



G R E A T G A T H E R I N G

2 0 2 3 P A R T Y & A U C T I O N B O O K

Welcome!

Welcome to The Great Gathering 2023, the social event of the year for St. Thomas the Apostle parish. In addition to providing time to socialize with friends, old and new, this event raises funds to support our ministries.

We thank all parishioners who will host Great Gathering parties throughout the year, and those who have donated to our Silent Auction. Thanks to all the people who have put in time and talent to make this night a success. And a big thanks to all of you here tonight. We appreciate everyone's generosity!

Enjoy The Great Gathering 2023!

Thank You!

The Great Gathering 2023 happens because of the extraordinary efforts of the following people.

This Year's Great Gathering Committee

Carol Solheid, Maureen Monchamp, Terre Schmidt, Mary Schoellman

Office Staff Support

Barb Staats, Julie Wickland, Barb Meloche, and Pat Adkins

EVENING SCHEDULE

6:30pm

Champagne Welcome

Enjoy Chef-Crafted Appetizers, Seasonal Carving Stations and Desserts throughout the Evening

Cash Bar Available

Sign-Up Gatherings & Silent Auction Open

7:00pm

Welcome from Father Erich

8:30pm

Silent Auction Closes

8:40pm

Announcement of Silent Auction winners

8:30 – 11:00pm

Music & DJ

Enjoy the dance floor

PARTY AND AUCTION RULES

Great Gathering Parties: To sign up for a party, please write your name and contact information (phone number or email address) on the sheet in front of the display. PLEASE WRITE ONE NAME PER LINE on the Sign-Up sheets. For example, if you and your spouse sign up for a party, you will each need to write your name on a separate line.

Silent Auction: Please enter your name and take note of the starting bid for each item and the minimum incremental bid increases that are listed on each sheet. The silent auction will close at 8:30pm. ***PLEASE NOTE:*** If you are a successful bidder on an item that is physically present at the event, you will be expected to take it home with you at the end of the evening. Successful bidders on events involving experiences will need to connect with the donor after tonight's event to make the arrangements.

Payment: There will be no check out at the end of the night. An invoice will be emailed to you listing the total charges. You also will receive a list of the Great Gathering parties you signed up for and any silent auction items you purchased. Payment may be made by check, credit card or online. **Payment is due upon receipt of the invoice.**

GREAT GATHERING PARTIES

**Hosted by fellow parishioners, small parties are a great way to meet and mingle with other St. Thomas the Apostle families.
Parties are presented in calendar-date order.**

501 Franciscan Dinner

Enjoy an evening at the home of the Kirkpatrick's. You will enjoy a lovely dinner including Franciscan wine and hear about Father Steve McMichael's travels and adventures.

Friday, November 10, 2023, 6pm

Cost - \$100 per person, 9 guests

Hosted by: Susan and Bill Kirkpatrick

502 A Sunday Afternoon on the Books--Book Talk with Author Kate St. Vincent Vogl

Join us to find out what happened behind the scenes for Shannon Eastin, the first female official for the NFL, as parishioner Kate St. Vincent Vogl shares her experiences ghost-writing *Lady Ref: Making Calls in a Man's World*. You'll enjoy excerpts and more from this eye-opening and inspiring memoir about the six-time national judo champion and trailblazer who overcame challenges on and off the field. Find out why USA Today calls *Lady Ref* "a remarkable book." Kate's other ghost-writing project, *Iron Horse Cowgirls*, was also published this fall and has already been likened to Pirzig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. The 2017 Great Gathering had included an event featuring Kate's *Lost & Found: A Memoir of Mothers*, her adoption story. This year, let's gather together for *Lady Ref: Making Calls in a Man's World*. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 3pm

Dillon Hall, Carondelet Lower School cafeteria

Cost - \$50 per person, 30 guests (A signed copy of Kate's book is included with the price.)

Hosted by: Kate St. Vincent Vogl, Kathy Cahill, Molly Schomburg, Mary Jo Erickson and Deb Van de Weghe

503 International Games Night

Join in the fun on a winter night in January to learn the game of Shoolen, a Dutch tabletop version of shuffleboard. (It is harder than you think!) We will also play Crokinole, a wooden table game of skill from Canada. Your hosts, Susan and Hein de Hoog will teach you the rules and let you practice; then let the games begin! A traditional hearty Dutch winter meal will be served, and beer and wine provided. Prost! More detail will be sent out closer to the date.

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 6pm

Cost - \$80 per person, 10 adults (16+)

Hosted by: Susan and Hein de Hoog

504 Mexican Train Dominoes Party

All aboard! Join us for a fun evening playing Mexican Train Dominoes. Never played before? No problem, we'll teach you! Coming by yourself? Don't worry, no partner needed. If you've got a competitive spirit, you'll love this entertaining game. Come hungry, we'll also enjoy a tasty Mexican inspired meal. Your ticket guarantees you a seat at the dominoes table, dinner, drinks and good company. Come on, ride the train!

Friday, February 2, 2024, 6:30pm

Cost. \$75 per person, 10 guests (Adults only)

Hosted by: Jenna and George Hanzal

505 The Cuisines of Umbria and Tuscany (in the O'Gara Gathering Space)

Let the Hospitality Committee take you there! Let's celebrate Saint Valentine of Umbria. Not with heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, but with the riches of the cuisines of Umbria and Tuscany. Join us for a cocktail hour with passed appetizers. Then you will enjoy rich, hearty soups and the vibrant fruits and vegetables of the region. Beef tenderloin and truffles, beautiful hand-rolled pasta and wild mushrooms. We'll finish with a traditional Easter cake of the region laced with the liqueur of Umbria, Alchermes. Wine will be served with every course. There will even be chocolates, but they won't be heart shaped. As usual, everything will be served by the polished and elegant members of the committee.

Friday, February 9, 2024, 6:30 pm

Cost - \$125 per person, 18 guests

Hosted by St. Thomas the Apostle Hospitality Committee

506 Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry

Round up your friends and family for a good old-fashioned Friday Night Fish Fry during Lent. We'll enjoy fish, roasted potatoes, a variety of salads and French bread, along with some kid-friendly pasta and dessert. Soft drinks provided. Cash bar donation for beer and wine. People of all ages can join this gathering in Dillon Hall.

Friday, February 16, 2024, Serving from 6-7pm

Cost - \$30 per adult, \$5 for kids, under 5 free. 120 guests

Hosted by: The Cleary Family

507 Mass in the Grass

Celebrate a special summer Mass with Father Erich and parish musicians in the St. Thomas backyard, followed by an appetizer reception and beverages.

Thursday, June 13, 2024, 5:45-8:45pm (Mass at 6pm)

Cost - \$50 per person, 50 guests

Hosted by: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council

508 Spanish Fiesta

Join us at our home in Minnetonka for a Spanish Fiesta. The menu will include gazpacho, a variety of tapas, paella cooked on the grill, flan for dessert and plenty of sangria! Olé!

Saturday, July 20, 2024, 5pm

Cost - \$80 per person, 8 guests

Hosted by: Michaleen and Rick Kruger

509 Sail Lake Pepin

Sail beautiful Lake Pepin with Tim Davis. Spend an afternoon aboard a 40' sailboat enjoying the breezes, bluffs and small towns. Who knows – you may set a sail or take the wheel and feel the power of the wind and water! Late afternoon hors d'oeuvres served.

Summer 2024 – at a mutually agreed upon date and time

Cost - \$100 per person, 4 guests

Hosted by: Tim Davis

SILENT AUCTION

Please see the description of each item by the bidding sheet for details.

101 Wine Tasting Evening with Jim Mannix

Donated by: *Jim & Meg Mannix*

102 World Whiskey Basket

Donated by: *Kris & Jim Schneider*

103 Luxury Cabin Vacation on Silver Lake

Donated by: *Matt and Jennifer Samuel*

104, 105 & 106 Portrait Photography Certificates (\$300 each)

Donated by *Bob Dale of Dale Studios*

107 Following the Path of Christianity, through Wines! Basket

Donated by: *Ellen and Steve Birch*

108 MN United Soccer Tickets with Parking Pass

Donated by: *Cheryl and Paul Adkins*

109 Winter Beverage Selection from Minnesota and Wisconsin Distilleries

Donated by: *Ellen and Steve Birch*

110, 111 & 112 Custom-made Cutting Boards (3 individual boards)

Donated by: *Rick Kruger*

113 Personalized Shopping Experience at France 44 (\$250)

Donated by: *Jim & Kris Schneider*

114 Great Harvest Basket

Donated by: *Great Harvest Bread Company and John Goodge*

115 Fr. Erich's Favorite Things Basket

Donated by: *Maureen and Tim Monchamp*

116 Christina's Favorite Things Basket

Donated by: *Maureen and Tim Monchamp*

117 Saints Tickets

Donated by: *Greg Sebald*