



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

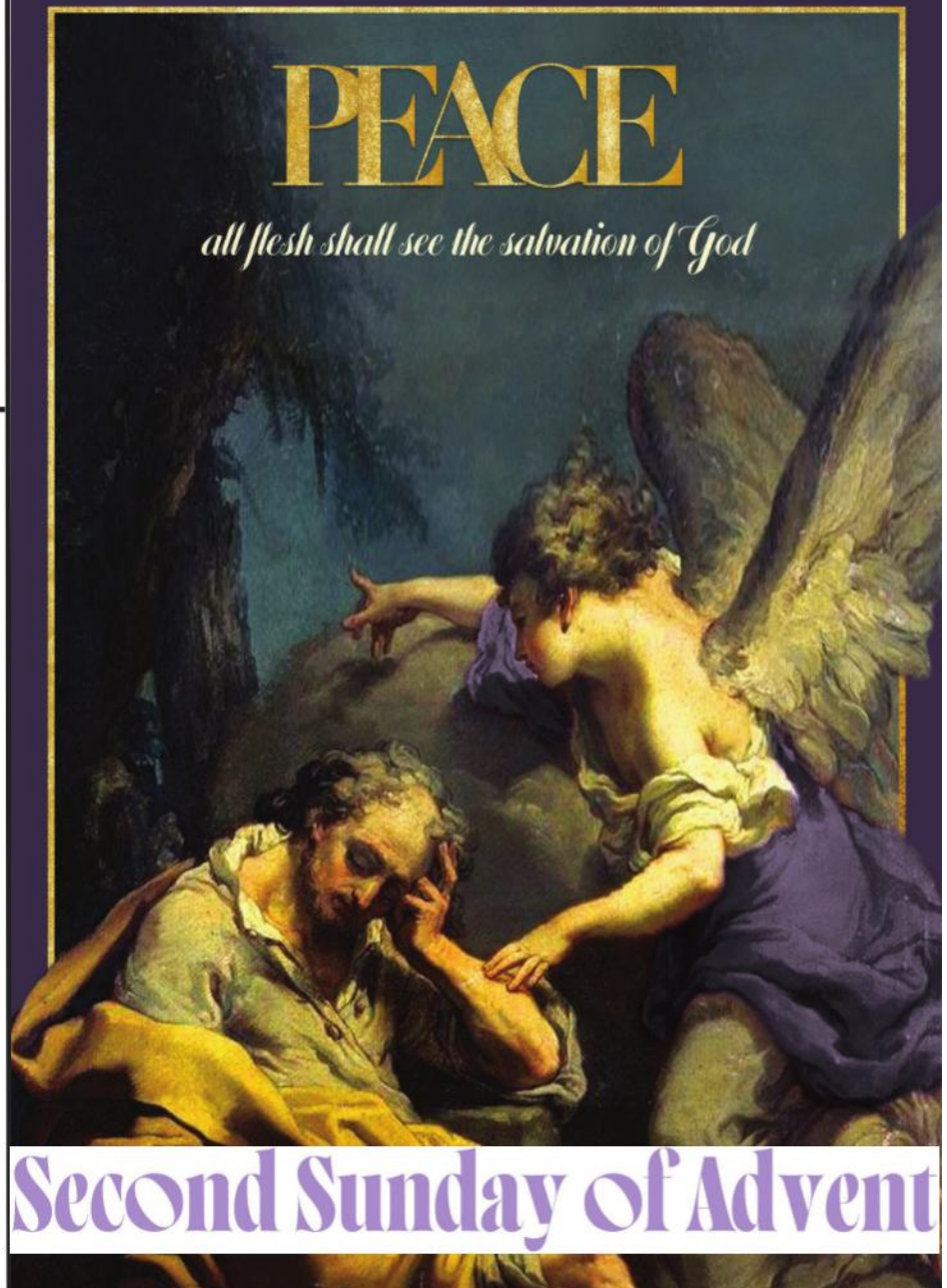
Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, Pastor

Assisting Clergy:

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Sobiesiak
Deacon Mark Manko: Business Manager

Robert Adams: Maintenance
Steve Balcom: Maintenance
Karen Ballaban: Comms. Specialist
Juanita Fuge: Bulletin Editor
Robin Furciato: Coord. of Religious Ed.
David Martin: Custodian
Joseph McEvoy: Pastoral Assistant
Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director
Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor and
Lead Accompanist
Pauline Papino: Sacristan
Karen Robben: Office & Comms. Mgr.

December 10, 2023





TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

10 December 2023 | *Second Sunday of Advent, Year B*



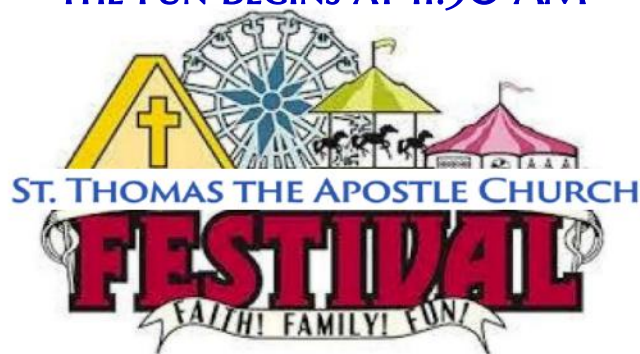
1. Last October 24th, a group of 25 men parishioners gathered together in St. Martin's Hall to begin studying Pope Francis' apostolic letter (published 2020) entitled *"Patris Corde"* (literally, "with a Father's heart"), which focuses on St. Joseph. I'd like to thank Deacon Mark Manko for leading the initial meetings of this group. I also would like to commend Joe McEvoy, the grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 15154, for introducing this program, dubbed as **COR Initiative**. The word "cor" is Latin for heart. The purpose then for this initiative is to form men to have the heart of a father. This program is open to all men from our parish, not just to members of the Knights of Columbus. I pray that in the future more men will join this program which essentially seeks to form our men parishioners into better men at home and in society. This group meets for about an hour every first Tuesday of the month starting at 5:00 pm, followed by a short fellowship. If interested in joining, please contact our parish office.

2. Last December 8 we celebrated the solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Immaculate Conception is a dogma of our Catholic faith which is not always properly understood by many. Some people mistakenly think that it refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father. Others think that it means that Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit" in the way Jesus was, but this is also incorrect. Immaculate Conception simply means that Mary, from the first instance of her existence in the womb of her mother St. Anne, was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature that original sin brings.

3. In today's **gospel** (Mark 1:1-8), we are invited to see John the Baptist as the fulfillment of God's promise of one who will come as a "voice of one crying in the desert." However, it is the whole of Isaiah's promise of comfort and deliverance that is fulfilled in Jesus. I think this is the key message of Advent: that with the birth of Jesus, God is not only keeping a promise he made to Israel a long time ago. Rather, God is also making a promise to us, namely: that in Jesus, God hears our prayers, that even at the lowest points of our lives, God listens to us, and he comes to save us. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus.

Fr. Glenn | 8 November 2023

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2023
THE FUN BEGINS AT 11:30 AM



Can you cook, bake, act, sing, or craft?
Join us in making the Festival fun for all!

MARKETPLACE: We're looking for parishioners who can donate baked goods & prepared foods or who have arts, crafts, jewelry, or other items to sell. Contact Robin Furciato in the parish office at 352-628-7000.

TALENT SHOW: Share your God-given talent on stage (3 minutes) or put your creativity on display. Non-competitive show: Vocal, dance, instrumental, crafts, painting, comedy, magic, etc. Contact Marcy Male at 352-650-5103 or marcym127@tampabay.rr.com.

THE CORNER OF GRATITUDE

We are so blessed at St. Thomas! We are very grateful for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure! Here are just some of the reasons why...

For the **anonymous parishioner** who beautified our worship space with the stained glass window of the Holy Spirit that was installed just in time for Thanksgiving.

For **all who supported** our Thanksgiving food drive and Toys for Tots collection.

For the **Women's Guild** who recently purchased new altar linens; who assist with the weekly flower arrangements; and for sponsoring the annual flea market.

For **all who supported the Women's Guild flea market**. This year, they collected \$590 that will be used toward the ongoing beautification of our worship space. And the parish office collected \$230 for the parish building fund.

For the **Knights of Columbus Council 15154** who sponsored our annual parish dinner dance and the Toys for Tots toy drive.



Scan this QR code to see more photos of all of our events or go to our website & click About:Photo Albums.



Thank you
Volunteers!

We depend on our amazing volunteers to keep our church and ministries running smoothly. Fr. Glenn and the St. Thomas Pastoral Staff want to thank all volunteers, so please join us on **Volunteer Appreciation Day!** Wednesday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m. in the church.

Let's celebrate with food, fellowship, and raffles!
Your dedication means a lot to us.

MASS INTENTIONS // DAILY READINGS // PRAYER LIST

Sunday, December 10

8:00 am: Jeffrey Michael Sciscilo †
Requested by: The Morrow Family

10:30 am: Parish Family

Monday, December 11

8:00 am Mary Agnes Tansey †
Requested by: Loving husband Gene Tansey & Family

Tuesday, December 12

8:00 am: Lydia and Paita
Requested by: Rubio and Diaz Families

Wednesday, December 13

8:00 am: Roger Steinke †
Requested by: Greg & Susan Windmiller

Thursday, December 14

8:00 am: Lois H. Bodego †
Requested by: Loving sister, Norma Pafchek

Friday, December 15

8:00 am: Helen Tully †
Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

Saturday, December 16

4:30 pm: Anna Palazzi †
Requested by: Victor & Camilla Bocchino

Sunday, December 17

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Derrick Lepkowski †
Requested by: The Lepkowski Family

Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Monday

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest / Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



The Bread & Wine are donated
for Thursday, December 14,
in loving memory of
Lois H. Bodego †
by loving sister, Norma Pafchek

LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

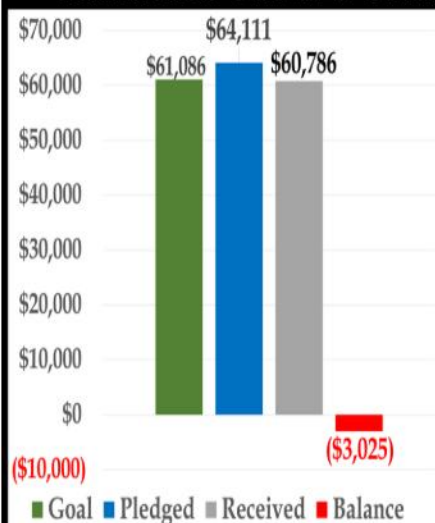
Please remember in your prayers all those in our parish family who are ill, especially:



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, Robert Firminger.

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

Thank You! to everyone who pledged or made a donation to our 2023 Catholic Ministry Appeal.



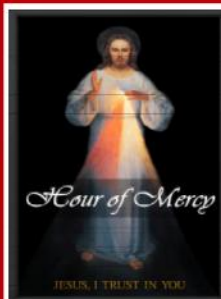
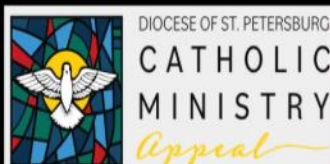
We are over goal!

Goal \$61,086

Pledged \$64,111

262 Pledges

55% Participation

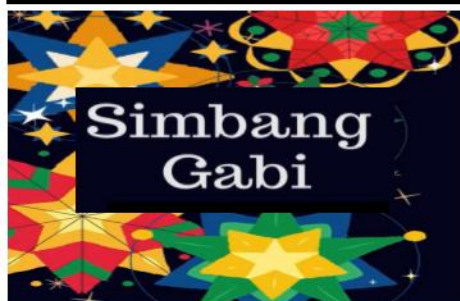


Join us on Friday,
December 15, at 3:00 pm for
an

Hour of Mercy.

Fr. Glenn extends a personal invitation to those who have been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This time is devoted to you to meet with Fr. Glenn in the confessional and experience God's healing mercy and forgiveness.

All parishioners are invited for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Benediction.



Join us for our first **Simbang Gabi!**

Simbang Gabi, which means "Night Mass", is a Filipino Advent tradition honoring the Blessed Mother.

The Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 22, at 6:00 p.m. but festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.

Thank You to everyone who entered the **"You Pick the Prize Raffle"** and helped us exceed our goal! **This is the last week to enter the raffle.** Tickets must be received by Friday, December 15. One lucky winner will be chosen at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 17!

YOU PICK THE PRIZE RAFFLE TICKET

Return this portion.

Donation Amount (circle): \$30 \$20 \$10 or \$_____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

(Maximum of \$30 per ticket)



In today's gospel, John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord. Christmas is a time of love and gift-giving...**please give to the St. Thomas Conference of the of St. Vincent de Paul Society, so those in need can share in the blessings of Christmas.**

In November our **visitation case workers** received 58 phone calls, served 30 households, and made 28 home visits that provided support for 72 individuals. Our volunteers delivered a total of 148 lbs. of food and distributed \$2,765.99 in support of the needy. They volunteered 181 hours and drove 654 miles in the service to our clients.

In November our **food pantry volunteers** worked 73 hours and distributed 3,820 pounds of food to our clients as well as forty \$15.00 Publix gift cards from the Pregnancy Center, 8 large cartons of potato chips from the fire department, 12 blankets bought with SVdP funds, and 7 turkeys donated by parishioners. We also gave out 1 pair of men's shoes, baking tins, socks, pastries, and bread.

Our food collection is next weekend, December 17/18. Your continued support is valued, and we gratefully accept any non-perishable food and hygiene items you can donate.

Our SVdP phone number for assistance is 352-628-3366. We are in need of volunteers to do home visits or help with our money and food collections. **Starting in January, our meeting schedule will change** to 4:00 p.m. on the first (spiritual meeting) & third (business meeting) Wednesdays of the month in St. Martin's Hall. All interested parishioners are invited to attend.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Occasion	Date	Mass Time	Special Activity
<u>Sundays of Advent:</u> Second Sunday Third (Gaudete) Sunday Fourth Sunday	Sunday, December 10 Sunday, December 17 Sunday, December 24	All Weekend Masses Vigil: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am	Lighting Advent Candles You Pick the Prize Raffle drawing will be at the Dec. 17 at 10:30 am Mass
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Thursday, December 7 Friday, December 8	4:30 pm 9:00 am	Holy Day of Obligation
Hour of Mercy	Friday, December 15	3:00 pm	Reconciliation, Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet (see pg. 5)
Christmas Concert: Festival of Lessons & Carols Cookies & Cocoa	Wednesday, December 20	3:00 pm	Music Ministry Concert followed by Women's Guild Cookies & Cocoa (See below)
Simbang Gabi	Friday, December 22	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Opening festivities Mass (See pg. 5)
Christmas Eve	Sunday, December 24	4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Children's Xmas Pageant Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25	8:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Day of Obligation Merry Christmas!
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God	Monday, January 1	9:00 am	There is no Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary Happy New Year!
Feast of the Epiphany	Sunday, January 7	Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am	



All are invited to the St. Thomas Music Ministry's Christmas Concert:
Festival of Lessons and Carols

The concert will be held on Wednesday, December 20, at 3:00 p.m. in the church. Immediately following the concert, the Women's Guild will host **Cookies and Cocoa** in St. Martin's Hall.
 Gluten-free options will be available.



Unto us a child is born
Isaiah 9:6

We invite all parishioners, their extended families, and friends to celebrate the
Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve: Children's Pageant at 4:00 p.m., Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m.
 Monday, December 25, Christmas Day: Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



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, across from the entrance to the office.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed every weekday following the 8:00 am Mass.
Together We Pray!



Sunday, December 10: Second Sunday of Advent Collections: Retirement Fund for Religious, SVdP Money, Toys for Tots	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	Mass Youth Faith Formation Mass Love More Ministry: Team C
Monday, December 11:	8:00 am 11:00 am	Mass Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting
Tuesday, December 12:	8:00 am 8:45 am	Mass: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Holy Face Devotion
Wednesday, December 13:	8:00 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm	Mass Volunteer Appreciation Day (see pg. 3) Knights of Columbus Meeting
Thursday, December 14:	8:00 am 8:30 am 1:00 pm	Mass Holy Hour Bereavement Group
Friday, December 15:	8:00 am 10:00 am 3:00 pm	Mass Choir Rehearsal Hour of Mercy (see pg. 5)
Saturday, December 16:	3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 17: Third Sunday of Advent Collections: Christmas Flowers, SVdP Food Collection	8:00 am 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am	Mass YFF Class Mass + <i>You Pick the Prize</i> Raffle drawing (see pg. 5)

Elderly Religious Need Your Help!

The Retirement Fund for Religious raises funds for the Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders that for most of their lives worked for little or no pay and do not have 401(k) or pension plans. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicines, and other necessities. ~ retiredreligious.org

The collection is this weekend - please give generously.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos

retiredreligious.org



**This is the last weekend
for the Toys for Tots
collection.**

Thank you! to everyone
who brought in a gift - we
collected over 400 items!

PRAYER FOR ANNA



Lord, grant Anna the forever home
that she deserves and strongly de-
sires.

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

More information is available at heartgallerytamap.org



Diocesan is proud to be printing St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin



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Juan Raposo, M.D. - Revisions/Total Joints
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 Injuries Shoulder/Knee
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