

Outreach Opportunities

■ **Backpacks for Refugees**

Many thanks for all your donations of backpacks. All together St. Michael's and St. Thomas collected 42 backpacks for refugee children. Catholic Charities is very appreciative of our help **and** say it will make a huge difference to their families!

■ **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.



■ **Mark your Calendars!**

Ramadan Dinner coming up on March 16

Signups will be available soon! Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. During Ramadan, fast-breaking meals are usually enjoyed with family or the local community.

■ **Invitation to Join**

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

June 6-19, 2024

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. Contact Joe Bob Lake jlake10@kc.rr.com

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. Perform your festival or contest pieces! **



April 21: “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”.at 8:45am. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6:30-7:45. **

** Sign up Now by contacting Julieanne Stapleton, Director of Music—jstapleton@stthomasop.org **

Children & Youth

- **SUMMER@St. Thomas Camp Enrollment is NOW!** Click on the QR code for more information and links to forms!



■ **Celebrating Our Children & Youth!**

*** A big congratulations to Alli Phillips and Liam Stewart! At the recent State Business Professionals of America competition Alli won her event in Administrative Support Research Project and her group event placed 4th for Broadcast which helped BVHS win the State Championship! And Liam got 2nd at computer modeling and 6th for Java programming and top 10 for computer concepts. Both of them qualified for Nationals!*

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!



Worship Services Feb 24 & 25
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 & www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Weekday Lenten Offerings

■ **“Almost Daily Meditations”**

Weekday mornings on 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 at 7pm on Feb 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26 on Google Meet.

Register now with the QR code. If questions, contact kdemo@stthomasop.org



■ **Lenten Word Study Series + Lunch**

Wednesdays at Noon on Feb. 28; March 6,13, and 20
Signup to bring soups/crackers/help with QR code!



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

Newcomers Lunch March 3

- Invite Welcome Connect—welcomes you to St. Thomas!
Newcomer Lunch is Next Sunday, March 3 12pm, Parish Hall 1 and 2
Please notify the office or Linda Bemis 913-220-8246/
lsbemis@comcast.net if you can attend.



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.
The IWC Team

Calendar for Feb 23—March 2

- Fri, Feb 23:** Thom’s Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/ Sacristy; Organ Practice, 10:30-12, Nave
- Sat, Feb 24:** Middlemen’s Grp Bkfst, 9am, Big Biscuit 135th St; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10-12, Asbly Rm or Narthex; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave
- Sun, Feb 25:** Nursery 8:15-12:15; Holy Communion at 8:45 and 11:00am, Nave; Children & Youth Sun School, 9:45am, Educ Wing & Youth Rm; Adult Forum, 10am, PH 1; Coffee Hour 10-11am, PH 1, 2; Youth Grp, 6-8pm, Nave/PH/Narthex
- Mon, Feb 26:** Thom’s Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/ Sacristy; Finance Committee, 5:45-6:30pm, PH 1 or online; Stone Haven mtg, 6:30pm, PH 2; Vestry mtg, 6:45pm, PH 1 and/or Zoom
- Tues, Feb 27:** Organ practice, 10am-12; Sword Guild practice, 7 -9pm, PH 2
- Wed, Feb 28:** Staff mtg, 10am, PH 1 or lobby; Thom’s Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/Sacristy; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30-12, Asbly Rm; Lenten Word Study, 12pm, PH 2; Chancel Choir, 7pm, Nave
- Thurs, Feb 29:** Thurs Study Grp “The Friendship of Women”, 10:30 -12, Asbly Rm; Music lesson, 4:00-4:45pm, PH 1 or Asbly Rm; Children’s Choir, 5-6pm, Nave; Praise Band, 6:30pm, Nave; Chancel Choir, 7:30pm, Nave
- Fri, Mar 1:** Thom’s Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm, PH 1/Kitchen/ Sacristy; Organ Practice, 10:3am-12pm, Nave; SCA, 7pm, PH 1
- Sat, Mar 2:** Sword Guild Event, 7am-10pm, PH 1-3; Women’s Grp, 9-10am, Asbly Rm; Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am-12pm, Asbly or Narthex; Holy Communion, 5:30pm, Nave

Sunday Christian Education

- **Adult Formation—10:00am**
Parish Hall 1
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—9:45am**
* 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—9:45am**
* Middle School - "Path to Confirmation" in Assembly Room (East end of the Educ. Hall).
* 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.



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.



Small Grps/Study Grps this week

- **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 jmccall107@gmail.com
- **Prayer Shawl Small Grp**
Sat, Feb 24, 10am-12, Asbly Rm or Narthex (Meets Sats, 10am-12; 1st Mon, 7:30-9pm)
We come together to knit, crochet, weave prayer shawls, hats, and 8" squares. Free knitting and crochet lessons—contact Susan Strom susanstrom15@gmail.com or 913-244-6402 . She may also be contacted if you know someone who might need a prayer shawl.
- **New Wednesday Study—“The History of Islam”**
Wed, Feb 28, 10:30-11:40am, Asbly Rm (meets weekly)
Dismisses early during Lent for Lenten Lecture Series and Lunch. Contact: Jan at 913-522-7938 or Suzie at 785-979-0606.
- **Thursday Study Group—“The Friendship of Women: The Hidden Tradition of the Bible”**
Thurs, Feb 29, 10:30am, Asbly Rm (meets weekly)
Joan Chitister’s book explores the often-overlooked voices of women in the Bible. Facilitated by Sheryl Roller, Susan Strom, and others in group. Contacts: Sheryl sljroller@gmail.com or 913-908-4130 or Susan susanstrom15@gmail.com or 913-244-6402.
- **Women’s Group**
Sat, Mar 2, 9-10am, Asbly Rm (1st & 3rd Saturdays)
Women (30s, 40s, 50s) interested in developing relationships and connecting with other women in the church and surrounding communities. Contact: Emily Wilson ewilso28@gmail.com