



# 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: Business Manager

Robert Adams: Maintenance

Steve Balcom: Maintenance

Karen Ballaban: Comms. Specialist

Robin Furciato: Coord. of Religious Ed.

David Martin: Custodian

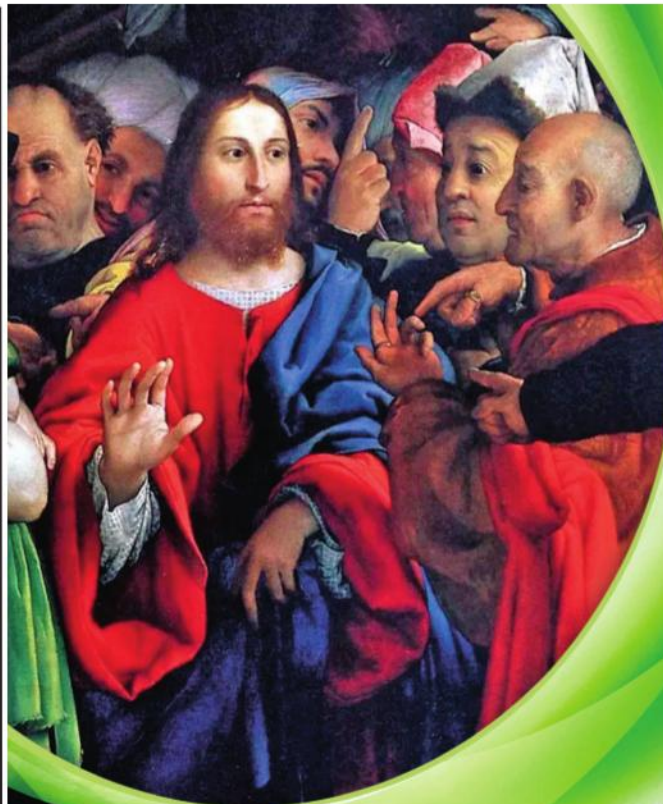
Joseph McEvoy: Pastoral Assistant

Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director

Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor,  
& Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office and  
Communications Manager



**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday**  
**in Ordinary Time**

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;  
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

*Matthew 23:12*

© Diocesan

**November 5, 2023**



# TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

5 November 2023 | *Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A*



1. As I write this, the **27th Annual Convocation for Priestly Renewal** is well underway at the Bethany Center in Lutz, FL. The theme chosen for our convocation this year is "National Eucharistic Revival, A Grassroots Response to God's Invitation." I always look forward to this gathering of priests every year, since this is the only occasion that the priests of our diocese gather for ongoing formation. In between lectures, meals, and prayer, we exchange stories about who is nearing retirement, our current ailments and doctors, and the latest in our present assignments. Hey, wanna swap parish next year? JK.

2. One of our presenters during this convocation is the **Most Reverend Andrew H. Cozzens**, the young bishop of Crookston in Minnesota. He also serves as the chair of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechetics, and in this capacity, he is the architect of the ongoing three-year National Eucharistic Revival (NER). Bishop Cozzens describes the NER as a "divine visitation" and discussed some of the things that we can do in the parish to promote the NER such as: reinvigorating worship, personal encounters, faith formation, and missionary sending. The high point of the NER is the Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Indianapolis on July 17-21, 2023.

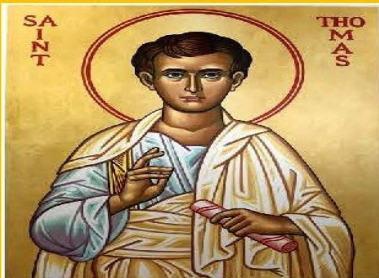


3. The main reason why Jesus criticized the scribes and Pharisees in today's **gospel** (Matthew 23:1-12) is that Jesus noticed a discrepancy between their words and actions. How can we overcome hypocrisy? Jesus himself tells us: "The greatest among you must be your servant." In other words, we must live a life of service to others. We have to be mindful of the gap between what we say and what we do. Don't look around now for scribes and Pharisees. For if we're honest about it, there's a bit of a scribe and a Pharisee in each of us today.

Fr. Glenn | 4 October 2023

**Catholic Relief Services** and our partners are responding to immediate and recovery needs of families displaced and affected by crisis in the Holy Land as well as the immediate needs of families affected by the earthquakes in Afghanistan. CRS is able to draw on our extensive experience and partnerships to assist those in need.

You can help by donating online at [support.crs.org/donate](https://support.crs.org/donate), by phone at 1-877-HELP-CRS, or by check to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700



## ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE PARISH PRAYER

Gracious God, you have called us to be missionary disciples of Jesus, your Son. Grant that we, your loving sons and daughters, may become living witnesses to the gospel. Together as a parish family, we are committed to follow Christ's example by using our time, talent, and treasure in building up God's kingdom on earth. Through the intercession of our patron, St.

Thomas the Apostle, we humbly ask that you keep us steadfast in our faith, serene in our hope, and faithful in our love. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## CORNER OF GRATITUDE // VETERANS PRAYER

### START EACH DAY WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

#### St. Thomas Corner of Gratitude!



Dear St. Thomas Catholic Church,

Thank you for joining us for our Hero's Walk for Life fundraiser which was held on Saturday October 14, 2023. Your church, congregation, and other churches and their congregations joined together in unity to walk for the unborn. In total, we raised \$41,507, a record for this event that will literally transform the work of The Pregnancy & Family Life Center and the people we encounter daily.

We appreciate your commitment to the vision and mission of our center. Your commitment to prayer and financial support allows us to continue being the hands and feet of Jesus to the Citrus County Communities that we so deeply love and care for.



Your partnership means more than you can ever know.

Blessings,

Jon Terry, Chaplain-Director of Donor Development  
The Pregnancy & Family Life Center



On Sunday, October 8, our Love More Ministry Team A, Martin Faulmino, Team Captain, served 23 individuals and prepared another 45 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**

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 A volunteers graciously prepared & served a delicious & nutritious meal consisting of Baked Pasta with Meat Sauce, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert. Thank you, Team A, 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.

***Our Love More Ministry Team B, Captain Rich Kopicki, will serve the homeless and hungry next Sunday, November 12, between 11:45 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.***

Heavenly Father, we take  
time, not just from tradition,  
but from a grateful heart  
remembering all those who  
have served our nation. We  
pay tribute to all our  
veterans. We are thankful for  
the freedoms we have today  
because of their service. Bring  
eternal peace to their hearts  
and satisfaction in you.  
In Jesus Name, Amen.

Pray for Everything

Saturday, November 11, is Veterans Day, an important Federal Holiday for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

It allows us an opportunity to thank people who served in the military for risking their lives to defend America.

Please keep veterans  
in your prayers on Veterans Day and every day.

(The Parish Office is Closed on Friday)

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

### Sunday, November 5

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Betty Van Zin †

Requested by: Anne & Andy Lunk

### Monday, November 6

8:00 am: Bill Robben †

Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

### Tuesday, November 7

8:00 am: Amy Foster †

Requested by: Gael Palumbo

### Wednesday, November 8

8:00 am: Christopher St. Pierre †

Requested by: Julia Szucsik

### Thursday, November 9

8:00 am: Pat & Dick Roeder †

Requested by: Jane Chapin

### Friday, November 10

8:00 am: All Deceased Military & Military Chaplins

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

### Saturday, November 11

4:30 pm: Arthur Lubiarz †

Requested by: Ruthann Pullen

### Sunday, November 12

8:00 am: Kevin Mautte †

Requested by: Joe & Beth Tarnowski

10:30 am: Parish Family

### Sunday

**Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Ps 131:1, 2, 3;  
1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12

### Monday

Rom 11:29-36; Ps 69:30-31, 33-34,  
36; Lk 14:12-14

### Tuesday

Rom 12:5-16ab; Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3;  
Lk 14:15-24

### Wednesday

Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2,4-5, 9;  
Lk 14:25-33

### Thursday

**Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran  
Basilica in Rome**

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9;  
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

### Friday

**Memorial of Saint Leo the Great, Pope  
and Doctor of the Church**

Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;  
Lk 16:1-8

### Saturday

**Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours,  
Bishop**

Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-3,  
4-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15

### Sunday

**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary  
Time**

Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8;  
1 Thes 4:13-18 or 1 Thes 4:13-14;  
Mt 25:1-13

## LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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



Karl Wolf, Ethan Grayshan, Virginia Kanis, Scott Klaben, Kerrie Schmidt, Mike Jablonsky, Skip Guss, Stephanie St. Clair, Mary Ann DeSimone, Charles Terreault, Christine Gicola, Elizabeth Dostal, Anthony Cimorelli, Rita Frisbee, 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, Wade Wolfe, Tony Caposieno, 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, Richard & Lorraine Kwecienski, 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, Imre Beke Sr., Dayl Kohorst, Art Ferguson, Victor & Phyllis Closs, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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

## EVENTS & COLLECTIONS // ONLINE GIVING // COR INITIATIVE

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!*



<b>Sunday, November 5:</b> <b>Name Tag Sunday</b>  <b>Collections: Parish Building Fund &amp; Pregnancy &amp; Family Life Center</b>	8:00 am 8:30 am—12:30 pm 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Mass</b> <b>Knights of Columbus Blood Drive</b> <b>Youth Faith Formation Class</b> <b>Mass</b>
<b>Monday, November 6:</b>	8:00 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Bible Study: Prophets</b> <b>RCIA Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 7:</b>	8:00 am 8:45 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Holy Face Devotion</b> <b>Respect Life Meeting</b> <b>COR Initiative Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 8:</b>	8:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Knights of Columbus Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, November 9:</b>  <b>NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival</b>	8:00 am 8:30 am - 9:30 am 9:45 am 1:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Holy Hour</b> <b>Flame of Love Prayer Group</b> <b>Bereavement Meeting</b>
<b>Friday, November 10: (Office Closed)</b>	8:00 am	<b>Mass</b>
<b>Saturday, November 11:</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b> — Honoring All Who Served — <b>Commissioning of the Liturgical Ministers at all weekend Masses</b> <b>Advent Sale by YFF (see page 6)</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, November 12:</b> <b>Commissioning of the Liturgical Ministers at all weekend Masses</b> <b>Advent Sale by YFF (see page 6)</b> <b>Collection: SVdP Money 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 B)</b> <b>Rich Kopicki, Team Leader</b>

If you want to join the St. Thomas the Apostle Church **COR Initiative**, please register using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/cf8QbxhZj7> or use the QR code below.

COR is Latin for heart. The COR initiative helps the men of our parish focus on Jesus Christ through brotherhood committed to prayer, formation, and fraternity.

The COR meetings will be held monthly on the first Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is this Tuesday, November 5, starting at 5:00 p.m. A light meal is served.

**We hope you consider joining.**





# PARISH DINNER DANCE // BLOOD DRIVE // SVdP // YFF ADVENT SALE



## 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

It's not about the needle.  
It's about the need.  
One pint of blood saves three lives.

Visit the **Donor Portal** to find a drive or make an appointment at [lifesouth.org](http://lifesouth.org)

**Give local. Save local.**  
**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church**  
**& Knights of Columbus Council 15154**  
**Blood Drive**  
**Sunday, Nov. 5**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**\$20**  
**\$20 E-GIFT CARD FOR ALL DONORS**  
ADDITIONAL \$20 E-GIFT CARD FOR PLATINUM AND DOUBLE RED DONORS

All donors will receive a \$20 egift card and LifeSouth Cup

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.



**LIFESOUTH**  
Community Blood Centers



**St. Vincent DePaul Money Collection is next weekend (November 11/12), and the Food Pantry donations will be the following weekend (November 18/19).** Your generosity allows SVdP to continue to help the poor and less fortunate. All donations, monetary or food items, are distributed to those in need within our Parish boundaries. Next Sunday's bulletin will list items in low supply on our pantry shelves. All money & food donations are greatly appreciated!

In October, SVdP received 89 calls, had 26 cases, served 58 people, and distributed 165 pounds of pantry food. SVdP volunteers made 26 home visits, and spent \$5330.23 for lodging, utilities, food, clothing, etc. Our Teams donated 137 hours and traveled 681 miles in service to the needy.

**In the Gospel today,** we hear the good news that when we keep our focus on God and serve one another, God exalts us!

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Basket next weekend, please say a special prayer for the poor who have no one to pray for them.



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE YFF ADVENT SALE!**

**Youth Faith Formation**

**Advent Candle & Chocolate Calendar Sale**

**November 11&12**

**Before & after all masses**

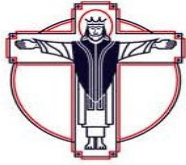
**Set of 4 tapers, candle stand & calendars \$10 each item**



## REMINDER: YOU PICK THE PRIZE RAFFLE

### 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 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.

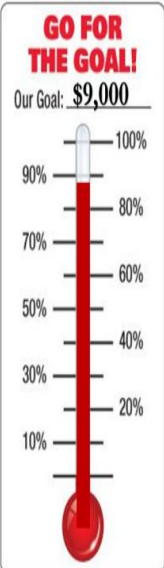
### Have You Bought Your Ticket Yet?

### YOU PICK the PRIZE RAFFLE

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

★ \$7,797.00 ★ Entries 393

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



## REMINDER: 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](mailto: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.





# 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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