

## Children & Youth

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

Wednesday, January 3, 9am-3pm

More information can be found on front page.



- **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:



- **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!

## 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.



## 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 both services at St. Thomas on Sun, Jan 14, so this will be another opportunity for me to express my gratitude to my St. Thomas family.*

*- In Christ, Martha Lamoy*



- **Comanche Holiday Mart Thank You!**

*We are grateful to all who contributed items and to all who volunteered as deliverers, shop setup help, shoppers, and wrappers at Comanche's Holiday Mart this year. You all helped make this year's Holiday Mart a huge success!*

*We were blessed with an abundance of donated items for the shop, and your generosity helped 386 students provide Christmas gifts for their families and loved ones this year.*

*On behalf of the Caring for Kids Community and Faith Partners, and Comanche Elementary's faculty, staff, and students, Thank you so much!*

*-Deacon Fran Wheeler*



## Altar Flowers

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



*Altar flowers* are a lovely way to remember a special occasion, anniversary, birthday, or memorial. You may sign up via the QR code or

by entering your name on the flower chart outside the church office.



## Worship Services

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

Children's Chapel: (geared toward ages 3-10) is available during both services on December 31.

Nursery: 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)

## Sunday Morning Christian Education

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

## January 3: One-Day Reaching Out

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

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.



## Year-End Giving

- **The Year Ends on December 31**

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

Have your donations for 2023 either dropped off at the church, postmarked, or made online no later than December 31, 2023.

\*\* You can donate online by clicking the QR code or the link in your weekly email.

\*\* Bring your donation to the church and put it in the mailbox, or drop it in the collection plate.

\* If you want to donate stock or other securities, please contact our administrator, Justin Smith, at [jsmith@stthomasop.org](mailto:jsmith@stthomasop.org) or 913-451-0512



## 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](mailto:jennifer.e.newell@gmail.com)

Joe Bob Lake: [jlake10@kc.rr.com](mailto:jlake10@kc.rr.com)

Georgina Green: [ecosse123@gmail.com](mailto:ecosse123@gmail.com)

Diana Diaz: [ddiaz62@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddiaz62@sbcglobal.net)

Or either of the wardens, or Fr. Gar:

Kari Wold, Senior Warden: [kariannawold@gmail.com](mailto:kariannawold@gmail.com)

Mike Pickett, Junior Warden: [mcpicketts2@gmail.com](mailto:mcpicketts2@gmail.com)

Fr. Gar Demo: [gdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:gdemo@stthomasop.org)

## This Week's Calendar

**Sun, Dec 31:** Holy Communion at 8:45 and 11:00am, Nave

**Mon, Jan. 1:** Church Office Closed. Happy New Year!

**Tues, Jan 2:** Church Office Closed; Organ practice, 10am-12; Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7pm, Nave; Sword Guild, 7pm, PH 1

**Wed, Jan 3:** Staff Mtg, 9:30am, Narthex; Winter Break ROTC, 9am-3pm; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Voice lessons, 2-4pm, Asbly Rm; Chancel Choir, 6:30-8:30pm, Nave loft

**Thurs, Jan 4:** New Testament Study, 10:30-12, Asbly Rm; Music lesson, 4:30-5:00pm, Asbly Rm; Children's Choir, 5-6pm, Nave; Praise Band, 6:30-7:30pm, Nave; Explorers Sm Gp, 7-9:30pm, PH 2; Sword Guild, 7-9pm, PH 3

**Fri, Jan 5:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Organ Practice, 10:3am-12pm, Nave; SCA, 7pm, PH 1

**Sat, Jan 6:** Women's Group, 9-10am, Asbly Rm; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am-12pm, Asbly or Narthex; K2K mtg, 10:30am, PH 1; 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.*

## Outreach Opportunities

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

Wednesday, January 3, 9am-3pm

More information can be found on front page.

- **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.



## January: Small Grps & Study Grps

- **Prayer Shawl Small Group**

Sat, Dec 30 and Jan 6, Asbly Rm or Narthex

Meets each Saturday, 10am-12; 1st Mondays, 7:30-9pm (not Jan 1)

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

- **Contemplative Prayer Small Group**—Prayer and Meditation

Tues, Jan 2, 7pm in Sanctuary (1st & 3rd Tues, 7pm)

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

- **Study Group: “The New Testament You Never Knew”**

Thurs, Jan 4, 10:30am-12 in Asbly Rm (meets weekly)

Contacts: Sheryl Roller [sjroller@gmail.com](mailto:sjroller@gmail.com) or Susan Strom [susanstrom15@gmail.com](mailto:susanstrom15@gmail.com)

- **Explorers Small Group**—Explores the Scripture and the World around us

Thurs, Jan 4 in Parish Hall 1 (1st & 3rd Thurs, 7pm)

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

- **Women's Group**

Sat, Jan 6, in Assembly Rm (1st & 3rd Sat, 9-10:00am)

For women of age 30s-50s who are interested in developing relationships and connecting. Grow closer as we explore our relationship with and connection to God. Contact: Emily Wilson [ewilso28@gmail.com](mailto:ewilso28@gmail.com)

- **Wednesday Study Group**

Starts Wed, Jan 10, in Asbly Rm

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)

- **LGBTQIA+ Small Group**—For members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies

Sun, Jan 14, 1-3pm (1st Mondays @ 7pm)

In lieu of the regular meeting on Jan 1, the group will be touring Save, Inc. homeless shelters for LGBTQ+ youth on Sunday, Jan. 14. All are welcome! Contact [john.pfannes@att.net](mailto:john.pfannes@att.net) if interested.