
St. Thomas Memorial Church

Thomas Tract October 2025

New Consecration Sunday is coming:

For many years, the vestry has endorsed the idea that stewardship (what we do with what God has given us) is not about the church paying its bills but rather is a spiritual issue between each believer and God. It can be a way for believers to grow spiritually and to support the church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their income.



One of the reasons the vestry favors the New Consecration Sunday stewardship model is that it does not present giving as like being in a social club where one might pay dues. Instead, it presents the belief that Christian giving is something believers do as part of being disciples of Jesus. It is, at its very heart, a matter of spiritual development rather than the need of the church to receive. Moreover, this model of stewardship encourages believers to consider whether God is calling them to give proportionally and regularly.

On the New Consecration Sunday, which this year will be October 26, we will be asking ourselves to make financial estimates of giving to our church's mission, outreach, worship and educational ministries here in Pittsburgh and around the world. Every member who decides to complete an Estimate of Giving card will offer it before the altar that Sunday as an act of worship. Even if you do not wish to complete a card, we still urge you to attend on that Sunday and we assure you that no one will coerce you to return a card.

We promise that we will not do any home solicitations after the New Consecration Sunday except to send Estimate of Giving Cards to people who could not be present on October 26. On that Sunday, our guest preacher, The Rev. Canon Dr. Catherine Brall, former Provost of Trinity Cathedral, will offer a brief instruction on returning completed cards on that day as an act of worship.

Over this month, we will encourage participation in New Consecration Sunday events and members of the church will speak briefly about why stewardship is a spiritual issue for them. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete cards, we will make every effort to speak openly and plainly about this faith issue, and to urge everyone to attend the New Consecration Sunday worship and celebratory lunch which will follow. Thank you for your support and participation in Consecration Sunday events.

In Christ,

Matthew Derby
Senior Warden of St. Thomas Church

[Blessing of the Animals Service](#)

St. Thomas' annual Blessing of the Animals Service will be held on Sunday, October 5 at 4:30 pm.



All animals, excepting snakes, are welcome to come to St. Thomas for a brief service of prayer. Each animal will be invited to come forward for an individual blessing. Please keep animals crated or on a leash.

This is a community-wide event, so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors and their pets. If you have any questions, please contact Laurel at the office (sttomoakmont@gmail.com / 412-828-9680.)

Sewer repairs completed at Thomas House - more work to follow

The repairs to the sewer lines running under and to the exterior of Thomas House have been completed. The dug out portions of the floor in the Thomas House basement have been re-filled with concrete (see photo right). To review: while looking into some plumbing issues within Thomas House, it was determined that the terra cotta pipes running under the building had collapsed or were disintegrating. Matt Mertz Plumbing was contracted to excavate the pipes and replace them. Both the interior and exterior portions of the sewer line have been replaced and back-filled. Up next is the replacing and/or reconstruction of the concrete work on the Thomas House porch and stairway, which will be started by Lombardo Concrete this week. At some point, the front yard of the building will have to be re-seeded / landscaped.



St. Thomas received a grant and a small loan from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to help fund the project. St. Thomas has also received a check from the church's insurance company. Additionally, several member of the church have made donations towards the completion of the work. If you would like to contribute to the repairs, please write "sewer fund" in the memo line of your check or online donation, or on an envelope or note covering your cash donation.



St. Thomas Kids Daycare Update

St. Thomas Kids Daycare and Pre-school opened in January, and while it took some time to enroll children and hire staff, the facility is currently doing quite well. There are currently 28 children enrolled, and two teachers have been added - one in the toddler room and one in the infant room. The facility also received its non-profit status last month.

Recently, the children enjoyed a "Grandparents Day" with special goodies, and a "Community Helpers Day" with a luncheon. Upcoming events include Fire Safety Week, with a visit from the local firemen and a fire truck on Oct. 7, a Halloween Parade in front of the church at 4:30 pm on Oct. 29, and a Thanksgiving Lunch with the children and their parents on Nov. 19. Last, but certainly not least, the daycare has acquired a new class pet - a Guinea Pig named Tinkerbelle.

Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE



Catholic Charities is collecting nonperishable food items to create Thanksgiving meal boxes for local families.

Help collect the following foods:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuffing• Gravy• Mashed Potatoes• Canned Corn• Canned Green Beans | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cranberry Sauce• Biscuit/Cornbread Mix• Canned Pumpkin <p>And More!</p> |
|---|---|

All food must be nonperishable

Drive Ends November 9th!

For more information :

Grace Murph: gmurph@ccpgh.org | 412-456-6912

Thanksgiving Meal Event Collection

Catholic Charities is hosting their annual Thanksgiving Meal Distribution Event this November to help struggling families celebrate the holidays. The organization partners with schools, churches, and other nonprofits to acquire the goods necessary to create meal kits, which are then delivered to the doors of families in need. This year, Parishioner Grace Murph is asking for St. Thomas' help with the donations to this worthy cause.

Please bring nonperishable Thanksgiving foods (boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, etc. to the back of the sanctuary on or before the Nov. 9 deadline. See the above poster for more food ideas, and the contact information for Grace, should you have any questions.

Upcoming Events/Services

- Oct. 18 - Holy Hike (speak w/ Fr. Brown for details)
- Oct. 26 - New Consecration Sunday. The services leading up to NCS will include guest speakers. On Oct. 26, we will have a guest preacher (The Rev. Canon Dr. Catherine Brall) followed by a catered luncheon in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 service.
- Nov. 9 - Deadline for donations to Thanksgiving meals (see article above)
- Nov. 15 - Diocesan Convention
- Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Day service at 10:30 am
- Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent

COMING

SOON!

Courses/meetings being offered



St. Thomas regular events include:

- Bible Study - Tuesday mornings at 11 am. **NEW TOPIC: The Revelation of John**
 - Healing Service - Wednesday mornings at 10:00
 - Adult Education - Sunday mornings at 9:30 **NEW TOPIC: Discipleship: A biblical perspective**
 - Teenager classes - every second and fourth Sunday following the 10:30 service. All teenagers are welcome.
 - Men's Ministry and Women's Group meetings - as determined
- Beloved Community Initiative's upcoming events include:
- a Prayer and Share meeting on October 15 at 7 p.m. (link found at <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/prayer-share/>)
 - Sacred Ground Small Groups - the schedule can be found at: <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/sacred-ground-schedule-released/>

October Birthdays

- 1 - Darrell Hayes
- 4 - Pam Derby
- 4 - Linda Johnston
- 4 - Ron McClelland
- 6 - Dolly Shearer
- 8 - Carol Miller
- 9 - Thomas Fischer
- 9 - Jeffrey Murph
- 11 - Brian King
- 13 - Lisa McClelland
- 17 - Frazier DeTar
- 17 - David Eber
- 18 - Steve Vautrain
- 19 - Millie McClelland
- 21 - Ted Denlinger
- 22 - Beverly Killeen
- 22 - Rachael McClelland
- 23 - Sam Kelly
- 24 - Mary Amanda Dew
- 24 - Logan Dexter
- 26 - Bob Alcorn
- 26 - Maureen Long
- 26 - Samuel Manirakiza

October Anniversaries

- 1 - Noel & Patsy Clive
 - 10 - Tony & April Fusaro
 - 11 - Jeff & Meloni Murph
 - 13 - Guy & Kristin Brown
 - 14 - John & Kate Westermann
 - 17 - Shawn & Rachael McClelland
 - 19 - Barry & Becky Verzinskie
 - 22 - Bob & Maureen Farmer
 - 30 - Bill & June Ferguson
- ** If you aren't already on our Birthday and/or Anniversary list, please contact Laurel Almada at the office (sttomoakmont@gmail.com or 412-828-9680) and she will be happy to add you in!





St. Thomas Memorial Church | 378 Delaware Ave. | Oakmont, PA 15139 US

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