



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



100 Miami Ave., Terrace Park, Ohio 45174 | 513.831.2052 | office@stthomasepiscopal.org | www.stthomasepiscopal.org

Weekly News and Notes for the Week of September 10-17, 2020

- Weekly COVID Update & In-Person Worship
- How We Worship Safely Involves Each of Us Working Together!
- The School Year for St. Thomas Nursery School Brings Changes for Our Building Usage
- An Invitation to Help Celebrate a Milestone Next Saturday, September 19th
- Outreach: *Our Commitment to Mission Remains Strong – Thanks to YOU!*
- Save the Date: CVS Flu Shot Clinic Coming to St. Thomas, Saturday, October 17th
- Prayers and Reading for The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost – *In-Person* or on [YouTube](#) this Sunday!

Weekly COVID Update & In-Person Worship

Hamilton County continues to be designated as a Level-2 alert with the Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS). ***Please remember that if Hamilton County experiences a set-back and we are once again designated as Level 3 (red) or Level 4 (purple) with the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, we will once again need to suspend in-person worship and resume higher-level protocols. This would be communicated through our website, telephone greeting and by email to the parish.***

St. Thomas will continue to hold two in-person services Sunday with a modified Liturgy of the Word & Prayer (*no Communion*) at 8 am (*Rite I*) and 10:15 am (*Rite II*). We have many new safety protocols and guidelines, such as enhanced cleaning & sanitation practices, health checks, face masks, physical distancing and safety measures, including [registering](#) (reserving a seat) through our [website](#) or by calling the parish office at (513) 831-2052.

Your health & safety matters greatly! We realize that not everyone *can* or *should* return to join us for in-person worship at this time, so please rest assured that in addition to in-person worship on Sundays, we will continue to provide worship [online](#) via our [YouTube](#) channel for both for Sundays as well as our Midweek Evening Prayer Services.

How We Come Together Safely for Worship Involves Each of Us Working Together!

“Liturgy” means *the work of the people*. While a common value of our worship life, it has a special meaning and even higher importance at this time. Even with all the enhanced health & safety protocols we have, our success comes down to what we each can practice:

- **Reserve Your Seat** – Call the parish office at 513-831-2052 or [register online](#) available through our website at <https://stthomasepiscopal.org>
- **Wear your mask** – Please practice good hygiene at home and wear a mask to church.
- **Enter through the correct door** – When you arrive for church this Sunday, please use the archway entrance on Miami near the parish hall. This will be our main entrance for the building this year while there are COVID restrictions. Entering through these doors not only provides an easier entrance for those with physical challenges, but also allows a clearer access to hand sanitizers, the self-health check station and easier access to both restrooms as well as worship itself.
- **Self-Health Check** – A health assessment with a temperature check will be required as well as the use of a face mask and maintaining physical distancing of 6' apart (we have mandated capacity control and we can reserve seats for up to 50 people for each service).
- **Find your seat** – Seating will be marked to ensure physical distancing. At the end of the service, we will dismiss people from the back of the nave to the front, exiting via the narthex and the red doors.

The School Year for St. Thomas Nursery School Brings Changes for Our Building Usage

As we eagerly anticipate the return of our students to St. Thomas Nursery School, beginning this Tuesday, September 14, many new protocols and requirements affect the manner in which our building can be used. A fuller description for both the church and day school will be communicated through a special edition of *TIDINGS* as well as updates on our website. As part of these enhanced protocols, the church will only be open & available for [individual prayer, 3pm-5pm Tuesdays & Thursdays](#). Our parish office will continue to have limited staff on-hand to coordinate essential ministry services. We will not be able to hold “drop-in” office hours, but would gladly arrange a time to meet with you by having you contact the parish office by email at office@stthomasepiscopal.org or call 513-831-2052 to set-up a meeting time. *Thank you for your understanding!*

An Invitation to Help Celebrate a Milestone Next Saturday, September 19th

One of our own has a very special day approaching. Nancy Storch is turning 90! Her family invites you to join in a “drive-thru” celebration of Nancy at the Promont House Museum (906 Main St., Milford) from 12pm-3pm

Happy Birthday, Nancy!

Outreach: *Our Commitment to Mission Remains Strong – Thanks to YOU!*

The pandemic has had an impact on almost every facet of life, including the way we live into outreach. How we put our faith into action and take the mission of Jesus to care for the most vulnerable remains a top priority – just how we can go about it has changed temporarily. So many of you have stepped up to help, whether through creating masks, the toilet paper challenge with ERS (still happening) and your direct contacts through cards and other means of support. While our outreach partners still cannot have volunteers onsite quite yet, we have maintained our commitment and support, both as a parish and through your personal advocacy. This week, we will be able to once again collect food items for Inter-Parish Ministry. St. Vincent de Paul is able to take any clothing donations. Want to do more? Contact any of the clergy or just call the parish office at (513) 831-2052.

Save the Date: CVS Flu Shot Clinic Coming to St. Thomas Saturday, October 17th (10am-Noon)

Prayers and Readings for The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2020 • Proper 19A

The Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Genesis 50:15-21 (NRSV)

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Readings taken from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by The Division of Christian Education of The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission.

St. Thomas Parish Prayer List

Beverly, Bob, Carol, Courtney, David, Dick, Gary, Jayne, Jeff, John, Jim, Lauren, Maret, Matthew, Phil, Rick, Sandy, Sean & Reyna, Terry and our shut-in parishioners and their care-givers; those serving our community and nation, including Will, Steven, Harrison, Matt, Becky, Jeff, Jennifer, Steve, Phillip and Perrin, as well as all those affected by natural disasters and human tragedies, everyone affected by the Coronavirus, recent storms and fires, the first responders and the aid and relief efforts that continue around the world.

A Prayer for Our Own Vocation and Work

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations and roles from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; keep us mindful and responsive to the needs of others; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who came among us as one who serves, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All lessons can be found at:

http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp19_RCL.html

Our *YouTube* Channel can be found through our website or simply on [YouTube](#) directly:

[St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Terrace Park, Ohio](#)

Seeking to keep you up-to-date on the latest news from St. Thomas

Need to contact us? [Email](mailto:office@stthomasepiscopal.org) at office@stthomasepiscopal.org or call (513) 831-2052, and we'll get in touch!