
St. Thomas Memorial Church

Thomas Tract August 2026

A Message from the Senior Warden

- by Julie King

Dear St. Thomas,

As promised, the vestry wants to keep the congregation informed during this time of transition so as to minimize any misunderstanding, confusion or anxiety. Your St. Thomas vestry has been working hard to ensure that our church will continue to be a stable place of worship where all of us can come together to love the Lord.

We have exciting news, that after meeting with Rev. Kim Karashin and Canon Wes Smedley of the Pittsburgh Diocese, we are in the final stages of hiring our interim priest. He will be at St. Thomas throughout our search process and will begin his service to St. Thomas in September.



The interim will be at St. Thomas on a half-time basis and will be at St. Thomas. On Tuesdays he will be leading Bible study and have office hours, and on Wednesdays he will celebrate the Eucharist and have office hours. He will also be celebrating the Eucharist and preaching on at least two Sundays per month. He will lead Christian education on those Sundays, provide pastoral care, meet regularly with the wardens and vestry and lead the clergy and staff of the Parish.

Happily, Father Dan Isadore will continue his work at St. Thomas as an assistant priest. He will be increasing his time on Sundays and providing pastoral care and Christian Education. He will also be meeting regularly with the wardens and vestry and support us in our transition process.

Both our Interim Priest and Father Isadore will be helping us prepare for the next phase of our church life together. Their experience and faithful service to the Lord and St. Thomas is a wonderful gift from God.

The vestry has also been praying and planning for the formation of the search committee. When the committee members are finalized, the vestry will inform the entire congregation.

This past week prayer groups began with a bang! These groups will really help us to discern who God is calling to come to St. Thomas as our priest. If someone from the vestry has not contacted you, please call the church office or Julie King 724 351-4971 to get put in a prayer group. Please remember that Mitzi Fidler is also holding Evening Prayer on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6:30 in the sanctuary. It is beautiful time of quiet, contemplative prayer and fellowship.

Please keep praying for St. Thomas and our continued stability and unity. God loves St. Thomas and His love that passes all understanding is continually with us.



Roof Repairs Needed

Dear St. Thomas Church,

Recently the Oakmont area experienced some very powerful thunder storms on Thursday, June 11th. Several trees were knocked down near our church. The severe winds tore off several shingles on our Parish Hall roof. The roof is well over 30 years old.

We had some roofing companies examine the roof, and we came to the conclusion that the roof at this point needs replaced. Damage also occurred with rain water staining the ceiling of the Daycare center. The cost of the roof will be \$44,000. We have secured a bid to replace the roof in mid-August. Any contribution would be welcomed at this point (If you choose to make a contribution, please include "roof repair" in the memo line). The roof replacement will take approximately 3 days.

Sincerely,

Paul Cammisa
Jr. Warden

Back to School Items Needed

Philip A. Pew has decided to return to St. Thomas' last pew in the sanctuary to collect school supplies! Please consider donating any school supplies such as pencils, pens, highlighters, crayons, markers, glue sticks, folders, 3-ring notebook paper, pencil cases, erasers, or any other items you can think of to help our St. Thomas students have a successful school year. These items will be distributed prior to the Blessing of the Backpacks led by Fr. Guy Brown on Aug. 30. Thank you in advance - Philip really appreciates it! Parents of students- please have your child(ren) bring their backpacks to church on Aug. 30 to be blessed.



First Ladies Fellowship a Success!

A delightful time was enjoyed at our first Ladies Fellowship meeting on July 22. Seventeen ladies, representing both the 8:00 and 10:30 services gathered to become better acquainted, to strengthen friendships and to meet ladies for the first time. It truly was a time of fellowship.

To better accommodate personal calendars, the group decided to meet on the first

Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Guild Room. Our next fellowship will be Thursday, August 6th.

Please remember there's: No Agenda No Program No Study No Work

by Darrell Powell

Fr. Murph's Retirement Celebration

Almost 150 parishioners, friends and family of Fr. Murph came to honor him at his retirement luncheon as well as hear his final sermon as Rector of St. Thomas last month.

Tears were shed by many as they considered the legacy left by The Rev. Murph following his 32-year tenure. After the 10:30 service, the beautifully appointed and jam-packed Parish Hall seated about 140 people who enjoyed the Southern barbeque-themed luncheon.

Speeches were shared, gifts were offered, and everywhere people had the opportunity to catch up with friends and say their farewells to Fr. Murph as he enters the next phase of his life. Fr. Murph is grateful to everyone who added their time, talents and/or attendance towards making his retirement a celebration to remember.

He looks forward to spending more time in travel and with his grandchildren in the coming months.



More than 140 friends, family and past and present parishioners came to celebrate Fr. Murph's retirement on July 12.



The cake in honor of Fr. Murph.

St. Thomas Kids Daycare /Preschool Update

The children attending St. Thomas Kids Daycare & Preschool are having a blast this summer with many extra activities geared towards having fun and staying cool.

In addition to the usual activities, including a trip to the local library each Wednesday and Children's Chapel with Fr. Murph each Thursday, Director Jamie Bonaroti and the staff enjoyed a tie-dye day, water days (see photo at right), popsicles, and trips to Brkrees Ice Cream and Riverside Park. They also welcomed new full-time teacher, Ms. Skylar.

The children are also looking forward to starting a new curriculum in August, which was purchased with a grant from Episcopal Church Women. They are also excited to celebrate Grandparents Day in September.



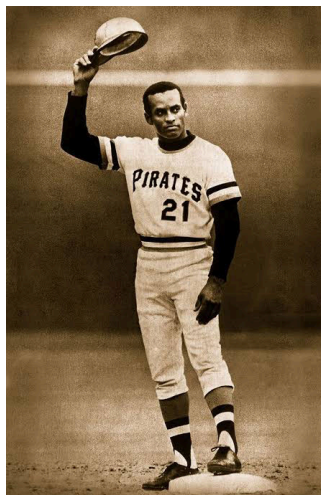
Enjoying some ice cream on a hot summer day.



On the way to Brkrees Ice Cream and Riverside Park.



Making their tie dye t-shirts.



Episcopal Church Pirate Night

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is reserving a whole section at PNC Park for you and your family, congregation, and friends on Roberto Clemente Day (photo left), Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:40 p.m.

Tickets are a special group rate of \$33. To reserve your ticket(s), visit episcopalpgh.org to reserve your seat and pay by credit card or send a check to the diocesan office (325 Oliver Ave, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222) by August 15. Please add "2026 Pirates Game" to the memo line and include your contact information. You will be contacted about ticket distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Canon Wes Smedley at wsmedley@episcopalpgh.org or 412-721-0853, ext. 256. Hope to see you at the

Courses/meetings being offered

St. Thomas regular events include:

- Adult Education - Sunday mornings at 9:30
- Tuesday and Thursday Evening Prayer 6:30-7:00 pm in the church
- Men's Ministry and Women's Group meetings - as determined
- Women's Fellowship meetings - first Thursday of the month from 7:00-8:30 in Guild Room

August Birthdays

2 - Andrew Fischer
3 - John Westermann
5 - Rachel Almada
7 - Nathaniel Kurzawa
7 - Amelia Miguez
8 - Dan Isadore
11 - Molly Farmer
12 - Doug Dexter
12 - Abigail Hayward
12 - Felicia Kearns
13 - Andrea Krushinski
15 - Stephen Baker
15 - Louise Lugar
15 - Adriel Blessing Manirakiza
17 - Karen Cohn
20 - Shelley Cammisa
20 - Tom Julian
21 - August Miguez
22 - Tracy Fitzroy
22 - Augustus Fusaro
22 - Susan Rocchini
26 - Christy Gaul
26 - Mary Keller
27 - Colin Dew-Becker
30 - Molly Eads
30 - Carla Shearer

** 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!

August Anniversaries

2 - Gary & Beth Maxwell
6 - Matt & Pam Derby
12 - Samuel Manirakiza & Patiente Irakoze
14 - Kevin & Megan Cass
15 - Mark & Penny McClelland
22 - Ron & Lisa McClelland
24 - John & Carla Shearer
27 - Richard Williams & Darrell Powell





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

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