

## Save these Dates!

- **In Case You Missed ADVENTure last weekend...**

We will have a few remaining Advent Wreath making supplies available for a freewill donation in Parish Hall 1 this weekend (December 2 and 3). Stop by to pick up an Advent Wreath form, candles (3 purple/1pink) or greens, if you need them! A basket will be available and a freewill donation will be gratefully received to help cover the cost of supplies.

- **Advent Candlelight Luncheons**

December 6, 13, and 20 from 12-1pm

Did you know each candle of an Advent wreath represents a different aspect of our faith journey? Join Mother Kelly every Wednesday of Advent at noon for a light lunch and a deep dive into the meaning of Advent. We will use a short video series and have time for good conversation. Sign up for the lunch with the QR code on right.



- **Children's Nativity Musical**

Friday, December 22, 7pm

Sunday, Dec 24, 4-5pm (short version)

We need parent volunteers and kids of all ages! If you'd like your child to participate, please email Julieanne!  
[istapleton@stthomasop.org](mailto:istapleton@stthomasop.org)

- **New Wednesday Study Group in January**

Wednesday from 10am-Noon in the Assembly Rm

We will start the new year on January 10 with a new class of five sessions, "The Jesus Fatwah (Love your Muslim neighbors as yourself). Contact Jan Summers  
[janws1244@gmail.com](mailto:janws1244@gmail.com)

## Donating to St. Thomas

Give online securely via the QR code or visit the St. Thomas website—<https://stthomasop.org> and click on the "Donate" tab.



## Sunday Morning Christian Education

- **Adult Forum**

9:45am, Parish Hall 2

- **Christian Education for Children & Youth**

9:45am

- \* Preschool-Kindergarten: Rm 143/144 (across from Nursery)
- \* 1st/2nd/3rd Grades: Rm 133/134 (where ofc & educ halls meet)
- \* 4th/5th Grades: Rm 137 (on left from the "T" intersection)

- **Youth Christian Formation Groups**

9:45am

- \* Middle School - "Path to Confirmation" in Assembly Room (East end of the Educ. Hall).
- \* High School - "The Giving Project": "Mark Ash" Youth room (Basement - east end of Ed. Hall)

## Thank You!

*Thank you to everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving meal. It was our best year and if you missed this year, don't worry—we will be back next year!* Donna Fye

## Altar Flowers (Greens)

**Flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and...**



*\* In thanksgiving for our 4th wedding anniversary and the hopeful waiting for the Light of the One who Loved us first—Clare Stern-Burbano and Andres Burbano*

*\* In loving memory of Tim O'Hara—Joyce O'Hara*

Sign up via the QR code or by entering your name on the flower chart outside the church office.



- **The season of Advent has begun!**

### Worship Services

Saturday, 5:30pm  
Sunday, 8:45 and 11:00am

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

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

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)

Envelopes for Christmas Offerings will be in the bulletins during Advent. Your gifts will help provide festive music and beautiful flowers at the altar during Christmas. *If you wish to have your name included in the Christmas bulletins, please return the envelope before*

*Monday, December 18.* List names of those you wish honored, in memory of, or celebrating, along with your donation inside (any amount). You can also fill out this form via the QR or with the link found in your weekly email.

*Christmas*  
OFFERING



### **\*\* Yard Signs Available \*\***

*After the Interfaith prayer service that was held several weeks ago a parishioner was so moved by what Rabbi Levin said she donated money to make yard signs with his quote. Signs will be available in the narthex. Please take one (or more!) for display in your yard or wherever the message of peace is needed!*

## Outreach Opportunities

- **Food Pantry at Comanche**

2nd Saturdays—Dec 9, 11:30am

Comanche Elementary, 8200 Grant Ave, OPKS

Scan the QR for more info and volunteer signups.  
A link is also found in your weekly email.



- **Christmas Outreach Opportunities**

Donations Collected: Nov 18 through Dec 10

Volunteer Opportunities: Dec 13 & Dec 14 & 15

Help us support Comanche Elementary by donating **gently used or new items** for the School's Holiday Shop. Students can shop and purchase gifts for family this Holiday Season by using their daily earned "fun money" called "Buffalo Bucks." We ask you to consider donating an item or two from their "Wish List" - click on the QR code to download.



**The Holiday Shop will be open for students to shop Dec 14-15. We need your help filling these Volunteer positions:**

- \* December 13, 12-3pm: Sort and set up the shop
- \* December 14 & 15: 1-hr shifts between 8am-3pm are needed to help students shop and wrap their gifts

**The Holiday Shop:** Sign up to volunteer for any of the positions above please with the QR or the link in your weekly email. If you are able to help transport all donated items from St. Thomas to Comanche Elementary, contact Deacon Fran Wheeler: [fwheeler@stthomasop.org](mailto:fwheeler@stthomasop.org).



- **Immigration Ministries Training Session**

Dec 10, 12-2pm, Parish Hall 1

The Immigration Ministry is expanding as we welcome a new refugee family. If you have a heart for welcoming new neighbors, please consider receiving training.

Training will cover such topics as: the mission and goal of our Immigration ministry, types of volunteer opportunities, immigrant adjustment issues and principles of cultural competency. A light lunch will be provided. If you plan to attend, register with the QR or the link in your weekly email.



## This Week's Calendar

**Sun, Dec 3:** Holy Communion, 8:45 and 11:00am in Nave; Coffee Hours after each service in Parish Hall 1; 9:45am: Adult Forum, PH 2; Children & Youth classes, Educ Wing; Children's Musical rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm; Youth Group, 6-8pm, Nave/PH/Narthex

**Mon, Dec 4:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1 & Kitchen; LGBTQIA+ Sm Grp, 7-8pm, PH 2; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 7:30pm, PH 1 or Narthex

**Tues, Dec 5:** Organ reserved, 10am-12, Nave; Mom's Group, 5-6pm, Rm 137; Pinehurst HOA mtg, 6-9pm, PH 2-3; Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7pm, Nave; Sword Guild, 7pm PH 2

**Wed, Dec 6:** Staff mtg, 10am, PH 1 or lobby, Thom's Helpers 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1, Kitchen, Sacristy; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am-12, Asbly Rm; Advent Candlelight Lunch, 11:30am-1:30pm, PH 2; Voice Lessons, 2-4pm, Asbly Rm; Chancel Choir, 7-8pm, Nave

**Thurs, Dec 7:** New Testament Study, 10:30am-12, Asbly Rm; Music Lesson, 4-5pm, Nave; Children's Choir, 5-6pm, Nave; Explorers Sm Grp, 5:30-8pm, PH 2; Praise Band, 6-8pm, Nave; Sword Guild, 7-9pm, PH 3

**Fri, Dec 8:** Organ reserved, 10-11am, Nave; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1 & Kitchen; PH 1 & 2 reserved for private event, 4:30-8:30pm; Scout Group, 8pm-9am Sat, Ed Wing & PH 1, 2 (McCall)

**Sat, Dec 9:** Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am, Asbly Rm; Phyllis Grootemaat service, 2pm; Holy Communion, 5:30

*Please contact Justin Smith to schedule your meeting or event — [jsmith@stthomasop.org](mailto:jsmith@stthomasop.org) or 913-451-0512.*

## Celebrating Our Children & Youth

*\* Congratulations to Joshua and Jacob McCall who were both named to and will be performing together in the East Central KS Music Educators Association High School Mixed Honor Choir on Saturday, December 2! Joshua will also be recognized as a 4-year ECK-MEA Honor Choir participant. Way to go, McCall Boys!*

*\* Congratulations to Garrett Cox and all the football team at Mill Valley for another state championship!*

## Small Groups meeting next week

- **LGBTQIA+ Small Group**—For members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies. Dec 4, 7pm, in PH 2

Contact: John Pfannes [john.pfannes@att.net](mailto:john.pfannes@att.net)

- **Prayer Shawl Small Group**

All Saturdays, 10am-12pm, PH 1; 1st Mondays, 7:30-9pm

Together we knit, crochet, or weave prayer shawls, hats, and 8" squares. Free knitting and crochet lessons available every Saturday. Please call Sue Strom for details on lessons, and on giving a prayer shawl. (913) 244-6402 or [susanstrom15@gmail.com](mailto:susanstrom15@gmail.com)

- **Mom's Small Group**—For moms with kids of all ages; nursery provided. Tues, Dec 5, 5-6pm

Contact: Katie Birchfield [katie.birchfield87@gmail.com](mailto:katie.birchfield87@gmail.com), Liz Knights [elizabethknights523@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethknights523@gmail.com)

- **Contemplative Prayer Small Group**

Tues, Dec 5, 7pm, Sanctuary (1st & 3rd Tues)

Contact: Lynn Powell [lynne@thechildrensclinic.net](mailto:lynne@thechildrensclinic.net)

- **Explorers Small Group**

Dec 7, 7pm, PH 2 (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

Contact: John McNown [johnmcnown44@gmail.com](mailto:johnmcnown44@gmail.com)

### reminder

- **Year-End Donations**

\* St Thomas recently mailed the 11<sup>th</sup>-month statements to all households. Please look over your statements for any errors, etc.

\* St Thomas is primarily supported through pledges and donations from our members; please help finish the year strong by fulfilling your pledge.

\* If you want a donation to be counted in 2023 for tax purposes, the donation must be postmarked or received by December 31, 2023. Please be sure to make your final pledge payments by this date.

\* St Thomas has the ability for people to donate with a credit card or direct bank withdrawal. You can do that with the QR or the link in your email.

\* If you want to donate stock or other securities, please contact the office.

