

December News Update from St. Thomas



With Us: Longing, Hope, and the Great O Antiphons Advent and Christmas at St. Thomas

Meaningful Worship

Worship with us on **Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.** as we prepare ourselves and our worship space for God-with-us. We will hear the nativity story from our children on December 11 and connect with the global church through a Las Posadas-inspired service on December 18. Join us for reflections on the Great O Antiphons and the music of Holden Evening Prayer in Heritage Hall on **Wednesdays December 7 and 14, at 7 p.m.**

Remembrance and Hope

Culturally, December is meant to be a very joyous and happy time and can be mute when it comes to any kind of grief and sorrow. On the shortest day of the year, **December 21, join us for The Longest Night: A Service of Remembrance and Hope, at 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall.** Vicar Amy Bartleson Balcam will preach.

Heartwarming Fellowship

Experience the joy of the Christmas Story through the eyes of children with the **Children's Christmas Program during the 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 11.**

Sink deeply into the faith of the ancient words of the O Antiphons at the **Choir Concert on December 11 at 4 p.m.** Join us, too, for the delicious reception that follows in Heritage Hall.

Sing out the Good News with **Carols and Cider at Friendly Beasts Cidery on Sunday, December 18 at 2 p.m.** Enjoy tasty, seasonal cider from Friendly Beasts and a sing-along lead by Matt Meier and Pr. Adrienne.

Enjoy fellowship with creation and the return of the sun with a **Shortest Day Solar Panel Dedication, Wednesday, December 21 at 5 p.m.**

Joyful Celebration

Celebrate the coming of God with us--giving hope to our longings--in Word and Meal, with Carols and Candlelight at our festival services on **December 24.** Families will especially enjoy our **Wonder & Worship at 4 p.m.** and the choir will lead our **Candlelight & Carol worship at 8 p.m.** Children and Youth are invited to share their musical gifts with one or two brief Christmas songs for the prelude (beginning at 3:30 p.m.) on Christmas Eve. Sign up on the Welcome desk or [online](#) with your child or youth's name and piece.

On **Sunday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m.**, bring the whole family for Stories, Songs, and PJs. Bring Christmas cookies to share and enjoy stories for children of God of all ages, timeless carols, and joyous fellowship.

On **Sunday, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.**, begin the new year with hope and joy. Celebrate that God is with us (and often with us in one another) today and throughout the year to come with fellowship and a potluck brunch.

Epiphany Retreat

As a new year dawns, join us for a half-day retreat to begin with presence and intention in your relationships. Our retreat, *Friendship in the Spirit: Rituals and Relationships for Pandemic/Post-Pandemic Loneliness*, will explore patterns of relationship and aloneness in our lives, help us explore and name places in our lives now that are particularly lonely, and offer quiet exploration of the kinds of mutual, vulnerable relationships God created us for. Adults and teens can invite a friend or enjoy the morning alone. We will gather in **Heritage Hall on Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**; a light breakfast and snacks will be provided.



Unsubscribe from this list or update your preferences by emailing:
parishadmin@stlconline.org

Due Date for **January Newsletter** Articles:
Tuesday, December 20, 2023

Due Date for **printed** Weekly Announcements: **Wednesdays**
Due Date for **emailed** Weekly Announcements: **Thursdays**