



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

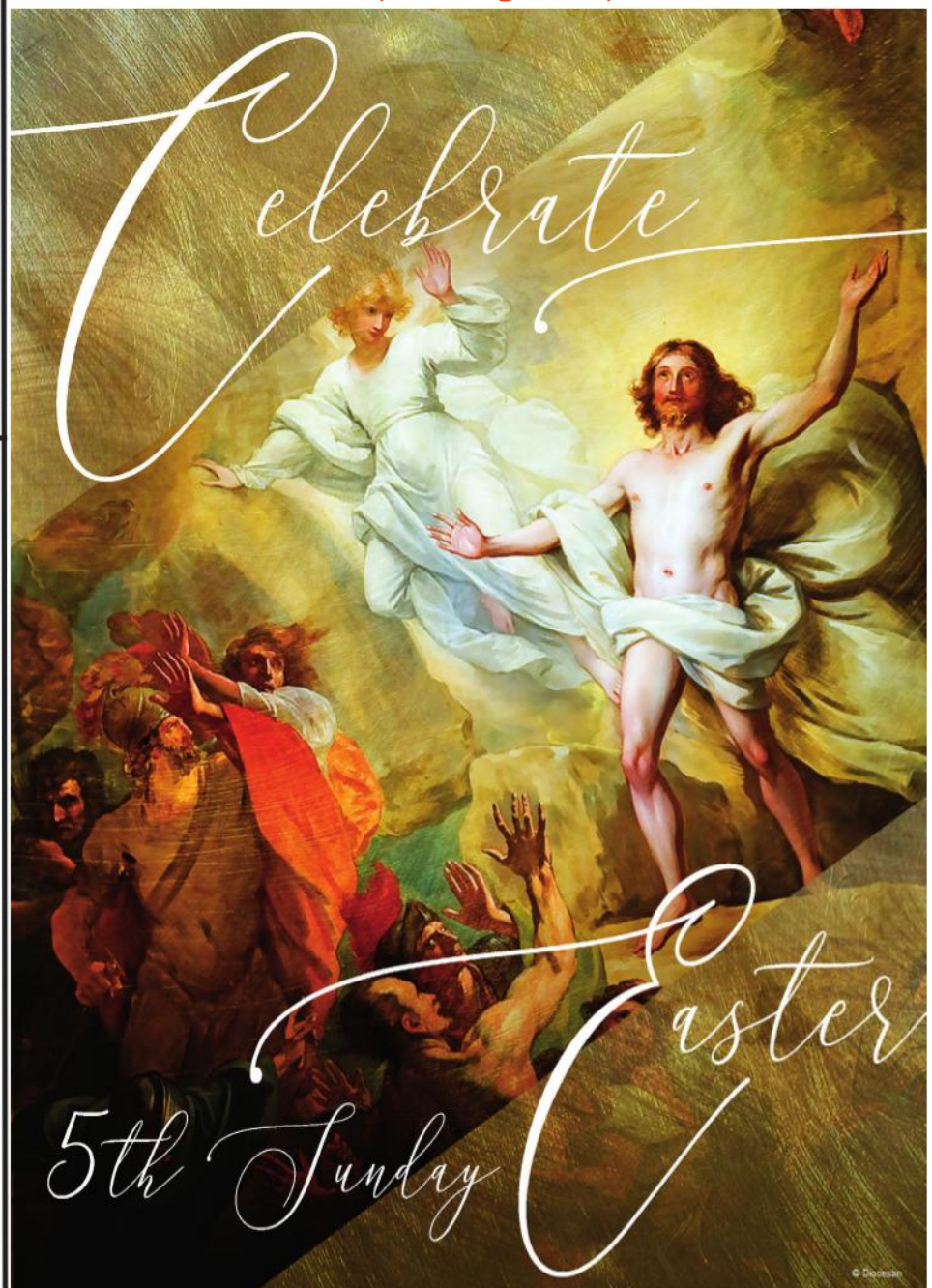
Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director

Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor,
& Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office and
Communications Manager

SUNDAY, May 07, 2023





TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

Fr. Glenn | 11 April 2023

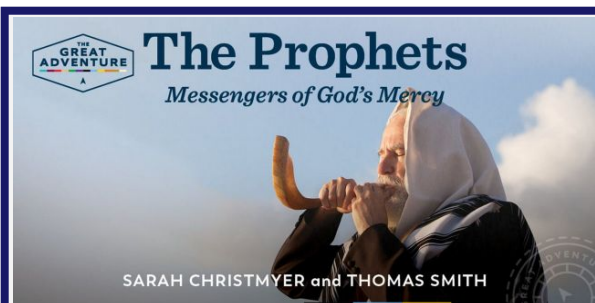
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A



1. **Mary, Queen of May:** The month of May is a month dedicated to Mary. This past couple of years we have kept alive in our parish this time-honored tradition of crowning Mary as Queen of heaven and earth. By crowning the statue of Mary with a crown of flowers, we recognize her role in our Lord's lifting us out of the long, cold days of winter and firmly planting our hearts in the warm and promising soil of spring. In 1859 Mary appeared to the young Belgian immigrant, Adele Brise, during which Mary identified herself as the "Queen of Heaven." In one of the Marian hymns, we address Mary: "*Hail Virgin, dearest Mary! Our lovely Queen of May. O spotless, blessed Lady. Our lovely Queen of May. And now, our Blessed Mother, smile on our festal day. Accept our wreath of flowers and be our Queen of May.*"

2. Today (May 7) is a very special day to seven of our Faith Formation kids who will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time. They are: Geoffrey Boehm, Arieanna Crockwell, Isabella Flores, Viviana Flores, Camila Morrow, Everett Nothnagel and Abigail Sturdevant. Seeing them receiving the Eucharist with much fervor and devotion will hopefully bring back many happy memories of our own **First Holy Communion**. Please pray also for the parents of these children that they allow these kids to continue with their faith formation.

3. Jesus tells us in today's **gospel** (John 14:1-12), "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Jesus is the way, because by following him we will surely reach our final destination – eternal life with God. Jesus is the truth, because he is the perfect revelation of God given to us in human form. And Jesus is our life, because he shares with us the very life of God. Jesus gave us a new commandment: that we should love one another as he loved us. There is only one guide: Jesus. There is only one map: the way of love. With Jesus as our guide and companion along the journey of life, we could hardly get lost ever again.



Bible Study on THE PROPHETS

*We invite you to join a new bible study – **The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy**. The prophets are individuals chosen by God to speak on his behalf. They urge us to repentance, warn us of the dangers of sin, and announce the blessings of faithfulness.*

*Facilitated by Fr. Glenn, this bible study consists of ten sessions which last about 1.5 hours per session. Each session will begin at 10:00 am. Each participant will need a workbook (\$27.95) which contains engaging study questions, talk notes, and the Bible Timeline Chart. **This bible study will begin on September 11, so register early.***

For more information, please contact our parish office.

"Name Tag Sunday" is The First Weekend Of Every Month.

Please help us enhance the hospitality & friendliness of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Once a month, we ask that you complete a name tag before entering our church. This will help our parish volunteers and staff get to know you by name when welcoming you to our weekend parish mass. Would not it be great to get to know by name those sitting around you and/or welcome by name a visitor to our church? We thank you for your cooperation.

"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine." ~ Isaiah 43:1 (NABRE)



DEVOTION TO MARY & ST. THOMAS CORNER OF GRATITUDE



MONTH OF MAY IS DEDICATED TO THE DEVOTION OF MARY

May's devotion originated in Rome at the end of the 18th century. Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus made a vow to devote the month of May to Mary to counter infidelity and immorality among the students. From there, it spread to the rest of the Church and has since been publicly celebrated. ~Diocesan.com (2022-2023 Liturgical Planner)

The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary prayer group prays every Thursday, following the 8:00 am Mass or the Holy Hour of Adoration.

Let us pray the "Hail Mary" and insert the petition to the Flame of Love:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee, blessed are Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, **spread the effect of grace of Thy Flame of Love over all of humanity,** now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

START EACH DAY WITH A GRATEFUL HEART St. Thomas Corner of Gratitude!



Fr. Glenn, Msgr. Joe and Deacon Mark are grateful to the eighty-seven (87) volunteers who signed up to serve the poor through the newly created St. Thomas the Apostle "Love More Ministry." We currently have six (6) teams with an assigned team captain and anywhere from 8 to 15 volunteers per team. Once a month, one of the six teams (Teams A–F on rotation) will prepare a meal to take to the shelter located next to the Nature Coast Church on Rt. 19. Our team members will feed the poor/homeless who show up and help coordinate laundry and shower times. If you want to help and join a team, please call Rich Kopicki at 352-476-9020.



We thank our first team, "Team A" with Martin Faulmino, Team Captain, and his team of volunteers: Carmen Faulmino, Barbara & Ray Huffman, Debra & Howie Smith, Connie & Lenny Spira, Laura & Emile Allain, Tammy & Darryl Frank, Jeanne & George Morrow, and Wayne Stringer.

Below are remarks from Susanna Haberle from "Love More Ministry."

"Praise God for his amazingness! I heard all about St. Thomas having a great team yesterday (Sunday, April 30th) while serving the Love More Ministry! 30 + meals were served, many showered, and did laundry. 10 meals were taken out to the community, while everyone that showed up was able to take food "to-go," AMEN AMEN! Also, the wipes went like HOTCAKES!"



"Team B" is scheduled to serve on Sunday, May 14. Rich Kopicki is the Team Captain.



In appreciation of Earth Day 2023, Fr. Glenn bought five (5) fruit trees using the gift card given to him by his staff over the Christmas Holiday. Four trees were planted on the church campus: grapefruit, lemon, avocado, and guava. He planted another avocado tree in the rectory.

IN OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 7

8:00 am: Helen & Paul Valush †

Request by: Niece, Norma Pafchek

10:30 am: 65th Wedding Anniversary of

**Pauline & Tony
Gerbino**

Request by:
The Gerbino Family



Monday, May 8

8:00 am: Anna Palazzi †

Requested by: Victor & Camilla Bocchino

Tuesday, May 9

8:00 am: Linda Cobb †

Requested by: Tom & Maria Casey

Wednesday, May 10

8:00 am: Lillian Horan †

Requested by: Julie Szucsik

Thursday, May 11

8:00 am: Walter Kopicki †

Requested by: Rich & Jeanne Kopicki

Friday, May 12

8:00 am: Mary Agnes Tansey†

Requested by: Loving Husband, Gene Tansey
& Family

Saturday, May 13

4:30 pm: Fr. Don Bosco Lee

Requested by: Olivia Bruce Kosling

Sunday, May 14

8:00 am: All Mothers

10:30 am: Parish Family & All Mothers

DAILY READINGS, SAINTS, & OBSERVANCES

Sunday *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Monday Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21;
Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday *Feast of Saint John of Avila, Priest and
Doctor of the Church, and St Damien of Molokai, Priest*
Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday Acts 15:7-21; PS 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday *Feast of Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs,
and Saint Pancras, Martyr*
Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10 & 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday *Feast of Our Lady of Fatima*

Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1Pt 3:15-18;
Jn 14:15-21

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



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



LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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

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, Kerin Hedgcoxe, Pat Cleary, Mary Ann Zack, Arria Wheeler, Kathy Farrell, Jim Crouse, Andy Lunk, Sarah Phillips, Peggy Paul, Sheila Greifenkamp, Pat Allard, 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



In the Gospel today, Jesus says “...whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”

Through your almsgiving you are helping; far greater than you think. The money placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Money Collection Box next weekend (May 13/14) brings Christ's love and compassion to the poor.

Through the generous support of our parishioners, St. Thomas's St. Vincent de Paul Society in April was able to help many people in need. Our SVdP Visitation Case Workers received 70 calls, had 23 cases, provided support for 38 individuals, and distributed 214 pounds of Pantry food. We made 23 home visits and spent a total of \$2096.97 in support for lodging, utilities, food, and clothing for the needy. Our Teams donated 157 hours and traveled 641 miles in service to our clients.

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 or call Bill Scarfo at 727-230-1883 for more information.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, May 17th., please come and learn more about our ministry.



Women's Guild

The St Thomas Women's Guild will have Carnations available next weekend (May 13/14) in honor of Mother's Day. Traditionally, white carnations are for deceased Mothers, and pink carnations are for Mothers' living.

White, Pink, and Red Carnations have been purchased for this occasion. A donation of **\$1.00 per flower** is requested to help offset the costs. We wish all Mothers, living and deceased, all the blessings that can be showered on them.



God Bless
OUR MOTHERS

A mother defends herself with
a heart filled with love before
doing so with words.

- Pope Francis



An Invitation

It's Teatime! The Women's Guild of St. Thomas the Apostle cordially invites you to our annual Tea Party on May 17, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. in St. Martin's Hall.

***Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship!
Looking forward to seeing you there!***

Please RSVP Brenda Jeffres at 352-422-7755.

The Knights of Columbus, Council 15154, will hold the next **St. Thomas/Knights of Columbus Blood Drive on Sunday, May 28th.**



The LifeSouth Blood Mobile will be in our church parking lot from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm.**

Forty (40) people donated in the last four (4) Blood Drives held at St. Thomas. **Each donation can save three (3) lives, so 120 lives are saved.**

If you can, please plan to give blood on Sunday, May 28th. Be sure you eat and drink before giving blood. Next week's bulletin will have more details.

ALZHEIMER'S INFORMATION and ST. LEO UNIVERSITY

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.

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



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Saint Leo University is ranked one of the best universities in Florida. The University offers an unparalleled liberal arts education grounded in rich Catholic traditions. More than 1,800 Saint Leo students live and study at the beautiful lakeside campus in east Pasco County.

Bishop Parkes, a member of the Saint Leo University Board of Trustees, has asked that the attached ad with QR Code be included in all parish bulletins. If you would like to share details on the University with potential Saint Leo students, please refer them to this link for more information:
<https://www.saintleo.edu/future-students>



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!

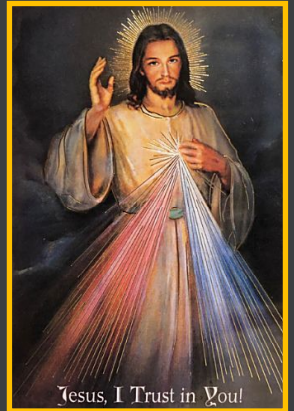
(Repeat 3 times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed

For each of the five decades (On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, pray) Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

(On each of the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray) For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Concluding prayer (Repeat 3 times) Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



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| Sunday, May 7: Name Tag Sunday and May Crowning | 9:00 am—10:15 am | Youth Faith Formation Class: May Crowning |
| Collections: Parish Building Fund and Pregnancy & Family Life | 10:30 am | Mass with First Holy Communion |
| Monday, May 8: | 10:00 am | Bible Study "The Psalms" |
| Tuesday, May 9: | 8:45 am | Holy Face Devotion |
| Wednesday, May 10: | 6:00 pm | Knights of Columbus Meeting |
| Thursday, May 11: | 8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm | Holy Hour of Adoration Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Meeting |
| Saturday, May 13: | 8:00 am 3:15 pm—4:00 pm or by appt. | Communion Only Service Reconciliation |
| Sunday, May 14: Mother's Day Collection: SVdP Money Collection | 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am | Youth Faith Formation Class Mass (Children's Mass) |

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give.mystthomas.org/give

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- 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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