



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

## HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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**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

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY

*in Ordinary Time*



*So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless  
each of you forgives his brother from his heart.*

Matthew 18:35

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**



# TENDING GOD'S FLOCK



17 September 2023 | 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1. This is my first time writing for the bulletin, I am thrilled to have this opportunity. First, I want to say how blessed I am that God has brought me to this parish. I always trust that God is in control, even when things seem out of control. The events that led to my coming here are no less than miraculous, finding Fr. Glenn and you, the parishioners of St Thomas, just proves that God is good, all the time.

2. On that note, you know how passionate I am regarding the **RCIA** program, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Our goal is bringing more of God's children to Him through the sacraments. If you were baptized, not necessarily Catholic, or even baptized Catholic, but have not received the sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation, call us. We want to help. If you are not baptized and are over the age of 8, but want to receive the sacraments, call the office and ask for me. We want to help you through this beautiful journey to Him through the sacraments.

3. Today is the 24th Sunday in ordinary time, and we are reminded that we need to show mercy just, as God does to us (**Mt 18:21-35**). Kindness and mercy are "contagious." Just as flashing a smile to a stranger will usually be returned with a smile from that person. If we share that mercy and grace with others, it will be returned to us, as well, from God.



Deacon Mark | 23 August 2023

Our annual Mission Coop is this weekend, September 16/17 .  
Fr. Jonathan will 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.



## BLESSINGS OF PETS // USHER TRAINING // THURSDAY 6 P.M. MASS

### Celebrate the Special Bond Between Human and Pets

The Blessings of Pets is an annual ceremony that holds a special place in our hearts, honoring the profound connection between humans and animals. The tradition has its roots in Roman Catholic customs, specifically as part of the feast day (October 4) dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

Fr. Glenn will conduct the Blessing of Pets on Saturday, September 30th at 10:00 a.m. in the front parking lot of St. Thomas Church.

All creatures, great and small, along with their devoted owners, are warmly welcomed to be a part of this cherished tradition.

The photographs below are from moments captured from previous years events.



### Hospitality Ministry

Usher Training  
will be held  
Wednesday  
September 27  
at 11:00 AM.  
Existing and new  
members welcome!



Training for all ushers will be held on Wednesday, September 27, at 11:00 a.m. Whether you are an existing usher or would like to join this ministry, we invite you to join us for this important training. Commissioning of all liturgical ministers will be held in November, & your attendance at this training is requested before the commissioning ceremony. Please contact Karen Robben in the office if you have any questions.

Thank you!

### WEEKLY EVENING MASS

PLEASE JOIN US  
THIS THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 21st  
MASS STARTS at 6:00 P.M.  
ENDS by 6:30 P.M.



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival



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

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, September 17

8:00 am: Josephine Mezzelo †  
Requested by: Dina & Felicia Mezzelo

10:30 am: Mary Marino †  
Requested by: Husband, Robert and Children

### Monday, September 18

8:00 am: Betty Hahn †  
Requested by: The Morrow Family

### Tuesday, September 19

8:00 am: James Palumbo †  
Requested by: Gael Palumbo

### Wednesday, September 20

8:00 am: Anna & Michael Blisko & Family †  
Requested by: Niece, Norma Pafchek

### Thursday, September 21

8:00 am: Louis Barbieri †  
Requested by: Jane Chapin  
  
6:00 pm: Souls of Al Jones, Ilene Jones, Bruce Jones, Sister Mary Theresa McCrave †  
Requested by: Cindy Jones

### Friday, September 22

8:00 am: John Thomas Corrao  
Requested by: Marguerite Corrao

### Saturday, September 23

4:30 pm: Pauline A. Pafchek †  
Requested by: Daughter, Norma Pafchek

### Sunday, September 24

8:00 am: Parish Family  
  
10:30 am: Paul, Roland Benoit and Theresa St. Pierre †  
Requested by: Pauline & Al Papino

**Sunday** Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sir 27:30 – 28:7; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12;  
Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

**Monday** 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday** Memorial of Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr  
1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6;  
Lk 7:11-17

**Wednesday** Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Priest, and Paul Chõng Ha-sang, Companions, Martyrs  
1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 7:31-35

**Thursday** Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist  
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Friday** 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20;  
Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday** Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest  
1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 8:4-15

**Sunday** Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a



The **Altar Flowers**  
this weekend  
are donated by the  
**Women's Guild.**

*Thank you!*

The **Bread & Wine**  
for the Vigil Mass on  
Saturday, September 23rd  
are donated in loving memory of  
**Pauline A. Pafchek**  
by Daughter, Norma Pafcheck.



## 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, 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, 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 // ANNA // LOVE MORE MINISTRY

## 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)

## Join our fourth annual "You Pick the Prize Raffle"!

Here's how it works: Your donation amount directly correlates with your potential prize percentage – a \$30 donation gets you 30% of the total pot, \$25 donation gets you 25%, \$10 for 10%, and \$5 for 5%. Your family and friends are also welcome to participate. The winning ticket will be drawn during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 17. **Remember, there's only one winner!**

Participation is easy – complete the ticket and return it with your donation. You can pay by cash, check (made out to St. Thomas the Apostle Church, with "raffle" in the memo) or by credit card. Drop your entry in the collection basket at Mass, mail it to the parish office, or obtain more tickets in our parish office or from our weekly bulletin. You can also participate online at [give.mystthomas.org/give](https://give.mystthomas.org/give) and select "You Pick the Prize Raffle" from the dropdown.

Your participation adds excitement and helps us reach our \$9000 raffle goal. With the proceeds we plan to make church parking lot improvements. **We appreciate your generosity & support of this year's raffle.**

## PRAYER FOR ANNA



# ANNA

Lord, grant Anna the  
forever home that she  
deserves and strongly  
desires.

Touch the hearts of her  
future family and give them  
courage and peace.



Be *Strong* and *Courageous*

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,  
for the *Lord* your *God*  
will be with you wherever you go.

~Joshua 1:9

More information can be found at:  
[www.heartgallerytampa.org](http://www.heartgallerytampa.org)

love more  
Ministry

On Sunday, September 10th, St. Thomas Love More Ministry Team F served a delicious meal consisting of Sloppy Joe Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Fresh Cut-Up Vegetables and Cookies, & Milk to 30 individuals. They also prepared 20 take-out meals.

The volunteers, led by Team Captain Barbara Chaplin, prepared and served the food, assisted with shower and laundry duties, welcomed & engaged with participants, provided clothing, and cleaned the ministry home.

A special thank you goes to all the dedicated & generous volunteers from Team F listed below. Collectively, you made this act of kindness possible. Your selfless service is truly appreciated and positively impacts those less fortunate in our community.

Team F: Barbara Chaplin, Kathy McCormick, Bob & Chris Schell, Carol Housteau, Diane Kasperski, Sandy & Rick Mueller, and Marcy Male.

And special thanks to Tina Maffia and Karen Ballaban, who provided helping hands.



Pictured last Sunday (left to right) are:  
Jo Manko, Deacon Mark Manko, Barbara Chaplin, Kathy McCormick, Carol Housteau, Chris Schell, Karen Ballaban, Tina Maffia, and Bob Schell.

## ST. THOMAS MINISTRIES

### LAST REMINDER



### **Women's Guild Ministry Invite**

We cordially 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.

### Two Upcoming Announcements:

Starting on October 18th, the Women's Guild monthly meetings will continue as originally planned on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am.

### Save this date:

On Saturday, November 18th, the Women's Guild will hold their annual Flea Market. More info will soon follow.

### **Do you like to knit/crochet or want to learn ?**



The Knitting Circle is extending an invitation to all individuals interested in the world of knitting/crochet.

**When:** Every Third Tuesday of the month

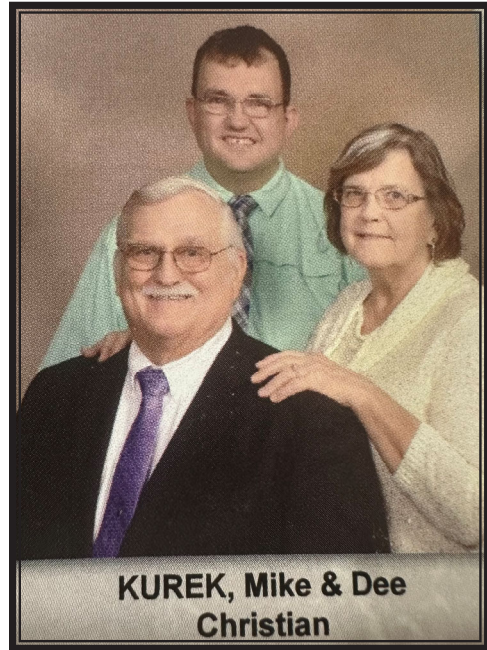
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to Noon

**Where:** St. Martin's Hall

Our Knitting Circle is dedicated to spreading warmth, love, and compassion to those in need within our community through corporal acts of mercy.

*If interested, please call our parish office.*

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 15154 FAMILY OF THE MONTH: AUGUST, 2023**



Congratulations to Mike & Dolores Kurek for being recognized as the Knights of Columbus Family of the Month for August 2023.

To earn this award, the Knights of Columbus look for registered parishioners who attend weekly mass, have an active family prayer life, and give evidence of a strong Christian Family.

Mike and Dolores, with their eldest son Christian, moved to Florida in 2019. They are a musical family, having retired as music directors, and Mike works part-time from home. Their son Christian, who answers to Chris, is very helpful to them, and others. He is also active in the Special Olympics, having earned several awards in swimming.

They attend the Sunday 10:30 a.m. mass.

Please offer your congratulations to them, along with the Knights.

~Joseph McEvoy.  
Grand Knight





## EVENTS & COLLECTIONS & YFF CLASSROOMS

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 17:</b> <b>Collection: SVdP Food Collection</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	Mass Youth Faith Formation Class Mass ( <b>Catechetical Sunday:</b> <b>Commissioning Services</b> )
<b>Monday, September 18:</b>	2:00 pm ←	Bible Study: The Prophets
<b>Tuesday, September 19:</b>	8:45 am 10:00 am—Noon	Holy Face Devotion The Knitting Circle
<b>Wednesday, September 20:</b>	12:00 pm ← 4:30 pm	Women's Guild Meeting SVdP Meeting
<b>Thursday, September 21:</b>  <b>NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival</b>	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
<b>Saturday, September 23:</b>	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday, September 24:</b> <b>Collection: Catholic School &amp; Camp Support</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	Mass Youth Faith Formation Class Mass

## START EACH DAY WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

St. Thomas Corner of Gratitude!



We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Bob Adams, a pastoral staff member overseeing church maintenance, and Emile Allain, a dedicated parishioner with a wealth of construction experience, for building our four much-needed Youth Faith Formation classrooms in St. Martin's Hall.

Emile's extensive background in construction proved to be an invaluable asset in making this project a reality. His expertise, craftsmanship, and unwavering commitment to our parish community have left a permanent mark.

Bob's careful attention to detail and commitment to assisting in completing this project demonstrates his dedication to our faith community.

This year, we have 31 children registered for our Youth Faith Formation classes, and these new classrooms are a real blessing for them and our catechists.

More photographs showing the classrooms in use by our YFF Ministry will follow in future bulletins.



# 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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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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