



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

## HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

7040 S Suncoast Blvd.  
Phone: (352) 628-7000  
E-mail: [Info@MyStThomas.org](mailto:Info@MyStThomas.org)

Homosassa, FL 34446  
Fax: (352) 628-4723  
[www.MyStThomas.org](http://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](http://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

*"Grandparents are a treasure..."*



*...the elderly are those who  
transmit history to us, who transmit  
doctrine, who transmit the faith  
and give it to us as an inheritance."*

*~ Pope Francis*

© Diocesan

**WORLD GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY DAY**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**



# TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

10 September 2023 | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

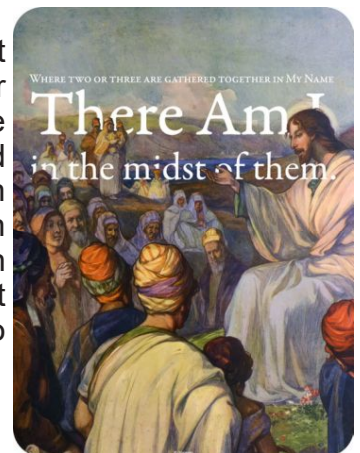


1. It looks like we have **younger families** joining our parish. Deacon Mark is doing more baptisms lately; more kids are getting enrolled in our Faith Formation classes. It also means we're having some babies crying during mass. We do have a small Cry Room, but it also is getting crowded in there. If you're one of those getting distracted during mass because a baby is crying, please remember what an elderly pastor once said: "If in your church there are no babies crying, then your church is dying." We're striving to be a welcoming parish, one that includes babies and young children. They belong to the Church of the present, not the Church of the future.

2. One of the recurring complaints I get from parishioners is about the noise in our church prior to mass. We are accustomed to a constant barrage of noise outside that sometimes we forget that we need to **observe silence** as we enter the church. We need silence (both interior and exterior) in order to pray. St. John of the Cross tells us that silence is the first language of God. Silence is important because it is in silence that we encounter God. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:11 NAB). The next time we enter our church, let us observe silence and be ready to listen to God.

3. In today's **gospel** (Matthew 18:15-20), we have one of the most difficult teachings of our Lord, namely: fraternal correction. It tells us about our responsibility for one another, of being indeed our brother's keeper. We are encouraged to point out one another's faults in the name of love and concern. Through fraternal correction, we have the opportunity to learn more about ourselves and about others. We become more sensitive in dealing with other people. We learn new and better ways of coping with disappointments and hurts. We make relationships work even in the midst of differences and conflicts. This is not easy, and that is why we need to factor in God's grace in order for us to give and receive fraternal correction.

Fr. Glenn | 12 August 2023

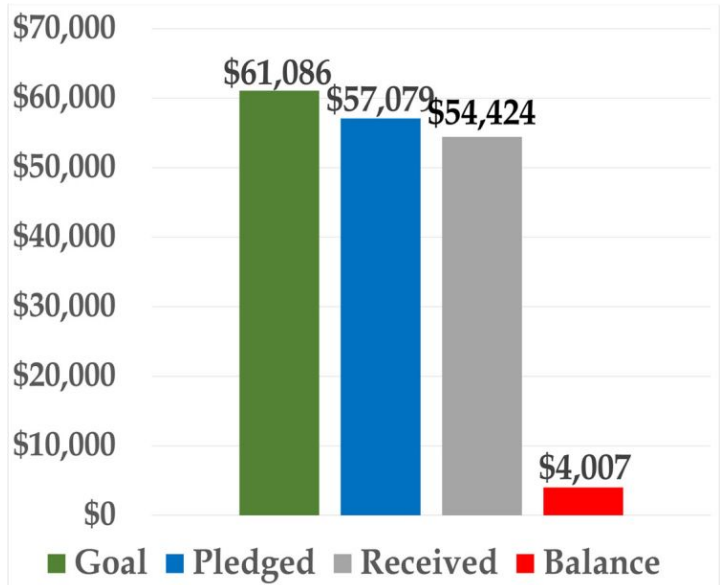


**Thank You!** to everyone who responded to the call to support the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

As of August 28, 2023, **250 pledges were made totaling \$57,079 – that's 93.4% 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](http://givetoministry.dosp.org).

The 2023 Catholic Ministry Appeal has exceeded \$8 million in commitments from more than 19,000 households. We have exceeded 94.5% of the overall goal of \$8.5 million from 18% of our households!





## LOVE MORE MINISTRY // ONLINE GIVING // THURSDAY EVENING MASS



On Sunday, August 13, our Love More Ministry Team E, Steve Eberhart, Team Captain, served 25 individuals and prepared another 18/20 take-out meals at the home for Love More Ministry next to the Nature Coast Church at 5113 S. Suncoast Blvd, in Homosassa.

Love More Ministry provides meals, showers, and laundry services weekly for people experiencing homelessness in our community. St. Thomas provides volunteers (6 Teams, A through F) to help monthly on the second Sunday.

Team E volunteers cheerfully prepared & served a delicious & nutritious meal consisting of kielbasa with roasted potatoes entree, garden-tossed salad & ranch dressing, bread, brownies & milk for dessert.

Thank you, Team E, for being shining examples of kindness and generosity in action.

All the “Love More Ministry” volunteers are making the world better with one meal and one smile at a time. They provide nourished bodies and warm the hearts & bring hope to those facing challenging times.

***Our Love More Ministry Team F, Captain Barb Chaplin, will be serving the homeless and hungry this weekend, Sunday, September 10, between 11:45 a.m.—2:30 p.m.***



Team E: Juanita Fuge, Karen Ballaban, Bill Burns, Jim Cole, Steve Demianczyk. Steve & Joann Eberhart Rose Keasey Jack & Anita Marshall, Kathy Popp, Annette Stone, Joe & Beth Tarnowski



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](https://give.mystthomas.org/give) or scan this QR code.



*We are grateful for your support!*



**PLEASE JOIN US THIS THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 14 @ 6:00 PM  
FOR OUR WEEKLY EVENING MASS**



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

## MASS INTENTIONS // DAILY READINGS // IN OUR PRAYERS

### Sunday, September 10

8:00 am: **Richie Allen † and Dawn**  
Requested by: Laurie Jo and Susan Brignola

10:30 am: **Parish Family**

### Monday, September 11

8:00 am: **Victims of 9-11 †**  
Requested by: Pat Daly

### Tuesday, September 12

8:00 am: **Sheridan Families**  
Requested by: Charles J. Sheridan & Family


### Wednesday, September 13

8:00 am: **The Robben Family Living & Deceased**  
Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

### Thursday, September 14

8:00 am: **Robert Shirilla †**  
Requested by: Carol Housteau  
6:00 pm: **Marcel Theriault and Hilda Theriault †**  
Requested by: The Theriault Family

### Friday, September 15

8:00 am: **Andy Barna †**  
Requested by: Norma Pafchek  
 **The Bread & Wine for this Mass are donated in memory of Andy Barna †**  
Requested by: Norma Pafchek

### Saturday, September 16

4:30 pm: **Parish Family**

### Sunday, September 17

8:00 am: **Josephine Mezzelo †**  
Requested by: Dina & Felicia Mezzelo  
10:30 am: **Mary Marino †**  
Requested by: Husband, Robert and Children

<i>Sunday</i>	<u>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20
<i>Monday</i>	Col 1:24-2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11
<i>Tuesday</i>	<u>Memorial of the Holy Name of Mary</u> Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11; Lk 6:12-19
<i>Wednesday</i>	<u>Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</u> Col 3:1-11, Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab; Lk 6:20-26
<i>Thursday</i>	<u>Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
<i>Friday</i>	<u>Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows</u> 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a & 5, 7-8, 11; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
<i>Saturday</i>	<u>Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</u> 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 & 6-7; Lk 6:43-49
<i>Sunday</i>	<u>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> Sir 27:30 – 28:7; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Fr. Glenn and the entire St. Thomas Pastoral Staff wish much happiness, joy, and congratulations to all our parishioners who have already celebrated and will be celebrating a Birthday, Anniversary, and/or the 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

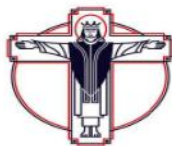
Please remember in your prayers all those in our parish family who are ill, especially:

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, John Chaplin, Maria Casey, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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



## YOU PICK THE PRIZE RAFFLE



### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

September 1, 2023

My dear parishioners,

It's time for our fourth annual *You Pick the Prize* raffle! Last year's raffle was an overwhelming success! We had a goal of \$6,000 to purchase safety and emergency equipment for our parish. We received 393 entries totaling \$8,585, and our winner, Lynn Seligman, received \$2,575!

We'd like to continue this fun and rewarding way of supporting our parish. **This year, our goal is to raise \$9,000 for parking lot improvements.**

Here's how the raffle works: for a \$30 donation, the holder of the winning ticket receives 30% of the total donations received. A \$25 donation receives 25%, a \$10 donation gets 10% of the total, and a \$5 donation receives 5%. The amount you choose to donate dictates the amount you win. Thus, *You Pick the Prize*!

Included with this letter, you'll find a few *You Pick the Prize* raffle tickets. Participation is as easy as completing the ticket and returning it with your donation. Enter the amount of your donation (up to \$30 max). Remember, the amount donated corresponds to the percentage of the pot you can win.

Checks should be made payable to **St. Thomas the Apostle Church**, noting "raffle" on the memo line. You may pay by credit card, mail your entry to the parish office, or put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket at any Mass. Additional tickets may be obtained in the office or in the Sunday bulletin. Enter as often as you wish. You can also participate in the raffle online by going to [give.mystthomas.org/give](http://give.mystthomas.org/give), and select *You Pick the Prize Raffle* from the drop-down menu. Your family and friends are also welcome to participate.

As the raffle pot grows, the progress will be published in our Sunday bulletin and on our overhead screens. The winning ticket will be drawn during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 17. *There will be only one winning ticket.*

Thank you for supporting our parish by participating in this fun raffle.

Sincerely,

Fr GLENN

Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, Pastor  
[FrGlenn@MyStThomas.org](mailto:FrGlenn@MyStThomas.org)

7040 S. Suncoast Blvd.  
Phone: 352-628-7000

Homosassa, FL 34446  
Fax: 352-628-4723

[www.MyStThomas.org](http://www.MyStThomas.org)

#### 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.

#### YOU PICK THE PRIZE RAFFLE TICKET

Return this portion.

Donation Amount (circle): \$30 \$20 \$10 or \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Maximum of \$30 per ticket)

## **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.**



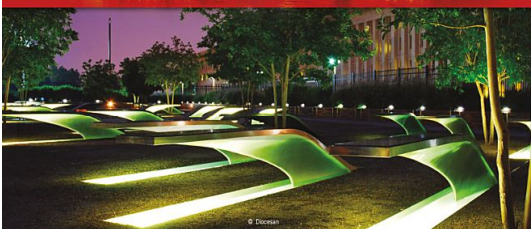
## **SAY A PRAYER**



**WE SHALL NEVER FORGET.**



**9.11.2001**



Facebook @MyStThomas.org

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: ***"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."***



Is there a family you know who needs assistance?

Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we help them to know that indeed "God is in the midst of them."

**Our SVdP helpline is 352-628-3366.**

We want to share some important updates about the work our St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Ministry has been doing and how you can continue to help the SVdP Ministry make a difference in the lives of those in need.

In August, your generosity allowed us to bring love and care to the less fortunate in our community. We had 93 Cases. Our Food Pantry was able to provide essential items to 236 people within our parish boundary. We distributed 2340 lbs. of food staples, bread and pastries, paper products, cleaning and personal hygiene supplies. Our 20 volunteers worked tirelessly for a total of 72 hours. We also distributed gift cards and clothing items.

Next Weekend (September 16/17) is our Food Collection. We kindly request your help in providing these suggested items or any non-perishable item of your choosing for our pantry shelves:

**Pasta Sauce, Diced Tomatoes, and Tomato Sauce, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, Rice, Instant Potatoes, Coffee, Instant Coffee, Tea, Powdered Milk, Evaporated Milk, Chef Boyardee, Canned Meats, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soups, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cake Mix, Canned Fruit, Instant Oatmeal, Cereal, Crackers, Snacks, and Drinks Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Body Wash, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Toothbrushes, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Napkins**

Any contribution, big or small, will make a significant impact on our mission to help those in need. It's because of your support that we can continue to be a Beacon of Hope in our local area.

Additionally, we are actively seeking volunteers to assist with home visits and our money and food collections. If you're interested in joining us and becoming part of our dedicated team, please consider attending our meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 4:30 PM in St. Martin's Hall.

For more information, please reach out to Bill Scarfo at 727-230-1883 or Pauline Papino at 401-241-9404.

Thank you for your continuous support and for giving from your heart. Together, we can continue to serve and help those who are less fortunate. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.

www.MyStThomas.org





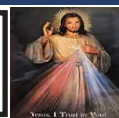
## EVENTS & COLLECTIONS // MISSION COOP


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!*



<b>Sunday, September 10:</b> <i>World Grandparents &amp; Elderly Day</i> <b>Collections: Catholic Ministry</b> <b>Appeals &amp; SVdP Money</b> <b>Collection</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am 11:45 am—2:30 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Youth Faith Formation Class</b> <b>Mass (Children's Mass)</b> <b>Love More Ministries, Team F</b> <b>Team Captain: Barbara Chaplin</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 12:</b>	8:45 am	<b>Holy Face Devotion</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 13:</b>	10:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Bible Study: The Prophets</b> <b>Knights of Columbus Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, September 14</b>  <b>NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival</b>	8:00 am 8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Holy Hour</b> <b>Flame of Love Prayer Group</b> <b>Bereavement Meeting</b> <b>Evening Mass</b>
<b>Saturday, September 16:</b>	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	<b>Communion Only Service</b> <b>Reconciliation</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday, September 17:</b> <b>Collection: SVdP Food Collection</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Mass</b> <b>Youth Faith Formation Class</b> <b>Mass: Catechetical Sunday:</b> <b>Commissioning Services</b>

**Our annual Mission Coop is next weekend on September 16/17 .**

**Fr. Jonathan will hear Saturday confessions, celebrate the Vigil Mass, and preach at all other Masses.**



### **DIOCESE OF CATARMAN-PHILIPPINES**



I am Father Jonathan Loverita from the Philippines. This year, my bishop, Most Rev. Emmanuel C. Trance, D.D., sent me to do the mission appeal for our diocese. Our diocese is called the Diocese of Catarman.

The Diocese of Catarman is one of the poorest in the Philippines; our children live in abject poverty, and we witness daily the violence that starvation and disease in remote areas of our diocese cause. This is the painful reality our church faces. Simple yet curable diseases due to malnutrition and the annual natural calamities that nature unkindly inflicts on our people cause death at an early age.

Most of our villages are in the hinterlands. Seventy-five percent of the population are farmers. Six out of a hundred children die before they reach the age of one. Our area is also visited by typhoons, sometimes 33 times a year, which destroy the crops and houses made of nipa huts and bamboo. In November 2013, we were hit by the strongest typhoon ever, wherein more than 10,000 people died. We have to wait again for several years for the coconut crops to normalize, which is our only major source of living. The pandemic is still ongoing, with no vaccines available for everyone.

But we learn to survive, to hope, to pray, and to rely on God's compassion in the midst of the life and death struggles of the poor. In God's grace, we have lay leaders, religious sisters, and clergy who are dedicated to meeting the spiritual, material, and ecclesial needs of our people. God's hope assures us that his grace also motivates those with a heart for the poor to lend their prayerful and financial support to our efforts.

Your assistance is crucial to make a difference in the survival of our people. We depend on your generosity to simply live. If our proposal is approved, your help will go to the relief needs of our impoverished children and their families for the training and formation of our lay leaders and our clergy's health & retirement assistance program.

# 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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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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