

## 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!

- **Youth Group begins on August 13, 6-8pm**

in Sanctuary, Parish Hall, and Narthex

Dinner is included and all 6-12th graders are welcome!

- **Celebrating Our Children & Youth!**

We know your kiddos are up to GREAT THINGS! We want to hear and celebrate with them! Please brag away! 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!

- **Not sure how to use a QR code?**

Courtesy of Life Skills from Teens at St. Thomas

Open your phone's camera. Point the camera at the QR code like you are going to take a picture (but don't take a picture). Either a yellow link or just a web address block will pop up. Click on that link and it should take you to the page you are looking for! Go to this link to see their short video—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



## Sunday Christian Education

Our Sunday Christian Education for children through adults is now on their August break to allow our leaders time to train and prepare for **our fall kickoff on Sunday, September 10!**

\*\* Children's Chapel WILL remain available during Sunday Services throughout August.\*\*

## 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](mailto:ray.wheeler60@gmail.com)

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

*In celebration of Dan Elman's birthday with great love and affection from the two girls who are blessed to be loved by him—Lynn & Bre Elman*



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, August 5**

Holy Communion, 5:30pm

Next Saturday, Aug. 12 after the service, our 2nd Saturday reception will take place in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! You may bring a snack to share—beverages provided.

- **Sunday, August 6**

9:00am: Coffee Hour in Parish Hall 1

10:00am: Holy Communion & Baptism

11:00am: Parish Brunch

This Sunday we welcome through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Evelyn Anne Knights, daughter of Karl & Liz Knights and sister of Novella.

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](https://www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop) and [www.facebook.com/stthomasop](https://www.facebook.com/stthomasop)

### Brunch Help Welcome on Sundays!

Brunch is offered each Sunday after the 10am service.

Can you help with hospitality for Brunch on Sundays? We need help with setup, serving, and cleanup. You can sign up with the QR code on right or in your weekly "Connecting with You" email.



## Outreach

- **Volunteers are Needed**

St Thomas Hosts Interfaith Hospitality Network Guests (IHN) evenings and overnight August 13, 5pm—Sunday morning, Aug. 20.

Trained volunteers who have attended a training session are needed at dinner and serving meals, after-dinner, and overnight. Please click the QR code or use the link in your “Connecting” email this week.



Anyone can donate food items/supplies and can sign up on the list in the Narthex. Items are needed by Noon, Aug 13.

Setup of sleeping rooms will be Aug 13 at 9am

Take down & reset for Sun Sch will be Aug 20, 8:30am

Questions? Contact Dola McNown 913 526 3573

- **Learn More about Immigration Ministries!**

August Speaker Series—Sundays after the 10am service Parish Hall 3

On August 6 Dr. Sofia Khan will speak about the amazing work she does welcoming refugees and connecting them with the resources they need to begin their new lives in the U.S. Dr. Khan, a physician and mother of 3, is founder of K.C. for Refugees which provides invaluable assistance to refugees.

The complete 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

14 volunteers are still needed to help out this month. Scan the QR for more info and volunteer signups. A link is also found in your weekly email.



## This Week's Calendar

**Saturday, Aug 5:** Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am, PH 1; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave

**Sunday, Aug 6:** Coffee Hour, 9-10am in PH 1, 2; Holy Communion & Baptism, 10am in Nave; 11am: Parish Brunch in PH 1, 2; Immigration Ministry Series, 11am, PH 3

**Monday, August 7:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH 1 & Kitchen; Dutra Neighborhood Group, 6-pm, O'Neill's, 94th & Mission Rd; LGBTQIA+ Sm Grp, 7-8pm, PH 2; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 7:30-9pm, PH 1 or Narthex

**Tuesday, Aug 8:** PEO mtg, 9-11:30am, PH 2; Music Lessons, 4-5pm, Sanctuary; Sword Guild, 7pm PH 2

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

**Thursday, Aug 10:** Invite Welcome Committee, 1pm, PH 1; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 1; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 3; Sword Guild practice, 7pm, PH 2

**Friday, Aug 11:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm in PH 1 & Kitchen

**Saturday, Aug 12:** Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am, PH 1; Comanche Mobile Food Pantry, 10:30am; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave; 2nd Saturday Reception, 6:30pm, PH 1

*Meetings, activities, and events must be cleared with Justin Smith in the church office. [jsmith@stthomasop.org](mailto: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.



## Small Groups meeting

- **Prayer Shawl Small Group**

Every Saturday, 10-11am, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pullin.tim.a@gmail.com)

- **Contemplative Prayer Small Group**

Tuesday, August 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](mailto:stevencps12@gmail.com)