

Children & Youth

- **Winter One-Day "Reaching Out to the Community for 3rd-5th and 6th-12 grade**
Wednesday, January 3, 9am-3pm

Join us for our annual one-day version of one of our most impactful summer camps! This year we'll volunteer at Scraps KC and The Sewing Labs, then gather for some fun with pizza, bowling, lazer tag! Cost is \$35 and covers all activities, food and transportation. Register now with the QR code on right! You can also find more info in your weekly email.



- **SUMMER @ ST. Thomas 2024 is COMING!**

We're thinking WARM thoughts around here! Mark your calendars for some of the best, most spiritually and personally enriching children & youth camps around! Registration begins JANUARY 15!

Episcopal **Mega Camp**: June 2-8, 2024 (Camp Wood YMCA)
Middle School "Reaching Out to the Community (ROTC)": June 10-14

High School ROTC: June 17-21

Vacation Bible Camp: June 28-July 1 (Sun.-Thur. Evenings)

Mission Trip (Grades 8-12) to CHICAGO: July 7-13 **

Elementary ROTC (3rd-6th grades): July 22-26

Creative Arts Camp: July 29-August

**** 2024 Chicago Mission Trip Registration Form**—Here is the QR registration form:



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

Our Godly Play, Youth and Adult Formation programming will be on Winter Break (no meetings) from December 24-31. We will resume programming with a celebration of the Epiphany on January 7!

Ordination Invitation

- **Invitation to Ordination for Martha Lamoy**
Sat, Jan 13, 10:30am, Grace Cathedral, Topeka

I would be honored to have you celebrate my ordination with me! The service will be streamed as well (QR is link).



I will also be celebrating and preaching at St. Thomas the following day, Sun, Jan 14, at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services, so this will be another opportunity for me to express my gratitude to my St. Thomas family.

- In Christ, Martha Lamoy

Altar Flowers (Greens during Advent)

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



In memory of Jeffrey Lake—from the Joe Bob Lake Family

In honor of the birth of the Christ child—The Walkenshaws

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



Worship Services

Saturday, 5:30pm (Advent 4)
Sunday, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 8:00pm

Children's Chapel: (geared toward ages 3-10) is available during the 10am service on Dec. 24, and both Sunday services on Dec. 31.

Nursery hours TBD on Dec 24 during the 10am service.
(For children ages 6 months thru 4 yrs.)

All services are live-streamed and available to watch afterward on www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES December 24th

10:00 AM—Holy Communion
(with Children's Chapel)

4:00 PM—Holy Communion with
Nativity Children's Musical

8:00 PM—Holy Communion



Year-End Donations

reminder

* St Thomas recently mailed 11-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.



It's Time for Vestry Nominations!

The Vestry along with the Rector of the parish, share in the work of vision and oversight of the congregation. Made up of 12 members who serve for 3 yrs, a person must be 18 yrs of age, a communicant in good standing, regular in attendance, and a contributor of record for the last 12 months. For more details about their duties, please refer to your weekly "Connecting with You" email.



Jen Newell, Joe Bob Lake, Georgina Green, and Diana Diaz will conclude their terms in January and we will have 4 open positions. If you would like to have your name put forward for nomination or nominate someone please be in contact with any of these people who comprise the nominating committee.

Jen Newell: jennifer.e.newell@gmail.com

Joe Bob Lake: jlake10@kc.rr.com

Georgina Green: ecosse123@gmail.com

Diana Diaz: ddiaz62@sbcglobal.net

Or either of the wardens, or Fr. Gar:

Kari Wold, Senior Warden: kariannawold@gmail.com

Mike Pickett, Junior Warden: mcpicketts2@gmail.com

Fr. Gar Demo: gdemo@stthomasop.org

This Week's Calendar

Sun, Dec 24: Holy Communion at 10am, 4pm and 8pm, Nave

Mon, Dec 25: Church Office Closed

Tues, Dec 26: Church Office Closed.

Wed, Dec 27: Voice lessons, 2-4pm, Asbly Rm

Thurs, Dec 28: No activities planned

Fri, Dec 29: Organ Practice, 10:3am-12pm, Nave

Sat, Dec 30: Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am-12pm, Asbly or Nar-thex; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave

- *Please contact Justin Smith to schedule your meeting or event —jsmith@stthomasop.org or 913-451-0512.*

The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday after Christmas and New Years.

Dec. 25 & 26 Jan. 1 & 2

Outreach Opportunities

- **Winter One-Day "Reaching Out to the Community for 3rd-5th and 6th-12 grade**

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- **Food Pantry at Comanche**

2nd Saturdays—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.



Small Grps & Study Grps Next Week

- **Prayer Shawl Small Group**

Sat, December 30, PH 1

(All Saturdays, 10am-12, 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

- **LGBTQIA+ Small Group**—For members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies. Meets the 1st Monday of the month, 7pm Sunday afternoon, January 14, at Save, Inc.

In lieu of the regular meeting in January the group will be touring Save, Inc. homeless shelters for LGBT+ youth on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 14. All are welcome! Contact john.pfannes@att.net if interested.

January: New Wednesday Study Group

- **Wednesdays from 10am-Noon in the Assembly Rm starting January 10**

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