC>

Middle School "Reaching Out to the Community" (6th-9th Graders in Aug 2022) - June 13-17 from 9am to 3pm
Register Here: <https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/6cb24512>

High School "Reaching Out to the Community" (9th-College Freshmen in Aug. 2022) June 20-24 (includes overnights)
Register Here: <https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/HSROTC22>

"Come to the Feast" Vacation Bible Camp (Ages 3-11): Sunday June 26 - Thursday, June 30 (5:30-8:30pm - DINNER INCLUDED for participants, participating parents & volunteers)
Register Here: <https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/VBC2022Picnic>

Elementary "Reaching Out to the Community" (3rd-6th Graders in Aug 2022) - July 11-15 from 9am to 3pm
Register Here: <https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/6cb245925035>

Arts Camp: "Christmas in JULY!" (1st-6th Graders in Aug 2022) - July 25-29 from 9am to 3pm *Showcase Performance & Art Gallery at 3pm on Friday, July 29!* Register Here: <https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/ArtsCamp2022>

TOWER TALK

MARCH 6 & 7, 2022

This Sunday: All Parish Lenten Practices & Prayer Stations—9:30-11:15am in Parish Hall

All are welcome for this "open house style" event between the two services. Four stations applicable to ALL AGES will be offered to help us explore and ponder the four key Lenten Disciplines:

"PRAYER: Making Time For God" - Take a walk on our mini-labyrinth and pick up a finger labyrinth meditation for home.

"REPENTANCE: Turn Toward God" - Offer the words of your heart to God at this dissolving paper prayer station.

"ALMSGIVING: Give Thanks and Give Back" - Create an Alms Box and collect a Lenten Giving Calendar to encourage taking stock of the blessings we have and giving a monetary offering of thanks. Offerings will be collected on Easter and Celebration Sundays (April 17 & 24) with all proceeds going to support our Afghan Families.

"FASTING: Living God's Best Ways" - Engage in a Coloring Prayer with an Alleluia Butterfly Mandala and pondering (writing down if you wish) an intention for living God's Best Ways - whether giving up or taking on - this season and beyond. These will be "hidden" in our collection basket as a symbol of putting away our celebratory words, phrases and practices during the more penitent and mindful season of Lent.

Stations will be available between the 2 Sunday Services, during the 11am Worship (though not attended by helpers at that time), and for a short time following the 11am worship - there will be plenty of time available for those who wish to attend both the stations and Adult Forum.

New Adult Ed Series this Sunday—10am, Asbly Rm

During the season of Lent, St. Thomas' Adult Forum will offer an opportunity for parishioners to consider how their talents, passions, and values can be put to service in God's Kingdom through their everyday lives. This course will be led by Dr. George Phillips, Senior Warden at St. Thomas. Over his career in academic medicine, George has worked with numerous emerging and established leaders to assist them in discerning paths toward goals in their professional and personal lives. George also uses that experience with our high school youth in The Giving Project, helping them design a personal mission statement that informs their area of service in God's Kingdom. As our Lenten traditions encourage us to explore areas for personal growth, please consider joining Adult Forum for this opportunity for a guided approach to introspection that may open new paths for living out your faith.

Christian Education this Sunday—10:00am

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

Join us for a new series on service in God's Kingdom in everyday lives. See information on front page.

PreSchool, Elementary & Middle School—in the Parish Hall

All Parish Lenten Practices & Prayer Stations. All are welcome for an "open house style" event between the two services. More info on front page.

High School/Giving Project—Basement Assembly Room

Confirmation Class—Room 137

*** UP NEXT ***

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

Sunday, Mar 6: Holy Communion, 8:45 & 11am Nave with Children's Church during each service; Christian Education this Sunday—Lenten Practices & Prayer for all ages, 9:30-11:15am in PH 1, 2, 3; Adult Forum, 10am in Asbly Rm; Confirmation Rm 137; Youth Prayer, 6pm Nave; Youth Group 6:30-8pm PH

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

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

Wednesday, Mar 9: PEO mtg (Henricks), 10am PH 2; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH1/Kitchen; Lenten Speaker Series, 12pm, In Person & Youtube; Staff mtg, 1:30pm PH 1 or Lobby; Praise Band, 6:30pm Nave; Choir, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship, 7:30 LL

Thursday, Mar 10: Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45am Zoom; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm PH 2; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm PH 1; Sword Guild, 7pm PH 3; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Mar 11: 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.



Afghan Family Support

St Thomas will be supporting Afghan families in the KC Metro from the Afghan Resettlement Program. Thirty of our members have completed the training and are getting ready to support two families. The families total 17 people four adults and 13 children. We will help with English learning, financial education, community resources and will walk along with these families for the next six months.

Would you consider a donation to help with this effort? 100% of what you donate will go directly to the families and St Thomas will act as a custodian of the funds in partnership with Catholic Charities. If you can help, it will be greatly appreciated. Here are three options to donate:

- If you are on Facebook, you can donate through our recent post
- Through our website (Tithely) https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1377886 — to the right of the amount click on Outreach Fund and include a note of "Afghan Support"
- Write a check to St. Thomas with memo "Afghan Support"

Thank you to our St Thomas parish for the continued support of JoCo IHN and our St. Thomas ministry which is part of IHN. IHN serves situationally homeless families and single women with no children. This program has a Family Center which is the daytime facility where guests meet with case managers, receive counseling, learn budgeting skills and money management. At the Family Center the guests have access to computers, phones, opportunities for education including job skills, washers, dryers, showers and a full kitchen. Churches provide evening/overnight shelter for guests including evening meals and food for lunch and breakfast. St. Thomas is a "HOST" church and approximately every 12 weeks guests stay in our church for evenings, have dinner and sleep overnight in converted classrooms with blow-up mattresses. Compassionate, trained volunteers are present with guests throughout the evening and overnight.

Please continue to pray for IHN guests and all people in need. If you have questions- want to learn more about JoCo IHN or are interested in attending training so you can volunteer when guests are at St. Thomas, please contact one of our IHN coordinators: Dola McNown 913 526 3573, Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018 or Laundry coordinator, Connie Snider 913 709 1431.

Mobile Food Pantry—Next Volunteer Opportunity: Mar 12 Comanche Elementary 8200 Grant Ave, Overland Park, KS Time: 11:30am—2:00pm

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

“LAST WORD” Lenten Lecture Series

Wednesdays thru Lent—begins March 9!

Noon—1pm

We will again be hosting Lenten Lectures during Lent. 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. Watch your inbox for the Zoom invitations.



March 9 (Nave or Zoom/Youtube): **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 (Zoom & Youtube only): **Michael Kleber-Diggs** 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 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.

... And more to come thru Lent!

March 23 (Zoom or Youtube): **Barbara Cawthorne Crafton.** Episcopal priest, spiritual director and author.

March 30 (Zoom or Youtube): **The Reverend Canon Mpho Tutu van Furth.** Episcopal priest, artist, author speaker.

April 6 (Nave or Zoom/Youtube): **Brad Hill.** Executive Director of Heart Connexion and humanitarian.