

# August 2021 The Story

*All are Welcome  
No Exceptions!*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church accepts all people and we commit:

Celebrate the Eucharist regularly

Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and study

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting justice, peace, and love.

Nurture God's people as we grow in Christ

Live with thanksgiving, wonder, and openness to God's love

## **August Worship Mask-Optional for Vaccinated**

Starting August 1st and throughout August, St. Thomas, Franklin, will try in-person, indoor Sunday worship with masks optional for those fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Fully vaccinated adults and youth may attend worship without masks, or may choose to wear them. Adults not vaccinated – and youth too young to be eligible – are strongly encouraged to wear masks. This will be on an honor system.

One reason the St. Thomas Regathering Committee recommended mask-optional worship for August is that, in recent weeks Indiana's vaccination rate has been increasing. According to the Mayo Clinic, which tracks vaccinations by state, 48 percent of eligible Indiana residents are fully vaccinated. Among those 65 and older, Mayo reported that 86 percent of eligible Hoosiers are fully vaccinated.

Another reason is that this summer, the number of new daily positive COVID-19 cases is still well below the rate at this time last year. However, the number of new cases is starting to increase again in Indiana and nationally. You may have heard or read media reports that large cities in some states, such as California, recently reinstated mask mandates.

As a result, members of the St. Thomas Regathering Committee (Dave Buchholz, Maggie Lewis, Joshua Craft-Rutan, Ryan Craft-Rutan and I) will keep monitoring what's happening with the pandemic locally, statewide, and nationwide. In the event that COVID-19 cases increase, the Regathering Committee will re-evaluate mask-optional worship. As always, the health and well-being of the St. Thomas congregation remains our priority.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Whitney

## Help Wanted: Angel Tree Coordinator

We are in search of a new coordinator for the Angel Tree program. This person will be responsible for working with the Angel Tree organizers and gathering donations as was done in 2020 as opposed to organizing the in-person party that we had done previously. If you are interested in helping out, contact Rachel Allen: Rachel.skibbe@gmail.com or 269-266-2682



### ST. THOMAS NIGHT AT THE INDIANS!

**New Night**: Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 pm  
\*\*\*Section 117 in the shade\*\*\*

**Deadline to reserve your seats is Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for the Indianapolis Indianas game. Please email me at [j\\_stogsdill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j_stogsdill@sbcglobal.net) and let me know how many tickets you need.**

Tickets are \$14 per person, which includes a discount. Kids over the age of 2 must have a ticket.

I will buy a block of tickets in advance, using the digital option, which is more convenient than mailing or visiting the stadium. You may pay me in cash after church or by sending a check to Julie Stogsdill, 347 Palmer Ln., Apt. C, Greenwood, IN 46143-1851 and I will email your tickets to you.

Bring your appetite to Tuesday's game, when hot dogs, peanuts, potato chips, Cracker Jacks and popcorn are all available for just \$1 each.

*Join us for an evening of fun!*

--Julie Stogsdill

# Welcome



## Joy Tucker to Begin as Parish Admin

St. Thomas is pleased to welcome Joy Tucker as our new Parish Administrator, starting Monday, August 2nd.

With this position, Joy will be taking her first church job and re-entering the workforce. She retired in late 2018 from Lee Supply Corporation, where she worked in accounts payable. Previously she worked in teller, supervisory and management positions with banking institutions including First Indiana, Fifth Third and Capital City banks.

Joy, who lives north of Greenwood, is a native of Morristown, Indiana. She has lived in the Hoosier State for most of her life, except for a few years in Florida. She has been married to her husband, Jim, for 46 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Her hobbies include camping, knitting, being with her grandchildren, helping her mother, and working with Jim, alias Santa Claus, as Mrs. Claus through the Christmas holidays. Joy said she is looking forward to her new position and meeting everyone.

Joy will be working out of the office. Her hours have yet to be finalized, but she will most likely work weekday mornings. This month, Joy will train with Fr. Whitney and her hours will vary. While the phones are being worked on at St. Thomas, it may be best to reach Joy by email at [mercurymomma@aol.com](mailto:mercurymomma@aol.com).

## Pay Pledges Online

The Bishop's office is continuing to process online gifts on behalf of congregations. If you wish to pay your pledge online, visit [Give Now \(onrealm.org\)](http://GiveNow.onrealm.org) and select Give to a Congregation. Then select St. Thomas—Franklin.

## Panera Bread Sign-up

St. Thomas resumed our ministry with Panera Bread with a slight change. The end of day bread will be picked up at Panera Bread Sunday night and delivered to the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County Monday morning. Please use the link below for more information and to sign up to help. Questions: contact Steve Wahlberg.

[PaneraBreadSignUp](#)

# August Celebrations

## Birthdays

8 Shelli Anderson  
14 Candy Phillips & Wilma  
McDermott  
17 Mark Anderson  
18 Jerry Downs  
19 Peg Boehnlein  
26 Alan Faust & Signe Ring  
29 Ashley Bachman

## Anniversaries

4 Steve & Cheryl Faust  
14 David & Shirley Beck  
27 Jamison & Rachel Allen  
29 John & Peg Boehnlein

## ST. THOMAS VESTRY

### **The 25th Vestry of St. Thomas (2021--2023)**

2021 .....Robin Kares, Joshua Craft-Rutan, Jan Skopecek  
2022 .....Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke  
2023 .....Rachel Allen, Brandi Ashlock, Cheryl Faust, Steve Wahlberg

### **The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas**

Rector.....Fr. Whitney Smith  
Senior Warden ..... Dave Buchholz  
Junior Warden .....Steven Wahlberg  
Clerk ..... Karen Smith  
Treasurer .....Marti Ramsey  
Organist/Choir Director .....Heather Orvek  
Assistant Treasurers .....Robin Kares, Mike Ramsey, Eric Smith

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please submit it to Father Whitney at whitinindy@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.