



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 November 20-28, 2020

- Weekly COVID Updates & Operational Status: *In-Person Services Remain Suspended this Week due to Level 3 (red)*
- Thanksgiving Day Worship – on [YouTube](#) Thursday Morning at 10am, November 26th!
- Weekly Update for [Christmas Caper 2020](#) – *Have Fun and Bring Christmas Cheer Out to Families this Year!*
- [Stockings & Bells for Thomaston Woods & Thomaston Meadows](#)
- Family Spiritual Formation [online](#) and Call to All Children for our “[Virtual Christmas Pageant](#)”
- Financial *Dollars & Sense*
- Prayers and Readings for the Last Sunday After Pentecost – on [YouTube](#) this Sunday, November 22nd!

Weekly COVID Updates & Operational Status: *In-Person Services Remain Suspended this Week*

We continue to provide worship [online via our YouTube channel](#) for both for Sundays and our Midweek Evening Prayer Services.

The Diocese has issued new guidelines that will enable us to resume more of our ministry up to and within the Level 3 (Red) designation of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS). Here are the main points to summarize:

- If Hamilton County remains at a Level 3 (Red), we will be able to resume in-person worship, with Holy Communion, for the **First Sunday in Advent, November 29, 2020**.
- We will continue to implement our required health & safety protocols i.e. wearing masks, health checks, [reserving your seats online here](#).
- The [Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#) will remain as our operational criteria. If Hamilton County is ever designated Level 4 (Purple), we will need to return to the highest degree of protocols, which means a suspension of services for both the parish and school.
- These provisions will be in addition to weekly and special services offered online via our [YouTube Channel](#) which will continue.

For more information regarding this health update including a special video message from Fr. Darren on [YouTube](#), please see our dedicated webpage <https://stthomasepiscopal.org> Please feel free to reach out by email office@stthomasepiscopal.org or calling the office at (513) 831-2052.

Thanksgiving Day Worship – on [YouTube](#) Thursday Morning at 10am, November 26th!

Despite the restrictions brought-on by the ongoing pandemic, our cherished tradition of worship Thanksgiving morning will be celebrated [online via our YouTube channel](#) Thursday morning at 10am.

Weekly Update for [Christmas Caper 2020](#) – *Have Fun and Bring Christmas Cheer Out to Families this Year!*

To date we have almost 80 dozen cookies pledged! We are 50 dozen cookies away from our goal. Thank you all who have already signed up! We are looking for more bakers to sign up to make sure we have enough for the families at Thomaston Woods and Thomaston Meadows. We invite ALL to help share the joy of Christmas by making a few dozen of your favorite cookies and/or candies to be donated to Thomaston Woods and Thomaston Meadows as a direct outreach project. Your holiday treats will be delivered on December 13. Mark your calendar and make baking plans with your family! More specific information and the opportunity to let us know you can help is on the church website <https://stthomasepiscopal.org/2020/11/06/christmas-caper-2020/>. Be sure to sign up via [Signup Genius](#)

Stockings & Bells for Thomaston Woods & Thomaston Meadows

Each year, the St. Thomas parish family “adopts” the children, youth and seniors of housing communities to help with the spirit of Christmas in our Stockings & Bells Gift Program. This is an opportunity to help make Christmas special for our residents at Thomaston Woods and Thomaston Meadows by providing a gift. Typically, there is a “Giving Tree” at the top of the stairs by the Parish hall decorated with paper stockings and bells. This year we will have a table with the gift requests displayed in labeled red envelopes beginning November 29. You also have the option to signup online for a gift request beginning today with our [Signup Genius](#) or on our website <http://www.stthomasepiscopal.org/> under the Service tab. Each gift is a maximum of \$25. This is a great way for your family to practice outreach and share in the spirit of giving and caring. You can register online or in-person at church by simply selecting an envelope, then write your name and contact info in the Gift Log next to the corresponding recipient’s name (essential!), then have fun shopping and finally return the gift (already wrapped) with the envelope attached to the church by December 13th.

Family Spiritual Formation [online](#) and Call to All Children for our “[Virtual Christmas Pageant](#)”

New videos and resources are available for families on our [YouTube channel](#) and [website](#). These include recent Children’s Chapel services as well as our recent video and activity for Thanksgiving. For more information and/or submissions for our “virtual gallery” from recent activities, please contact Shannon Treier by email STreier@stthomasepiscopal.org

Christmas Pageant – A favorite annual tradition for St. Thomas is our [Christmas pageant](#). We have a way to continue the tradition and “let the show go on” to be enjoyed in a safe way and include everyone by creating a “virtual pageant!” Children from the parish are invited to participate by making simple recordings at home. The recordings can be submitted, and Tom Long of *Friends of the Groom* will edit them together to make a wonderful holiday event. The finished video will be a part of our Family Video Service for Christmas Eve. To participate as an angel or a shepherd, please check out [this shared Dropbox folder](#). It has a script with instructions, plus music files for recording. Depending on your role, you will have different things to record. For more information, please call the parish office at (513) 831-2052 or contact Dr. Carlton Monroe by email cmonroe@stthomasepiscopal.org

Financial Dollars & Sense – Are you the ONE?

You continue to make all the difference in what we continue to offer in ministry and at this point in our Annual Appeal, we need to ask you, “Are you the ONE we’re waiting to hear from?” This is the time we ask one another to prayerfully consider how best to answer the call to support the ministry we share with time, talent and treasure as we consider the year ahead. Information regarding our Annual Giving Pledge Appeal for 2021 was recently mailed and we continue to receive pledges – *Thank You!* An Annual Pledge is what allows our parish to best plan the ministry priorities and resources for the work we have – everyone’s contribution is great blessing and matters greatly. If we all participate, our ministry can not only be sustained, it can continue to flourish! We’d love to hear how YOU can help us make it happen! For more information, please follow this link to the recent video by our Senior Warden, Jim Davis on our [YouTube channel](#). Remember, one convenient way to help support St. Thomas is with pledge contributions made directly online. This feature is always available on our [website at http://www.stthomasepiscopal.org/ and clicking the “Donate” tab](#). As always, thank you for supporting the ministry we share!

Prayers and Readings for the Last Sunday After Pentecost

November 22, 2020

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (NRSV) Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV) Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven will be as when a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

Anne, Barbara, Bob, Carol, Darlyce, El, Faye, Gary, Gerry, Jayne, Jason, Jerry, Joanne, John, Jim, Kay, Kim, Laura, Lauren, Marilyn, Mark, Pax, Penny, Phil, Steve, Sandy, Terry, Todd, Verneida, 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, the first responders and the aid and relief efforts that continue around the world; everyone affected by the Coronavirus and recent storms.

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Vern Thomas in loving memory of his parents, Vernon F. & Mary Thomas

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

