



# 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

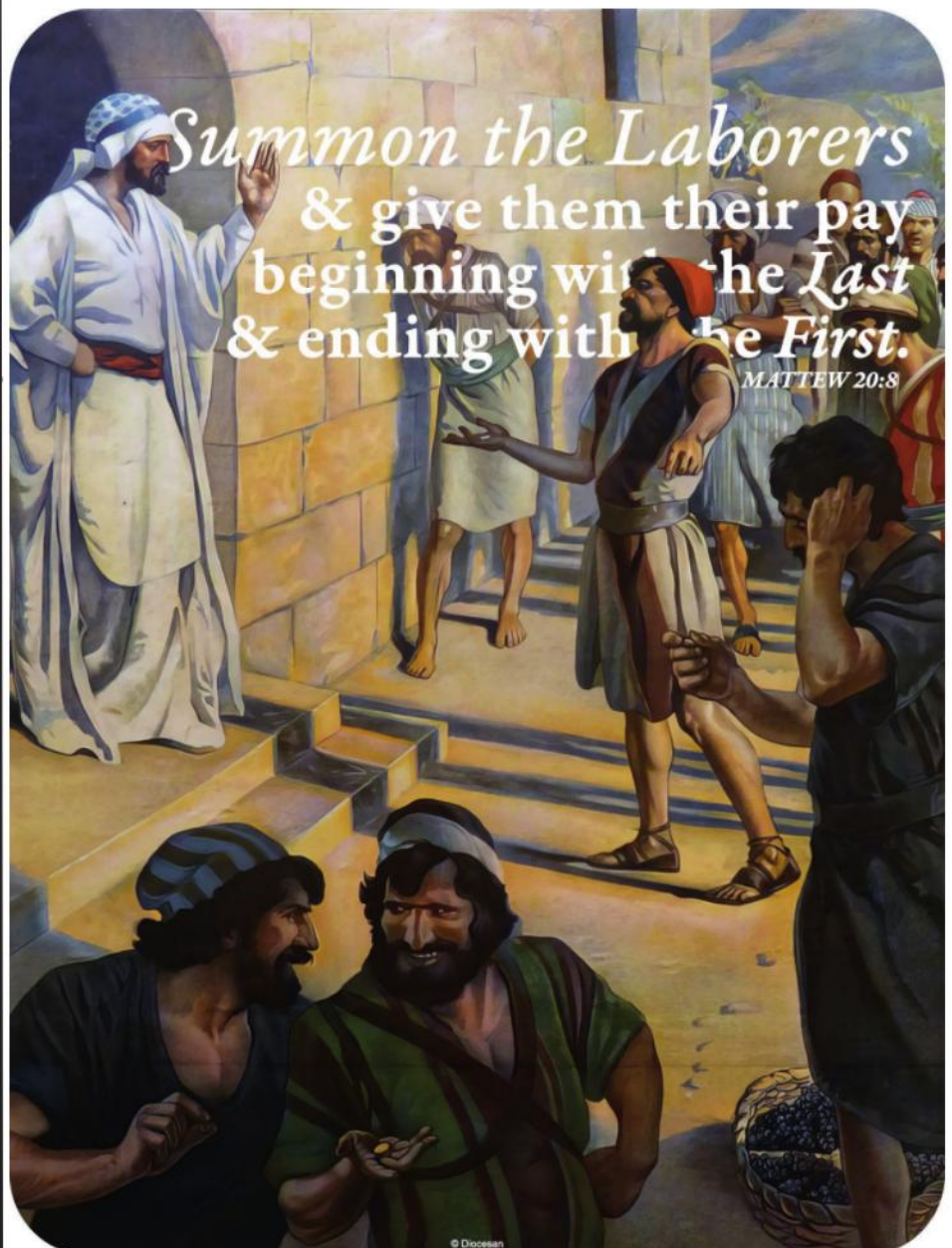
Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director

Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor,  
& Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office and  
Communications Manager

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**  
**25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**





# TENDING GOD'S FLOCK



24 September 2023 | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

## 1. Sunday, September 24th is the **109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.**

Pope Francis in his annual message chose the theme *"Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay."* The reason people migrate are persecution, famine, and to find a better life. Jacob migrated to Egypt because of famine. St. Joseph took the Holy Family away from persecution from Herod. Our ancestors migrated to the United States for a better life. How much better would it be if we could have stayed and made our life better? Pope Francis concludes his letter as follows; *"In whatever place we decide to build our future, in the country of our birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone."* Let us strive to be that community. As it says in the Bible, *"So you too should love the resident alien, for that is what you were in the land of Egypt."* (Dt 10:19)

## TO REFLECT

*"Conflicts, natural disasters, or more simply the impossibility of living a prosperous and dignified life in one's native land is forcing millions of persons to leave."*

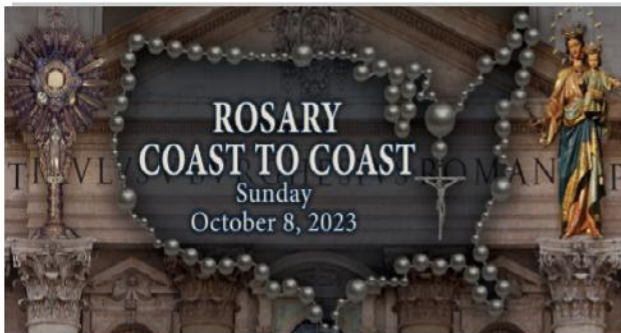
Pope Francis



2. Our **Gospel reading** (Matthew 20:1-15) today challenges our sense of fairness. I have been working since dawn, I should certainly be paid more than someone who has only worked an hour! It's not fair! Our cultural work ethic is if you work harder, you will get more! But the parable in the Gospel is not about that, it is about the love and salvation of our God. If we earnestly seek the Lord, we will find there is no "more" or "less" because the idea of more or less does not apply to God's love or salvation. In Isaiah, we learn that God does not think as we do. God's ways are not ours. God wants us to be with him, to work his vineyard, because he loves us. The only thing to do is to invite others to join us in the work.

Joseph McEvoy | 1 September 2023

## ROSARY COAST TO COAST - OCTOBER 8 @ 4:00 PM



St. Thomas is once again participating in the ROSARY COAST TO COAST on Sunday, October 8, 2023. We will gather at 4:00 pm and join other churches across the country to simultaneously pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. We pray for the respect for life at all stages of development, the sanctity of marriage, upholding religious freedom, and the return of our nation to God.

We look forward to seeing you there!



# ST. THOMAS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH - ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2023

	FY 2023 ACTUAL JUL 2022 - JUN 2023		FY 2022 ACTUAL JUL 2021 - JUN 2022	
		% OF TOTAL REVENUE		% OF TOTAL REVENUE
OFFERTORY REVENUE	\$ 424,701	74%	\$ 378,445	63%
OTHER OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 99,193	17%	\$ 187,433	31%
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS	\$ 15,091	3%	\$ 16,457	3%
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 35,888	6%	\$ 16,397	3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 574,873</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 598,732</b>	<b>100%</b>


PASTORAL LEADERSHIP	\$ 113,567	21%	\$ 103,930	22%
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	\$ 54,797	10%	\$ 42,016	9%
FAITH FORMATION	\$ 18,940	3%	\$ 21,866	5%
CHARITY AND OUTREACH*	\$ 5,000	1%	\$ 7,282	2%
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS	\$ 20,038	4%	\$ 9,141	2%
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 227,734	42%	\$ 221,292	46%
FACILITIES	\$ 104,451	19%	\$ 75,159	16%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 544,527</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 480,686</b>	<b>100%</b>

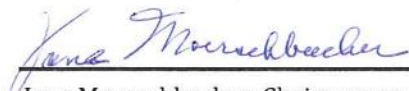
**OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - \$ 30,346 \$ 118,046**

\* St. Vincent de Paul: \$2,000; Love More Ministry: \$2000; FFRA: \$1000

### COLLECTIONS

	FY 2023 ACTUAL JUL 2022 - JUN 2023	FY 2022 ACTUAL JUL 2021 - JUN 2022
Peter's Pence	\$1,031.00	\$2,222.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$1,751.00	\$1,298.00
Religious Retirement	\$1,404.00	\$1,801.00
Missionary Co-op	\$1,584.00	\$1,735.00
Capaign for Human Development	\$1,136.00	\$1,265.00
World Mission Sunday	\$2,649.00	\$1,201.00
Hurricane Ian	\$5,000.00	\$2,646.00
Ukraine	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,555.00</b>	<b>\$13,168.00</b>

  
Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, Pastor

  
Jane Moerschbacher, Chairwoman  
Parish Finance Council

01 September 2023

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, September 24

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Paul, Roland Benoit and Theresa  
St. Pierre †

Requested by: Pauline & Al Papino

### Monday, September 25

8:00 am: Roman Koczur †

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

### Tuesday, September 26

8:00 am: Little Tommy Corrao †

Requested by: Marguerite Corroa

### Wednesday, September 27

8:00 am: Olivia Kosling

Requested by: The Women's Guild

### Thursday, September 28

8:00 am: Special Intention

Requested by: Juanita Fuge

6:00 pm: Intentions of Aiden & Danielle  
Marshall

Requested by: Cindy Jones

### Friday, September 29

8:00 am: Paul St. Pierre †

Requested by: Pastoral Staff

### Saturday, September 30

4:30 pm: Captain Tom Davis †

Requested by: Laurie Jo & Susan Brignola

### Sunday, October 1

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Mark Nehrbas †

Requested by: List Family

*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

*Monday*

Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6;

Lk 8:16-18

*Tuesday*

Memorial of Saints Cosmas and Damian,  
Martyrs

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab,  
4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21

*Wednesday*

Memorial of  
Saint Vincent de Paul,  
Priest

Ezr 9:5-9; Tobit 13:2,  
3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8;  
Lk 9:1-6



*Thursday*

Memorial of Saint Wencelaus, Martyr and  
Saint Lawrence Ruiz, and Companions, Martyrs  
Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Lk 9:7-9

*Friday*

Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and  
Raphael, Archangels

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab;

Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51

*Saturday*

Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor  
of the Church

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab,  
13; Lk 9:43b-45

*Sunday*

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11 or  
Phil 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

## 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.**

# PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY // YOU PICK THE PRIZE RAFFLE



The priesthood  
is the love of the  
heart of Jesus.  
**St. John Vianney**

## PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

On this special day, Priesthood Sunday, we come together as a parish family to express our heartfelt gratitude to our **Pastor, Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, and Rev. Msgr. Joseph Sobiesiak** for their dedication and service to St. Thomas the Apostle Church. *We extend our warmest thanks!*

Today, let us unite in prayer not only for Fr. Glenn and Msgr. Joe, but also for Fr. Ron Marecki, the visiting priests who have generously assisted us at St. Thomas, and all the priests devotedly serving in our Diocese of St. Petersburg and beyond. Furthermore, we offer our prayers for the vocation programs with the Diocese of St. Petersburg, asking for divine guidance and blessings to encourage more individuals to follow the call for priesthood.

**Prayer for Priests:** Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

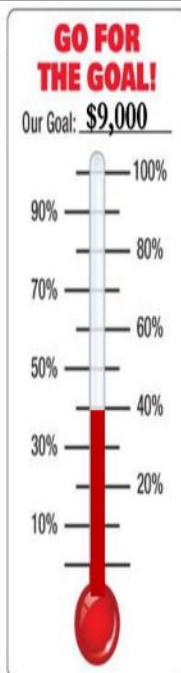


## YOU PICK the PRIZE RAFFLE

This year's goal is \$9,000  
for parking lot improvements.

★ \$3,546.00 ★ Entries 184

One lucky winner will be drawn  
at random during the 10:30am  
Mass Sunday, December 17!



## 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 gets you 25%, \$10 for 10%, and \$5 for 5%. Your family and friends are also welcome to participate.

Participation is easy – complete the ticket & 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 credit card.

Drop your entry in the collection basket at Mass, or mail it to the parish office. 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.

### 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)



## **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 next **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 this Wednesday, September 27, at 11:00 a.m. in the church. 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, and 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 28th**  
**MASS STARTS at 6:00 P.M.**



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic**  
**Revival**



## EVENTS & COLLECTIONS

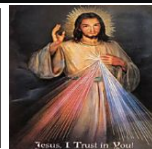
The church is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for personal prayer time. Access to the church is available through the rear door, directly across from the entrance to the parish office.


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 24:</b> <b>World Day of Migrants/Refugees and Priesthood Sunday</b> <b>Collection: Catholic School &amp; Camp</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Mass</b> <b>Youth Faith Formation Class</b> <b>Mass</b>
<b>Monday, September 25:</b>	2:00 pm ←	<b>Bible Study: The Prophets</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 26:</b>	8:45 am	<b>Holy Face Devotion</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 27:</b>	11:00 am ←	<b>Usher Training: Held inside the Church</b>
<b>Thursday, September 28:</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 30:</b>	8:00 am 10:00 am ← 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	<b>Communion Only Service</b> <b>Blessings of Pets: Front Church Parking Lot</b> <b>Reconciliation</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday, October 1:</b> <b>Collections: Building Fund and Pregnancy &amp; Family Life Center</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Mass</b> <b>Youth Faith Formation Class</b> <b>Mass</b>

## YFF CLASSROOMS



In our previous weekend bulletin, we thanked Emile Alain and Bob Adams for their dedication and exceptional craftsmanship in constructing our new St. Martin's Hall classrooms.

Today, we proudly present a glimpse of the first Sunday, September 10, when our Youth Faith Formation Ministry used the classrooms.

It is gratifying to witness our children and catechists enjoying an improved space for learning and worship.





# 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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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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