



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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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

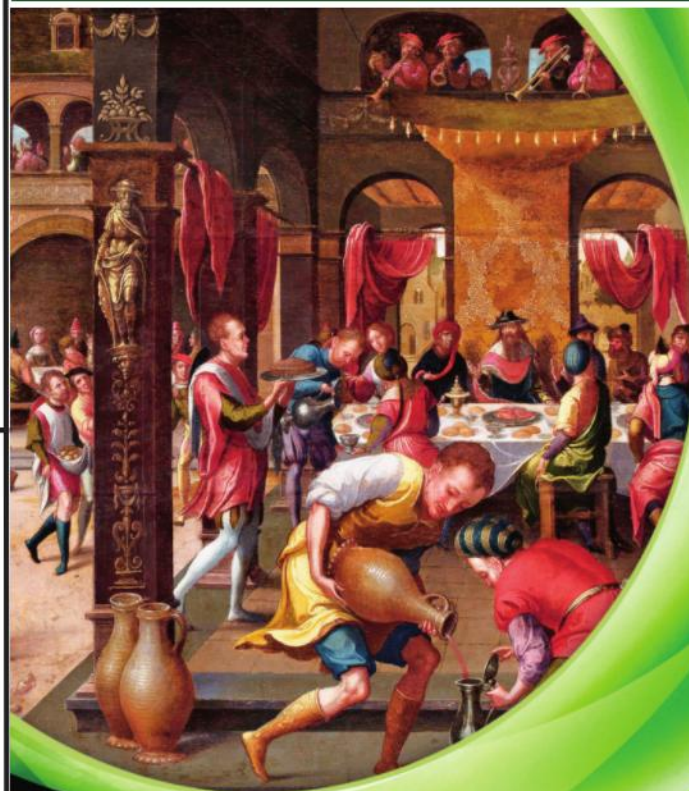
Joseph McEvoy: Pastoral Assistant

Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director
Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor,
& Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office and
Communications Manager

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023



28th Sunday

in Ordinary Time

"Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:14



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK



15 October 2023 | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1. We are **coming to the end of another liturgical year** already as we get set to begin Advent 2023. Seems like yesterday we were introducing the Gospel of Matthew and Year A. Catholics, for many years, would think that they did not know their bibles as well as some of our protestant brothers and sisters. Realize this, if you come to Mass every Sunday for three years you will hear most all four of the Gospels, so Catholics do know their Gospel readings. Get ready for my favorite cycle year, B the Gospel of Mark.

2. By now you are aware that Fr Glenn offered me the position of **business manager at St Thomas**, and I accepted. I promise you this; I will do my very best to help guide our pastor in all business decisions. I have many years of experience in private business, mainly vending and real estate. I love the art of the deal (my own version). I have many years of experience also as business manger for St Vincent de Paul, St Thomas Aquinas, and St James Churches. God has now brought me to St Thomas the Apostle and you. I promise my best and will be open to your suggestions. There are great things on our horizon. This parish is growing, and we are blessed to be part of that growth.

3. Today is the 28th Sunday in ordinary time, we hear the parable of the wedding feast. Everyone knows that I love a feast and would not turn one down, but obviously Jesus is speaking about our invitation to the heavenly banquet. In a homily in 2021 Pope Francis said this; **"The Eucharist is not a reward of saints, no, it is the bread of sinners"**. Let us always remember to accept this invitation to share in God's banquet of the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus His son, so we may go out and share God's message of salvation with all, Amen.

October 15, 2023 | Deacon Mark Manko

St. Thomas is hosting our third annual TRUNK OR TREAT!

Kids of all ages are welcome to attend our Trunk or Treat on **Saturday, October 28, 2023, from Noon to 2:00 pm.** Dress up in your favorite costumes and enjoy the tricks and treats!

We will also have Halloween craft projects. We will have a very scary fun time!

We are looking for volunteers to give away treats from the trunks of their cars. Please contact the office if you're interested.

Volunteers will need to arrive in the church's west parking lot by 11:30 am.
(Pictures are from previous events)



WE ARE REQUESTING SMALL PUMPKIN DONATIONS. WE NEED 30 SMALL PUMPKINS FOR THE CHILDREN TO CARVE. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP!



PARISH DINNER DANCE // FAMILY OF THE MONTH

PARISH DINNER DANCE

**THE KNIGHTS
WILL BE SELLING
TICKETS BEFORE
ALL MASS NEXT
WEEKEND:
OCTOBER 21 & 22.**

ALL ARE INVITED!

**COST:
\$50.00
PER
PERSON**



12th Annual St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Dinner Dance



All are invited to attend!

Where: West Citrus Elks Lodge #2693
7890 Grover Cleveland
Homosassa, FL 34446

When: Saturday, November 18, 2023, Doors open at 5:00 pm
Cocktails & appetizers 5:00 – 6:15 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm
Dancing 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Entertainment by DJ Fred Campbell

Choice of Entrée: Sliced Roast Beef with Gravy
Chicken Cordon Blu with Mornay Sauce.
Baked Haddock with herbed butter.

All entrees include Rolls & butter, house salad, potato, vegetable, and dessert,
Coffee, Tea, or soft drink

Cocktails, Beer, and Wine available at additional cost

Cost: \$ 50.00 per person

Make checks payable to K of C Council 15154



Toys for Tots Kick off!

Bring a toy and receive a raffle ticket for the gift baskets!

For tickets or additional information contact:

Joseph McEvoy, GK (248) 388-0142 or kofc15154@gmail.com

All seats are reserved. Tables will have 8 people. List the name of the person attending and the Host's name at whose table you wish to be seated with, or you will be assigned a random seat.

SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 15154



September Family of the Month

Congratulations to the Nothnagel Family, Sam & Geneva, and their three sons, who have been selected as the Knights of Columbus September Family of the Month. They are new to Florida, having recently moved from Minnesota last year. Sam is in education and works from home, enabling them to home school their boys and be with their children. Geneva is a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion to the Assisted Living Homes, and their eldest son made his first communion here at Saint Thomas last May. You can find them attending mass on Sunday at 10:30 am.

The Knights of Columbus looks for registered parishioners who attend weekly mass, have an active prayer life, and give evidence of strong Christian Family values.

Please join the Knights in congratulating them as the September Family of the Month!



MASS INTENTIONS // DAILY READINGS // IN OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, October 15

8:00 am: Lillian Horan †

Requested by: Ruthann Pullen

10:30 am: John (Jack) Kaelin †

Requested by: Jane & Joe Prefer

Monday, October 16

8:00 am: George Freeman †

Requested by: Loving Family

Tuesday, October 17

8:00 am: Joseph Marecki

(Happy Birthday!)

Requested by: Norma Pafchek



Wednesday, October 18

8:00 am: Ivo Zuech †

Requested by: Carol Anderson

Thursday, October 19

8:00 am: Louis & Doris Barbieri †

Requested by: Jane Chapin

Friday, October 20

8:00 am: Dolores Mottle †

Requested by: Ruthann Pullen

Saturday, October 21

4:30 pm: Dolores Mottle †

Requested by: Ruthann Pullen

Sunday, October 22

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Fr. Franco

Requested by: Olivia Bruce Kosling

Sunday

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6;
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 or
Mt 22:1-10

Monday

Memorial of St. Hedwig, Religious, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1bcde, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;
Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday

Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday

Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist

2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18;
Lk 10:1-9

Thursday

Memorial of Saints John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs

Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab;
Lk 11:47-54

Friday

Memorial of St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

Rom 4:1-8; Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11; Lk 12:1-7

Saturday

Rom 4:13, 16-18; Ps 105:6-7, 8-9, 42-43;
Lk 12:8-12

Sunday

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10;
1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21



THIS WEEK'S
ALTAR FLOWERS
ARE DONATED BY THE
ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S GUILD



Thank
You!



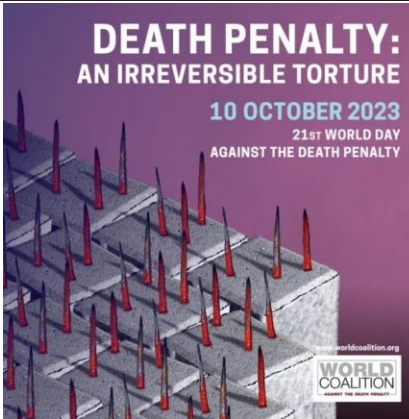
LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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, 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, Barnara Diaz, Robert Adams, Glenn Hultgren, Carl Campise, Terry Brausch, and our Website Prayer Requests. **To add or remove someone from our parish prayer list, please contact the parish office.**

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY: DEATH PENALTY



This past Tuesday, October 10, was “World Day Against the Death Penalty,” a day where people across the globe gathered to oppose capital punishment.

The Church teaches, in light of the Gospel, that **“the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person”** and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide. (Catholic Catechism 2267). Abolishing the Death Penalty is deeply connected to what we hold dear in our faith: to have mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. **“For the judgment is merciless to one who has not shown mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.”** ~ James 2:13 (NABRE).

On the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website is the article “Life Matters: A Catholic Response to the Death Penalty.” A portion of the article covers what Blessed John Paul II says in Chapter I of Evangelium Vitae “EV” (The Gospel of Life), “The Voice of Your Brother's Blood Cries to Me from the Ground” (Gen 4:10). Here Blessed John Paul II presents the story of Cain and Abel to illustrate that God's mercy embraces even a murderer. The article goes on to say “Despite Cain's deliberate killing of his brother, despite his lack of remorse, his arrogance, his lies to God and utter callousness about what he had done (“I do not know [where Abel is]. Am I my brother's keeper?” Gen 4:9), God nevertheless refuses to take Cain's life as punishment. But he does not leave the crime unpunished. He tells Cain that he will not be able to grow crops and that he will be a fugitive and wanderer on the earth. Cain complains that such leniency is still too harsh, fearing that someone might kill him on sight. God then reveals still greater mercy towards Cain, putting a mark on him “so that no one would kill him at sight” (Gen 4:15) and promising that “If anyone kills [you], [you] shall be avenged seven times” (Gen 4:15). It says, “Although Cain is spared execution, justice requires that he live the rest of his earthly life alone and outcast, but with time to reflect on his crime, to perhaps feel remorse and at last seek forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Blessed John Paul II observed, **“Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this”** (Evangelium Vitae, 9).”

Let our actions as Catholics be a testament to our commitment to support a more compassionate, merciful, and forgiving world where we honor the sanctity of every life and abolish the death penalty. More information about this subject can be found at: www.worldcoalition.org. (Picture provided by the World Coalition.org)

WOMEN'S GUILD FLEA MARKET



Women's Guild's 6th Annual Flea Market Saturday, Nov. 18th from 9 AM to 2 PM

We look forward to seeing you whether you buy or sell.
Please come and support our Women's Guild.

If you are selling, please bring your own table to display your unwanted treasures.

A \$15 donation is requested for each space occupied.
Payment can be made on or before November 18th.

Contact Info: Brenda Jeffres thejeffres@gmail.com 352-422-7755

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like to join this important ministry,
please call our parish office or email Brenda Jeffres.
Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd. Wednesday at 11:00 am.



FFRA // PRAYER FOR ANNA // YOU PICK THE PRIZE RAFFLE

FFRA Haunted Forest Drive-Thru



Date: Fri. Oct 27 & Sat. Oct 28
Time: 7:00PM to 10:00PM
Price: \$20 Per Car, Truck or Van

Public votes for Best Scary Stops. One Vote/Vehicle.

Top Prize is \$500, 2nd is \$300 and 3rd is \$200 for their club or charity.

Come and enjoy a COVID-safe, drive-through Haunted Forest experience, hosted by FFRA and featuring many distinct and unique Scary Stops designed to bring you a Halloween treat from the safety of your car or truck! Bring a vehicle or hay-wagon load of kids and adults to be frightened beyond belief! Drive through at your leisure and be amazed at the scary creatures and un-usual active Halloween scenes! Vote for the Best and enjoy treats at Exit!

ROUTE LOCATION (East of Howard's Flea Market):

From US 19, drive East on W. Cardinal St., turn Left on S. Lewdingar Dr., drive approx. 1 mile, then turn Left at W. Barbara Ann Ln. Follow signs.



All Proceeds to
Family and Friends Reaching for Abilities

A 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting social and educational activities for the developmentally disabled community in Citrus County



For Details, contact Robert DeSimone—352-501-9107 or iam4mentoring@aol.com

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

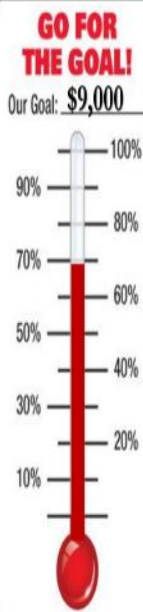
More information can be found at:
www.heartgallerytampa.org

YOU PICK the PRIZE RAFFLE

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

★ \$6,209.00 ★ Entries 317

One lucky winner will be drawn
 at random during the 10:30 AM
 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 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)



EVENTS & COLLECTIONS // YOUTH GROUP // WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

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.

THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

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



Sunday, October 15: Collections: Catholic School & Camp SVdP Food Collection	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	Mass Youth Faith Formation Class Mass
Monday, October 16:	8:00 am 2:00 pm	Mass Bible Study "The Prophets"
Tuesday, October 17:	8:00 am 8:45 am 10:00 am—Noon	Mass Holy Face Devotion The Knitting Circle
Wednesday, October 18:	8:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm	Mass Women's Guild Meeting SVdP Meeting
Thursday, October 19:	8:00 am 8:30 am—9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm	Mass Holy Hour Flame of Love Prayer Group Bereavement Meeting
Friday, October 20:	6:00 pm—8:00 pm	Youth Group Event (Craft: Beading with Rusty Ryal)
Saturday, October 21:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, October 22: Collection: World Mission Sunday	8:00 am 9:00 am—10:15 am 10:30 am	Mass Youth Faith Formation Class Mass

Youth Group Meeting will be held Friday, October 20 from 6-8 pm.

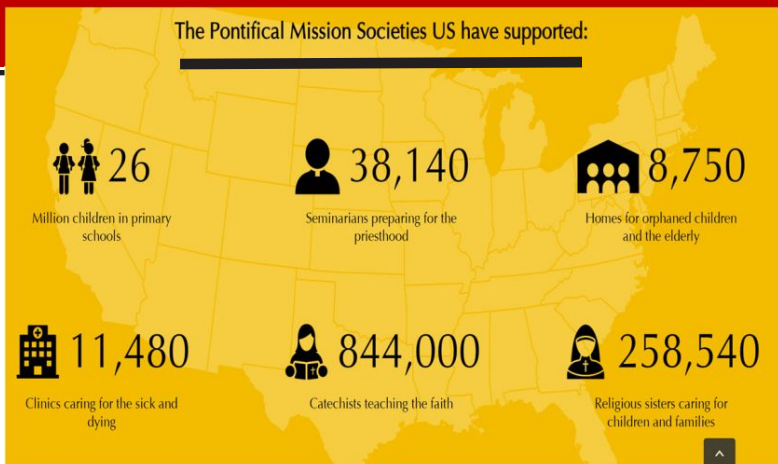
Attention awesome children from our parish! Get ready for a crafting adventure with parishioner, Rusty Ryal! Join in the fun with your friends, learn the art of making fantastic beaded crafts that you can wear or share with your family.

We've got snacks and drinks to keep the energy high, making this event super enjoyable for everyone.

Don't miss out on an evening of joy!

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 22(NEXT WEEKEND)

We ask that you please join Pope Francis on World Mission Sunday in supporting his missions. Each of us has the opportunity to join with Catholics around the world to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,150 mission dioceses. Please give generously.



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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