



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

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

I Trust In You!



DIVINE MERCY

© Diocesan

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Fr. Glenn | 21 March 2023

Sunday of Divine Mercy, Year A



1. Some people think that Easter is just a day when we celebrate our Lord's rising from the dead. But in the mind of the Church, the big feasts of the Church (like Christmas and Easter) are celebrated in cycles of eight days. So, we have the **Easter Octave** when the joy of Easter is extended over the next eight days. Indeed, Easter is not just eight days but a season: the Easter season. The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as "one great Sunday." If we celebrate the fullness of Easter joy well, then we can celebrate each Sunday of the year well regardless of the liturgical season.

2. Today is the Second Sunday of Easter or **Divine Mercy Sunday**. St. Faustina Kowalska was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from his heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. Today we focus on the gift of mercy and love given through our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. Here in our deanery, each parish takes turn in hosting the communal celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. This year we join the other parishes in celebrating this feast of mercy at St. Benedict Church in Crystal River. The event starts at 3:00 pm today. Hope to see you there.

3. In today's **gospel** (John 20:19-31) tells us that our parish patron, St. Thomas, would not believe in our Lord's resurrection unless he would see for himself the Risen Lord. For this reason, he is often referred to as "the doubting Thomas." Nowadays, modern biblical scholars would point out that the main point of the story is not the doubt of Thomas, but his need to have an encounter with the risen Christ in order for him to be one of the twelve official witnesses to the resurrection. We should be grateful today that our faith in our Lord's resurrection does not rest on wishful thinking, but on the testimony of a long line of men and women whose lives were completely changed upon believing in our Lord's resurrection.



Catholic Ministry Appeal

Thank You! to everyone who pledged or made a donation to our 2023 Catholic Ministry Appeal. 100% of the donations received support the ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. As of April 3, 2023, 167 pledges were made totaling \$33,082 toward our goal of \$61,086.

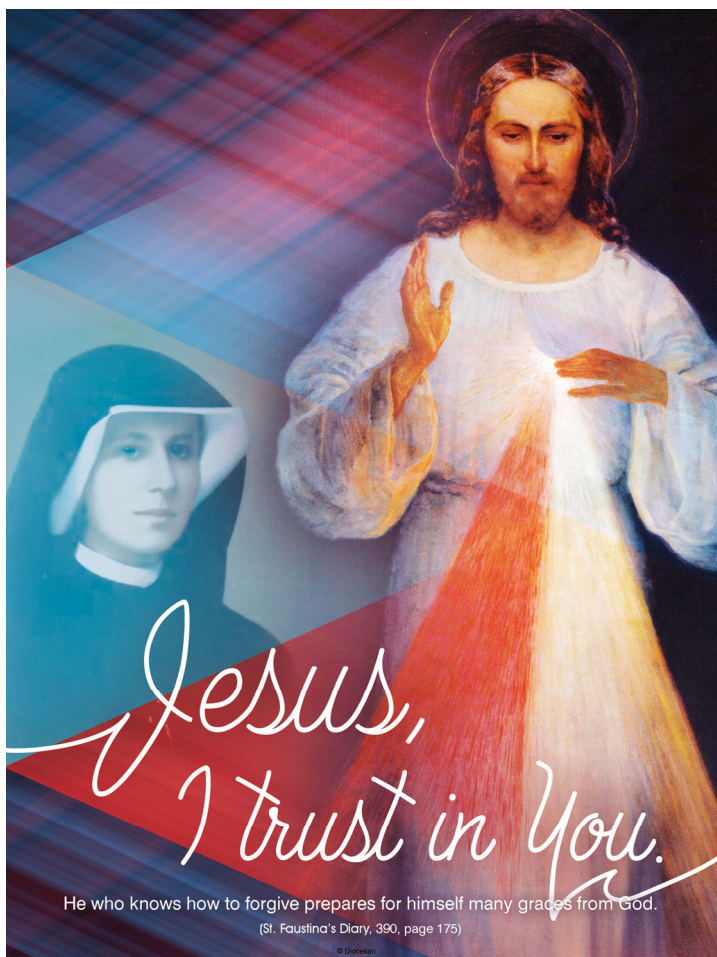


DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

All are invited to join us for the Northern Deanery celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy. This year the celebration will be held on this **Sunday, April 16 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Catholic Church**, located at 455 South Suncoast Blvd in Crystal River.

Jesus told St. Maria Faustina Kowalska that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when "all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened" (Diary 699). Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to confession and receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, the Second Sunday of Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church.

The celebration will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction, reading, prayer reflection, and a blessing of the Divine Mercy picture. You may bring your own image of the Divine Mercy to be blessed.



Approach the Fount of Life

Meditation: I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy (*Diary*, 299).

Ask of my faithful servant (Father Sopocko) that, on the this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy (*Diary*, 300).

My Prayer Response: "Mankind so needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy" (John Paul II, posthumous Divine Mercy Sunday message, April 3, 2005). Lord Jesus, help us to believe in the promise You made about Mercy Sunday and turn to Your mercy with trust.

**The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

A PRAYER OF MERCY FOR THIS WEEK

(To be prayed each day this week.)

Dear Merciful Jesus, I want to be more merciful. Please help me.

Mother Mary, guide me, please.

Saint Faustina, please pray for me.

Jesus, I trust in You!

Amen.

~ www.thedivinemercy.org

ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES UPDATES & REMINDERS



St. Thomas/SVdP Food Pantry

Next weekend is the St. Thomas/SVdP Food Collection.

This list below was prepared to give suggestions for Pantry items in short supply.

We will continue to accept and appreciate all food items you kindly wish to donate.

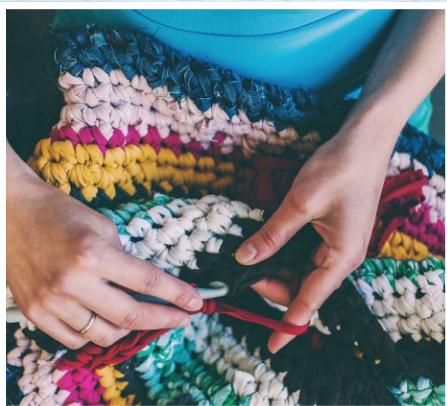
Because of your generosity, St Thomas/SVdP's Food Pantry continues to be a **Beacon of Hope** for many in our local area. **We Thank You!!**

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

Kidney Beans, Black Beans, Canned Meats,
Canned Fruit, Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup,
Pasta, Noodles, Diced Tomatoes,
Mayo Mustard, Ketchup,
Instant Potatoes, Rice,
Coffee, Tea, Powdered Milk, Evaporated Milk,
Crackers, Snacks,
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant,
Shampoo, Laundry Soap, Dish Soap,
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Napkins.

The Knitting Circle of St. Thomas welcomes all parishioners who knit, crochet, or who would like to learn to join us! We make Prayer Squares to give to those living at assisted living manors, hospitals, or in their homes. We also make prayer shawls, lap robes, and hats and scarves for local charities.

We meet once a month on the third Tuesday from 10 am - 12 pm in St. Martin's Hall. If you are interested in learning more, please join us **this Tuesday, April 18th (10 am—Noon)** or call our parish office.

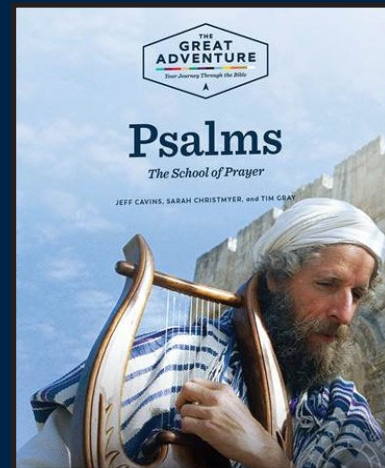


Bible Study with Deacon Mark *There is still time to register*

Beginning this Monday, April 17, 2023, we are starting a new bible study: "Psalms: The School of Prayer". Led by Deacon Mark Manko, this study will show you how to establish a deeply personal dialogue with God through the Psalms.

Learn how to meditate fruitfully on the captivating words of the Psalms using lectio divina and study the many ways the Psalms foretell the life and mission of Jesus.

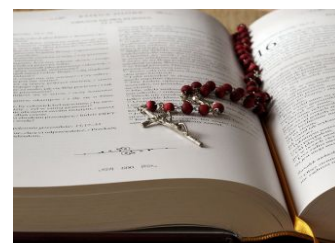
The bible study will be held on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. for 11 sessions, and the cost of the workbook is \$29.95. Please contact the office to register.



The **ST. THOMAS BEREAVEMENT GROUP** takes a very positive approach to grief by helping grievers learn how to make a new life, even when they don't want to. Just come, sit, and listen. See for yourself that your life can be a lot better.

We meet every **Thursday from 1:00—3:00 pm**. Thirty years of experience has taught us how to help make a positive difference in a person's life.

Please contact the parish office for more information.



IN OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 16

8:00 am: Netti † & Ross † Frustaci
Requested by: Loving Family, The Pumas

10:30 am: David Solano †
Requested by: Margaret Velasquez

Monday, April 17

8:00 am: Bernard Tully †
Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

Tuesday, April 18

8:00 am: Jim Meeks †
Requested by: Kevin Dunn

Wednesday, April 19

8:00 am: Fr. Xavier Kang
Requested by: Olivia Bruce Kosling

Thursday, April 20

**8:00 am: Fr. Zachary Teresan † and
Fr. Joseph Piorkowski †**
Requested by: Fran & Bud Klein

Friday, April 21

8:00 am: Helen Costello †
Requested by: Robin Furciato



Saturday, April 22

**4:30 pm: In Thanksgiving
of her 2nd Anniversary of
her 47th Birthday
Happy 94th - Lorraine
Kwiecienski**

Requested by: Loving
Husband, Richard

Sunday, April 23

8:00 am: Parish Family
10:30 am: Antonio Del Nero †
Requested by: Helen Del Nero



**This Week's Altar Flowers
and**

**The Bread & Wine
for the Sunday, April 16th**

**10:30 am Mass
are donated**

**in celebration of the
57th Wedding Anniversary
of**

Raymond & Barbara Huffman



DAILY READINGS, SAINTS, & OBSERVANCES

Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9;
Jn 20:19-31

Monday

Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday

Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn: 3:7b-15

Wednesday

Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday

Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20;
Jn 3:31-36

Friday

Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday

Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Sunday

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11;
1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35



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, 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, 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, Kerin Hedgcoxe, Pat Cleary, Mary Ann Zack, Arria Wheeler, Kathy Farrell, Jim Crouse, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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

ALZHEIMER'S INFORMATION & HAPPY EARTH DAY

ALZ IN FAITH

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and the Alzheimer's Association invite you to attend a special programs to learn about Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia Wednesday, May 3, 2023 | 3 p.m.

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, the stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Effective Communication Strategies Wednesday, May 17, 2023 | 3 p.m.

Join us to explore how communication changes when someone is living with Alzheimer's, learn how to interpret the verbal and behavioral communication, and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

Guest Speaker: LuAnn Cambino, Alzheimer's Community Educator

The Church is located at 7040 S. Suncoast Blvd. Homosassa, FL 34446

800.272.3900 | alz.org



HAPPY EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored. ~USCCB

God entrusted us with HIS Creation so let us be good stewards!



CHURCH EVENTS & COLLECTIONS

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

THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET is prayed every weekday
following the 8:00 am Mass.
Together We Pray!



Sunday, April 16: Divine Mercy Sunday Collections: Catholic Ministry Appeal & SVdP Money Collection	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm →	Mass Youth Faith Formation Mass (Children's Mass) Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Benedict Catholic Church
Monday, April 17:	10:00 am 1:30 pm	Bible Study "The Psalms" Love More Ministry Meeting
Tuesday, April 18:	8:45 am 10:00 am	Holy Face Devotion The Knitting Circle
Wednesday, April 19:	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	The Women's Guild Monthly Meeting SVdP Spiritual/Social Meeting
Thursday, April 20:	8:30 am— 9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Meeting
Saturday, April 22:	8:00 am 3:15 pm—4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, April 23: Collection: SVdP Food Collection	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am 11:45 am	Mass Youth Faith Formation Mass Funeral Planning Presentation

Reminder: We will have our first "Team Meeting" on Monday, April 17th, at 1:30 pm in St Martin's Hall. At that time, we will form our teams and assign a captain for each one. Rich Kopicki will chair this endeavor for St Thomas, and of course, I will also be a part of it. We are going to schedule a visit to the facility ahead of our first-time feeding God's children. ~ Deacon Mark



Making Your Funeral Arrangements Presentation will be held after the 10:30 am Mass next Sunday, April 23, 2023. Do you want to plan your funeral arrangements, but aren't sure where to start? Join Deacon Mark Manko and Jeff Macrini from Wilder Funeral Home on Sunday, April 23rd following the 10:30 am Mass. Deacon Mark and Jeff will guide you through the ins and outs of funeral planning, and will answer some of the most common questions including:



- ♦ Why is it smart to pre-arrange, and what are the average prices of burial & cremation?
- ♦ What happens to the money?
- ♦ What if the funeral home goes out of business, then what happens to my money?
- ♦ What are the Church's teachings on cremation & scattering of cremains?

These and many other topics will be covered. **No reservations required; all are welcome!**

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION NOTIFICATION:

The Communion Retreat and Practice will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 10:00 am to Noon.



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



You are invited to help support our Parish!
 For opportunities to advertise, please call 800-997-4986



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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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