

Children & Youth

- **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 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.



Ordination Invitation

- **Invitation to Ordination for Martha Lamoy**

Saturday, January 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

Altar Flowers

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



Happy 31st "heavenly" birthday, Kevin. We love you and think of you every day—from Tim, Deb, and Matt Lang

In loving memory of Christopher Wilson, a wonderful father and grandfather—Robin, George, Kelsey, and Alli Phillips

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

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 - "The Giving Project": "Mark Ash" Youth room (Basement - east end of Ed. Hall)

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

Outreach Opportunities

- **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.



- Learn more about

- **K2K Mission Trips to Kenya**

Sunday, January 7 after both services

Joe Bob and Nyakio Lake, team leaders, will give out information and answer questions about the K2K Mission Trip June 6-19. This is a unique opportunity to visit beautiful East Africa and experience the people and their culture.

This Week's Calendar

Sun, Jan 7: Holy Communion at 8:45 and 11:00am, Nave; 9:45am: Adult Forum, PH 1; Sun School, Educ Wing; Coffee Hour; Invite Welcome Connect mtg, 1-2pm; Youth Grp, 6-8pm, Nave/PH/Narthex

Mon, Jan. 8: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy

Tues, Jan 9: PEO mtg, 9-1:30am, Asbly Rm; Organ practice, 10am-12; Lexington Park annual mtg, 7-8:30pm, PH 1; Sword Guild, 7pm, PH 1

Wed, Jan 10: 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 11: New Testament Study, 10:30-12, Asbly Rm; PEO mtg, 12:30-3pm; PH 2; Music lesson, 4:30-5:00pm, Asbly Rm; Children's Choir, 5-6pm, Nave; Praise Band, 6:30-7:30pm, Nave; Classics Men's Sm Gp, 7-9:30pm, PH 2; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 1; Sword Guild, 7-9pm, PH 3

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

Sat, Jan 13: Flower Guild Brunch, 10am, PH 1; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am-12pm, Asbly or Narthex; Martha Lamoy Ordination, 10:30am, Grace Cathedral; Mobile Pantry, 11:30-1:30, Comanche Elem; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave; 2nd Sat Reception, 6:30pm

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

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*

January: Small Grps & Study Grps

- **Prayer Shawl Small Group**

Sat, 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

- **Wednesday Study Group**

Wed, Jan 10, 10:30am—12, in Asbly Rm

A new class of five sessions, "The Jesus Fatwah" (Love your Muslim neighbors as yourself). Contact Jan Summers janws1244@gmail.com

- **Study Group: "The New Testament You Never Knew"**

Thursdays, 10:30am-12 in Asbly Rm (meets weekly)

Contacts: Sheryl Roller sjroller@gmail.com or Susan Strom susanstrom15@gmail.com

- **Classics Men's Sm Grp**—conversations and Bible Study

Thurs, Jan 11, 7pm, in Parish Hall 3 (2nd & 4th Thurs)

Contact: Tom Meyers tmeyers922@gmail.com

- **Young Adults Sm Grp**

Thursday, Jan 11, 7:00pm, in Parish Hall 1 (2nd & 4th Thurs)

Meet for support and friendship to see where God is leading them in life. Contact: Tim Pullin pullin.tim.a@gmail.com

- **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. homeless shelters for LGBT+ and youth. All are welcome! Contact john.pfannes@att.net if interested.