

Children & Youth

- **SAVE THE DATE!!**

Back to School Bash & Backpack Blessings

Sunday, August 13

Students of all ages and stages are welcome to bring their backpacks, devices or school keys for a special blessing and gift from the congregation during the 10AM service followed by food, fun and **FOAM! YES! We are having a foam party!** (Outside, north lawn past the sanctuary, immediately following the service.) So, toss your swimsuit and towel in that backpack and come have some fun! **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Bring a friend!

- **Congratulations & THANK YOU**

To our amazing Arts Camp Students & Staff for an EGG-Cellent presentation of their musical "The Egg-Cellent News of the Easter Eggs" and art gallery at their annual Showcase on Friday!

We were amazed with the talent and kindness displayed by these young ones all week long! This could not have taken place without our amazing staff, Ms. Julieanne, Ms. Barbara, Mother Kelly, Mr. Oscar Miller, our interns (in their final camp of the summer) Emily Lyon, Mac McArthur and Olivia Gralapp, and volunteers Mrs. Kathie Warner, Mr. Bill Kidder, Asher Demo, Jacob McCall, Ayla Salistean, Sadie Walstrom and Oliver Epp. You are all amazing!

Thank you to EVERYONE who participated in or supported our 2023 summer camps! It was another wonderful year of serving, learning and growing in God's love at St. Thomas! Watch for our 2024 "Summer @ St. Thomas" Camps lineup to be published around Christmastime!

Sunday Christian Education

- **Kids' Summer Sunday Stories**

11:00am in Parish Hall

For our FINAL SUNDAY of Summer Stories we will enjoy social time with our friends, bubbles and sidewalk chalk (in a shady spot outside the parish hall) with Ms. Addy. As is tradition, our Sunday Children's Formation will go on hiatus during the month of August to allow Ms. Barbara, Ms. Addy and our fall Godly Play/Children's Formation team the time they need to train and prepare for our fall kickoff on Sunday, September 10!

****Please note: Children's Chapel WILL remain available during Sunday Services throughout August.****

- **Adult Forum will resume in September**

Please be on the lookout for announcements about opportunities throughout the summer for guest speakers.

Theological Program starts in Sept.

- **Education for Ministry (EfM)**

Unique 4-Year program in theological education

Classes to start in September

This international program has assisted thousands to discover and nurture their call to Christian service. Small, mentored groups provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. For more information or if you are interested in joining the classes contact Ray Wheeler at 913-269-0542 or ray.wheeler60@gmail.com



This weekend flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and...

In celebration of 39 years together—from Bill & Anne Kidder

Would you like to commemorate a loved one, special event, or celebration with altar flowers? Sign up by using the QR code or by entering your name on the flower chart outside the church office.



This Weekend

- **Saturday, July 29**

Holy Communion, 5:30pm

- **Sunday, July 30**

9:00am: Coffee Hour in Parish Hall 1

10:00am: Holy Communion

11:00am: Parish Brunch / Kids' Final Summer Sunday Stories—Parish Hall 1, 2

Children's Chapel (program geared toward ages 3-10) is available during the Sunday service.

Nursery care is available on Sunday for children ages 6 months thru 4 yrs from 9am-11am (conclusion of the 10am service).

If you are unable to attend any of the services in person you are invited to join us online. All services are live-streamed and available to watch afterward on www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Brunch Help Welcome on Sundays!

Brunch is offered each Sunday after the 10am service.

Can you help us continue the hospitality offered at St. Thomas? We invite you to help with setting up, serving, and cleaning up. You can sign up by scanning the QR code on the right or in your weekly "Connecting with You" email.



Outreach

- **Caring for Kids—Comanche Elementary School Supply Drive**
**** Please remember to return your backpacks filled with school supplies by July 30.
Thank you for supporting Comanche Elementary's students and for making a big difference in the lives of others!
Questions? Deacon Fran Wheeler - fwheeler@stthomasop.org
- **St Thomas Hosts Interfaith Hospitality Network Guests (IHN)**
August 13-20, 2023
Food and Supplies are needed for our August Host Week. Donors can sign up for an item listed on the Narthex display board.
Trained volunteers (who interact with guests) can sign up via the QR code on right, or sign up using the link in your "Connecting" email this week.
Questions? Contact Dola McNown 913 526 3573 or Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018.
- **Learn More about Immigration Ministries!**
August Speaker Series—Sundays after the 10am service
We'll be holding a series of talks by local immigration experts and St. Thomas Immigration Ministries team members. Hear about the challenges faced and the successes achieved by our immigrant neighbors. The speaker schedule can be found in your weekly "Connecting with You" email or the QR link on right. Also, keep an eye out for new opportunities to serve our neighbors - in September!
- **Mobile Food Pantry Volunteers Needed**
August 12, 11:30am—2pm
Comanche Elementary, 8200 Grant Ave, OPKS
Scan the QR for more info and volunteer signups. A link is also found in your weekly email.



This Week's Calendar

Saturday, July 29: SCA Feast of Eagles Day (Society for Creative Anachronism), 8am-10:30pm, all church; Women's Sm Group, 9-10am, Starbucks on Antioch; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Sunday, July 30: Coffee Hour, 9-10am in PH 1, 2; Holy Communion 10am in Nave; 11am: Parish Brunch in PH 1; Kids' Summer Sunday Stories, Parish Hall 2

**** Return School Supply Backpacks on July 30—boxes in Narthex**

Monday, July 31: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH 1 & Kitchen

Tuesday, Aug 1: Music Lessons, 4-5pm, Sanctuary; Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7pm, Sanctuary; Sword Guild, 7pm PH 2

Wednesday, Aug 2: Staff meeting, 9:30am, Lobby; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm location TBD + Kitchen; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am-12, Asbly Rm; Voice Lessons, 2-3:30pm, Asbly Rm;

Thursday, Aug 3: Sword Guild practice, 7pm, PH 2

Friday, Aug 4: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm in PH 1 & Kitchen; SCA, 7pm, PH 1

Saturday, Aug 5: Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am, PH 1

Meetings, activities, and events must be cleared with Justin Smith in the church office. jsmith@stthomasop.org or 913-451-0512.

Giving Online to St. Thomas

You can give online securely and conveniently by scanning the QR code or visit the St. Thomas website—<https://stthomasop.org> and click on the "Donate" tab.

If you'd like to make a donation to help with the purchase of the van for Thom's Helpers, click on the QR code and select "Thoms Helpers" for the fund.



Small Groups meeting

- **Contemplative Prayer Small Group**
Tuesday, August 1 and 15, 7pm, in Sanctuary
This group meets to delve deeper into different forms of prayer and meditation. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the sanctuary of St. Thomas at 7pm. Contact: Steve Connelly stevencps12@gmail.com
- **Prayer Shawl Small Group**
Saturday, August 5, 10-11am, in PH 1
Monday, August 7, 7:30-9pm, in PH 1
This group meets at the parish and knits prayer shawls together. After these shawls are blessed they are given to those who are ill or have lost a loved one. They meet every Saturday morning and the 1st Monday in the month.
Contact: Sue Strom susanstrom15@gmail.com
- **LGBTQIA+ Small Group**
Monday, August 7, 7pm, in PH 2
The group is comprised of members of the LGBTQ+ community as well as allies (all are welcome!). Their goal is for more visibility within the parish and more visibility of the parish in the LGBTQ+ community. Meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm at St. Thomas.
Contact: John Pfannes john.pfannes@att.net
- **Classics Men's Small Group**
Thursday, August 10, 7pm, in PH 3
Retired and semi-retired men meet at the parish for conversation and Bible Study. Contact: Tom Meyers tmeyers922@gmail.com
- **Young Adult Small Group**
Thursday, August 10, 7pm, in PH 1
Young adults meet for support and friendship to see where God is leading them in life. Contact: Tim Pullin pullin.tim.a@gmail.com