



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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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

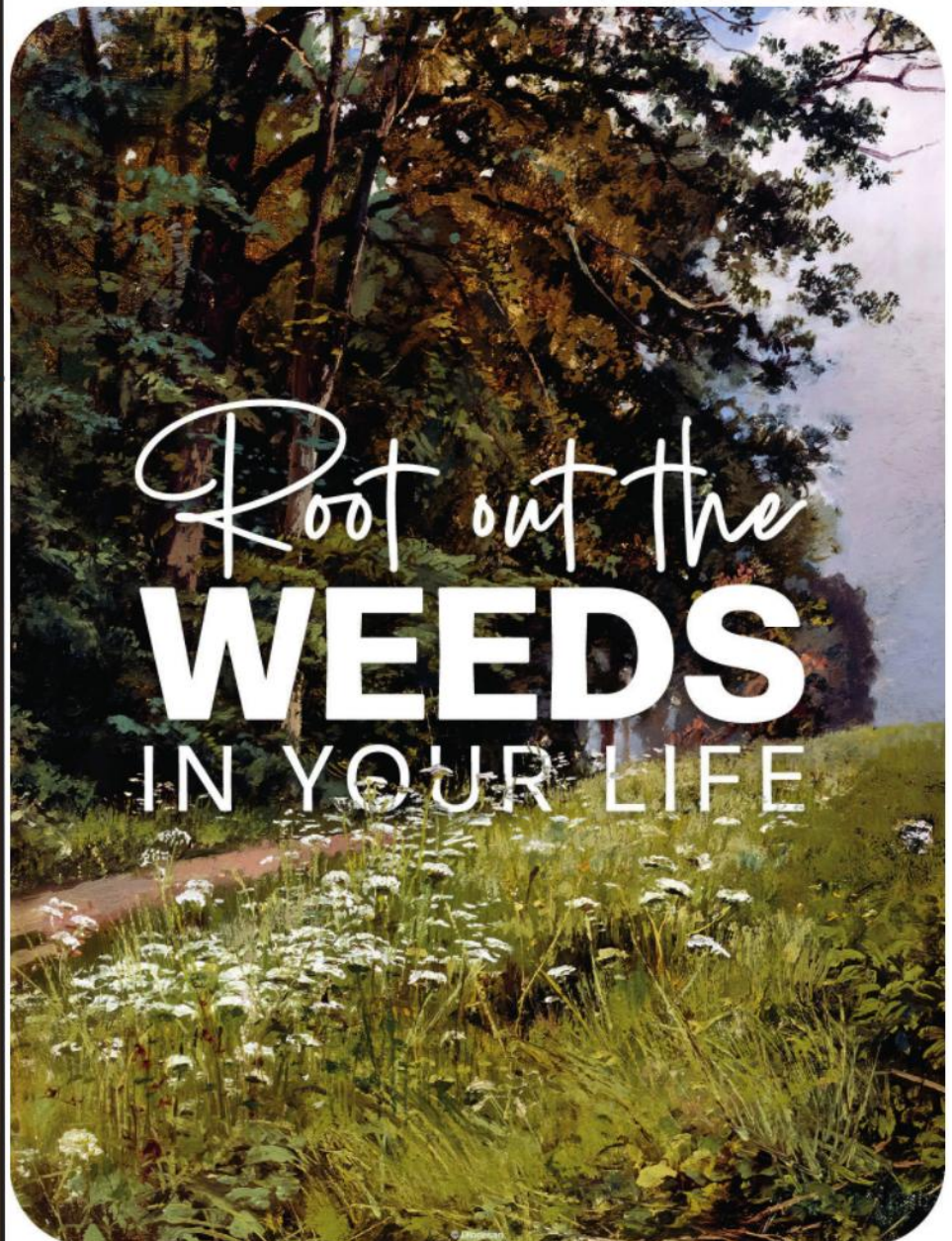
Assisting Clergy:

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

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 23, 2023





TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

23 July 2023 | 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



1. As of this writing (June 9), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) plans to gather for their **Spring Plenary Assembly** in Orlando, June 14-16. Our bishops meet twice a year (spring and fall). You might be wondering what they do when they meet. During the plenary next week, the bishops will receive updates on the Eucharistic Revival, on the ongoing preparations for the National Eucharistic Congress in 2024, and on the World Youth Day. The bishops are also expected to vote on a number of items, including: the "Shreveport Martyrs," a plan for the ongoing formation of priests, USCCB's strategic plan for 2025-2028, the development of a pastoral statement addressing persons with disabilities, etc.

2. The sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick** is administered for the conferral of a special grace on a Catholic who is experiencing the difficulties of grave illness or old age (Catechism #1527). Each time a Catholic falls seriously ill, he may receive the anointing of the sick. He may receive it again when the illness worsens. Do not wait until the moment of death. Moreover, we suggest that before undergoing a medical procedure, our parishioners should get an appointment to receive this sacrament. Or they may just approach the priest after mass and request for the anointing in the vestry.

3. In today's **gospel** (Matthew 13:23-43), Jesus explains to us by means of the parable of the wheat and the weeds the mysterious situation of the co-existence of good and evil in this world. Here's a simplistic interpretation of this parable: the wheat are the good people; the weeds are the bad. They both coexist in society, even within the Church. But a more realistic view of this parable is something like this: each one of us is growing a double-crop -- some good wheat mixed with some awful weeds. The weeds are the evil things that grow in a neglected soul. This parable then teaches us humility and patience because it invites us to leave the weeding to the master of the harvest, who will do that in due time.

Fr Glenn | 9 June 2023

MASS SCHEDULE ADDITION - THURSDAYS AT 6:00 PM

To continue to foster eucharistic revival in our parish, Fr. Glenn mentioned that one of the new initiates we are starting at St. Thomas the Apostle is celebrating an evening Mass once a week.

Starting Thursday, August 17th, we will add an evening Mass every Thursday at 6:00 pm until September 28th. If this Mass gains traction, it will continue, and other evening activities will be added, such as bible study, adoration, etc.



For those unable to make the daily 8:00 am Mass, we hope you will be pleased with this initiative and attend the Thursday evening Mass weekly beginning August 17th.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

A LETTER FROM BISHOP PARKES



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
Office of the Bishop



April 18, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to announce an exciting new initiative in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. In September, we will launch a new diocesan magazine to evangelize, inspire, and unite our community. **The mission of *Gulf Coast Catholic* magazine will be to bring people in the Diocese of St. Petersburg closer to Jesus and His Church so we can *Courageously Live the Gospel*.**

This new magazine will be sent to all registered households in the Diocese of St. Petersburg four times a year. It will be free to everyone and I hope you will consider it a gift from me to you.

Each issue will contain advice for Catholic living, inspirational articles, information about the Catholic faith, and ideas for enhancing your prayer life. These articles will help people, even those struggling with faith, to stay anchored in Jesus Christ on Sundays and throughout the week.

In 2021, we launched *GulfCoastCatholic.org*, and now we are ready to expand our reach. To help answer questions you might have about this effort, I have attached some Frequently Asked Questions. We will have more details on this initiative in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your ongoing support and service! May God bless you, and may your hearts be filled with the love of Jesus Christ this Easter Season and always!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg

PO Box 40200, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200 | Office: 727-341-6830

IN OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 23

8:00 am: Carrina La Porte †

Requested by: Laurie Jo & Susan Brignola

10:30 am: Parish Family

Monday, July 24

8:00 am: Madeline Myers †

Requested by: Barbara Behrendt

Tuesday, July 25

8:00 am: Ruth Rimer †

Requested by: Loving Daughters,
Anne & Ramona

Wednesday, July 26

8:00 am: Claire Gould † (Happy Birthday)

Requested by: Loving Husband, Gordon †

Thursday, July 27

8:00 am: Bernice Knowdell †

Requested by: Anne Schuknecht

Friday, July 28

8:00 am: Sandra Araneo †

Requested by: Norma Pafchek

Saturday, July 29

4:30 pm: Bernice Knowdell †

Requested by: Paul Zukowski

Sunday, July 30

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Claire Ballaban †

Requested by: Loving Daughters, Karen
Ballaban & Sandy (Rick) Mueller

DAILY READINGS, SAINTS, & OBSERVANCES

Sunday Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 12-13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16;
Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 or Mt 13:24-30

Monday Memorial of Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday Feast of Saint James, Apostle

2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28

Wednesday Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne,

Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28;
Mt 13:1-9;

Thursday Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dan 3:52, 53, 54, 55,
56; Mt 13:10-17

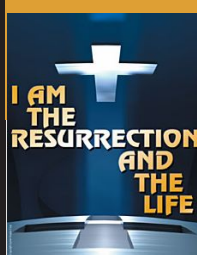
Friday Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 13:18-23

Saturday Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Jn 11:19-27 or
Lk 10:38-42

Sunday Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128,
129-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 or
Mt 13:44-46



**LET US PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL
REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF
OUR PARISHIONERS:**

Louis Vanderham † July 13, 2023

David Scheftic † July 05, 2023

"We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord." — St. Ambrose

LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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



Karl Wolf, Ethan Grayshan, Rita Frisbie, Virginia Kanis, Scott Klaben, Kerrie Schmidt, Mike Jablonsky, Stephanie St. Clair, Mary Ann DeSimone, Charles Terreault, Christine Gicola, Skip Guss, Elizabeth Dostal, Anthony Cimorelli, Ron Rothe, Marguerite Corrao, Norma Galvin, Wendell Miller, Joseph Hertrich, Michelle LaGreca, Sutton Hotard, Charles Harvey, Betty Parker, David Cheevers, Joseph & Gail Carey, Deacon Vince Small, Raymond Huffman, Tony Caposieno, Wade Wolfe, Samantha Wasley, Don Harnett, Nick Russo, Frank Watson, Peggy Lingrosso, Pat Cleary, Mary Ann Zack, Arria Wheeler, Kathy Farrell, Jim Crouse, Andy Lunk, Sarah Phillips, Peggy Paul, Sheila Greifenkamp, Pat Allard, Philip Porter III, Phyllis Fylak, Sandy Mueller, Richard and Lorraine Kwiecienski, Sandy Marecki, Linda DeWitt, Neill Aiken, Peg Laurie, Sheyna Clements, Jim Duncan, Sandra Boros, Edward & Rusty Ryal, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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

ST. BENEDICT APARTMENTS // CATHOLIC MELKITE MISSION

St. Benedict Apartments in Crystal River is Catholic Charities' latest affordable housing project. In the near future, 18 individuals and families will be moving into their new apartments.

The grand opening was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, with Bishop Gregory Parkes, religious leaders, members of the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees, Citrus County and local government officials and agencies, including Daystar Life Center Board members, staff and volunteers. Fr. Glenn gave the opening invocation for the ceremony, and the ribbon cutting included one of the new homeowners and her 6-year-old son.

May God bless abundantly the generous minds, hearts, and hands who worked on this project, so that in the future there will be more Shelters of Hope here in Citrus County.



St. Barbara Catholic Melkite Mission

Our parish is pleased to welcome members of St. Barbara Catholic Melkite Mission next weekend (July 29/30). They will be showcasing a stunning collection of religious items, handcrafted by our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. The items will be priced at \$20, \$40, \$80, and \$100 and available for purchase with cash, check, or credit cards. It is important to note that the Catholic families in the Holy Land are facing significant challenges, both financially and in terms of their freedom of worship, movement, and speech. The coronavirus pandemic has also impacted their livelihoods, as few pilgrims have been able to visit the Holy Land in recent years. The sale of these religious items is therefore crucial to their survival and hope. We encourage you to stop by and support this worthy cause. Thank you!



ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES // LPMI



Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Prayer Group

The purpose of the **FLAME OF LOVE** grace is to blind Satan's stronghold on souls. Mary said, "I have never given you such a powerful force of grace. Since the Word became Flesh, I have never given such a great movement as the Flame of Love that comes to you now. Until now, there has been nothing that so blinds Satan. Do not refuse this gift. To do so would bring great ruin."

Our Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Prayer Group meets on Thursdays to pray the Flame of Love Rosary, and we would love for you to join us! Please check the "Events Section" of the weekly bulletin for the specific time on Thursdays; either 8:45 am (after 8:00 am Mass) or 9:45 am (after Holy Hour of Adoration)

The Flame of Love Movement has the apostolic blessing of Pope Francis.

For more information on the Flame of Love Movement, please go to: www.flameoflove.us

The St. Thomas the Apostle *Respect Life Ministry*

will have a table outside masses on August 26 and 27 requesting sponsors to support *Respect Life Ministry* walkers for the Pregnancy and Family Life Centers' Annual Walk/Bike for Life event that will be held on October 14, this year.

We appreciate your support!

***We are seeking more parishioners
to join our***

Respect Life Ministry.

***If you are interested, please join us in
St. Martin's Hall for our next monthly
meeting on Wednesday,
August 9 at 11:00 am.***

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES 2023-2024

Registration is now open for the 2023 - 2024 Youth Faith Formation Season. There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday, August 22, at 7:00 pm. in St. Martin Hall.

Please contact Robin Furciato at RobinF@mystthomas.org or (352) 628-7000 or more information.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT? THE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY INSTITUTE

Lay Pastoral Ministry
Institute
Year of Discernment



2023-2024

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute (LPMI) of the Diocese of St. Petersburg is a four-year program consisting of an informal year of discernment and three years of formation in parish ministry leadership. The aim of the institute is to assist the laity in the development of the knowledge and skills needed for a variety of roles in ministry, particularly related to leadership. If you are interested, please contact the office to make an appointment with Fr. Glenn. In order to assure availability of space and materials, registrations must be received by September 11, 2023 to be accepted.




EVENTS & COLLECTIONS // CATHOLIC SCHOOL & CAMP

The church is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for personal prayer time. Access to the church is available through the rear door, directly across from the entrance to the office.

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, July 23:	8:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Mass
Monday, July 24:	8:00 am	Mass
Tuesday, July 25:	8:00 am 8:45 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion
Wednesday, July 26:	8:00 am	Mass
Thursday, July 27:	 NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival	8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm Holy Hour Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Meeting
Friday, July 28:	8:00 am	Mass
Saturday, July 29:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, July 30: Collection: Catholic School & Camp	8:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Mass



SAINT JOHN PAUL II
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Next weekend is our monthly collection for
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORT.*

*Thank you for your continued
financial support to provide a good
Catholic education to our youth!*

*The Future starts today - not tomorrow
St. John Paul II*



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Online giving is a safe, and secure way to support our parish!
To set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time
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please visit give.mystthomas.org/give or
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We are grateful for your support!



Diocesan is proud to now be printing
**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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