



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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Phone: (352) 628-7000
E-mail: Info@MyStThomas.org

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

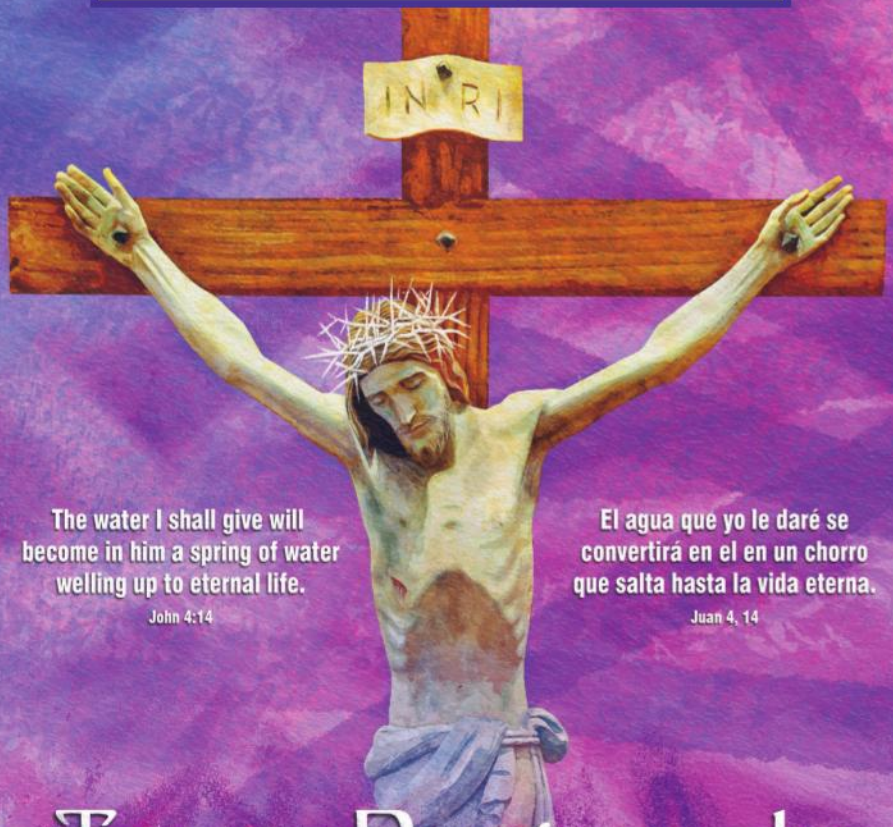
Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor,
& Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office and
Communications Manager

Third Sunday of LENT

MARCH 12, 2023



The water I shall give will
become in him a spring of water
welling up to eternal life.

John 4:14

El agua que yo le daré se
convertirá en el en un chorro
que salta hasta la vida eterna.

Juan 4, 14

Tercer Domingo de CUARESMA

© Diocesan

TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Fr. Glenn | 28 February 2023

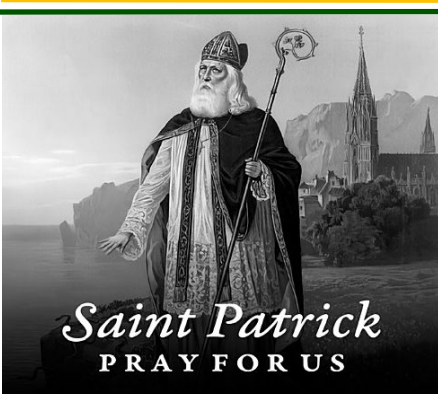
Third Sunday of Lent, Year A



1. Yesterday, February 27th, the priests assigned here in Citrus County had a **Deanery Meeting** held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton, attended by Bishop Gregory Parkes. This year our bishop promised to attend all the deanery meetings usually held every three months. In doing so, Bishop Parkes wanted to convey his special closeness to the faithful in our area. We discussed a lot of things: the updated protocols for COVID-19; toolkits being prepared for use of parishes during the second phase (parish level) of the Eucharistic Revival; Fr. James Johnson (pastor of St. Scholastica) is retiring soon; five more young men from our diocese will be entering the seminary next school year. Bishop Parkes thanked the pastors and parishioners of the six parishes in our deanery for their support of last year's Catholic Ministry Appeal. Not only did we exceed our goal for last year, but we also had more donors participating in that campaign.

2. **Lent** is characterized by penance for our past sins, works of mercy for those in need, and personal preparation for the renewal of our baptismal promises on Easter vigil. The traditional discipline of Lent consists of fervent prayer and reading of God's word, fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, abstinence from meat on Fridays, and works of mercy to those who have less in life. The sacrament of reconciliation (confession) should accompany our Lenten observance. *Several priests will be available for confession on March 22nd, Wednesday, starting at 4:00 pm. Please plan to avail of this opportunity.*

3. In today's **First Reading** (Exodus 17:3-7), the Israelites complained against God because they lacked water, forgetting God's kindness in liberating them from slavery in Egypt. St. Paul reminds us in today's **Second Reading** (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8) that our hope is grounded in the death of Jesus' death which saves us from sin and brings us to everlasting life. Today's **Gospel** (John 4:5-42) recounts Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well and the way this encounter changed her life. We also encounter Jesus in the sacraments as well as in others, especially those in need. Having encountered Jesus, we then begin the lifelong process of conversion. Like the Samaritan woman, we are also called to go out and share the good things that God has done for us.



Saint Patrick
PRAY FOR US


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

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

BREASTPLATE OF
ST. PATRICK

I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me.

Anna still needs us....
Please continue to
pray for her.




PRAYER FOR ANNA

ANNA

Lord, grant Anna the
forever home that she
deserves and strongly
desires.

Touch the hearts of her
future family and give them
courage and peace.



Be *Strong* and *Courageous*
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the *Lord* your *God*
will be with you wherever you go.
~Joshua 1:9

More information can be found at:
www.heartgallerytampa.org

CHURCH INFORMATION & REMINDERS

Lenten Poor Box Collection: Please give!

This Lent, through Palm Sunday, April 2, St. Thomas will match the first \$500 in "Poor Box" donations.

The funds will be donated to our SVdP conference and "**Love More**" Ministries.

"**Love More**" Ministries, located next to the Nature Coast Church in Homosassa, serves the poor and homeless with a meal, shower, laundry, and clothing.



Below you can learn more about how St. Thomas plans to help & support "**Love More**" Ministries.

"Love More" Ministries here at St Thomas

St. James tells us "Faith without works is dead" (James 2: 14-17). Here is a chance for us to put our faith to work. A little while ago, "**Love More**" Ministries reached out to all the churches in this area to help feed the homeless. Father Glenn responded, and we went to visit them and witness the works they are doing here in Homosassa. We decided to join them and help feed God's children. I am now asking you to join the team and put our faith into action. We will start by helping every other month, and Sunday, April 30, will be our first feeding. You are invited to join us. You can email me at deaconmark@mystthomas.org. We will host a meeting here at St. Thomas with the director of "**Love More**" Ministries to give you a more detailed explanation and outline our responsibilities on Monday, March 27 at 1:30 pm in St. Martin's Hall.

We will go to their shelter, which is located next to the Nature Coast Church just up the street on US19, every other month and bring food that we prepare, feeding those who come. Please email me or call the office and let me know that you are interested. ***I hope you join me in this rewarding effort! ~ Deacon Mark***

We invite you to join us at St. Thomas The Apostle Church for our final **2023 Lenten Reflection with Fr. Lucius** on:

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

The Rev. Lucius Amarillas, O.S.B., is a monk and priest of Saint Leo Abbey and currently serves as the Prior and adjunct professor at St. Leo University.

There will be several priests available to hear confessions. ***We hope to see you there & bring a friend!***



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 on March 20th.**

The tradition of the St. Joseph's table, or "Tavola di San Giuseppe", began in Medieval Sicily. During a drought, the people were starving and made a special devotion to St. Joseph. The rains came and the people were saved. In gratitude, they prepared a table with special foods to honor St. Joseph and to distribute to the poor.

The heart of this tradition can be found in three aspects:

1. Veneration: recognition of St. Joseph during Mass & at the table;
2. The Table: an altar of reverence and communal celebration
3. The Poor: gifts to help those in need.

We ask you to please bring non-perishable items to be placed on the table and given to the needy.

You are also welcome to make or bring foods to be shared in celebration with other parishioners after the Mass. Items, such as, Cannoli, Zeppole, Sfingi, olive & fig side dishes; cakes, biscotti and cookies, pasta, breads, often baked in symbolic shapes are typically found on a St. Joseph table. ***Come Celebrate!***

This year, we will also have a small area to honor St. Patrick, whose feast day is March 17.



IN OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 12

8:00 am: Dolores Grimmer †
Requested by: Maria Ruether

10:30 am: Parish Family

Monday, March 13

8:00 am: Phyllis Spada †
Requested by: Christine Gicola

Tuesday, March 14

8:00 am: Richard Piorkowski †
Requested by: George & Betty Sanok

Wednesday, March 15

8:00 am: Joseph Calbi †
Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

Thursday, March 16

8:00 am: Lee Mascaro †
Requested by: Phyllis Pellegrom

Friday, March 17

8:00 am: Gary Widman
Requested by: Patricia Hladky

Saturday, March 18

8:00 am: Communion Only Service

4:30 pm: In thanksgiving for the Blessings of Life, Companionship, and Memory

Requested by: Karen Robben

Sunday, March 19

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Donovan Stapleton †
Requested by: Karen Rey Mullane

DAILY READINGS, SAINTS, & OBSERVANCES



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

Monday 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday *Saint Patrick, Bishop*

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday *Saint Cyril, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

A Holy Hour of Adoration will be held at St. Thomas Church this Thursday, March 16 following the 8:00 am Mass from 8:30 am to 9:30 am.



Jesus, the Lord of Life, has given himself to you in the Eucharist. He is gazing upon you, his beloved child, with great love at this very moment.

Please spend some quiet time with our Lord. If you are unable to physically come to our church for this Holy Hour, please pause at home or wherever you are and wonder at his gift for you. Take time to thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist. ~ www.eucharisticrevival.org



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 17th.



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, Frank Watson, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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

ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES UPDATES & REMINDERS



St. Thomas/SVdP Food Pantry

Due to the significant increase of the less fortunate seeking help we find that our Food Pantry shelves are running low. Because of your generosity, St Thomas the Apostle Food Pantry continues to be a beacon of hope for many in our local area.

This list below was prepared to give you suggestions for items that are in short supply and are in need at this time for our Pantry shelves. However, we will continue to accept, and very much appreciate, all food items that you may kindly wish to donate.

Canned meats (Chicken, Ham, Spam & Tuna)
Dry Cereal, Instant Oatmeal,
Hearty Soups, Chef Boyardee, Chili, Vegetable
Pork & Beans, Beans: Kidney or Black, Rice,
Peanut Butter, Jelly, Marshmallow Fluff,
Pancake Mix, Syrup, Sugar, Flour,
Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Relish & Mustard,
Coffee, Tea, Dry Milk, and Evaporated Milk.
Laundry Soap, Dishwashing Liquid,
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Napkins
Personal Care Items: Bar Soap, Shampoo,
Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant,
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes

**Our next Food Collection will be next weekend:
 March 18 & 19.**

May God continue to bless you for giving from your heart and allowing us the opportunity to serve and to help the less fortunate.

*Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
 —2 Corinthians 9:6*

Catholic Relief Services touches the lives of more than 190 million people in more than 100 countries. But they can't do this vital work without our help. Next weekend is the **Catholic Relief Services Collection**, if you are able, please make a Lenten gift. *Thank you!*

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 at 9:00 am on our church campus in Fr. Ron Marecki's Meditation Garden.

The proceeds will go to the *Respect Life Ministry* for them to financially sponsor presentations relative to respect life topics and organizations that assist those vulnerable to neglect and abuse.

Your support is needed & appreciated!



The Women's Guild will have an **Easter Basket Raffle** fundraiser to help pay for church altar flowers. They will be selling raffle tickets this weekend and on the weekends of March 17/18 and April 1/2. The cost of a single ticket will be \$2.00 or \$5.00 for 3 tickets. The drawings will be held on Easter Sunday at our 10:30 am Mass. You do not need to be present to win.

We appreciate your support!

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 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
Monday, March 13:	10:00 am	Bible Study (Forgiven)
Tuesday, March 14:	8:45 am	Holy Face Devotion
Wednesday, March 15: (<i>Note: The Lenten Retreat was previously moved to next week (March 22nd.)</i>)	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	Women's Guild Meeting SVdP Spiritual/Social Meeting
Thursday, March 16:	8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Group
Friday, March 17: <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</i> (dispensation from abstinence)	4:00 pm 6:00—8:00 pm	Stations of the Cross Youth Group Meeting
Saturday, March 18:	8:00 am 3:15 pm or by appt.	Communion Only Service Reconciliation
Sunday, March 19: <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> Collections: Catholic Relief Services and SVDP Food Collection	9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	Youth Faith Formation



YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Friday, March 17

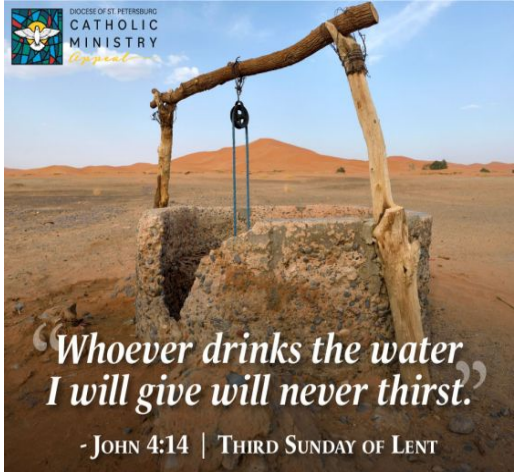
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Shelly and Bill Baker, parishioners and members of our St. Thomas Choir will be leading an evening of fun "Music" for our youth group.

A Musical Night Sounds Fun!

In today's Gospel story, the woman at the well meets Jesus. Jesus moves her so much that she goes into the village, no longer abashed by her bad reputation, and tells everyone that she found the Messiah. Dramatic, to be sure. Others in the town immediately began to believe in Jesus because of her. The Samaritan woman's stark transformation gave her words credibility. Soon after, the townspeople deepened their faith in Jesus by directly encountering him. Jesus used the Samaritan woman's words to introduce a whole village to him.

Our parish can spread faith in the same way through the diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal. This Lent, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help meet the mission of our Church and be a light for others through your heartfelt support. Together, we can demonstrate to our local neighborhood how wonderful He truly is. Through our actions, they will believe our word that He is alive. Jesus, lead us!



**START EACH DAY WITH
A GRATEFUL HEART**



St. Thomas Corner of Gratitude!

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the Pregnancy & Family Life Center (PFLC). We are pleased to report that between January 1—December 31, 2022, the total donated to the Knights of Columbus for the PFLC through the collection taken on the first weekend of each month totaled **\$3,244.00**. This will go to help so many. *Thank You!*



Almsgiving Praying Fasting

LENT

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence March 17*, 24, and 31	4:00 pm	Stations of the Cross *Dispensation from abstinence granted from Bishop Parkes for Friday, March 17
Wednesday March 22	3:00 pm—4:00 pm 4:00 – 5:00 pm	Parish Lenten Retreat: Preacher: Father Lucius Amarillas Reconciliation (Confession)
Every Saturday (except April 8)	3:15—4:00 pm or by appointment	Reconciliation (Confession)
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



March 21, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 5:00 pm
March 22, St. Thomas the Apostle, 4:00 pm
 March 27, St. Scholastica, 5:00 pm
 March 28, St. Benedict, 7:00 pm
 March 29, Our Lady of Fatima, 7:00 pm

Parish Income & Expense Report: October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

INCOME	\$ 144,799.00
EXPENSES	\$ 147,196.00
LOSS	- \$ 2,397.00



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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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