



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

7040 S Suncoast Blvd.
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

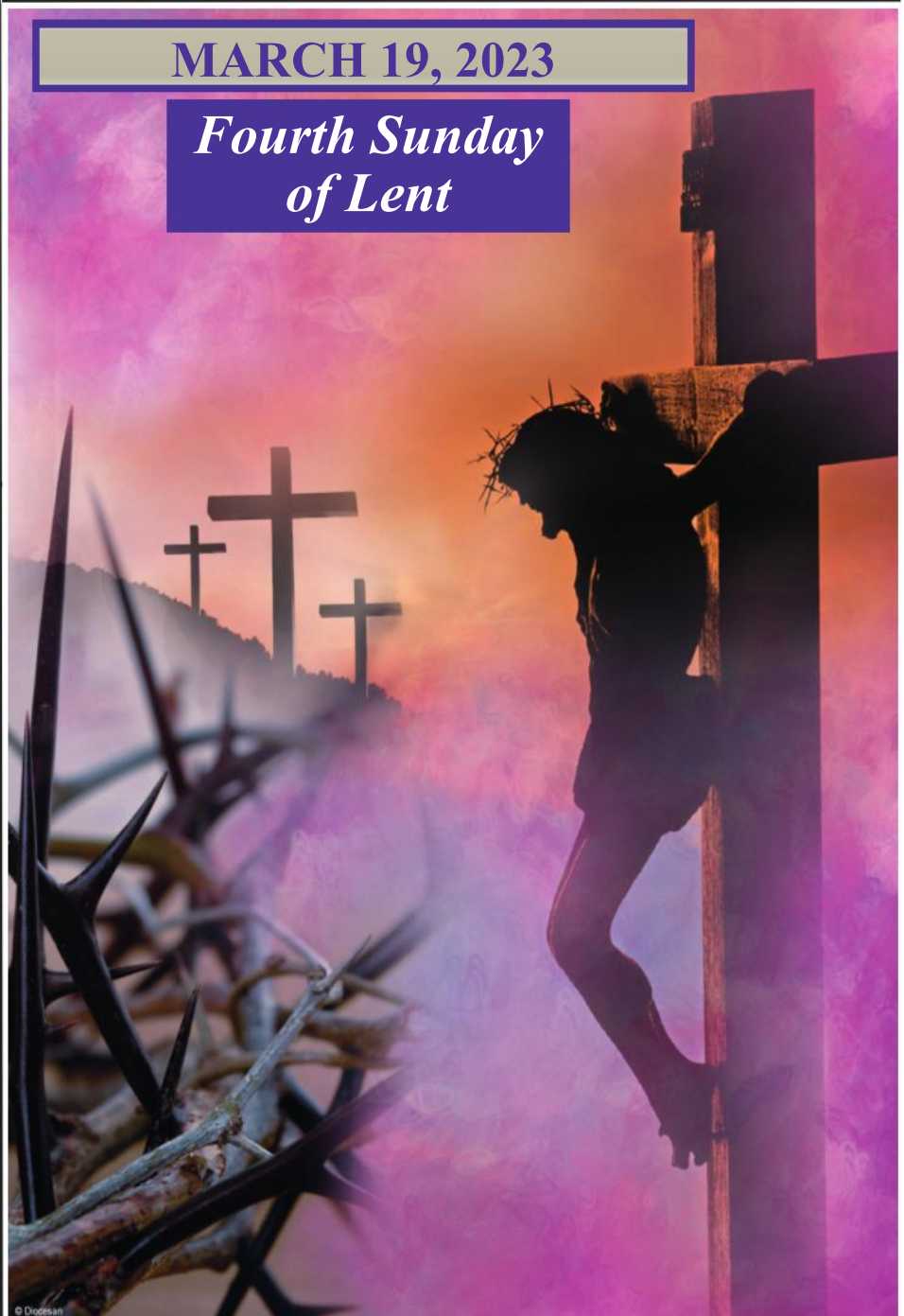
Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor,
& Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office and
Communications Manager

MARCH 19, 2023

***Fourth Sunday
of Lent***



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Fr. Glenn | 04 March 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A



1. Today, March 19th, the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as *Laetare Sunday*. Normally every March 19th we celebrate the **Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. But this year March 19 falls on a Sunday in Lent, so its celebration is transferred to the following day, March 20 (Monday). Since solemnities are not bound to some of the liturgical restrictions of Lent (such as no *Gloria* or *Alleluia* during Lent), we have here an opportunity to celebrate St. Joseph's day more festively even during this penitential season. For the fourth year in a row now, Joseph McEvoy (our pastoral assistant) is setting up again a *St. Joseph's Table* in St. Martin's Hall. One thing I noticed here is that many of our parishioners (including myself) are named Joseph or Josephine (or something similar). Please join us in celebrating this solemnity during the 8:00 am mass tomorrow. *Not to be outdone, I was informed that this year, those of Irish descent among our parishioners are also setting up a St. Patrick's Table on March 20. This means twice the fun!*

2. **Update on Pledges** for the Catholic Ministry Appeal 2023: This year, our parish goal for Catholic Ministry Appeal is \$61,086. As of February 27th, we received a total pledge of \$18,711.29 coming from 131 families (28% participation). If you have not made your pledge yet, please do so soon. Remember: 100% of your donation goes to your chosen ministry or program. To make an online gift to Catholic Ministry Appeal, please visit: www.dosp.org/catholicministryappeal.

3. In today's **gospel** (John 9:1-41), Jesus cures a man born blind after following our Lord's instruction to wash himself at the waters of Siloam. In a certain sense, we are like this man born blind. In baptism, we receive the light of faith which enables us to see things from the perspective of God. For this reason, in ancient times baptism was called "illumination" or "enlightenment". This light of faith is a gift given to us by Christ, who is the light of the world, the conqueror of the darkness of sin and death. Only Jesus can heal us of our spiritual blindness. Let us ask our Lord today for an increase of faith, that we may live as children of light, and that in our practice of the discipline of Lent and by our Christian witness, we may drive away the darkness of sin and death so prevalent in our world today.



MEET ME@ST.THOMAS

The purpose of **Meet Me@St.Thomas** is to provide an opportunity for our parish family to connect and get to know each other better. If you are interested in being introduced in our bulletin, please send an email to karenb@mystthomas.org.

Today, we say hello to Gail Harrison! Gail has two wonderful sons living in Rhode Island and two beautiful grandchildren. She has been a member of St. Thomas for 1 & 1/2 years. Gail volunteers time weekly to help us in our parish office.

Born/Raised: Cranston, Rhode Island

Hobbies/Activities: Loves to listen to all types of music and enjoys ballroom dancing, particularly Latin. She likes to read, mostly mystery, suspense, and horror.

Employment: Retired from working as the Assistant to the Warden of Maximum Security for the State of R.I. Department of Corrections.

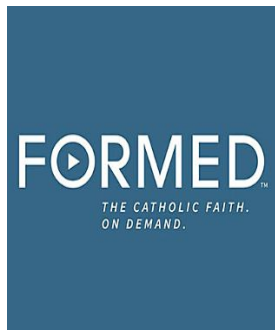
Ministry Member: Member of the St. Thomas Choir.

Favorite Hymn(s): She has more than one favorite hymn... Prayer of St. Francis; How Great Thou Art; In The Garden; When I Get Where I'm Going by Brad Paisley & Dolly Parton.

When you see Gail at the 10:30 am Mass, in our parish office, and/or at a church event, please say hello.

CHURCH REMINDERS

Our subscription to the streaming service 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.

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!



**Holy Land Pilgrimage
October 10-20, 2023
(11 Days)**

Join our Pastor, Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, our Spiritual Leader, and Karen M. Robben, Group Leader on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 10 ~ 20, 2023. The Cost is \$3495 & includes roundtrip airfare, hotels, most meals; travel insurance is additional. **Final payment due 8/20/2023.**

This pilgrimage will be a special time of spiritual journey, when we recommit ourselves to living a Christian life as a life of pilgrimage. Pilgrims are different from tourists; we travel for spiritual reasons, searching for meaning, purpose, values, or truth. We can find that deeper connection with our faith, as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus and visit the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and more. As pilgrims on a sacred journey, we will reflect on the significance of where we are, pray, celebrate the Eucharist, and fully enter each sacred place with our hearts, minds, and souls open to a personal encounter with God.

For More Info: Please contact Group Leader Karen Robben at 352-628-7000 or KarenR@MyStThomas.org.



**Please join us this
Monday, March 20th.**

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is this Monday, March 20th.

We will celebrate the **4th Annual St. Joseph Table** following this Monday's 8:00 am Mass.

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.

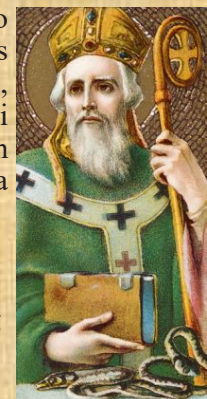
The heart of this tradition can be found in three aspects:

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 was March 17.



IN OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 19

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Donovan Stapleton †

Requested by: Karen Rey Mullane

Monday, March 20

8:00 am: Bill Robben †

Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

Tuesday, March 21

8:00 am: Paul St. Pierre †

Requested by: Tina & Eddie Smolski

Wednesday, March 22

8:00 am: Joseph Koczur †

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

Thursday, March 23

8:00 am: Ralph Massullo, Sr. †

Requested by: Agnes Gallas & Son

Friday, March 24

8:00 am: Richie † & Dawn † Allen

Requested by: Laurie Jo & Susan Brignola

Saturday, March 25

8:00 am: Communion Service Only

4:30 pm: Parish Family

Sunday, March 26

8:00 am: Theresa Gallant †

Requested by: Debra Desroche

10:30 am: Maria Casey

Requested by: Family

DAILY READINGS, SAINTS, & OBSERVANCES

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

Monday *Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3,
4-5, 27 & 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21,
24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday *Saint Toribio de Mogrovejo, Bishop*

Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday *Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord*

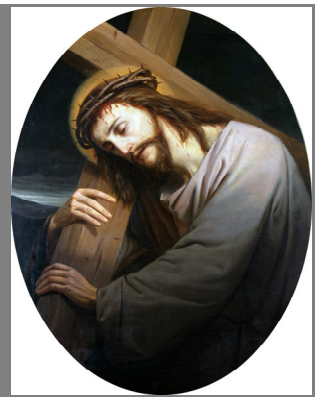
Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11;
Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom 8:8-11;
Jn 11:1-45

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 24th.



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, Peggy Lingrosso, Anne Lunk, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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

ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES REMINDERS

"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

The Knights Corner

Knights of Columbus Fellowship on Sunday, March 26th

The Knights of Columbus, Council 15154, would like to ***invite all*** for fellowship after the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Mass in St. Martin's Hall. Coffee and donuts from 'Hole in One Donuts' will be available.

Please stop by next Sunday after Mass! You will enjoy meeting & mingling with fellow parishioners.

All are welcome!



The ***Respect Life Ministry*** will be selling raffle tickets for a Respect Life Rosary after all masses next 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 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!

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive

One of the most popular and successful fundraisers conducted by our council is for the benefit of people with intellectual disabilities. In appreciation of your donation, we will offer you a piece of candy. Thus, this fundraiser is known as the "Tootsie Roll Drive". We will be outside of the church again next weekend (March 25/26). We hope you can support our effort and enjoy a piece of candy.



CHURCH EVENTS & COLLECTIONS

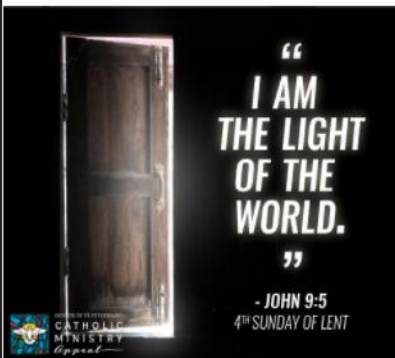
Please refer to the Daily / Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule located on the front cover.

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

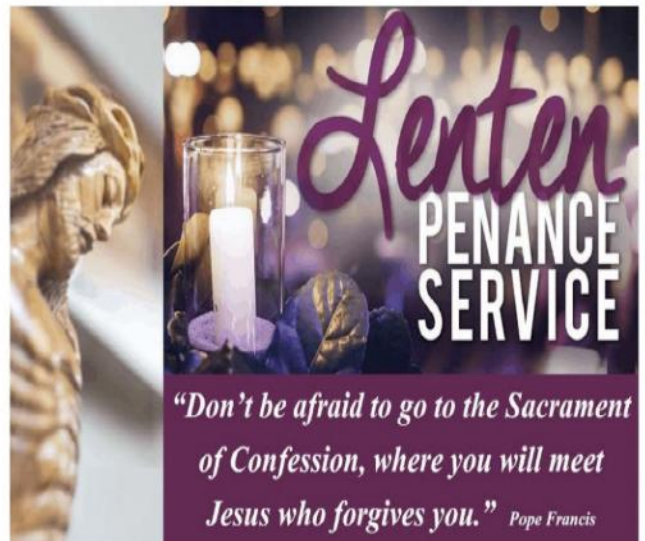
Sunday, March 19: Fourth Sunday of Lent Collections: Catholic Relief Services and SVDP Food Collection	9:00 am—10:15 am	Youth Faith Formation
Monday, March 20:	8:00 am 8:30 am 10:00 am	Mass St. Joseph Table in St. Martin's Hall Bible Study (Forgiven)
Tuesday, March 21:	8:45 am 10:00 am—Noon	Holy Face Devotion Knitting Circle
Wednesday, March 22: Collection: Lenten Retreat	3:00—4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Lenten Retreat w/ Fr. Lucius Lenten Penance Service (Confession)
Thursday, March 23:	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 24: (Abstinence)	4:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 25:	8:00 am 3:15 pm or by appt.	Communion Only Service Reconciliation
Sunday, March 26: Fifth Sunday of Lent Collection: School & Camp Support		No Youth Faith Formation Today

Sight is easy to take for granted. For the Pharisees in today's Gospel, the possibility that they might be missing something, despite having sight, authority, and education bothers them: "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" (John 9:40) When we walk through a house, we automatically look for the light switch if it's dark. It's difficult to do anything in the dark. "We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day," Jesus said in John 9:4. "Night is coming when no one can work."

The works of God cry out to be accomplished, including the ministries supported by our Catholic Ministry Appeal. We must not delay. Christ is here. He is the daylight only by which we can work. We need him, and we need you. We ask him to guide our efforts throughout the Appeal.



Please support our Appeal. We ask him to enlighten your discernment of how to do so. He will not let you walk in darkness when doing the works of God. He will be your light. God bless you abundantly for your gifts and prayers for our Appeal!



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

Almsgiving ☯ Praying 🌿 Fasting



DATE	TIME	EVENT
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence March 24, and 31	4:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday March 22	3:00 pm—4:00 pm 4:00 – 5:00 pm	Parish Lenten Retreat: Preacher: Father Lucius Amarillas Penance Service: 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> <u>Noon</u> 8:00 pm	Easter Food Blessing Easter Vigil — Begins at 8:00 pm ←
Easter Sunday, April 9 <i>Happy Easter!</i>	8:00 am and 10:30 am	Easter Sunday Masses

**START EACH DAY WITH
A GRATEFUL HEART**



St. Thomas Corner of Gratitude!

Dear Respect Life and St. Thomas the Apostle,

Thank you for all the amazing toiletry items that you donated which filled a car's trunk. Last week we had six new pregnant moms that came in! God is sending them to us. How lucky and blessed we are that you love and support them with your prayers and donations.! We couldn't do it without you.

God Bless,

Stephanie Bell

Executive Director of the Pregnancy & Family Life Center



Diocesan is proud to now be printing
St. Thomas the Apostle's
Sunday Bulletin



You are invited to help support our Parish!
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- Jared Salinsky, D.O. - General Ortho
- George Kardashian, M.D. - Hand/Elbow
- 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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