



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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Homosassa, FL 34446
Fax: (352) 628-4723
www.MyStThomas.org

A warm welcome to everyone, parishioners and guests, whether coming from near or far. I am so happy you could join us today, as we reflect on the Word of God and partake of the Eucharist. My hope is that you feel at home at St. Thomas. ~ **Fr. Glenn**

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily: 8:00 am (Monday Friday);
Saturday 8:00 am: Communion
Service Only
First Saturday Mass: 8:00 am

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am
(Parish Choir)

HOLY DAYS & HOLIDAYS

Consult our bulletin or parish website:
www.MyStThomas.org
First Friday Adoration: 8:30 am to Noon
Saturday: Reconciliation (Confession)
3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

It is our pleasure to serve you!

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
Friday - Sunday: Closed

PASTORAL STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, Pastor

Assisting Clergy:

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Sobiesiak
Deacon Mark Manko

Robert Adams: Maintenance

Karen Ballaban: Comms. Specialist

Robin Furciato: Coord. of Religious Ed.

David Martin: Custodian

Joseph McEvoy: Pastoral Assistant

Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director

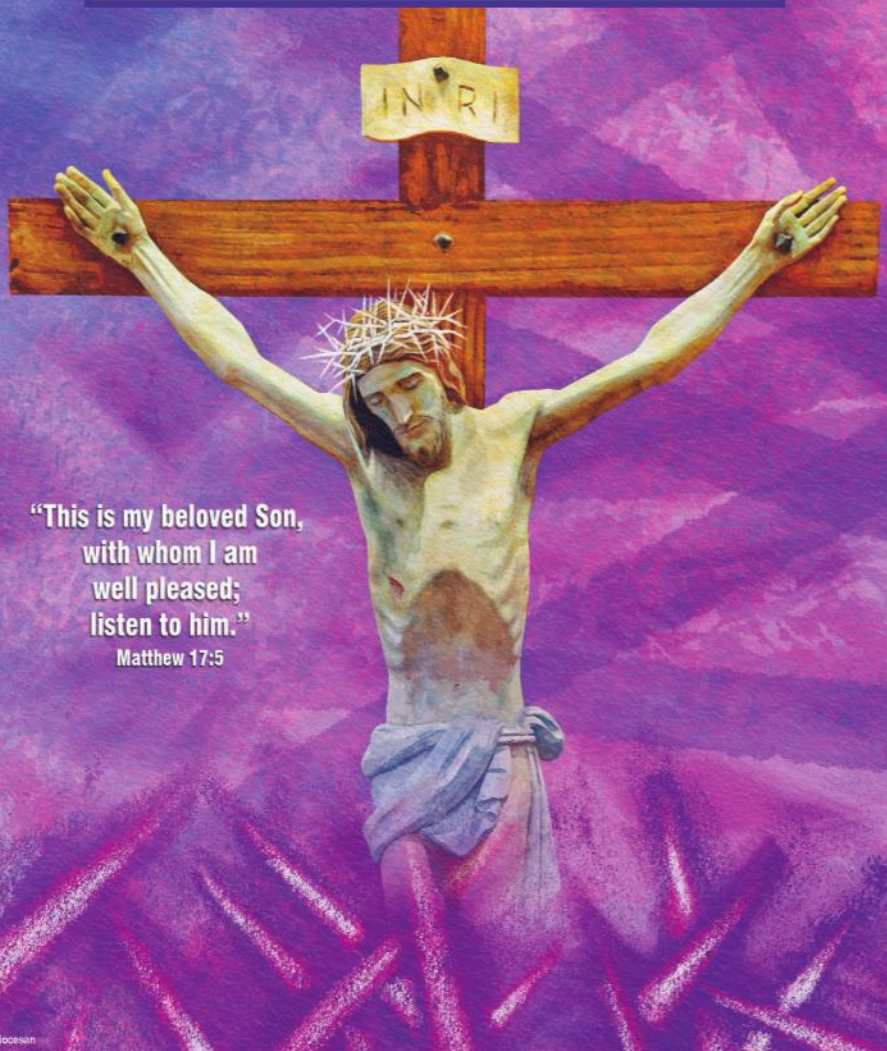
Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor,
& Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office and
Communications Manager

Second Sunday of LENT

MARCH 5, 2023



"This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am
well pleased;
listen to him."

Matthew 17:5

© Diocesan

TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Fr. Glenn | 19 February 2023

Second Sunday of Lent, Year A



1. We recently held our first **Town Hall Meeting** as a parish last February 17 and 19. I got disheartened since there was not much of an attendance, just around 70 parishioners total. We started by showing on the overhead screens our past projects accomplished over the past few years. By holding this town hall meeting, we were able to solicit ideas from our parishioners on the direction they want our parish to take over the next couple of years. We continued by discussing the top 5 in Fr. Glenn's wish-list: evangelization, outreach, classrooms for Faith Formation kids, stained glass, and social hall with kitchen. Somebody pointed out that additional classrooms for our Faith Formation kids should be our top priority. A cost-effective way of doing this is by buying two mobile offices. This would free up the St. Martin's Hall which could then be utilized as a social hall for coffee and donuts. The stained glass would definitely enhance the beauty of our church. But right now, it's not really a high priority. However, if a family is willing to sponsor the purchase of the stained glass (cost: about \$25,000), then it should be undertaken but only as a "special project," with funds taken from private donors. I will review my notes from this meeting with my staff and members of the Finance Council, and together we will determine our best next steps.

2. We began the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes last Ash Wednesday (Feb 22nd). These past couple of years, we have raised a special Lenten collection by designating all donations to our **Poor Box** collection during Lent to a specific purpose. We have been doing this as part of our Parish Outreach Program. It was suggested that this year we will divide our Poor Box collection between the local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Love More Ministries, a feeding-the-homeless program in partnership with the Nature Coast Church in Homosassa. Right now, we have 14 parishioners willing to volunteer at this feeding program. Please call our parish office if you want to help in this ministry.

3. In today's **gospel** (Mt 17:1-9), we have the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Many scripture scholars consider the Transfiguration event as an anticipation of the glory of Christ's resurrection. We read this story every Second Sunday of Lent because of its connection to baptism. In baptism, we participate in the newness of life brought about by Christ's resurrection. Baptism, then, is a call for us to be transfigured, to be transformed, to be changed. Hopefully this year's celebration of Lent will bring us to a greater appreciation of the newness of life in Christ we have received through the sacrament of baptism.

This weekend is "Name Tag Sunday" ...

Please help us continue to be a welcoming and friendly parish family by wearing a name tag, and welcoming each other by name today. If you are new to St. Thomas or just visiting, we are glad you are here and invite you to get to know us better.

**All are welcome at
St. Thomas the Apostle Church!**

***Bishop Gregory Parkes has granted
a special dispensation from abstinence for
St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17th.***



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

IN OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 5

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Richard Meigs †

Requested by: Sandra Wioncek

Monday, March 6

8:00 am: Bill Robben †

Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

Tuesday, March 7

8:00 am: Piorkowski † and Klein †
Families

Requested by: Fran & Bud Klein

Wednesday, March 8

8:00 am: Katherine Reid †

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

Thursday, March 9

8:00 am: Tom Brady †

Requested by: Loving Sister,
Gael Palumbo

Friday, March 10

8:00 am: Joseph † and Pauline †
Pafchek and Family †

Requested by: Daughter & Sister,
Norma Pafchek

Saturday, March 11

8:00 am: Communion Only Service

4:30 pm: Capt. Wayne White †

Requested by: Laurie Jo & Susan Brignola

Sunday, March 12

8:00 am: Dolores Grimmer †

Requested by: Maria Ruether

10:30 am: Parish Family

DAILY READINGS, SAINTS, & OBSERVANCES



Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10;
Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 & 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Memorial of Perpetua and Felicity Martyrs

Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Saint John of God, Religious

Jer 18:18-20;
Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19,
20-21; Mt 21:33-43. 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12;
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

THE BREAD & WINE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 10th.

are donated

in loving memory of

**Joseph † and Pauline † Pafchek
and Family †**

By: Daughter & Sister, Norma Pafchek



**We will pray the Stations of
the Cross at 4:00 pm every
Friday during Lent through
March 31st.**

**Please join us this
Friday, March 10th.**

LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

**Please remember in your prayers all those in our parish family
who are ill, especially:**



Fran Frankenberger, Karl Wolf, Ethan Grayshan, Rita & Art Frisbie, Virginia Kanis, Scott Klaben, Vincent King Sparaco, Kerrie Schmidt, Mike Jablonsky, Stephanie St. Clair, Mary Ann DeSimone, Bertha Watson, Charles Terreault, Gordon Gould, Christine Gicola, Rita Tanner, Skip Guss, Elizabeth Dostal, Fran Loeffler, Anthony Cimorelli, Ron Rothe, Marguerite Corrao, Rusty Ryal, Msgr. Joseph Sobiesiak, Marjorie Ziegler, Norma Galvin, Wendell Miller, Joseph Hertrich, Michelle LaGreca, Sutton Hotard, Charles Harvey, Betty Parker, David Cheevers, Joseph & Gail Carey, Deacon Vince Small, Kobe Calzaretta, Raymond Huffman, Tony Caposieno, Wade Wolfe, Samantha Wasley, Don Harnett, Nick Russo, and our Website Prayer Requests.

To add or remove someone from our parish prayer list, please contact the parish office.

REMINDERS

Lenten Poor Box Collection: We will again have a special poor box collection during Lent (February 25 through Palm Sunday, April 2). St. Thomas will match the first \$500 in donations.



The funds will be donated to our SVdP conference and "***Love More***" Ministries, which is based out of Nature Coast Church in Homosassa; they work to serve the poor and homeless with a meal, shower, laundry, and clothing.

Bible study: Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession: This five part series explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, Forgiven communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Led by Joseph McEvoy, sessions will be held on **Mondays at 10:00 am from March 6 – April 3.** The cost is \$10 and can be paid in advance or on the first day of the study. **Please contact the office to register.**



We invite you to join us at St. Thomas The Apostle Church for these remaining **2023 Lenten Reflections** on:

Wednesday, March 8, 3:00 – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, March 22, 3:00 – 4:00 pm,
reconciliation from 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Fr. Glenn has invited the Rev. Lucius Amarillas, O.S.B., a monk and priest of Saint Leo Abbey to preach at these Lenten Reflections. Fr. Lucius currently serves as the Prior and adjunct professor at St. Leo University.



We hope to see you there!



Please mark your calendar for March 20th.

The month of March is known as the Month of St. Joseph. The Solemnity of St. Joseph is Monday, March 20th.

We will celebrate the **4th Annual St. Joseph Table** following the **8:00 am Mass. Please join us!**

More information will follow in next weekend's bulletin.

FORMED is ending on March 22, 2023. We hope you've enjoyed learning more about our Catholic faith through the many shows and movies that FORMED provides. To continue your faith journey, we encourage you to attend our upcoming bible studies:

- * Beginning March 6: "Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession"
- * Beginning April 17: "Psalms: The School of Prayer"

Please contact the office to register.

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CHURCH EVENTS & COLLECTIONS

Please refer to the Daily / Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule located on the front cover.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is Prayed Daily following the 8:00 am Mass.

Sunday, March 5: <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> Collections: Easter Flowers; Parish Building Fund & Pregnancy & Family Life	9:00 am—10:15 am	Youth Faith Formation
Tuesday, March 7:	8:45 am 11:00 am	Holy Face Devotion Respect Life Meeting
Wednesday, March 8: Collection: Lenten Retreat	3:00 pm—4:00 pm 6:00—8:00 pm	Lenten Reflections w/ Fr. Lucius Knights of Columbus Meeting
Thursday, March 9:	8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm	Holy Hour Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Group
Friday, March 10: (<i>Abstinence</i>)	4:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 11:	8:00 am 9:00 am—11:00 am 3:15 pm or by appt.	Communion Only Service 3rd. Annual Prayer Garden Clean-Up Reconciliation
Sunday, March 12: <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> Collections: Catholic Ministry Appeal and SVDP Money Collection	9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	Youth Faith Formation Children's Mass



Important Reminder: Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2:00 a.m. Next Saturday night (March 11th) clocks are set forward one hour (i.e. losing one hour) to “spring forward”.



Fr. Glenn and the entire St. Thomas Pastoral Staff wish much happiness, joy, and congratulations to all our parishioners enjoying a **Birthday, Wedding Anniversary, and/or Birth of a Baby/Grandbaby** this month of March.

May God bless you with his infinite love, comforting peace, and heavenly joy throughout the coming year.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the 2023 Diocese of St. Petersburg Catholic Ministry Appeal.

If you have not yet made a 2023 donation, please prayerfully consider making a gift.

Go to: givetoministry.dosp.org



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ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES UPDATES & REMINDERS



In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: Listen to him." Do we listen to Jesus when he asks us to take care of our brothers and sisters who are suffering? Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Collection Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.

In February, our SVDP Visitation Case Workers received 78 phone calls. They provided **support for 46 individuals** and made 24 home visits. Our volunteers delivered a total of **248 lbs. of food** and distributed a total of **\$2447.96 for lodging, utilities, food, and clothing in support of the needy.** They volunteered 155.9 hours and traveled 682 miles in service to our clients.

Through the generous support of our parishioners, St. Thomas's St. Vincent de Paul Society in the month of February received 96 phone calls and **provided support for 254 individuals.** Our food Pantry had 19 volunteers that worked a total of 60 hours and **distributed 2512 pounds of food** that were given out to our clients as well as 2 duffle bags, 3 blankets, 1 tent, 1 umbrella, 1 rain jacket, 1 T-shirt, 2 pair of slippers, 5 coffee mugs, 1 turkey, and pastries/bread.

Our SVDP phone number for assistance is 352-628-3366. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please tell them to call us.

We are still trying to recruit volunteers to do home visits, or to help with our money and food collections. All interested parishioners are invited to attend our meetings which are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month @ 4:30 PM in St Martin's Hall.

The *Respect Life Ministry* will be selling raffle tickets for a Respect Life Rosary after all masses on the weekend of March 25 and 26th. Although you may already have many rosaries, we feel this one is exceptionally different. It would also be a beautiful gift for a special someone should you win it.

The drawing for the lucky winner will be on May 6, (Mary's Month) after the Respect Life Rosary which is held in the Meditation Garden at 9:00 am.

Please support our ministry to advocate for and minister to those less fortunate and vulnerable to neglect and abuse.



PLEASE PLAN TO HELP IF YOU ARE ABLE

3rd. Annual Prayer Garden Spring Clean-Up Project here at the church **NEXT SATURDAY!**

Date: March 11, 2023

Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Where: At the Meditation (Prayer) Garden

Please join us as we have our 3rd. Annual Spring Clean Up Project, come one, come all, please bring a rake and work gloves to help us with this fun outdoor project helping our church look great for the Easter season. Family & Friends are invited. Coffee, drinks, & breakfast snacks will be provided, as well as, a free raffle for some prizes.



Almsgiving Praying Fasting

L E N T

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence March 10, 17* , 24, and 31	4:00 pm	Stations of the Cross *Dispensation from abstinence granted from Bishop Parkes for Friday, March 17
Wednesdays March 8	3:00 pm	Parish Lenten Retreat: Preacher: Father Lucius Amarillas
March 22	3:00 – 4:00 pm 4:00 – 5:00 pm	Parish Retreat with Father Lucius Reconciliation (Confession)
Every Saturday (except April 8)	3:15—4:00 pm or by appointment	Reconciliation (Confession)
Wednesday, March 22	4:00—5:00 pm	Lenten Penance Service
Palm Sunday Saturday, April 1 Sunday, April 2	4:30 pm Vigil Mass 8:00 am Mass 10:30 am Mass	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Blessing of palms before each weekend Mass
Holy Thursday, April 6	<u>No 8:00 am Mass today</u> <u>No Morning Adoration</u> 4:30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper with Washing of the Feet. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available in front of the Altar of Repose until 7:00 pm
Good Friday, April 7 Day of Fast and Abstinence	<u>No 8:00 am Mass today</u> <u>No Adoration</u> 3:00 pm	The Lord's Passion (with communion)
Holy Saturday, April 8	<u>No 8:00 am Mass today</u> <u>No Confessions</u> 8:00 PM.	Easter Vigil — Begins at 8:00 pm ←
Easter Sunday, April 9	8:00 am and 10:30 am	Easter Sunday Masses



Our Lady of Grace
Mar. 7th, Tues., 5:00PM

Other Lenten Penance
Services in our area:

March 21st, 7:00PM - *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*
March 22nd, 4:00PM - *St. Thomas the Apostle*
March 27th, 5:00PM - *St. Scholastica*
March 28th, 7:00PM - *St. Benedict*
March 29th, 7:00PM - *Our Lady of Fatima*

Confession, also known as Penance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, is an experience of the gift of God's boundless mercy. Not only does it [the Sacrament of Penance] free us from our sins but it also challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us. We are liberated to be forgivers. We obtain new insight into the words of the Prayer of St. Francis: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned." ~ United States Catholic Catechism for Adults



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St. Thomas the Apostle's
Sunday Bulletin



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- Juan Raposo, M.D. - Revisions/Spine
- Kirill Ilalov, M.D. - Spine
- Dragomir Mijic, D.O. - Shoulder
- Dolfi Herscovici, D.O. - Foot/Ankle
- Korey Yngstrom, D.O. - Hip/Trauma
- Kenton Panas, M.D. - Sports Fellowship Shoulder
- Christopher Reyher, M.D. - Physiatry/General
- Huy Nguyen, M.D. - Physiatry/General
- Alexander Pappas, D.P.M. - Podiatrist

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