



Weekly Newsletter

Week of December 1, 2023

WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3, 2023

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion *in the Church*

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion *in the Church*

5:00 p.m. Last Chance Mass *in the Old School Building*

SERVICE DETAILS AND REMINDERS

- 1) [Click here](#) to watch the **10:00 a.m.** service live and to find previous services on the St. Thomas' Church website.
- 2) You can access the worship bulletin at: <https://bit.ly/ST-Online>

We also offer weekday worship services!

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. in the Old School Building:
Holy Eucharist and Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Old School Building:
Morning Prayer

Thank you to all who participated in the The Great Litany: Pray for Peace with us this Fall. While we will no longer be meeting at 12 noon on weekdays, we encourage you to continue to pray for peace around the world, especially in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and in our own communities and homes. The Great Litany can be found in the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 148 or online at [bcponline.org](https://www.bcponline.org).

Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, December 24th, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday, December 24th, 2023

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. Family Service with Holy Communion, Carols & Children's Tableau

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion with Carols

Monday, December 25th, 2023

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion with Carols

If you wish to provide flowers for the altar as a Christmas Memorial, please complete the Christmas Memorial form. See link below for printable image. Send your donation and form to the parish office or drop it in the plate at church. Checks should be made payable to "St. Thomas' Church" and write Christmas Mem. on memo line OR pay online see "Make a donation" link below.

Deadline for Christmas Memorials is December 17, 2023

[Christmas Memorial Form](#)

[Make a donation](#)

LEARN



Advent is a season of preparation for each of us as we get ready for the Celebration of the Nativity. It is a time to ask for forgiveness and extend forgiveness to others; to spend more time in prayer and thanksgiving; to commit random acts of kindness for friends, family and strangers. Each act of devotion, good work or sacrifice helps to make our hearts and homes a more welcoming place for our Lord's arrival on December 25th. Once again during Advent we are going to prepare for Christ's coming in a more tangible way. On Dec. 3rd, we will begin preparing a place for Jesus by filling his manger with a bed of "straw". Keep track of your kind deeds and devotions this Advent season:



- Write each one down on a different strip of yellow paper "straw"
- Place them in the manger on your way to Communion each Sunday.

Hopefully by Christmas Eve St. Thomas' manger will be overflowing!!

Here are some examples for children & adults alike:

Said a bedtime prayer 3 times this week. I cleaned my room without being reminded.

Got to Church School on time. Gave a hug to someone who needed it.

Raked a neighbor's yard. Sat down and enjoyed something beautiful.

Went to Noon Eucharist. (Wednesdays in the Old School Building)

ADVENT CALENDAR

Slow Down! And enjoy the lovely Advent Calendar enclosed in the Advent mailing. It provides daily prayers and thoughts guiding us through the 22 days of Advent.



St. Thomas' Church is excited to invite the parish to participate in the acclaimed race dialogue series, Sacred Ground <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/> starting in January 2024. Many Episcopal churches in our area and across the country have offered the course, and it has been exceptionally well-received. The program uses a powerful, on-line curriculum that includes readings from a variety of disciplines and documentary films to invite dialogue about Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian-Pacific histories as they intersect with European-American histories.

Please see the link below for more details about this unique and powerful program.

[Sacred Ground](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/)

Interested in participating in Sacred Ground? The group will meet from 6:00-8:00 p.m., mostly on Zoom - in the interest of convenience and given the dark winter nights. There is significant reading and video-watching required before each session (1.5 to 2.5 hours).

Proposed Meeting Dates:

January 24* & January 31

February 14 & February 28

March 13 & March 27

April 10 & April 24*

* January 24 & April 24 sessions will possibly meet in person.

There is a maximum of 10 participants, but a waiting list would be a happy problem to solve!

For more information or to sign up, please contact Paul Corbin at

pcorbinuva74@gmail.com or Betsy Wilmerding at bgwilmerding@gmail.com.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

In mid-January when we begin the study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians. St. Paul is known as the Apostle to the Gentiles for his journeys that spread the Gospel. Join us as we study his letter to the Galatians, a Christian community he visited and built up. In it, he addressed conflicts and struggles common to many of us as followers of Jesus. Our 7-week, lay-led study runs January 22 through March 4, 2024, meeting at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. Contact [Jane Farnan](#), to receive our study guide and schedule later in December.

Children's & Youth Ministries



Join us for Sunday School in the OSB during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Children ages 4-10 are invited to join us for fun activities and lessons in the Old School Building at 10:00 a.m. Drop-ins are always welcome! We invite children younger than 4 to join us as well, if accompanied by an adult

To register for Children's and Youth programs or to volunteer, click [here](#).

Questions? Contact Sara Hollands, Minister for Children and Youth at shollands@stthomaschurch.us.

This Week's Activity Links

Pre-Reader

Reader

Thank you to all who joined us for the North Cemetery Presentation two weeks ago!

If you were unable to attend, or would like to watch the presentation again, please click on the link below. This detailed and thorough presentation was given by Malissa Ruffner, JD, MLS & Certified Genealogist on the historical research done on the North Cemetery.

To watch the presentation live click here

GIVE



Tuesday, December 12

Annual Christmas Extravaganza

Details for the annual Christmas Extravaganza can be found in the link below, including all the many ways you and your family can help make Christmas more joyful for those in our community. Sign up to bring specific gifts, to help before and after & to attend. Sign up sheets can be found in the Parish Hall or by clicking on the link below.

View the information sheet and sign up to start shopping for gifts!

Sunday, November 26: Sign up in the parish hall.

Sunday, December 10: Cooking in the Parish Hall kitchen for the 12/12/23 dinner; **volunteers needed.**

Tuesday, December 12: Annual Extravaganza dinner, followed by sorting, wrapping, boxing, etc.; **all elf hands on deck!**

December 18-19: Delivery of all items to our community partners; **volunteers needed.**

[Sign up here to volunteer, to shop and to attend the event](#)

[Outreach Extravaganza Information Sheet](#)

CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN

For the CCC - Community Crisis Center

We are collecting the following items for the Community Crisis Center:

- Cleaners for: your house, laundry, dishes.
- Cleaners for: your body, hair, teeth, & hands.
- Keep your baby and body clean: adult and baby diapers (large sizes) and feminine hygiene products.

We would love to have items that we can distribute for each category listed above. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Bring your donations to church and place them in the basket in the Narthex on Sundays. During the week, donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office.

St. Mark's on the Hill Food Pantry

Thank you your support and partnership at the Food Pantry! It is truly appreciated! Below is a list of "targeted" items that we are starting to run shy on: Non perishable milk, cereal, oatmeal, canned fish/chicken/ meat, canned fruit/applesauce, pancake mix, syrup, boxed mac-n-cheese, flour, dry beans, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned spaghetti, rice, boxed mashed potatoes, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce.

In Christ, Deacon Les+



Thank you, thank you, thank you to those who have so generously made a pledge to share their abundance with our church in 2024! We have 147 pledges to date, on our way to hopefully exceed the 200 pledges from last year. If you have not had the chance to send your pledge card in, please do so as soon as you can. You can also **pledge online by click the "Submit your Pledge"** button below. We need to wrap this financial campaign up as soon as possible as it helps us budget for next year. Thank you for being the gifts that you all are to our wonderful St. Thomas' Church.

Submit your Pledge



With the busy holiday season upon us, eliminate one task by making your contributions to St. Thomas' through our online system. No worries about finding stamps or envelopes. It's easy! Click on the Give Now button below.

Make an online gift through [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com)

Give Now

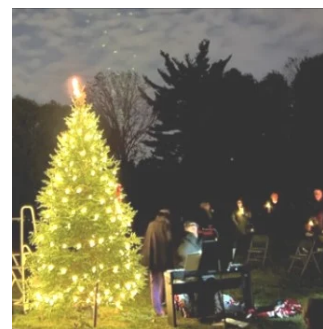
2024 Offering Envelopes are now available for pick up in the Narthex of the Church. If you cannot find your envelopes or want to order some, fill out the yellow pad by the envelopes or contact Barb Parks in the office.

GROW

Sunday, December 3, 2023

St. Thomas' Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Following the 5:00 p.m. Last Chance Mass, we will hold our annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the grassy circle in front of the church. Bring your chair and join us at 6:00 p.m. for this special event of carols, hot chocolate, hot cider, children's activities and Christmas lights! Thanks to a thoughtful parishioner, we once again have a live evergreen to gather around.





Wreaths & greens are in and ready for pick-up!

If you ordered wreath or greens, you can pick them up during fellowship in the PH or during regular business hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Office.



Children's Art for Bulletin

Seeking Children's art for the Christmas bulletins. Help your children prepare for Christmas by sharing the story of Jesus's birth. Help us prepare for Christmas by encouraging your children to illustrate that story (and sign their name on their art) and send it to us! Artwork is due in the office by December 13th. Bring to Sunday School and give it to Sara or drop off to the attention of Barb Parks in the office. You can even scan and email to jfarnan@stthomaschurch.us.



Calling all Pageanteers

We will be having a simple "Living Nativity" during the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Please contact Sara Hollands at shollands@stthomaschurch.us if you would like to participate in this Christmas Tableau.



Sunday, December 24, 2023 - from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Join the Flower Guild in preparing the Church for Christmas!


Come one, come all! Please join us as we prepare the church for Christmas. We will meet after fellowship following the 10:00 a.m. service from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Join us for cookies and cider! Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Stay for fifteen minutes or as long as you can.

Contact Glen Cole to join the fun and fellowship:

glenhcole@gmail.com or [443-324-6366](tel:443-324-6366)



Please Order by December 4th, 2023. *Orders placed by Friday, December 1st will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the circle! You can place an order via email at pa@stthomaspreschool.info. See the flyer below for additional information.



ST. THOMAS' PRESCHOOL

Christmas Cookie Extravaganza

\$20.00 Per Jar

Please order by 12.4.2023

Place order by backpack order form or the preschool email at pa@stthomaspreschool.info

Payment can be made via check (made out to St. Thomas' Church, Garrison Forest + please put "Parents' Association" in the memo line) or pay by Venmo @ St.ThomasPreschool-ParentsAssoc




Name: _____

child's class: _____


Address: _____

Phone & Email: _____

| # of JARS | FLAVOR | SUBTOTAL |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| _____ x \$20.00 | Chocolate Chip | _____ |
| _____ x \$20.00 | Oatmeal Raisin | _____ |
| _____ x \$20.00 | M&M | _____ |
| _____ x \$20.00 | Sugar | _____ |
| | | TOTAL |
| | | <div></div> |



ST. THOMAS' PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN





ST. THOMAS'
PRESCHOOL
AND KINDERGARTEN



REGISTRATION

at St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten will soon be open for the 2024/2025 school year. Come experience the "magic!"

To schedule a tour, please visit www.stthomaspreschool.info or contact nnorris@stthomaspreschool.info



Did you know that pledging St. Thomas' Church members received a discount in tuition?

[Access online registration here](#)



The Fellowship Team is back!

Our Fellowship Team is back! Please consider joining our team this fall!

[Sign up here](#)

Join us for Yoga

Jessica from "My Purple Mat" presents
Thursday Chair & Gentle Yoga Infusion
9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Donation based (suggested donation: \$12-\$15)

For additional information visit: www.mypurplemat.com/events.

The Thursday Morning Group

The group meets each Thursday in the Library from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

"We share friendship, laughter and stories."

They also share ideas for many different kinds of projects. Come and join the fun.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Prayer List

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely, especially Al, Barbara, David, Donna Y., Elise, Emma, Frances G., Frank, Jacqueline, Jay Y., Jean, Katharine, Linda, Mary, Mickey, Michael, Morgan, Nancy, Randy, Verna, and Walter G; Give them all the joy of your saving help, and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Stephen Bonsal Brooks ~ Stephen Bonsal Brooks, Jr. ~ Lawrence P. Naylor III

Natalie Kernan Brooks ~ Natalie Brooks Barringer ~ Madeline Poppas Peiffer

In our Parish Ministry Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for
the members of the Vestry.

DAILY READINGS

[CLICK HERE](#)

St. Thomas' Church Owings Mills

232 St. Thomas Lane, Owings Mills
MD 21117 United States

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