



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

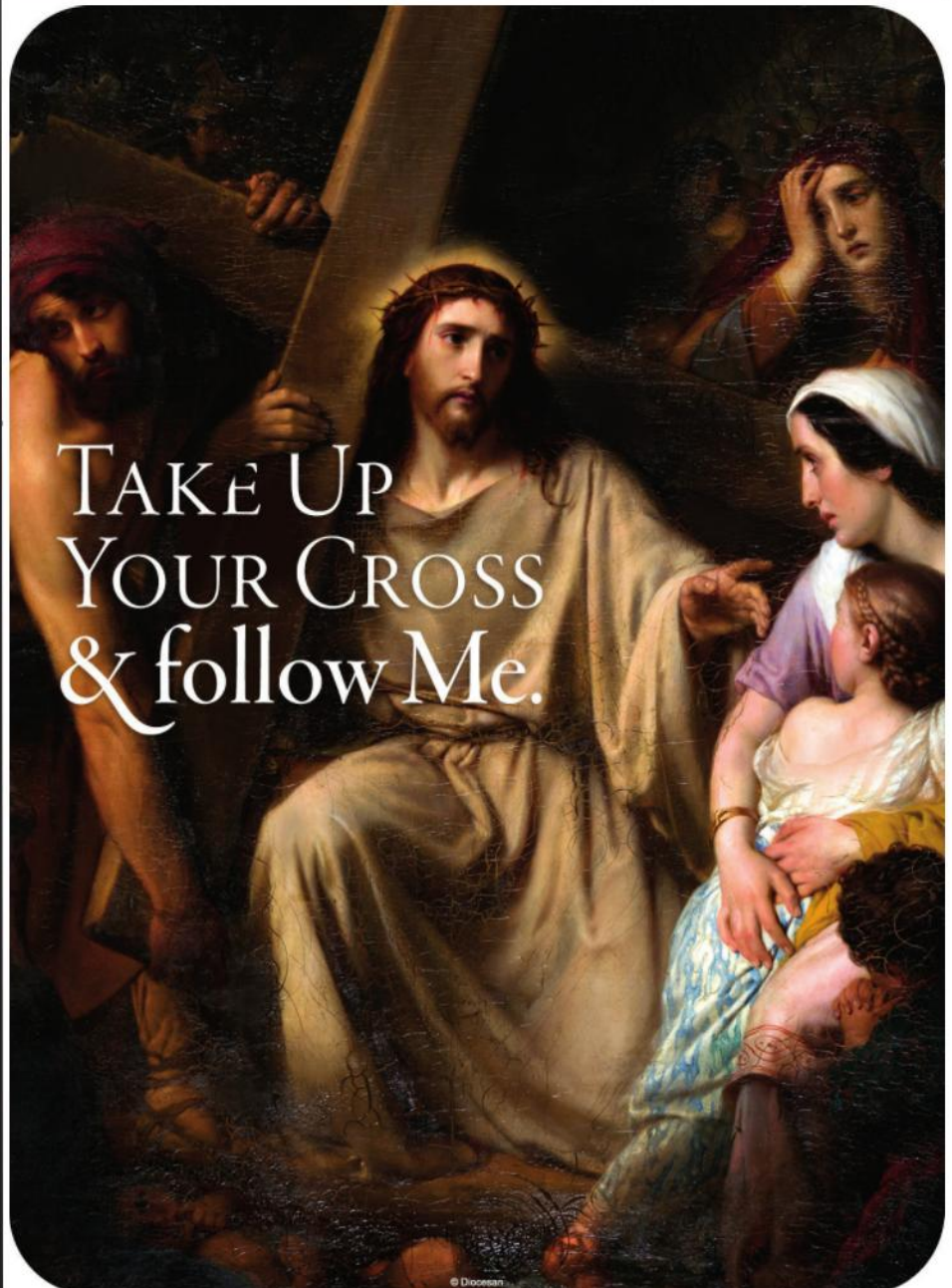
Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, Pastor

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, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023





TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

3 September 2023 | 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



1. Happy **Labor Day** to all! A special shout out to all the members of our pastoral staff and volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to meeting our parish goals. It's been rather challenging for us these past couple of months since we've been dealing with the damages that resulted from the severe storm we had back in May. However, it also feels good to look back over the past couple of years and see what we have accomplished together as a parish, thanks to your support and cooperation. May the good Lord continue to bless the work of our hands.

2. Each month of the liturgical year is devoted to a particular Catholic tradition, usually centered on a feast during that month. September is a month dedicated to **Our Lady of Sorrows**, whose feast day we celebrate on September 15th. Sufferings and difficulties are somehow "givens" in life. A Filipino Jesuit priest, Horacio de la Costa, once said: "If you plan your life on the principle that suffering is to be avoided at all costs, you will fail." And fail miserably, we might add. Jesus and Mary had their moments of suffering at Calvary. They are for us striking examples of suffering made useful, sorrows accepted, and consequently, made positive. Here's a challenge: learn how to pray the powerful Seven Sorrows rosary this month.

3. Today's **gospel** (Matthew 16:21-27) is difficult not because it talks about taking up our crosses in life, but because it demands from us a complete reversal of values. However, when Jesus calls us to take up our crosses in life, he is not really trying to make some doormats out of his followers. Rather, he is challenging us to hold fast even if at times we despair of our situation. Jesus and the cross are intimately intertwined. Without the cross, Christianity would never be the same. As St. Rose of Lima puts it: "Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven."

Fr. Glenn | 11 August 2023

COMING SOON TO YOUR MAILBOX



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2023 YOU PICK THE PRIZE RAFFLE



The winner will be drawn during the
10:30 a.m. Mass on

Sunday, December 17, 2023.

Need not be present to win.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL // CRUISE // GULF COAST CATHOLIC // MAUI



Have you ever had your faith in the Eucharist as the Real Presence of Jesus challenged?

According to recent polls by Gallup in 2022 and Pew Research in 2019, the majority of Catholics in the United States are, at best, confused in their beliefs about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, or, at worst, believe that the Eucharist is only symbolic of the body and blood of Jesus.

The Church teaches that Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist (body, blood, soul and divinity), and not just a symbolic presence. The Real Presence begins at the moment of consecration and lasts as long as the appearances of bread and wine remain. When we receive communion, we become a living tabernacle and must give Jesus the attention, reverence and adoration due the Son of God. We owe it to ourselves and future generations of Catholics to not only know and understand this doctrinal statement of belief, but also to be prepared to explain and defend this most important doctrine which the Catechism of the Catholic Church identifies as the source and summit of the Christian life, and the sum and summary of our Catholic faith (CCC 1324 and 1327). Once we understand more, we can appreciate it more fully, receive it more fruitfully, respond to challenges and pass on our faith to our children more permanently.



The doctrine of the Real Presence was prefigured in the Old Testament, fulfilled in the New Testament and affirmed by the Early Church Fathers and the ongoing teaching authority of the Catholic Church. Over the centuries there have been many documented miracles that the Church has investigated and deemed appropriate for Catholics to accept. Over the next few months we will examine each of these areas more closely.

Next month we'll examine the scriptural support for the doctrine of the Real Presence in the Old Testament.

Greg Windmiller | August 16, 2023

Note: In addition to the references cited, see especially Father Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham, *Beginning Apologetics 3: How to Explain and Defend the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist*, San Juan Catholic Seminars, 1999-2022, pp 3,5, 8-13, 25, 29-33.

8-Night Catholic Cruise

Please join Fr. Ryzard Stradomski and St. Benedict Parish in Crystal River for an 8-Night Catholic Cruise on the Royal Caribbean Adventure of the Seas January 5 - 13, 2024.

Daily Mass, Group Dining, Fun Group Events and great Ports of Call, namely, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Puerto Plata and Labadee are all included in this wonderful cruise experience. Also, bus transportation to Port Canaveral will be provided from St. Benedict at an additional fee.

Prices begin at \$833 per person with a \$250 refundable deposit needed to reserve your cabin.

Contact Bill or Terri Obermeier at 352-212-3890 for further information or to register.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
is proud to be a



The first issue of *Gulf Coast Catholic's* new magazine will be mailed into your home this September.

*Must be registered at a parish in the Diocese of St. Petersburg

Bishop Gregory Parkes Sends \$100,000 Donation for Maui Wildfire Relief

The tragic wildfires on the island of Maui, Hawaii have left the town of Lahaina, located in the Diocese of Honolulu, mostly devastated. To assist victims, Bishop Gregory Parkes sent a donation of \$100,000 to the Diocese of Honolulu on August 18, 2023. This gift was made possible from donors to the Diocese of St. Petersburg Disaster Relief Fund. To support victims of natural disasters, visit www.givecentral.org/dospdisasterrelief.

MASS INTENTIONS // DAILY READINGS // IN OUR PRAYERS

Sunday, September 3

8:00 am: Alice Morrow †

Requested by: Loving Husband, Children & Family on your Birthday in Heaven

10:30 am: Margaret Hittner Vandergon †

Requested by: The Heymans & Hittner Families

Monday, September 4

8:00 am: Benjamin Mondares † and Paz Mondares †

Requested by: Evelyn & Willie Mondares

Tuesday, September 5

8:00 am: Burns Family

Requested by: Bertha Watson

Wednesday, September 6

8:00 am: Patricia Meadowcroft †

Requested by: Gael Palumbo

Thursday, September 7

8:00 am: Barb Dozier †

Requested by: Karen Ballaban

6:00 pm: Sandy Mueller (Happy Birthday)

Requested by: Karen Ballaban

Friday, September 8

8:00 am: Police & Firemen who died in the Line of Duty †

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

Saturday, September 9

4:30 pm: Patti Beynon †

Requested by: Joseph & Beverly McEvoy

Sunday, September 10

8:00 am: Richie Allen † and Dawn

Requested by: Laurie Jo and Susan Brignola

10:30 am: Parish Family

Sunday

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

Monday

1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 & 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13; Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10, 11; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday

Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11

Friday

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6ab, 6c;

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or Mt 1:18-23

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6 & 8; Lk 6:1-5

Sunday

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

Bread & Wine Donations

Sunday: 10:30 am Mass
on September 3

In loving memory of
Jason Shaw †

By: Scott & Jeanne Shaw



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

Lorraine Vanderham † August 21, 2003

George Martin Cole † August 21, 2023

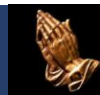
Thomas Ciuppa † August 08, 2023



"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, Skip Guss, Stephanie St. Clair, Mary Ann DeSimone, Charles Terreault, Christine Gicola, Elizabeth Dostal, Ron Rothe, Anthony Cimorelli, 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, 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, Ron Zasada, Audrey Shetton, Fr. Robert Pesarchick, Mariann De Pue, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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

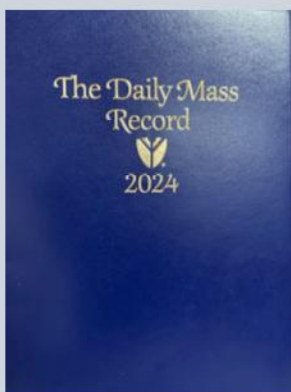
LAST REMINDER:
We are opening the
2024 Mass Book on
Tuesday, September 5th.

Mass Intentions should be scheduled by appointment, especially if you request more than two dates. Kindly contact the office as soon as possible to make an appointment with Robin Furciato.

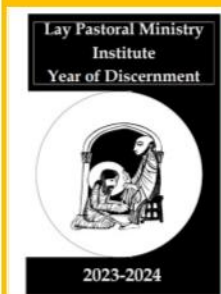
Please note that weekend masses will be limited to two (2) per parishioner; however, there is no limit for weekday masses.

2024 donations are as follows:

\$20.00 - Mass Intention (per Mass)
\$50.00 - Bread & Wine (per Mass)
\$70.00 - Altar Flowers (per Week)



**LAST REMINDER: ARE YOU
INTERESTED IN PARISH
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP?**



Please read the information provided here on the DOSP's Lay Pastoral Ministry (LPMI). You can also access more details about the LPMI at:

www.dosp.org/lpmi/

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.

Pregnancy and Family Life Center 2023 Heroes Walk for Life event

The *Respect Life Ministry* wishes to thank everyone who so graciously pledged to sponsor our walkers, representing our church and ministry's participation in the Pregnancy and Family Life Center's Third Annual Heroes Walk for Life event which will be held on October 14 this year. Your support means a lot to us!

If you missed us last weekend but still want to help, you can drop off your donation at our parish office by October 9th.

You're also invited to walk with us! If you're interested, please email Anita at agmarsh46@gmail.com. You can even register for the walk by calling 352-344-3030. Registration forms are available in our parish office too.

Thanks again for your generosity. Let's make a difference together!

WHAT IS THE LPMI?

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute (LPMI) of the Diocese of St. Petersburg is a four-year program for lay leadership formation consisting of an informal Year of Discernment, and three years of formational training. Upon the completion of these four years, the Institute offers a certificate in foundational pastoral ministry leadership and participants are formally commissioned to service by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg during an evening prayer service. The LPMI is built upon the principles put forward by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the document "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry."

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1

The LPMI will serve as a resource for preparing persons, in response to their baptismal call, for leadership and ministerial roles in the parish, the diocese, the local community, and the world.

Goal 2

The LPMI will provide opportunities for persons to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and strengthen commitment to a life of discipleship in order to be effective leaders in specific ministries.

Goal 3

The LPMI will encourage collaboration among LPMI participants and their pastors in order to meet the ministerial needs in their families, their parishes, the Church, the Diocese, and in the world.

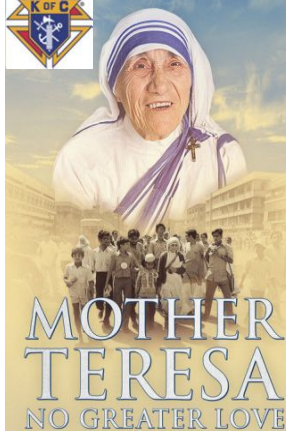
Mission Statement

The mission of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute is to provide an integrated lay ecclesial ministry formation program that will prepare the laity to offer their unique gifts in service to the local church. Responding to the implications of their baptismal commitment they will be better equipped to serve as competent leaders in the parishes of this culturally diverse diocese, ever mindful of their primary commitment to family life. In accordance with the teachings and tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, they serve as agents of evangelization and transformation in the society in which they live, as members of the Body of Christ, here in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.



ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES: KofC MOVIE // WOMEN'S GUILD // SVdP

MOVIE



Join us for a heartwarming event on Tuesday, September 5th, in celebration of the Memorial of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. We'll be screening the touching movie "Mother Teresa: No Greater Love" right here in our church.

Admission? It's simple: a donation from your heart. Come enjoy the film which will be held in our church, with the Sacrament moved to an Altar of Repose for the occasion.

Feeling thirsty? No worries, we'll have bottled water on hand for a donation.

Movie Start Time? The movie will start at 3:00 pm and runs for 1 hour and 55 minutes.

After the movie, our dedicated Knights will take care of the cleanup, so all you need to do is sit back and enjoy.

Please bring your friends, bring your family, and let's share in the spirit of Saint Teresa of Calcutta together. ***We can't wait to see you there!***

Women's Guild Ministry Invite

We invite the women of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church to join the Women's Guild Ministry. We would love to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 20th, at Noon in St. Martin's Hall.



With your help, we can fulfill the Women's Guild's mission: ***To provide spiritual support to the women of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and help with the parish's needs!***

Join us on September 20!

For more information, contact Brenda Jeffres at 352-422-7755.



Today, we hear Jesus say to us, ***"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*** The challenge is to let go so God can lead us.

As we reflect on the incredible impact that your generosity has enabled us to achieve, we are filled with immense gratitude. The tireless efforts of our SVdP Visitation Case Workers and dedicated volunteers, alongside your support, have touched the lives of so many in our community who needed a helping hand.

In August alone, we received 88 phone calls and had 30 cases. Your contributions allowed us to serve 41 individuals and distribute 186 pounds of Pantry Food. Additionally, we made 30 home visits and spent \$4966.92 in providing assistance ranging from lodging and utilities to food and clothing. Our teams volunteered 167 hours and drove 688 miles in service to others.

Your continued compassion and donations make a difference in the lives of those facing challenging times. Thank you!

Next weekend, on September 9th and 10th, we will be stationed in front of the church's main entrance, collecting donations for SVdP. Every contribution, whether large or small, supports our efforts. It's heartwarming to witness the collective power of our parish community coming together to uplift those who need assistance.

If you know of someone needing help, please tell them to call our SVdP helpline at 352-628-3366.

We are still trying to recruit volunteers for home visits or help with our money and food collections. All interested parishioners are invited to attend our meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month @ 4:30 PM in St. Martin's Hall. Please call Bill Scarfo 727-230-1883 or Pauline Papino 401-241-9404 for more information.



EVENTS & COLLECTIONS // ONLINE GIVING // THURSDAY 6:00 PM MASS

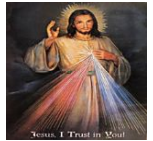
The church is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for personal prayer time. Access to the church is available through the rear door, directly across from the entrance to the parish office.

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, September 3: <i>Name Tag Sunday</i> Collections: Building Fund and Pregnancy & Family Life	8:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Mass
Monday, September 4: <i>Happy Labor Day!</i>		Our Parish Office is Closed
Tuesday, September 5:	8:45 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm	Holy Face Devotion Respect Life Ministry Meeting KofC Movie: Mother Teresa
Wednesday, September 6:	4:30 pm	SVdP Meeting
Thursday, September 7:  NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival	8:00 am 8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mass Holy Hour Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Meeting Evening Mass
Saturday, September 9:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, September 10: World Grandparents & Elderly Day Collections: Catholic Ministry Appeals & SVdP Money Collection	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am 11:45 am—2:30 pm	Mass Youth Faith Formation Class Mass (Children's Mass) Love More Ministries Team F Team Captain: Barbara Chaplin

ONLINE GIVING

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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 donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit give.mystthomas.org/give or scan this QR code

We are grateful for your support!



**PLEASE JOIN US THIS THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 7
FOR OUR WEEKLY EVENING MASS**



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

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- Craig Bennett, M.D. - General Ortho
- 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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