

## Children & Youth

- **Regular Youth Group starts Sept 10, 6-8pm**  
in Sanctuary, Parish Hall, and Narthex  
Dinner included and all 6-12th graders welcome!
- **ACOLYTE TRAINING**  
Sunday, Sept 17, 12-3pm  
Lunch provided  
  
Current acolytes and any youth in 3-12th grade who would like to be an acolyte is *strongly* encouraged to join us for a training on Sept 17. If you cannot attend but would like to be an acolyte (or are one already) please contact Mthr. Kelly at [kdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:kdemo@stthomasop.org).
- **Join a Music Team!**  
Chancel (Adult) Choir  
Begins Wed, Sept 6, 6:30-8pm  
Potluck Finger Dessert Share  
  
Praise Band will begin rehearsals  
Thurs, Sept 7, 6:30-7:30  
Youth musical coming soon!!  
  
St. Thomas Children's Choir  
Begins Thurs, Sept 21, 5:15-6pm  
We hope to sing once a month in the services and prepare for our new Christmas Nativity Musical!!!  
  
Youth Band members wanted!  
We will play every Sunday night for youth group!  
  
from Julieanne Stapleton, Director of Music—  
[jstapleton@stthomasop.org](mailto:jstapleton@stthomasop.org)
- **Celebrating Our Children & Youth!**  
*Congratulations to Jacob McCall who recently earned the rank of Life Scout and was elected Senior Patrol Leader of Scouts B.S.A. Troop 412 - Olathe.*  
  
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 news!

## Programs starting in Sept.

- **Education for Ministry (EfM)**  
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). There is also a sign up on the display board in the lobby.
- **Walking the Mourner's Path**  
Sessions to begin late September  
  
Walking the Mourner's Path is a faith-based grief support program. Over eight sessions, individuals can share stories of their loved one(s) and their grief in a confidential and supportive environment. Trained facilitators and clergy listen, pray, and guide discussions on given topics. Sessions are planned to start at St. Thomas in late September.  
  
If you are interested in participating, please email Fr. Gar at [gdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:gdemo@stthomasop.org) or sign up in the narthex.  
  
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- **Flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and . . .**
  - \* *In thanksgiving for the lives of Cole Anderson (would be 21 on Sept 3) and his grandpa, Jerry Snider—from Connie Snider*
  - \* *In celebration of the blessings of Lynn's birthday and Lynn's & Dan's 34th anniversary—the Elman family*
  - \* *In thanksgiving for our 60th wedding anniversary—Ted & Linda Bemis*



To schedule your commemoration, sign up by using the QR code or by entering your name on the flower chart outside the church office.



## This Weekend

- **Saturday, September 2**  
Holy Communion, 5:30pm
- **Sunday, September 3**  
8:45am: Holy Communion  
11:00am: Holy Communion  
Coffee Hours after each service in Parish Hall 1

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

Nursery care is available on Sunday for children ages 6 months thru 4 yrs from 8:15am-12:15 (conclusion of the 11am 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)

## Christian Education resumes Sept 10

- **Adult Formation starts on Sunday, Sept 10 at 9:45am, in Parish Hall 2**
- **Youth & Children's Education KICKOFF!**  
Sunday, Sept 10, 9:45-10:45am  
  
All Children (ages 3 thru 5th grade) will gather in the Assembly Room for a "Kickoff Day in Godly Play" with special feast, stories (for kids and PARENTS!) and "work" while Mother Kelly will gather all Middle and High School Youth in the basement for a kickoff of our "Path to Confirmation" and "Giving Project" groups with a focus on planning for our anticipated fall "All-Parish R.O.T.C." experience. We can't wait to see you!

## Outreach

- **Refugees Need Our Support!**

Collection now through Sept 17

We will be collecting donations of personal hygiene items through Sept 17. To sign up and for more info, go to the signup sheet in the Narthex or click on the QR code.



On 9/17 after the 11:00 service we'll meet in the Parish Hall to assemble the donated items into kits for KC for Refugees and discuss opportunities to serve.

- **Food Pantry Volunteers will be needed**

September 9, 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.

- **Comanche Elementary Community Carnival & Cookout—Volunteers Needed**

Thursday, September 14, 5:00—7:00pm  
8200 Grant Ave, Overland Park, KS

Join us to celebrate the start of the new school year with families, teachers, and staff at Comanche. Volunteers are needed with setup, grilling, serving, games/activities, cleanup. Shifts are between 3:30-8:30pm. To sign up and get more info, click on the QR codes below.

Serving Volunteers:



Activity Volunteers:



Questions: Contact Deacon Fran Wheeler, [fwheeler@stthomasop.org](mailto:fwheeler@stthomasop.org)

## 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.



## This Week's Calendar

**Saturday, Sept 2:** Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am, PH 1; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave

**Sunday, Sept 3:** Holy Communion, 8:45 and 11:00 in Nave; Coffee Hours after each service, PH 1

**Monday, Sept 4: Parish Office Closed on Labor Day**

Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH 1 & Kitchen; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 7:30pm Narthex or PH 1

**Tuesday, Sept 5:** Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7pm Nave; Sword Guild practice, 7pm PH 2

**Wednesday, Sept 6:** Staff meeting, 9:30am, Lobby; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1 + Kitchen; Voice Lessons, 2-3:30pm, Asbly Rm; Chancel Choir practice, 6:30-8pm, Nave

**Thursday, Sept 7:** Music Lesson, 4-5pm, Nave; Explorer's Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 2; Praise Band practice, 6:30pm, Nave; Sword Guild practice, 7pm, PH 3

**Friday, Sept 8:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm in PH 1 & Kitchen

**Saturday, Sept 9:** Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am, PH 1; Mobile Food Pantry, Comanche Elem, 10:30-11:30am; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave; 2nd Sat 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.*

## Bishop Cathleen Bascom to Visit on October 7/8

This will be an opportunity for anyone who might want to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal church.

For adults, Confirmation is the sacrament through which persons reaffirm their baptismal vows and, by sacrament, deepen their commitment to the Episcopal Church. **An Inquirer's Class will start Sept 10** for new members, long-time members, and anyone curious. This class, which reviews the faith and practice of our church, serves as preparation for Confirmation.

Persons confirmed in other churches adhering to the Apostolic Succession are not confirmed again but *received* into our Communion by the Bishop. Churches following the Apostolic Succession include the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Moravian, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Lutheran churches of Scandinavia.

If interested, you can join Fr. Gar and others for a class starting **Sun, Sept 10 at 4pm in the Assembly Room**. Please let Fr. Gar know if you want to join the class—[gdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:gdemo@stthomasop.org)

## Small Groups meeting soon

- **Classics Men's Small Group**—For retired and semi-retired men. 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7pm, in PH 3  
Contact: Tom Meyers [tmeyers922@gmail.com](mailto:tmeyers922@gmail.com)

- **Contemplative Prayer Small Group**—Prayer and meditation. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm, in Sanctuary  
Contact: Lynn Powell [lynne@thechildrensclinic.net](mailto:lynne@thechildrensclinic.net)

- **Explorers Small Group**—Explores the Scripture and the World around us  
Starts Sept 7, 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7pm, PH 2  
Contact: John McNown [johnmcnown44@gmail.com](mailto:johnmcnown44@gmail.com)

- **LGBTQIA+ Small Group**—For members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies. September 11, 7pm, in PH 2 (changed from Sept 4)  
Contact: John Pfannes [john.pfannes@att.net](mailto:john.pfannes@att.net)

- **Middlemen's Small Group**—for men balancing work, family & faith in the “middle” of life (~30s-50s)  
Kickoff in September 2023!  
Contact: John McCall [jmccall07@gmail.com](mailto:jmccall07@gmail.com)

- **Mom's Small Group**—For moms with kids of all ages; nursery provided. Next Meeting Sept. 12, 5-6:30pm  
Contact: Katie Birchfield [katie.birchfield87@gmail.com](mailto:katie.birchfield87@gmail.com), Liz Knights [elizabethknights523@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethknights523@gmail.com)

- **Prayer Shawl Small Group**  
Every Saturday, 10-11am, PH 1  
1st Mondays, 7:30-9pm, in PH 1  
Contact: Sue Strom [susanstrom15@gmail.com](mailto:susanstrom15@gmail.com)

- **Women's Group**  
3rd Saturdays, 9-10:30am, Assembly Rm  
Contact: Emily Wilson [ewilso28@gmail.com](mailto:ewilso28@gmail.com)

- **Young Adult Small Group**  
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7pm, in PH 1  
Contact: Tim Pullin [pullin.tim.a@gmail.com](mailto:pullin.tim.a@gmail.com)