



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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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, AUGUST 13, 2023



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

13 August 2023 | 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



1. I would like to invite our parishioners to join the **Eucharistic Encounter**, a special diocesan event that will take place on Saturday, 16 September 2023, at the JW Marriott in downtown Tampa on the Riverwalk. This is one way we are seeking to nurture a Eucharistic Revival in our diocese. There will be speakers, music, mass with Bishop Gregory Parkes, a procession to Amalie Arena, and food! This event is only \$5, including meals and parking! Visit EucharisticEncounter.org to learn more and to register soon before tickets sell out!

2. As of this writing (July 28), I was informed that we have just two more slots available in our 2023 **Mass Intentions Book**. Normally, we would wait until the beginning of October to start accepting mass requests for next year. But this year, we have decided to open the 2024 Mass Intentions Book starting September 5 (Tues). We give priority to mass requests from our registered parishioners, but we limit them to two (2) mass intentions only for weekend and holy day masses; there is no limit on the number of weekday masses you can request. Since we have limited slots for mass intentions, we encourage our parishioners to consider sponsorship for altar flowers, bread and wine, and altar candles for weekend masses.

3. In today's **gospel** (Matthew 14:22-33), we learn that as the disciples were rowing their boat across the lake, they encountered a storm around 3:00 am, the darkest time of the night. When everything seemed lost, Jesus appeared to them walking on the waters. Then Jesus joined them in the boat, and the wind died down. Even now, Jesus continues to come walking into our personal storms in life. Whether it is a death of a loved one, a financial problem, a health issue, or a breakdown in one's relationship, whatever storms we are facing right now, we can be sure that Jesus will come to our rescue. If we fix our eyes on Jesus, just like Peter, we, too, can walk over the waters. In whatever 3:00 am moment we may find ourselves, Jesus will come, bringing peace, strength, and salvation. We, for our part, must welcome Jesus and invite him into our boat.

Fr. Glenn | 28 July 2023



UPDATED NEWS FROM DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG (DOSP)

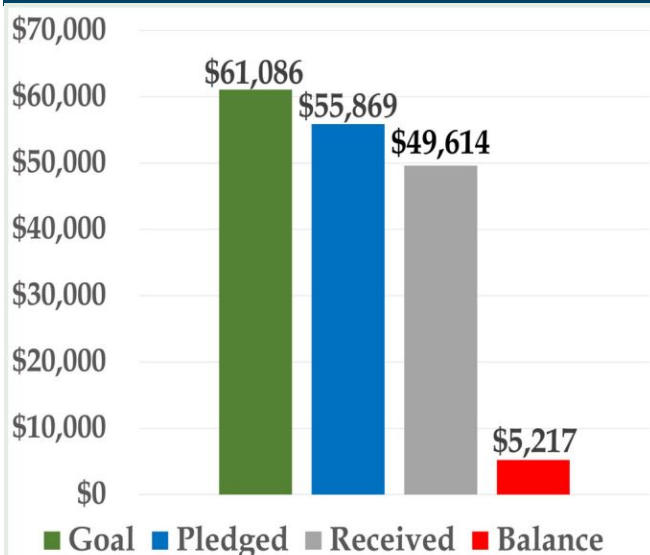
The Eucharistic Encounter has Sold Out

Due to the popularity of the event, all tickets for the Diocese of St. Petersburg's Eucharistic Encounter on September 16, 2023, have been sold. However, if you wish to be added to our waiting list or to find out about future events, email encounter@dosp.org.

The Eucharistic Encounter will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel in downtown Tampa and will consist of four dynamic speakers, music, Mass with Bishop Gregory Parkes, and a Eucharistic procession to Amalie Arena.

Bishop Parkes wants to thank those who are working to make this event a success!

CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL // NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



Thank You! to everyone who responded to the call to support the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**.

As of July 31, 2023, 250 pledges were made totaling \$55,869 – that's 91.5% of our goal of \$61,086! Thank you for helping us achieve this milestone!

100% of your donations support the ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. You can make donations by submitting a Catholic Ministry Appeal monthly church collection envelope or by visiting givetoministry.dosp.org.

The 2023 Catholic Ministry Appeal is approaching \$7.8 million in commitments from almost 19,000 households. We exceeded 91% of the overall goal of \$8.5 million from about 17% of our households!

How Jesus is Present in the Liturgy

A few months ago, in his homily during a Sunday mass, Deacon Mark posed the question: "Where is God?" After a short pause, one of our Faith Formation children, Everett, raised his hand and shouted, "Everywhere! He is everywhere."

Yes, Amen! God is indeed everywhere. The omnipresence of God is one of the first things that we learn about our faith. But when we attend mass, where is God uniquely present?

One of the key principles put forth by the Second Vatican Council is that Christ is present in the liturgy in four unique ways (referred to as the four-fold presence of Christ), namely:

- in the Word of God proclaimed (mass readings);
- in the gathered assembly (Jesus is present whenever two or three are gathered together in his name);
- in the priest (who leads the celebration and helps us to encounter the very presence of Christ);
- and preeminently in the Eucharist (where the elements of bread and wine are changed into the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus).

In the Eucharist, the bread and wine are not merely symbols of Jesus. We believe that in the Eucharist, Jesus is truly, really, and substantially present. We eat his body and drink his blood in order that we may have life within us, that we may be one with Jesus, that we may be holy as Jesus is holy.

If for you holiness seems to be a pursuit reserved only for the clergy and the religious, then may I invite you to go deeper. Spend some time in prayer or in quiet reflection. Come and adore Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament during our times of adoration (Thursday Holy Hour or First Friday Adoration). Or simply spend time with Jesus in the tabernacle (Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm).

In addition to our daily mass at 8:00 am, we will also have the opportunity to attend Thursday Evening Mass that starts this coming Thursday, August 17, at 6:00 pm. The best way to unite ourselves with Jesus and recommit ourselves to following Him is by attending mass and receiving him in communion.

During this period of our National Eucharistic Revival, perhaps we can grow more in our faith in the Eucharist by being more generous of our time and attend at least one weekday mass in addition to our Sunday mass attendance.



IN OUR PRAYERS // HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 13

8:00 am: Blessed Michael J. McGiveny †

Requested by: Knights of Columbus, #15154

10:30 am: Parish Family

Monday, August 14

8:00 am: Agnes Kopicki †

Requested by: Rich & Jeanne Kopicki

4:30 pm: Josephine Fay

Requested by: Eva Friia

Tuesday, August 15

9:00 am: Bill Robben †

Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

Wednesday, August 16

8:00 am: Caroline & Michael Roske †

Requested by: Niece, Norma Pafchek

Thursday, August 17

8:00 am: Fr. Ron Marecki (Happy Birthday)

Requested by: Norma Pafchek

6:00 pm: Our Parish Family

Requested by: Karen Robben

Friday, August 18

8:00 am: David McNair †

Requested by: The Morrow Family

Saturday, August 19

4:30 pm: Parish Family

Sunday, August 20

8:00 am: Mark Male †

Requested by: Marcy & Wayne Male

10:30 am: Dorothy Runyon †

Requested by: Jane & Joe Prefer

DAILY READINGS, SAINTS, & OBSERVANCES

Sunday	<i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33
Monday	<i>Memorial of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr</i> Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday	<i>Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Vigil: 1 Chr 15: 3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132: 6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
Wednesday	<i>Memorial of St. Stephen of Hungary</i> Dt 34:1-12; Ps 66:1-3a, 5 & 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20
Thursday	Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 18:21 – 19:1
Friday	Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 & 24; Mt 19:3-12
Saturday	Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a & 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15
Sunday	<i>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28



Congratulations to Karl and Kathy Wolf

This Thursday,
August 17th,
they will celebrate their
50th
Wedding Anniversary.



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, Maria Casey, George Cole, Fred Di Battista, Tonya Leigh & Family, Evelyn Sweeny, Kevin Watson, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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



ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES // ALTAR FLOWERS



In this Gospel, Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

This month of July, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting families and providing food.

In July, our Food Pantry had 95 Cases and distributed 2675 lbs. of food staples, bread and pastries, paper products, cleaning, and personal hygiene supplies to help 251 people. We had 20 volunteers who worked 68 hours. The volunteers also gave out gift cards and other donated clothing, pastries, and bread.

The list below are suggested items in short supply on our Pantry shelves; however, we will accept and appreciate all food items you kindly wish to donate.

**Kidney Beans, Black Beans, Canned Soups,
Canned Meats, Canned Fruit, Cereal,
Pasta, Noodles, Diced Tomatoes,
Mayo Mustard, Ketchup, Peanut Butter & Jelly
Instant Potatoes, Rice,
Coffee, Tea, Powdered Milk, Evaporated Milk,
Pancake Mix, Syrup, Crackers, Snacks**

**Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Toothpaste,
Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shampoo, Bar Soap
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex & Napkins.**

It is because of your generosity that St Thomas the Apostle Food Pantry, continues to be a Beacon of Hope for many in our local area. **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.

This Weekend's Altar Flowers are donated by the

St. Thomas
Women's
Guild

Thank you!



2023/2024 YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Register for the 2023 - 2024
Youth Faith Formation Season.
There will be a parent meeting on
Tuesday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Martin Hall.

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

The St. Thomas the Apostle

Respect Life Ministry

will have a table outside masses on **August 26 & 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!



Knights of Columbus Family of the Month: July 2023

Congratulations to **Ron & Vivian
Rothe** for being recognized as the
Knights of Columbus Family of the
Month for July 2023.



To earn this award, the Knights of Columbus Family Program looks for registered parishioners actively involved with Parish ministries, who attend weekly Mass, have an active family prayer life, or give other evidence of a strong Christian family.

Ron and Vivian are very active in the ministries of our Parish, including co-lead ushers for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Please offer your congratulations along with the Knights.



The Silver Rose Prayer Service will be held on Monday (not Sunday), August 28th at Noon

A silver rose on a nine-month pilgrimage will be the centerpiece of a special prayer service at St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Monday, August 28th at Noon. The program is sponsored by our Knights of Columbus, council 15154 to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and express both international unity and dedication to the sanctity of human life.

The journey of the silver rose begins each year in March and ends on December 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Please join our Knights, along with fellow parishioners, and many others from within or outside our local community for this special and important prayer service.



PRESENCE: THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST

Classes will be held on Mondays at 6:00 pm beginning August 21 through September 25 in St. Martin's Hall.

We will use the videos provided by **FORMED** as well as a workbook. The total cost for the class is \$10, and is limited to the first 20 people.

Please contact the office to register.



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YOUTH FAITH FORMATION (YFF): BIBLE VACATION SCHOOL PROGRAM

In July, we held our third Vacation Bible School program. There were eleven children between the ages of 4 and 11, which included children from St Thomas, children that are home-schooled, children who are just visiting for the summer, and children who are newly registered with our parish. It was a nice mix of old and new faces. This year's theme was how prayer is vital to building a relationship with God. Each morning we started with a communion service in the church, thanks to Pauline Papino. Deacon Mark opened our week with our first lesson on prayer; he even used crayons! Thanks, Deacon.

I want to thank our leaders, TerriAnne Caraluzzo, Josie Maglio, Karen Ballaban, Laurie Jo Brignola & Patty Scherz. The ladies were paramount to making this year's program a success. They worked very hard and were hands-on with the children. The children were busy with lessons, crafts, games, prayer, and water day on Friday. You may think eleven kids would be easy, but believe me; they kept us busy.



A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Beth Tarnowski, who came each day with healthy snacks for the children.

Fr. Glenn, we appreciate the opportunity to offer this program each summer.

~ Robin Furciato
Coord. of Religious Ed.



EVENTS & COLLECTIONS // HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION


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 parish office.

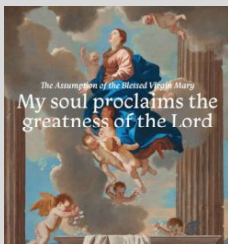
Refer to the Daily / Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule located on the front cover.



THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

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

Sunday, August 13 Collections: Catholic Ministry Appeal and SVdP Money Collection	8:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 11:45 am—2:30 pm	Mass Mass Knights of Columbus Officer Installation Love More Ministry: Team E Steve Eberhart, Team Captain <div style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <i>love+more</i> Ministry </div>
Monday, August 14:	8:00 am 4:30 pm	Mass Vigil Mass—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday, August 15	9:00 am After the 9 am Mass 10:00 am - Noon	Mass—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) Holy Face Devotion The Knitting Circle
Wednesday, August 16:	8:00 am	Mass
Thursday, August 17:  NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival	8:00 am 8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mass Holy Hour of Adoration Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Meeting Evening Mass
Saturday, August 19:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	Communion Service Only Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, August 20 Collection: SVdP Food Collection	8:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Mass



Liturgical Feast — August 15th: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

Please join us for Mass on Monday, August 14th at 4:30 pm (Vigil) or 9:00 am on Tuesday, August 15 to celebrate this important feast.



MASS EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00 PM STARTING THIS THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

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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Kirill Ilalov, M.D. - Spine
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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
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