

Save these Dates!

- Advent Candlelight Luncheons  
December 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.

- Advent Lessons and Carols Service  
Sunday December 17, at 11am

The service will be made up of readings, music and prayer in the form of Advent Lessons and Carols.

- 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! [jstapleton@stthomasop.org](mailto:jstapleton@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)

Christmas Services

DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS SERVICE	10:00 AM
NATIVITY MUSICAL WITH COMMUNION	4:00 PM
CHRISTMAS SERVICE	8:00 PM

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!

A warm thank you to everyone who donated coats for refugees! Your generosity has made a significant impact on the lives of those who are seeking refuge and a fresh start in our community. We're so grateful for your kindness.

Altar Flowers (Greens during Advent)

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



In loving memory of Robert Fuller, a wonderful father and grandfather to Lynn, Dan and Bre Elman.

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



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.



CONNECTING WITH YOU

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*

Christmas OFFERING

*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.



\*\* 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 are 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 & Jan 13, 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 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 10:** Holy Communion Nave 8:45 – 9:45am; Adult Forum, 9:45am, PH 1; Sunday School, 9:45am, Educ Wing; Coffee Hour PH 1-2 10 – 11am; Holy Communion, 11am, Nave; Immigrant Min. Training, Noon-2pm, PH 1; Children’s Choir, 5 – 6pm; Youth Group, 6-8pm, Nave/PH/Narthex

**Mon, Dec 11:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30, PH 1; Dutra Grp, 6pm, Nick and Jake's ; IHN Coord Mtg, 6:30pm, PH 1

**Tues, Dec 12:** PEO, 9-11:30am, Asbly Rm; Organist Practice, 10am-12, Nave; Sword Guild, 7-9pm, PH 2

**Wed, Dec 13:** Staff Mtg, 10 – 11am, Narthex; Thom's Helpers, 10:30–1:30, Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30–12, Asbly Rm; Advent Luncheon, 11:30-1:30, PH 2; Comanche Elem Holiday Shop Setup, 12 – 3; Voice Lessons, 2-pm, Asbly Rm; Chancel Choir, 7pm, Nave

**Thurs, Dec 14:** Comanche Elem. Holiday Shop, 8am – 3pm; New Testament, 10:30-12, Asbly Rm; PEO, 12:30-3pm, PH2; Music Lesson, 4-5pm, Asbly or Nave; Childrens Choir, 5-6pm, Nave; Praise Band, 6-8pm, Nave; Sword Guild, 7-9pm, PH 2; Classics Men's Grp, 7 – 8pm, Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 1

**Fri, Dec 15:** Comanche Elem. Holiday Shop, 8am – 3pm; Thom's Helpers, 10:30–1:30; Organist Practice, 10:30-12, Nave; SCA, 7pm, PH 1

**Sat, Dec 16:** Women's Grp, 9-10a, Asbly Rm; Prayer Shawl Christmas Celebration, 10-12, Asbly Rm; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave

*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

*A big congratulation goes out this week to...*

- \* *Oliver Epp was given a great part in his school's musical! Also to Charlie Senuta who was given a great part in their school musical as well! (So much talent in this group!!!)*
- \* *Mason Bedell who ran a 10K and got first place in his age group! Alli Phillips who made district honor band, top band for Sousa Honor Band, and made top band at school!*
- \* *And finally, to Josh McCall who was the recipient of the 2023 ECK-MEA Future Music Educator Scholarship! Wow!*

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!

# Small Grps & Study Grps Next Week

• **Wednesday Study Group**

Weekly on Wednesdays, 10:30am-12:00pm, Assembly Rm  
Contact: Susie Meadows [suzietm@yahoo.com](mailto:suzietm@yahoo.com)

• **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)

• **Women’s Group**

1st & 3rd Saturdays (Dec 16), 9-10:00am, Assembly Rm  
Contact: Emily Wilson [ewilso28@gmail.com](mailto:ewilso28@gmail.com)

• **New Testament Study Group**

Weekly on Thursdays, 10:30am-12:00pm, Assembly Rm  
Contact: Sheryl Roller [sljroller@gmail.com](mailto:sljroller@gmail.com)



• **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.

