

Children & Youth

- **Join a Music Group!**
 - * **St. Thomas Kids Choir begins January 11, 5:15-6pm**
 - * **Youth Musicians/Singers** are invited to play and sing in church services! Contact Julieanne Stapleton—lstapleton@gmail.com
- **SUMMER @ ST. Thomas 2024 is COMING**
Early Bird Registration begins Monday, January 15!

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 23-27 (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 or Kelly—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.



Outreach Opportunities

- **Immigration Ministry News and Needs**

Help us welcome our new immigrant neighbors!

The Immigration Ministry at St. Thomas is now sponsoring a new family of four from Iraq, and continues to help two Afghan families. How can you help? If you can provide any items below, call or text Linda Bemis 913-220-8246, or Jan Summers 913-522-7938.

** Queen or king beds, 2 double beds, 4 single (twin) beds
3 dressers, 1 night stand, Dining table and chairs for 8, Washer, Dryer
- **Food Pantry at Comanche—Volunteers Needed**

Saturday, Feb 13 cancelled due to weather
Next 2nd Saturday—Feb 10, 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.



Altar Flowers

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



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

*Martha Lamoy will celebrate and preach at both
Sunday services.*

Join us for Coffee Hour in Parish Hall 1 after both services.

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 and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Sunday Christian Education—9:45am

- **Adult Forum**

Parish Hall 2

All are welcome to join us after you have a chance to grab a nibble and drink from Coffee Hour.
- **Christian Education for Children & Youth**
 - * 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**
 - * Middle School - "Path to Confirmation" in Assembly Room (East end of the Educ. Hall).
 - * High School - No "Giving Project" this Sunday.

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

- Annual Meeting**
Wednesday, Jan 31, 7pm
Potluck Dinner at 6pm

Hear about the life of the church during 2023, what our leaders have to say, and the future of St. Thomas!

Leaders, Coordinators, Directors, and Chairs of all St. Thomas Ministries: Annual reports are due before **January 18**. If you haven't already, you are encouraged to write an account of activities and interesting info about your ministry or ministries in 2023! If you aren't sure what ministry you are in, please contact the office. Justin Smith - jsmith@stthomasop.org or 913-451-0512.

There will be a potluck dinner before the meeting. Meat will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

This Week's Calendar

Sun, Jan 14: Nursery open, 8:15-12:15; Holy Communion at 8:45 and 11:00am, Nave; 9:45am: Adult Forum, PH 1; Sun School, Educ Wing; Coffee Hour; Tour of Save Inc's Shelters for Homeless, 1-3pm; No Youth Grp (Miqra)

Mon, Jan. 15: Church Office Closed (Martin Luther King Day); Bible Tools, 10-11am, Asbly Rm; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Tracie Wilson MLK Event, 2-3:30pm, PH 1; Westmont Brd Mtg, 6:30pm, Asbly Rm; Outreach Committee, 6:30pm, PH 1; Stonehaven HOA, 6:30pm, PH 2

Tues, Jan 16: Organ practice, 10am-12; Pinehurst HOA mtg, 6-8:30pm, PH 2; Book Club, 7pm, Asbly Rm; Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7pm, Nave; Sword Guild, 7pm, PH 1

Wed, Jan 17: Staff Mtg, 9:30am, Narthex; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am-12, Asbly Rm; Voice lessons, 2-4pm, Asbly Rm; Chancel Choir, 6:30-8:30pm, Nave loft

Thurs, Jan 18: Bible Study: "Grace in the Rearview Mirror", 10:30-12, Asbly Rm; Music lesson, 4:30-5:00pm, Asbly Rm; Children's Choir, 5-6pm, Nave; PEO mtg, 6:30pm, Asbly Rm; Praise Band, 6:30-7:30pm, Nave; Explorers Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 2; Sword Guild, 7-9pm, PH 1

Fri, Jan 19: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Organ Practice, 10:3am-12pm, Nave; SCA, 7pm, PH 1

Sat, Jan 20: Women's Grp, 9am, Asbly Rm; Pinewood Derby, 10am-2pm, PH 2; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am-12pm, Asbly or Narthex; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave

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

January: Small Grps & Study Grps

- LGBTQIA+ Small Group**—For members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies
Sun, Jan 14, 1-3pm (1st Mondays @ 7pm)
The group will be touring Save, Inc. Shelters for homeless LGBT+ and youth. All are welcome! Contact john.pfannes@att.net if interested.
- Contemplative Prayer Small Group**
Tuesday, Jan 16, 7pm, in Sanctuary (1st & 3rd Tues @ 7pm)
This group meets to delve deeper into forms of prayer and meditation. Contact: Lynn Powell lynne@thechildrensclinic.net
- Study Group: "The Jesus Fatwah"**
Wednesdays, 10:30am—12, in Asbly Rm
"The Jesus Fatwah" (Love your Muslim neighbors as yourself). Contact Jan Summers janws1244@gmail.com
- Study Group: "Grace in the Rearview Mirror"**
Thursdays, 10:30am-12 in Asbly Rm (meets weekly)
Contacts: Sheryl Roller sljroller@gmail.com or Susan Strom susanstrom15@gmail.com
- Explorers Small Grp**—Explores the Scripture and the World around us
Thursday, Jan 18, 7pm in PH 2 (1st & 3rd Thursdays)
Contact: John McNown johnmcnown44@gmail.com
- Women's Group**
Saturday, Jan 20, 9-10am in Asbly Rm
Women interested in developing relationships and connecting with other women in the church and communities. Contact: Emily Wilson ewilso28@gmail.com
- Prayer Shawl Small Group**
Sat, Jan 20, Asbly Rm or Narthex
Saturdays, 10am-12; 1st Mondays, 7:30-9pm
Together we knit, crochet, or weave prayer shawls, hats, and 8" squares. Free knitting & crochet lessons every Saturday. Contact Sue Strom for lesson details, and on giving a prayer shawl. (913) 244-6402 or susanstrom15@gmail.com