



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

7040 S Suncoast Blvd.
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

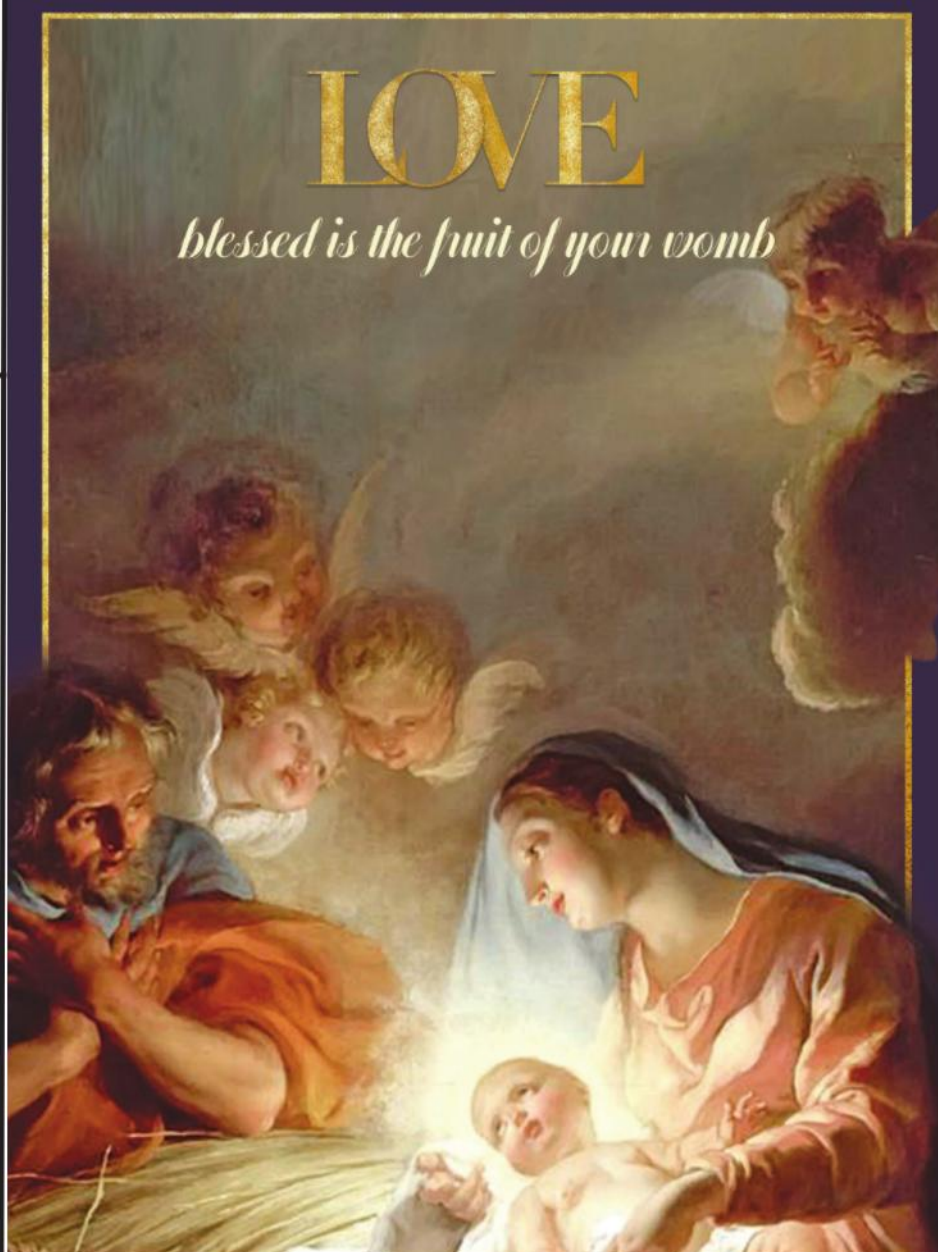
Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor and
Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office & Comms. Mgr.

December 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT





Unto us a child is born
Isaiah 9:6

Christmas 2023

My dear parishioners,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." (Isaiah 9:5)

Our gift-giving during Christmas is an echo of the gifts brought by the magi for the newly born Jesus. It also calls to mind the life and ministry of St. Nicholas, famed for his fondness of giving gifts. Ultimately it should remind us that Jesus himself is God's gift to us.

As we approach to adore the humble baby, lying on a manger, let us not forget that He is truly Emmanuel, God with us. This child is truly a sign of God's presence among us. This Christmas I pray that we ourselves may be transformed into signs of God's presence here in our little corner of God's kingdom.

May I invite you to reflect upon how you will share the hope and joy that Christmas brings with your family and friends. And as you consider your Christmas giving, I ask that you include on your list a ***one-time Christmas gift to St. Thomas***, your spiritual home.

Thank you for being a valued member of our parish family. May the blessings of Christmas be with you and yours all throughout the coming year 2024!

Sincerely,

Fr GLENN

Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Homosassa, Florida

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.

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



A CHRISTMAS WELCOME

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, skinny as a rail, or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up, or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, you're down in the dumps, or if you don't like "organized religion" — we've been there, too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

*Author Unknown

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



**Bring a canned good for St. Vincent de Paul to the festival,
and receive a free raffle ticket to win a gift certificate to Hole in One Donuts.**

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.

MASS INTENTIONS // DAILY READINGS // PRAYER LIST

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 am: Christopher McMurray†, Mary Anne McMurray†, and Aresenia Austria†
Requested by: Thelma McMurray

10:30 am: Riches & Prefer Families Living & Deceased
Requested by: Jane and Joe Prefer

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00 am: Arthur Frisbie†
Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:00 am: William Gavin† and Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Payette†
Requested by: Norma Galvin

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00 am: For the well being of Deborah Gale Pollard
Requested by: Gael Palumbo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00 am: Pauline & Josph Pafchek & Family†
Requested by: Daughter & Sister Norma Pafchek

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:30 pm: Our Parish Family

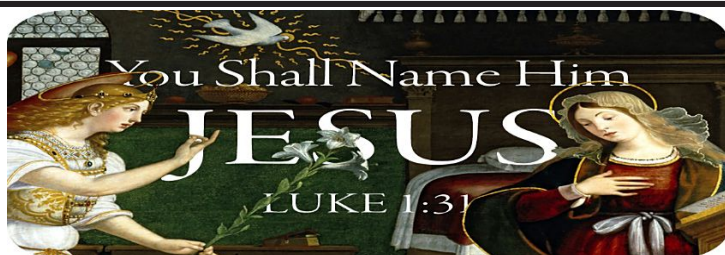
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 am: Donald Kosling†
Requested by: Olivia Bruce Kosling

10:30 am: Beverly J. Floreno†
Requested by: Beverly & Joseph McEvoy



The Bread & Wine are donated for Friday, December 29, in loving memory of Pauline & Josph Pafchek & Family† by daughter & sister, Norma Pafchek.



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

Monday

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass During the night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62: 11-12; Ps 97: 1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday

Feast of Saint John, Apostle Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday

Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday

Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

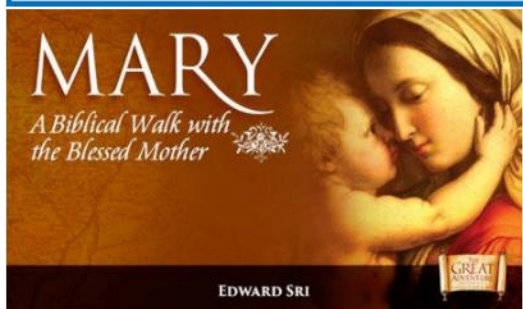
Please remember in your prayers all those in our parish family who are ill, especially:

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.

People will remain on our prayer list for three months.
To add or remove someone, please contact the parish office.



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 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. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ. **Classes will be held for eight sessions 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 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. Just scan the QR code to the right or contact the parish office to enroll. Due to copyright restrictions, this material is only for use in the US.



Join us for a special Mass In Honor of the Holy Child
SANTO NIÑO de CEBU
on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at the 10:30 am Mass.

Two main reasons why the devotion to Santo Niño (Holy Child) is the most popular in the Philippines. First, it is our oldest devotion, with roots going back to the early beginnings of Christianity in the Philippines. Second, in the Santo Niño, we Filipinos see our God in the form of a child, and who doesn't love little children? As a child, God is so endearing that he invites our affection. Join our celebration and together let's dance the Sinulog. Pit Senyor!

~ Fr. Glenn

ADVENT 2023



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



The *Respect Life Ministry* wants everyone to be aware of a campaign to get a dangerous pro-abortion amendment on the ballot in November 2024. Take a stand against abortion with the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, and don't sign any petitions!

FLORIDIANS SHOULD DECLINE TO SIGN PETITION FOR DANGEROUS PRO-ABORTION AMENDMENT

An extremely grave initiative is underway in Florida that seeks to erase pro-life protections by inserting language into the Florida Constitution banning regulation of abortion. Abortion activists are working to gather petition signatures to place a pro-abortion constitutional amendment, titled *Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion*, on the November 2024 ballot. This amendment would allow abortion up until birth, including when the baby is capable of feeling pain, and would eliminate laws requiring parental consent and safety protocols for women.

Floridians should not sign the petition.

Please spread the word to your spheres of influence and continue to pray for the protection of the unborn.



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

Meet the newest disciples of Jesus! They just completed the **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults** (formerly RCIA), and they are entering into full communion with the Church at the Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 23. Please join us in congratulating them!



Gary McDowell



Kim Pauley



Marilyn Scheftic



The **Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving** will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 3:00 pm. This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th anniversary as well as those celebrating 50 or more years of marriage during the 2024 calendar year. To register, please call our parish office by Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

AED



Automated External Defibrillator
Equipped Facility

Our church and hall are each equipped with an automated external defibrillator (AED). If you're wondering what an AED is, you're not alone.

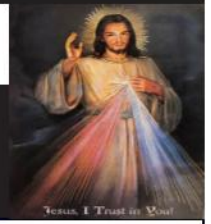
Join us in the church on Wednesday, January 17, at 11:00 a.m. for a training session with the Citrus County Fire Marshall. There will be instructions on when and how to use an AED as well as a question and answer session.

No registration for the training is required. Bring your friends and neighbors to this important session—*what you learn could save someone's life!*



EVENTS & COLLECTIONS

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!

DATE	TIME	EVENT/NOTES
Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent Collection: Christmas Flowers	8:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Please note that the Recitation of the Rosary will start at 7:25 am. Mass
Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve	4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Christmas Pageant Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 25: Holy Day of Obligation Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord	8:00 am 10:30 am	The office is closed. Mass Mass



Tuesday, December 26: Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr	8:00 am 8:45 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion
Wednesday, December 27: Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	8:00 am	Mass
Thursday, December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs	8:00 am 8:45 am 1:00 pm	Mass / No Holy Hour Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Prayer Group Bereavement Group
Friday, December 29:	8:00 am	Mass
Saturday, December 30:	3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 31: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Collection: Catholic School & Camp	Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am	Happy New Year!

**May the blessings of Christmas be with you today
and all throughout the coming year!**



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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Jared Salinsky, D.O. - General Ortho
George Kardashian, M.D. - Hand/Elbow
Juan Raposo, M.D. - Revisions/Total Joints
Kirill Ilalov, M.D. - Spine
Dragomir Mijic, D.O. - Shoulder
Dolfi Herscovici, D.O. - Foot/Ankle
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Kenton Panas, M.D. - Sports Injuries Shoulder/Knee
Patrick Dermarkarian, M.D. - Spine
Christopher Reyher, M.D. - Psychiatry/General
Huy Nguyen, M.D. - Psychiatry/General
Alexander Pappas, D.P.M. - Podiatrist



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