

Connections of Hope

A Place of Hospitality at St. Thomas

We hope and labor to be a place of love, worship, and witness to others in Christ's name. Strong servant ministries are vital to our witness of hospitality for those in need, whether within our congregation or those who are not members of our parish. While we have a number of avenues available to serve those outside our parish during these difficult economic times, such as our St. Thomas Thrift Store, Outreach Committee and our clergy discretionary funds, this particular initiative is designed to serve those *within our parish family*.

There are many ways we can witness our love for Christ through serving others. This new initiative – **Connections of Hope** – offers families in our parish the opportunity to serve others in our parish in whatever way they choose. Here are just a few examples of gifts of hospitality at St. Thomas:

- Free dental care to those who could not afford to pay;
- Free medical attention to those who could not afford to pay – plus medications;
- Numerous casseroles delivered to shut ins due to illness or surgery;
- Repair of wooden steps leading up to someone's front door at no cost for the homeowner;
- Lawn work done for an elderly parishioners at no cost;
- Free baby-sitting so that a single mother could get to work when school was closed;

All these wonderful gifts were either from individual families in our parish, or were made possible by generous donations to clergy discretionary funds.

How might your family wish to contribute to “Connections of Hope” at St. Thomas? Do you have an area of expertise, or know of some such that you can share with others in need? Please pray together as a family, then fill out the information sheet below and return it to the church office. Someone will be in touch with you shortly. A call for your particular “gift of hospitality” may not happen right away, but when it does we want to be able to call upon you based on the information you share with us.

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How the Process Works

- 1) Requests for assistance come directly to your clergy and your name and gifts offered will be held in strictest confidence.
- 2) Once a request has been received, Fr Richard, Deacon Kirk or Deacon Geri will review our “gifts” cards, noting whether we have anyone able to meet the particular need being requested.
- 3) Your clergyperson will then contact you to let you know of the need and the contact information for the person requesting so that you may contact him/her directly.
- 4) If you are unable to assist at the time of the request, we will go to the next person on our “gifts” list. Your name will be returned to the file for the next time a similar request comes to us.

God’s Blessing on you and your family for your generosity.
Deacon Geri

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Our family wishes to contribute the following as our “gift(s) of hospitality”:

1st Family Member: _____

Email Address: _____ Best Contact Phone: _____

Gift(s) of Hospitality: _____

2nd Family Member: _____

Email Address: _____ Best Contact Phone: _____

Gift(s) of Hospitality: _____

3rd Family Member: _____

Email Address: _____ Best Contact Phone: _____

Gift(s) of Hospitality: _____

Please complete this form and drop it off at the church office or email the information to gerileenelson@aol.com