



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: 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

November 19, 2023





TENDING GOD'S FLOCK



19 November 2023 | *Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A*

1. I want to take this time to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and kind words for the loss of my brother. My brother Chris and I were very close growing up; we did a lot together. It was not until I moved to Wisconsin in 1988 that we started to drift apart. He was later married, and we all know how busy life can get for us, and we tend not to communicate as well as we should. He became disabled 18 years ago, losing his sight, and was unable to walk. I am confident that God has brought him home and restored him to health. Again, thank you all. I am blessed to have this extended family to help me through difficult times.



2. We are introducing our new maintenance person, **Steve Balcom**, to our parish family staff. Steve takes on maintaining our parish plant while Bob Adams gets healthy. Steve has an excellent background in maintenance, even at one point working on cruise ships! He can do almost anything; we are blessed to have him on our staff. Please introduce yourselves to him when you see him.

3. Today is the 33rd Sunday in ordinary time. We have heard a lot about the end times, which seems ominous with all that is happening in the world today. My friends, we do not know when that day will come, and today, Jesus is telling us that the date is not what we should be focusing on; instead, we should endeavor to be always prepared. Jesus reminds us that we are all given gifts to use, not to be squandered but utilized; by using our gifts, we will secure the benefits of our final payout for a good and faithful life and eternal joy with God. Amen



**Knights of
Columbus®**

This Sunday...

St. Thomas Council 15154

Coffee and Donuts

November 19th

8 am until 12 noon.

Featuring



The CCHD National Collection is this weekend, November 18-19, 2023

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence.

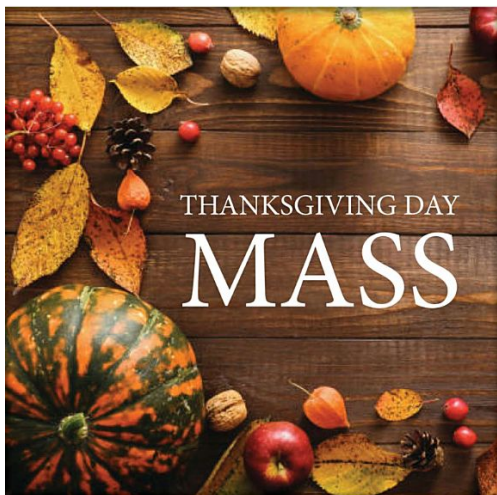
You are essential to its success.

Mark this World Day of the Poor (Nov. 19) with your generous donations that will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes.

Together, we can make a difference in families and communities across the United States.

Please donate prayerfully and generously. Thank you.





Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thursday
November 23
Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.

Please bring a non-perishable food item and place it at the foot of the altar.

All donations will be given to our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

Wishing a Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving!

With a grateful heart, Fr. Glenn and the entire St. Thomas the Apostle Pastoral Staff wish our parishioners and their families a Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving.

We want you to know how much we appreciate your presence & participation in our church, ministries, and community.

Many of our parishioners have assumed leadership and volunteer roles with respect to various parish ministries and church activities and to each of you we are deeply thankful.

It takes all of us—pastors, deacons, laity, parents, kids to be the complete Body of Christ.

May God bless you & your loved ones this Thanksgiving Holiday.

We thank you!

YOU PICK the PRIZE RAFFLE

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

★ **\$9,659.00** ★ **Entries 470**

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



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

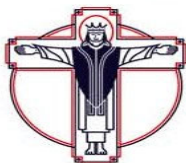
Here's how it works: Your donation amount directly correlates with your potential prize percentage – a \$30 donation gets you 30% of the total pot, \$25 gets you 25%, \$10 for 10%, and \$5 for 5%. Your family and friends are also welcome to participate.

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)

MASS INTENTIONS // DAILY READINGS // IN OUR PRAYERS

Sunday, November 19

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Judie Holland †

Requested by: Jim Holland

Monday, November 20

8:00 am: Celia Koczur †

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

Tuesday, November 21

8:00 am: Mary Agnes Tansey †

Requested by: Loving Husband, Gene Tansey & Family

Wednesday, November 22

8:00 am: Patricia C. Sheridan †

Requested by: Charles J. Sheridan & Family

Thursday, November 23

9:00 am: Carmen Floreno †

Requested by: Joseph & Beverly McEvoy

Friday, November 24

8:00 am: Deceased Members of the Robben Family †

Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

Saturday, November 25

4:30 pm: Parish Family

Sunday, November 26

8:00 am: Kathi Warrington †

Richard & Bonnie Ludwig †

Requested by: Your Loving Family

10:30 am: Maurico Velasquez †

Requested by: Margaret Velasquez

Sunday

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

Monday

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday

Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 1; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday

Memorial of Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St Columban, Abbot; Blessed Miguel Austin Pro, Priest & Martyr

1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

Thanksgiving: Sir 50:22-24;

1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday

Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Companions, Martyrs

1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11d-12a, 12cd; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 & 6, 16 and 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

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, Samantha Wasley, Don Harnett, Frank Watson, Peggy Lingrosso, Pat Cleary, Mary Ann Zack, Arria Wheeler, Andy Lunk, Sarah Phillips, Peggy Paul, Sheila Greifenkamp, Pat Allard, Philip Porter III, Phyllis Fylak, Richard & Lorraine Kwiecienski, Sandy Marecki, Linda DeWitt, Neill Aiken, Peg Laurie, Sheyna Clements, Sandra Boros, Edward & Rusty Ryal, 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, Glenn Hultgren, Carl Campise, Imre Beke Sr., Dayl Kohorst, Victor & Phyllis Closi, Terry Brausch, Robert Adams, Karen Ballaban, Fr. Glenn, and our Website Prayer Requests.

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

ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS NOVENA

DO YOU KNOW?

The single prayer of the St. Andrew Christmas Novena is traditionally prayed fifteen times each day, beginning on the feast of St. Andrew (November 30) and concluding on Christmas Eve.

How to Pray the St. Andrew Christmas Novena:

With a few exceptions, we pray novenas for nine days. The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is one such exception – we pray this novena for 25 days, overlapping with much of the liturgical season of Advent. We begin the novena on the feast of St. Andrew on November 30 and conclude on Christmas Eve. Tradition holds that we pray the novena 15 times daily for a particular intention. This being said, pray in a way that works best for you.

Time needed: 5 minutes

Pray this novena for 25 days.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Say the St. Andrew Christmas Novena prayer.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Name any intentions or other prayers you wish to share with God. Maybe consider your response to Jesus's call to follow Him; just as he called on Andrew and Peter, he also calls on us to let go and surrender.

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If you're praying this novena in the traditional fashion ... Repeat the above steps 14x throughout your day. Continue praying the novena daily through Christmas Eve!

May peace be with you this Advent. God bless!

~Hallow.com





**Every Child Deserves
A Christmas!**

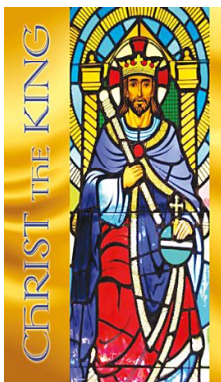
We are kicking off our Toys for Tots collection at the Parish Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 18. Bring a new, unopened toy and receive a free raffle ticket for one of the gift baskets!

Donation boxes will also be in our narthex (church lobby) from Sunday, November 19 through Sunday, December 10.

Drop off unopened & unwrapped gifts for children up to 16.

Toys for Tots prefers not to accept realistic-looking weapons and gifts with food. If donated, they Will Not distribute these items.

Please help if you are able.



**Solemnity of Christ
the King: Procession
& Novena**

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King next Sunday, November 26, 2023.

St. Thomas will celebrate a Mass with incense and an Eucharistic Procession at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

On our St. Thomas Facebook Page ([Facebook @MyStThomas.org](https://www.facebook.com/MyStThomas.org)) we posted the Christ the King Novena from November 17-25, the nine days preceding the Solemnity.

Let us offer our prayers to Christ the King for the freedom of the Church.

ATTENTION NEW PARISHIONERS: DID YOU RSVP YET?



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

Kindly Join Us For Our

2023

NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME

Sunday, December 3, 2023

In St. Martin's Hall following the 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Pastor, Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, our pastoral staff,
and ministry leaders look forward to
personally welcoming you.**

Come meet other new parishioners.

Learn about our parish,
ministries, and services.

Enjoy food, refreshments, and fellowship!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 22,
by calling our parish office at 352-628-7000
or email: info@mystthomas.org

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

On GivingTuesday – November 28, 2023 – the whole world comes together to give back in many different ways: through acts of kindness, gifts of voice, time, talent, or treasure.

GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to use their individual power of generosity to support their communities.

Suggested ways of giving:

- Support your local social good organizations, mutual aid networks, and community organizers
- Combat loneliness by reaching out to a relative, seniors, or veterans.
- Do an act of kindness or help a neighbor
- Identify your gifts, pick a cause that gets you fired up, and give back – not just for GivingTuesday but every day.



EVENTS & COLLECTIONS // SAVE THE DATE


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, November 19: Collections: Catholic Campaign for Human Development and SVdP Food Collection and Toys for Tots	8:00 am 8:00 am—Noon 10:30 am	Mass Knights of Columbus Coffee & Donuts (See Page 2) Mass
Monday, November 20:	8:00 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mass Bible Study: Prophets RCIA Meeting
Tuesday, November 21:	8:00 am 8:45 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion
Wednesday, November 22:	8:00 am	Mass
Thursday, November 23: Happy Thanksgiving Day! <u>PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	9:00 am	Thanksgiving Day Mass 
Friday, November 24: <u>PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	8:00 am	Mass
Saturday, November 25:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm or by appt. 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, November 26: Solemnity of Christ the King Collections: Catholic School & Camp Toys for Tots	8:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Mass with incense (Eucharistic Procession)

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

December 3: Advent Begins // New Parishioner Welcome following the 10:30 a.m. Mass

December 5: COR Initiative Meeting (Prayer/Formation/Fellowship) for the Men of St. Thomas Parish in St. Martin's Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m.

December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
Masse Times: December 7: 4:30 p.m. & December 8: 9:00 a.m.

December 13: Volunteer Appreciation Day at 11:00 a.m.

December 20: Christmas Concert at 3:00 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve: Children's Pageant at 4:00 p.m. // Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day: Masses at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

January 1, 2024: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God: Mass at 9:00 a.m.



Diocesan is proud to 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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Dragomir Mijic, D.O. - Shoulder
Dolfi Herscovici, D.O. - Foot/Ankle
Korey Yngstrom, D.O. - Hip/Trauma
Kenton Panas, M.D. - Sports Injuries Shoulder/Knee
Patrick Dermarkarian, M.D. - Spine
Christopher Reyher, M.D. - Physiatry/General
Huy Nguyen, M.D. - Physiatry/General
Alexander Pappas, D.P.M. - Podiatrist

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