

## Outreach Opportunities

- Backpacks for Refugees**

We are collecting new or gently used backpacks to donate to Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program for families arriving this spring. Backpacks are needed for all ages (K - 12). Please leave backpacks in the box in the Narthex. They can be dropped off through Feb 18.

- Food Pantry Volunteers Needed**

2nd Saturday—March 9, 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.



- Invitation to Join

**2024 K2K Community Mission Team  
Kenya, East Africa**

June 6-19, 2024

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

Now is the time to sign up for an unforgettable experience - go to Kenya with the 2024 K23K Community Team this summer! Learn more about the trip in your “Connecting with You” email. The trip is great for college age students, and high school youth when accompanied by one or both parents.

## Newcomers Lunch March 3

- Invite Welcome Connect—welcomes you to St. Thomas!  
**Newcomer Lunch is Sunday, March 3  
12pm, Parish Hall 2**

Please notify the office or Linda Bemis 913-220-8246 if you can attend.



**WELCOME**—Everyone likes to feel welcome in a new place. Please take the time to make visitors and new members feel like they belong at St. Thomas.

IWC Team

## Check Out these Music Events!

- The Praise Band** will present portions of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” musical with the St. Thomas Kids’ Choir during the 8:45am service on **April 21**.

- Chancel Choir** will perform parts of “The Messiah” on Palm Sunday, **Mar 24, 11am** service. Rehearsal this week will be Thurs, 7:30-8:30pm in the Nave.

- Youth Musicians Wanted:** Youth singers/instrumentalists for church service Preludes & Postludes **starting Feb 11**. Perform your festival or contest pieces! \*\*

**April 21:** “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”.at 8:45am. Rehearsals begin Thurs, Feb 22 at 6:30-7:45. \*\*

\*\* Sign up Now by contacting Julieanne Stapleton, Director of Music—[jstapleton@stthomasop.org](mailto:jstapleton@stthomasop.org) \*\*



## Thank You!

*Thank you to all who contributed to the Comanche Elementary Teacher Conference Dinner. The delicious potato bar served that evening was enjoyed and appreciated by all the teachers and staff!*



## Children & Youth

- Sunday Youth Group**  
Youth Group will meet this Sunday, 6-8pm
- SUMMER@St. Thomas Camp Enrollment is NOW!** Click on the QR code for more information and links to forms!



- Celebrating Our Children & Youth!**  
*Congratulations to Liam Stewart! His team will be competing in a regional robotics competition.*



**Worship Services Feb 17 & 18**  
**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 Sunday services.

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) & [www.facebook.com/stthomasop](https://www.facebook.com/stthomasop)

## Weekday Lenten Offerings

- “Almost Daily Meditations”**  
Weekday mornings starting Thurs, Feb. 15  
St. Thomas Facebook page & YouTube Channel  
Fr. Gar will share reflections on the season in his series, “Almost Daily Meditations.”
- Braiding Sweetgrass:** Call to Ecological Attention  
Tuesdays, 7pm on Feb 20, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26 on Google Meet.  
Register now with the QR code. If questions, contact [kdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:kdemo@stthomasop.org)
- Lenten Word Study Series + Lunch**  
Wednesdays, Noon on Feb. 21 and 28; March 6,13, and 20  
Sign up to bring soups/crackers/help with QR code!



Forgiveness, Mercy, Discipline, Lament, and Charity. Speakers will be Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage, Rev. Robert Phillips, Rev. Don Compier, Dr. Richard Liantonio, Pastor Alice Piggee-Wallack.

## Calendar for February 16-24

**Fri, Feb 16:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Organ Practice, 10:30-12, Nave; SCA, 7pm, PH 1

**Sat, Feb 17:** Women's Grp, 9-10am, Asbly Rm; Prayer Shawl Tea, 10am, Sharon Lynch's home; Funeral service (Maryanna Nerney), 11am; Funeral lunch, Noon, PH 1, 2; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave

**Sun, Feb 18:** Nursery 8:15-12:15; Holy Communion at 8:45 and 11:00am, Nave; 9:45am: Children & Youth in Parish Hall, Youth "Giving Project", Mark Ash Youth Rm; Coffee Hour; 10:00am: Adult Forum, Location TBD; Funeral service (Robert Hodgson); Youth Grp, 6-8pm, Nave/PH/Narthex

**Mon, Feb 19:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Westmont Board mtg, 6:30pm, Asbly Rm; Outreach Committee mtg, 6:30pm, PH 1; Stonehaven HOA, 6:30pm, PH 2

**Tues, Feb 20:** Organ practice, 10am-12; Mom's Grp, 5-6:30pm, Asbly Rm; Pinehurst HOA mtg, 6pm, PH 1; Book Club, 7pm, Rm 137

**Wed, Feb 21:** Staff mtg, 10am, PH 1 or lobby; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am-12, Asbly Rm; Lenten Word Study, 12pm, PH 2; Chancel Choir, 7pm, Nave

**Thurs, Feb 22:** Bible Study: "Grace in Rearview Mirror", 10:30-12, Asbly Rm; PEO mtg, 12:30-3pm, PH 2; Music lesson, 4:00-4:45pm, Asbly Rm; Children's Choir, 5-6pm, Nave; PEO mtg, 6:30pm, Asbly Rm; Praise Band, 6:30pm, Nave; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 3; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm, PH 1; Sword Guild, 7-9pm, PH 2

**Fri, Feb 23:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Organ Practice, 10:30am-12pm, Nave

**Sat, Feb 24:** Middlemen's Grp Brkfast, 9am, The Big Biscuit; 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](mailto:jsmith@stthomasop.org) or 913-451-0512.*

## 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 Christian Education

- **Adult Formation**  
Parish Hall 2, 10:00am

Join us in the journey of the book, "The Creative Act: A Way of Being" by Rick Rubin. We will connect it with scripture and the unique calls in our lives.

- **Christian Education for Children & Middle School Youth —9:45am in the Parish Hall**

**Lent Beginnings 2024: This Sunday, Feb 18, in the Parish Hall**—Prayer and meditative art stations as we enter the holy season of Lent. The theme is "Beautiful Things Out of the Dust." All are welcome.

Godly Play Circles and our 6th-8th Path to Confirmation will resume regular classes next Sunday (Feb 25).

- **Youth Christian Formation Groups**

\* Middle School "Path to Confirmation" will be in the Parish Hall for Lent Beginnings. Regular class will resume on Feb 25.  
\* High School - "The Giving Project" in the "Mark Ash" Youth room (Basement - east end of Ed. Hall)

## Easter Offerings



Special envelopes for Easter offerings will be placed in the bulletins during Lent. Your gifts will help provide special music and beautiful flowers at the altar during Easter. No need to designate—your donation will be used where needed.

*If you wish to have your name included in the Easter bulletins, we ask that you return the envelope in the offering or to the church office **by Monday, March 25.***

On the envelope write the names of those you wish honored or the blessing(s) you wish to name, along with your donation inside (any amount). You may also submit and donate using the QR code.



## Small Groups Feb 16-24

- **Prayer Shawl Sm Grp Annual Tea**

Sat, Feb 17, 10am-12, Sharon Lynch's home (Meets Sats, 10am-12; 1st Mon, 7:30-9pm)

Our Annual Tea will be in Sharon Lynch's home. Bring a tea cup and saucer or tea (coffee) mug. We'll have plenty of treats to share. Please RSVP Sue Strom - 913-244-6402 [susanstrom15@gmail.com](mailto:susanstrom15@gmail.com)

- **Women's Group**

Sat, Feb 17, 9-10am, Asbly Rm

Women (30s, 40s, 50s) who are interested in developing relationships and connecting with other women in the church and surrounding communities. Contact: Emily Wilson [ewilso28@gmail.com](mailto:ewilso28@gmail.com)

- **Mom's Group**

Tues, Feb 20, 5pm, Asbly Rm

Open to those at any age or stage of "mothering" for prayer, support and comradery. Contact: Katie Birchfield [katie.birchfield87@gmail.com](mailto:katie.birchfield87@gmail.com), or Liz Knights [elizabethknights523@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethknights523@gmail.com)

- **Classics Men's Sm Grp**

Thurs, Feb 22, 7pm, PH 3 (2nd & 4th Thurs)

For retired and semi-retired men. Contact: Tom Meyers [tmeyers922@gmail.com](mailto:tmeyers922@gmail.com)

- **Young Adult Sm Grp**

Thursday, Feb 22, 7pm, in PH 1 (2nd & 4th Thurs)

Young adults meet for support and friendship to see where God is leading them in life. Contact: Tim Pullin [pullin.tim.a@gmail.com](mailto:pullin.tim.a@gmail.com)

- **Middlemen's Grp Breakfast**

Sat, Feb 24, 9am

The Big Biscuit—8520 W 135th St, Overland Park, KS 66223

For men navigating the joys and challenges of faith, work, and family in Middle Life (~30s-50s). 4th Saturday each month for breakfast. Dads - come enjoy breakfast and conversation! Contact: John McCall [jmccall07@gmail.com](mailto:jmccall07@gmail.com)

- **\*\* New Wednesday Study—"The History of Islam"**

Begins Wed, Feb 28, 10:30am, Asbly Rm

Dismisses early during Lent for Lenten Lecture Series and Lunch.