



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

H O M O S A S S A , F L O R I D A

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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 17, 2023





TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

17 December 2023 | Third Sunday of Advent, Year B



December 17, 2023 | Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

1. Fr. Glenn and the parish staff ask you all to keep two of our staff members in your prayers, Bob Adams and Karen Ballaban, as they battle cancer and focus on their treatments, so they can both return to work here at St Thomas. Karen B. has asked us to relieve her of bulletin duties, so she can focus on recovery. We hired **Juanita Fuge** to work on the bulletin to keep everyone up-to-date on all our parish activities. Juanita has ample experience with publications and will be an asset to us. Please join me in welcoming Juanita to our staff.



2. I have always found it strange how the **secular world** celebrates Christmas. In my old neighborhood in Pasco County, and I am sure this happens everywhere, Christmas decorations were up right at Thanksgiving. Folks put the lights on every night, and I have to say many had very elaborate displays. Walking my dog was great because it was so bright in the neighborhood. What I found maddening started December 26th, when people would already stop displaying their lights and began taking them down! I wanted to find a way to let people know that they had it backwards, Christmas was just starting when they took things down. Soon it will be Christmas time!



2. Last week our children in faith formation had a visit from Good Old Saint Nickolas himself. Many in the Roman Catholic faith are not as familiar with this true story of Sinter Klaus, (Santa Claus). **St. Nicholas of Bari** was a Bishop in Myra (modern day Turkey). Bishop Nickolas loved the nativity narrative and modeled his life around that love and the gift of Jesus. I invite you all to read about this wonderful man and how the modern world created Santa from his life. May we all love Jesus as he did and appreciate the gift given to us at Christmas.

3. Today we celebrate **Gaudete Sunday**, the pink candle is lit, and the clergy wear pink to match. It is the third week of Advent, representing Joy. Isaiah, Mary, John, and Paul rejoice because they know the Lord is with them and working through them, as He is with us. We need to share our Joy as they did with our family and friends that we have been blessed with. We are reminded that we need to rejoice without ceasing, and in all circumstances give thanks. It is not easy. Like St Nickolas, let's recognize that gift of Jesus every day in our lives. Let us look to the light of Christ and exult in the Good News. Amen.



Deacon Mark Manko | 5 December 2023

If you can't join us for Christmas, visit MyCatholicMass.org to find a church and mass time near you.



♪ O COME, LET US
ADORE HIM ♪
AT A CATHOLIC MASS NEAR YOU
MyCatholicMass.org



MASS INTENTIONS // DAILY READINGS // FLOWERS // PRAYER LIST

Sunday, December 17

8:00 am: Parish Family

10:30 am: Derrick Lepkowski†

Requested by: The Lepkowski Family

Monday, December 18

8:00 am: Salesian Priests, living & deceased

Requested by: Olivia Bruce Kosling

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 am: Martha Roman

Requested by: Diaz & Rubio Families

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 am: Edmund Marino†

Requested by: The Morrow Family

Thursday, December 21

8:00 am: Patricia C. Sheridan†

Requested by: Charles J. Sheridan & Family

Friday, December 22

8:00 am: Lillian Gimlett†

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

6:00 pm: Clotilde & Virgilio Diaz

Requested by: The Robben Family

Saturday, December 23

4:30 pm: John B. Schell†

Requested by: Robert & Christina Schell

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am: Leona Curtis†

Requested by: Dolores Fiore

10:30 am: Gordon Gould†

Requested by: Kevin Gould

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm: Josephine Pardo†

Requested by: Iris Rose

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

Monday

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



This week's altar flowers are donated by the **Women's Guild**



All women of the parish are invited to join the Guild. The next meeting is Wednesday, December 20, for 10:30 am rosary in the church and 11:00 am meeting in St. Martin's Hall.

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 Ciosi, Terry Brausch, Robert Adams, Karen Ballaban.

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



Come, make merry with your parish family!



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,
join us in St. Martin's Hall for the
Women's Guild Cookies & Cocoa!

Gluten-free options will be available.

Youth Faith Formation Advent Sales

The money collected from the Youth Faith Formation Advent sales totaled \$410! We partnered with the Boys & Girls Club in Homosassa to purchase gifts for a family of five children. Thank you for your support of our children and your donations to this worthy cause!



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.



Unto us a child is born
Isaiah 9:6

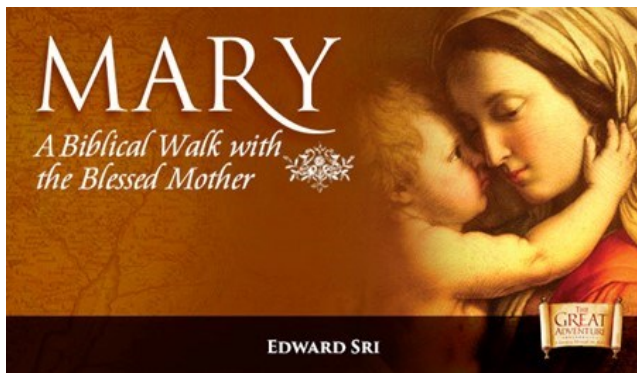
We invite all parishioners, their extended families, and friends to celebrate the
Nativity of the Lord

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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Occasion	Date	Mass Time	Special Activity
Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent	Sunday, December 17	Vigil: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am	Lighting Advent Candles
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 Pg. 4)
Simbang Gabi	Friday, December 22	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Opening festivities Mass (See Pg. 4)
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday, December 24	Vigil: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am	Lighting Advent Candles You Pick the Prize Drawing: December 17 at the 10:30 am Mass
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, 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	

Make a New Year's Resolution to Grow in Your Faith.



Join our next bible study to be led by Deacon Mark Manko: **Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother.** This bible study is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. This study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ. **Classes will be held on Mondays at 2:00 pm beginning February 26, 2024. Please note the time change.** The cost of the workbook is \$26.95. Contact the office to reserve your spot!



Catechism in a Year

Join us as we read the Catechism in a Year. This **free email series** from Flocknote begins on January 1, 2024.

E- mails are scheduled on weekdays only (Monday thru Friday) and cover the entire catechism in a year! This study uses the Vatican-approved *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* and includes direct links to the full Catechism for further reading.

Make a New Year's Resolution to increase your knowledge of your Catholic faith just by scanning the QR code to the right. Or you can contact the parish office to enroll. Due to copyright restrictions, this material is only for use in the United States.



Spend time with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Adoration is held every First Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. *He is waiting for you.*

“Take; this is my body”

—Mark 14:22

The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is real, true, and substantial.

“Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love.” (St. John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae*, no. 3)



“It is called: Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God.” (CCC, no. 1328)

Eucharist “makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior.” (CCC, no. 1330)

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

at the November 26 10:30 a.m. Mass, we held an indoor procession. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Glenn, and assisted by Deacon Mark, with Willie Erana and Joe McEvoy serving, and Carter and Ashton Poco as candle bearers. Margaret Velasquez brought up the offertory gifts.



Qualified Charitable Distribution



Qualified Charitable Distributions

When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may consider making charitable donations through a Qualified Charitable Distribution. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met. If you're 70½ years of age or older, you are eligible to make a QCD. Download our QCD form at www.mystthomas.org/giving to assist you in making a QCD to St. Thomas.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2024
THE FUN BEGINS AT 11:30 AM

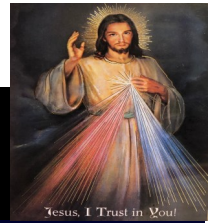


Can you cook, bake, act, sing, or craft?
Join us in making the Festival fun for all!

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 church is open Monday - 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 office.



THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

is prayed every weekday following the 8:00 am Mass.

Together We Pray!

Sunday, December 17: Third Sunday of Advent Collections: Christmas Flowers, SVdP Food Collection	8:00 am	Mass Please note that the Recitation of the Rosary will start at 8:25 am. Youth Faith Formation Class Mass + You Pick the Prize Raffle drawing
	9:00 am	
	10:30 am	
Monday, December 18:	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Mass RCIA
Tuesday, December 19:	8:00 am 8:45 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion
Wednesday, December 20:	8:00 am 10:30 am / 11:00 am 3:00 pm 4:00 pm	Mass Women's Guild Rosary & Meeting Christmas Concert and Cookies & Cocoa St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting
Thursday, December 21:	8:00 am 8:30 am 9:30 am 1:00 pm	Mass Holy Hour Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Bereavement Group
Friday, December 22:	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Mass Simbang Gabi
Saturday, December 23:	3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent Collections: Christmas Flowers	8:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Please note that the Recitation of the Rosary will start at 7:25 am. Mass + You Pick the Prize Raffle drawing
Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve	4:00 pm 4:30 pm	YFF Christmas Pageant Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 25: Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord	8:00 am 10:30 am	Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Flower Offering

In Memory / Honor of...
(Please Print)

- ☐ In Memory of
- ☐ In Honor of
- ☐ In Memory of
- ☐ In Honor of
- ☐ In Memory of
- ☐ In Honor of
- ☐ In Memory of
- ☐ In Honor of



Christmas Flower Offering envelopes are available in the narthex of the church. Please include your donation for 'In Memory of' or 'In Honor of' and drop the envelope in any weeked collection. Your donations will be used for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas. *Thank you!*



Marriage Troubles? If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help, as it has helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program begins **January 26-28, 2024**. For more information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, or call (727) 343-6701.

Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.