



## Weekly Newsletter

Friday, December 6, 2024



[Click here to RSVP for the Dinner!](#)

## WORSHIP

### The Second Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 8, 2024

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

## **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT ST. THOMAS' CHURCH**

### **SUNDAYS IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 8, 15, & 22

**8:00 & 10:00 a.m.** Holy Communion in the Church

**5:00 p.m.** Holy Communion in the OSB

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

**7:00 p.m.** Holy Communion with Carols

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

**10:00 a.m.** Holy Communion with Carols



## **ONLINE WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

We're looking for just a few more volunteers to help stream our 10:00 a.m. services each Sunday. No experience necessary—you will be trained! Contact [Christopher Reynolds](#) for more information. *Thank you to those who have already volunteered!*

## **VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A Vestry Nominating Committee has been appointed, in keeping with the By-Laws of St. Thomas':

Paul Corbin

Margaret Green

Nora May

Denise McIntosh

Erik Nightwine

Arinze Okpala

Page Seville

Jesse VanGeison

Tuck Washburne

Betsy Wilmerding

Church members are welcome to submit Vestry nominees to the committee.

# LEARN



## YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

**Sunday, December 8**

**9:00 - 9:50 a.m. Parish Hall Library**

*Please have Chapter Two read before class on Sunday.*

The next fall semester confirmation class will be **Sunday, December 15, 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.** in the **Parish Hall Library**.

The Confirmation Service will be at St. Thomas' on **Sunday, June 8, 10:00 a.m.**, with The Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent presiding.

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## ADULT BIBLE STUDY IS BACK IN THE NEW YEAR!

**Beginning Monday, January 13, 2025**

**7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

We will be studying the first half of the book of Job in our winter session. Given what's going on in the world right now, Job may be relevant now more than ever. God says, "Have you met my friend Job? There is not a person on the face of the earth like him." We all want that relationship with God.

Join us starting **Monday evening, January 13, 2025 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom** for heartfelt discussion and fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact [Jane Farnan](#) for the link.

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## ST. THOMAS' GREEN TEAM UPDATE: BLUE WATER BALTIMORE ASSESSMENT

In October, the Green Team hosted Blue Water Baltimore (BWB) and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC), two non-profits who are working to improve water quality in the Baltimore Harbor and Chesapeake Bay watersheds, to conduct a site assessment of our

campus to identify opportunities for us to reduce our environmental impact on the watershed.

*Read about the site visit and assessment below.*

Click to read about the Green Team's Reforestation Project at St. Thomas'



## ST. THOMAS' BUS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**

St. Thomas' parishioners are invited to take a bus trip to the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC on **Saturday, January 25, 2025**, in conjunction with the Sacred Ground video session. More information to follow!

## Children's & Youth Ministries



**Sunday School is in the Old School Building at 9:45 a.m.**

Sunday School for children **ages 4-10 is in the Old School Building at 9:45 a.m.** Please join us!

To register your child/children for our Children & Youth Ministry programs, or to volunteer, click [here](#).

Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the Narthex each Sunday.

Questions? Please contact [The Rev. Tom Murphy](#).

**Sunday School Teachers Needed!**

If you are interested in being a part of this important ministry, please contact [Jesse VanGeison](#) or [Michelle Schmidt](#).

### This Week's Activity Links

Pre-Reader

Reader

**GIVE**





## GREENS ARE HERE!

**Pick up orders in the PH Vestibule**

Orders are ready for pick up in the PH vestibule during regular Parish Office hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., M-F) and before and after Sunday services.

A few extra door swags (\$40) and 28" (\$55) and 22" (\$40) wreaths are available for purchase. Greenery centerpieces (\$35) will be for sale at the Christmas Extravaganza on Tuesday, December 10. You can pay for extra greens by check (made out to St. Thomas' Church, Greens Sale in the memo line) or by credit card online through [Tithely](#). If you have any questions, please email [Kristin and Erik Nightwine](#).

*Thank you for supporting this wonderful tradition!*

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## The Liddell/Hogan Scholarship Fund

The Liddell/Hogan Scholarship fund is a fund in honor of Lucy Liddell and Louis Hogan, and helps families of employees, parishioners, and those in financial need at St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten. Please help to make the magic of the school available and affordable.

[Contributions](#) can be made to the church with a designation to this fund. *Many thanks!*

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**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in the Narthex of the Church. If you cannot find your envelopes or want to order some, fill out the small white pad by the envelopes or contact [Christopher Reynolds](#) in the Parish Office.

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## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

**Forms are due to the Parish Office by Sunday, December 15**

Christmas Memorials are a wonderful way to remember your loved ones this season. Send in your forms along with your donation (*checks made payable to St. Thomas Church, please write Christmas Memorials on the memo line*) to the Parish Office (*mail in, drop off, or drop in the offering plate*). **Forms are due by Sunday, December 15.**

[Click to download a 2024 Christmas Memorial Form](#)

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## **ST. THOMAS' OUTREACH - COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER CARE BAGS**

**Sunday, December 15**

**following the 8:00 a.m. service in the PH**

**Help assemble Care Bags!**

If you would like to participate, please purchase the specific items either in-store or through the [Dollar Tree website](#) or app. Items can be dropped off to the Parish Office during office hours or in the baskets located in the Narthex and Parish Hall.

*We are still accepting donations of diapers and feminine hygiene products.*

For more information, please contact [Margaret Green](#).

[Care Bags Wish List Items](#)



## **HELP US HELP THE S. FAMILY**

**Household goods and furniture needed!**

St. Thomas' is sponsoring The S. Family through our Outreach with ERICA (The Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance) and the great news is that they will be moving into their own home! We are looking for help in furnishing their new home as they continue to embrace their new life in Baltimore. **Please click on the button to see the list of furniture and household goods they will need as they plan to move in mid-January.** We can pick up larger items as needed. Please contact [Betsy Wilmerding](#) for more information.

[List of Household goods and furniture needed](#)

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## 2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are winding down our Stewardship campaign as we begin to work on our 2025 budget. If you have not returned your pledge card to the Parish Office, please do so as soon as possible.

**Did you know you can submit your 2025 Pledge online?**

We're making contributing to St. Thomas' Church easy through our online system. No worries about finding stamps or envelopes. Click the **GIVE NOW** button below, or contact [Christopher Reynolds](#) with any questions.

For Planned Giving, contact [Andy Brooks](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the Stewardship Presentation during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 15th.

[Make an online gift through Tithe.ly](#)

**Give Now**

2024-2025 Stewardship Reflections

**GROW**

**Come to our**

ST. THOMAS' PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

**SCHOLASTIC**

**BOOK FAIR**

The graphic features a blue cloud-like background with yellow stars and a yellow lightning bolt. At the bottom, there is a cartoon illustration of a boy with wings and a girl with a backpack.

**GIVE THE GIFT OF READING!**

Go shopping at our Scholastic Book Fair

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

**IN THE PARISH HALL**

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

All proceeds benefit St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten

**BOOKS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!**

ST. THOMAS' PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The logo for St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten features a green tree with a red cross inside its foliage.



### ST. THOMAS' ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

**Sunday, December 8**

**6:00 p.m. in the circle**

Join us **Sunday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.** in the circle for carols, cookies, hot chocolate, and Christmas lights!

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### HOLIDAY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

**Sundays of Advent: December 8, 15, and 22**

**9:00 a.m. in the OSB**

Christmas is meant to be a time of joy, filled with family, companionship, and connection; but what if you are experiencing grief or loss while everyone else is celebrating? Please join us on **Sundays during Advent** for shared experiences and support, as well as strategies to help navigate the holiday season. We will gather at **9:00 a.m. on December 8, 15, and 22 in the Old School Building**. Grab a cup of coffee and join us for one or all of our meetings. Contact [Sue Stuck](#) with any questions.

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### LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Sunday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.**

## The Cathedral of the Incarnation

A celebration of love and light followed by a festive reception hosted by the Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Bishop of Maryland. RSVP to [Sally Swygert](#) or [\(410\) 467-1399](#).

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### OWINGS MILLS ELEMENTARY AND ST. THOMAS' OUTREACH HOLIDAY SHOPPING

**December 10, 11, or 12 - Sign up for an hour of holiday shopping!**

**Owings Mills Elementary School**

The annual Owings Mills Elementary School Holiday shop is designed to allow children to shop independently at their school - in a safe and familiar environment. The OMES PTO needs volunteers to help students shop for family and friends.

**Volunteer to help children shop at the OMES Holiday Shop!**



### HELP US PREPARE FOR CHISTMAS

**"Straw" paper can be found in the church pews each Sunday, the Narthex, and in the OSB.**

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, kindness, or sacrifice helps to make our hearts and homes a more welcoming place for our Lord's arrival on December 25th.

**Prepare a place for Jesus and fill 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!





Artwork due to the Parish Office by Sunday, December 15!

## SEEKING CHILDREN'S ARTWORK FOR OUR CHRISTMAS BULLETINS!

Calling all young artists! We are seeking children's art to use in our Christmas bulletins. Help your children (and grandchildren!) prepare for Christmas by sharing the story of Jesus' birth and encourage them to illustrate that story (don't forget to sign their artwork too!). **Artwork is due in the office by Sunday, December 15.** Bring your artwork to Sunday School or drop in the offering plate each Sunday, or scan and email to [Kristin Nightwine](mailto:Kristin.Nightwine).

**SPREAD THE WORD**

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is open! Extended hours are available! Contact [Nicole Norris](#), Director, for questions or more information.



**NOW ENROLLING for the 2025/2026 school year!**

Come experience the "magic" that is St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten.

ST. THOMAS' PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

To schedule a tour, please visit [www.stthomaspreschool.info](http://www.stthomaspreschool.info) or contact [nnorris@stthomaspreschool.info](mailto:nnorris@stthomaspreschool.info)

Schedule a tour of St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten



## Fisher's Popcorn Virtual Fundraiser

[WWW.FISHERSPOPCORNFUNDRAISING.COM](http://WWW.FISHERSPOPCORNFUNDRAISING.COM)

Use coupon code **stpk24** at checkout to ensure 40% of your purchase is donated to STPS (code will expire January 10, 2025).

Orders can be shipped to any address or picked up at the Ocean City, MD location at Talbot Street and the Boardwalk.



Lots of items to choose  
from & perfect for  
holiday gifts!



**Thank you for ordering and supporting St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten!**

[Click Here for Fisher's Popcorn Virtual Fundraiser!](http://WWW.FISHERSPOPCORNFUNDRAISING.COM)



**Sunday, December 22, 12:00 p.m.**

### HELP US SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Join the Flower Guild as we prepare the church for Christmas on Sunday, **December 22nd following fellowship 12:00-2:00 p.m.** We'll have cookies and cider, and any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated! Contact [Glen Cole](#) to join the fun.

### *Calling all Acolytes for our Christmas Eve Services!*

If you know what Christmas Eve service you will be attending, and would like to serve as an acolyte, please email [Kristin Nightwine](#) and we'll add you to the schedule. If you have never served as an acolyte before, we will train you! No experience necessary! *Thank you for your service!*



### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP

Come join us for fellowship, following the 10:00 a.m. service each Sunday in the Parish Hall. Coffee, conversation, and good eats await!



## The Thursday Morning Group

### COME JOIN THE FUN - ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Thursday Morning Group meets in the St. Thomas' Church Library **each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. to noon**. Friendship, laughter and stories are shared, as well as ideas for many different kinds of projects.

### Prayer List

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely, especially Al, Allanah, Amy, Barbara L., Carter, Dara L., David, David G., Dianne, Dixon, Ellen, Emma, Eric S., Gee, Geraldine M., Jacqueline, Jessica, Jim M., Judy I., Karen A., Kathleen D., Leo, Lidia, Linda, Lou Ann, Michael, Michael Z., Mike P., Morgan B., Nick, Randy, Rhonda, Sara H., Shirley, Steve G., Suzanne, Verna, and Vicki; 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:*  
Marjorie Miller Peterson and Ottolie Young Wickes Brewster Cochran ~ Eleanor R. Riggs and Richard C. Riggs, Sr.

In our Parish Ministry Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

## DAILY READINGS

[CLICK HERE](#)



### St. Thomas' Church Owings Mills

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