



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

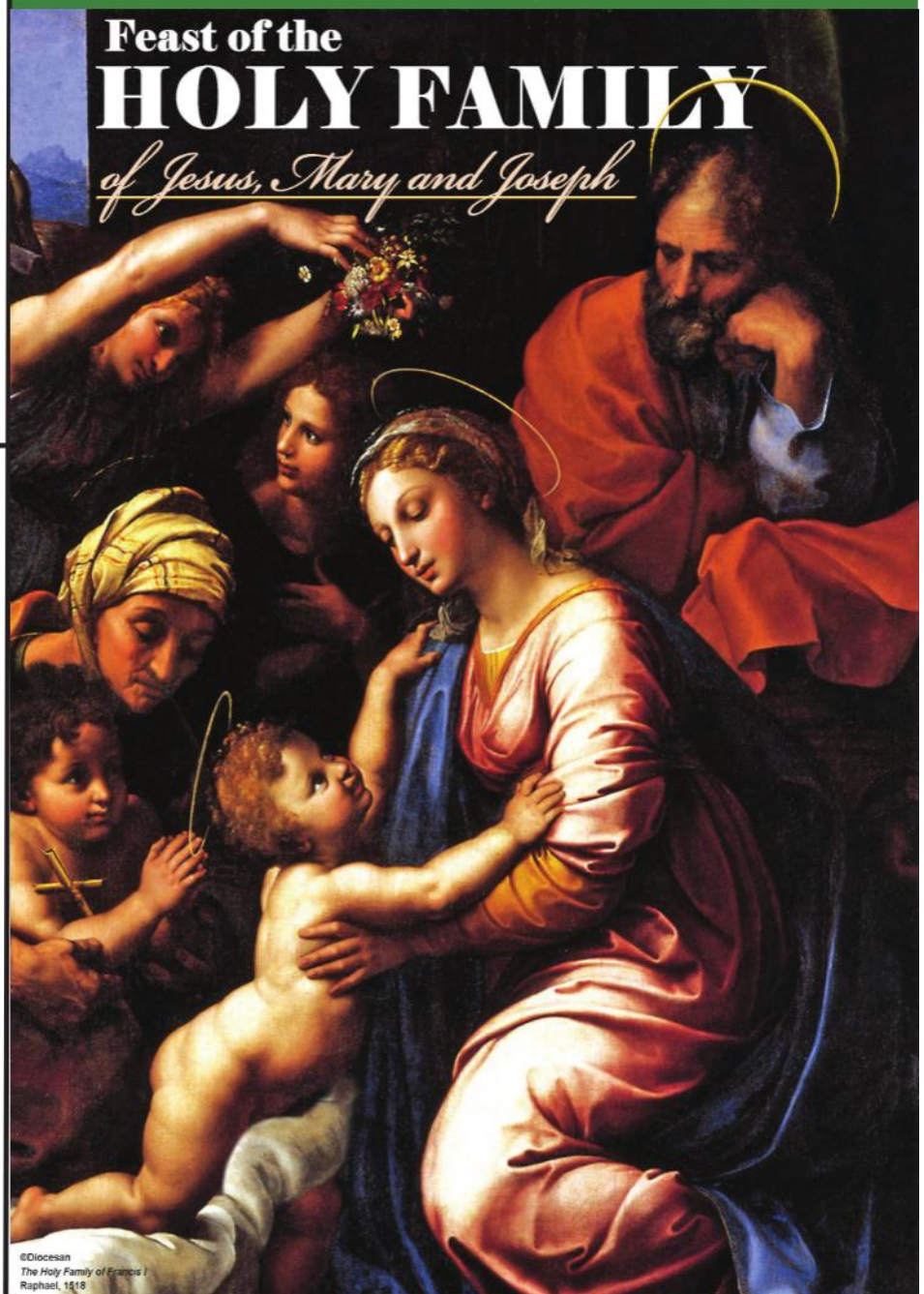
Rev. J. Glenn Diaz, Pastor

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 31, 2023



©Diocesan
The Holy Family of Francis
Raphael, 1518



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK



31 December 2023 | Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Year B

31 December 2023 | Feast of the Holy Family, Year B

1. Today we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**. I am reminded of the donation of the Holy Family statue that now graces our church, and how thankful I am for the generosity of Dolores Mottle and other parishioners, known and unknown to me, who over the years have helped grow and beautify our church. It is only by their care for the future generations of our church and our faith that we are here today, from our founders - the Rev. James Hoge and those who are commemorated on the Founder's Day plaque in the narthex - to all who are reading this bulletin. St. Thomas has truly been blessed.

2. Tomorrow, Monday, January 1, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God**. We'll have just one Mass for this celebration, which is at 9:00 a.m. This is the Octave Day of Christmas, but since it falls on a Monday this year, the obligation to observe it as a Holy Day has been suppressed. This usually happens when Christmas falls on a Monday; it seems to condense our holy day celebrations, putting them right next to each other. Perhaps it's one way to help us remember to keep God at the center of our lives.



3. Our **readings this weekend** are full of the imagery of family. We are told in the first reading (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14) to honor our fathers and revere our mothers. The second reading (Colossians 3:12-21) tells us how important our family is by reminding us how to treat each other - this passage alone is a recipe for New Year's resolutions. Then we have in our gospel reading (Luke 2:22-40) the story of Jesus' presentation at the temple by Mary and Joseph. They followed the Jewish laws and customs, and presented their first born, Jesus, to be consecrated to the Lord. But the story focuses on Simeon, a man filled with the Holy Spirit, and Anna, a prophetess. We can see God's faithfulness to them in their stories, for He fulfilled his promise of letting them see the salvation of Israel before they died. Simeon and Anna lived long lives, plagued by hardship, yet they remained faithful to God, and God rewarded their faithfulness. It is the same for us: if we remain faithful through the hardships in our lives, so God will reward our faithfulness and answer our prayers.

Karen M. Robben | 4 December 2023

Our 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.

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.

**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.**



November Family of the Month

Congratulations to the List Family, who have been selected as the Knights of Columbus November Family of the Month.

The Knights of Columbus looks for registered parishioners who attend weekly mass, have an active prayer life, and give evidence of strong Christian Family values. Pictured is three generations of the List Family.

Please join the Knights in congratulating them as the November Family of the Month!



NATIONAL

**Eucharistic
Revival**

Have Eucharistic Miracles been acknowledged by the Catholic Church?

Eucharistic miracles serve as a testament to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and since they defy natural explanations, the Church employs a rigorous investigation to ensure their authenticity.

Miracles have occurred due to a doubting priest, by irresponsible or accidental mistreatment of a consecrated host, or even a criminal act of mistreatment or sacrilege. On the other hand, some because of an extraordinary devotion to or a great longing for the Eucharist. A significant number take the form of incorruptible flesh and blood. Others result in physical or spiritual healing, raptures and ecstasies, and visions of Jesus. Some of the more famous of these Eucharistic miracles include:

Lanciano: Arguably the most famous Eucharistic miracle is the Miracle of Lanciano in the 8th century. Not only was there a visible transformation of the bread and wine into flesh and blood, but both also remain today as incorruptible and displayed in the Church of St. Francis in Lanciano. Scientific investigation in 1970 concluded that the flesh is muscular tissue of the heart wall, and both flesh and blood are human with blood type AB.

Bolsena: During the 13th century in the town of Bolsena, Italy, a priest who was struggling with doubts about the Eucharist saw blood seeping from the consecrated host during Mass. This miracle led to the institution of the Feast of Corpus Christi by Pope Urban IV in 1264.

Buenos Aires: More recently in 1996, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a consecrated host took on the appearance of bloody flesh after accidentally being dropped on the floor. The results of rigid scientific investigations ordered by Bishop Jorge Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) have confirmed the presence of human blood from the left ventricle of the heart muscle. Samples from this and the 8th century Lanciano miracle (see above) have since determined that both samples came from the same person.

The Catholic Church has recognized some of the Eucharistic miracles throughout history, which are typically considered matters of faith, rather than scientifically confirmed events. It's important to note that perspectives on these events may differ among Catholics. Not all of these events are officially recognized by the Catholic Church.

~ Greg Windmiller

Notes: See especially: Joan Carroll Cruz, Eucharistic Miracles and Eucharistic Phenomena in the Lives of the Saints, Tan Books, 2020; and Catholic News, Argentina, Archdiocese of Buenos Aires (www.catholicnewsagency.com) one of many sources for the Buenos Aires miracles.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 am: Donald Kosling†

Requested by: Olivia Bruce Kosling

10:30 am: Beverly J. Floreno†

Requested by: Beverly & Joseph McEvoy

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00 am: M.J. Edge†, Verna Adams†, and

Tom & Claire Ballaban†

Requested by: Karen Ballaban

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

8:00 am: Christina Rondinelli†

Requested by: Louis Rondinelli

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

8:00 am: Miriam Belcher†

Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczur

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

8:00 am: In Thanksgiving for All Graces Received

Requested by: Juanita Fuge

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

8:00 am: The Souls in Purgatory†

Requested by: The Divine Will Prayer Group

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

8:00 am: The Souls in Purgatory†

Requested by: The Divine Will Prayer Group

4:30 pm: Dolores† & Joseph† McEvoy

Requested by: Beverly & Joseph McEvoy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:00 am: Christopher Manko†

Requested by: Julie Szucsik & Ruthann Pullen

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
Monday	Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday	Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday	Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday	Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Friday	Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51
Saturday	Memorial of Saint André Bessette, Religious 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Saturday, December 31,
through Friday, January 6

This week's Altar Flowers
are donated in
loving memory of
Christina Rondinelli†

*Comforted by the promise of salvation,
may you enjoy a New Year overflowing
with the joy that only God can provide.*

Happy New Year!

From Fr. Glenn & the Pastoral Staff

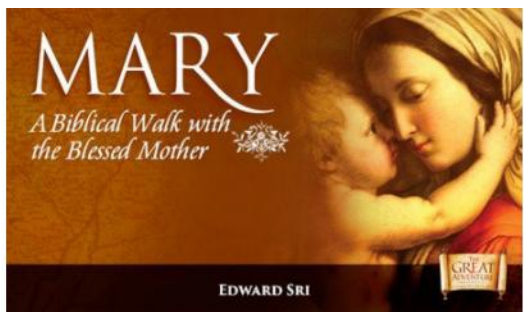
LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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, 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.





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 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.

There are 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



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**REGISTER
HERE**

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Parishioner Registration Weekend is January 20 & 21, 2024.

Your Parish Needs You & You Need Your Parish!

By registering at a parish, you are declaring your desire to be part of a Catholic faith community. If you have recently moved to the area or if you are a long-time resident, please consider registering with St. Thomas!

Top Reasons to Register:

- A sense of belonging and identity in a parish community.
- It is a commitment to practice your faith.
- Registration enables the pastor and staff to get to know you, welcome you, and minister to you.
- Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you.

Members of the staff will be available at the front entrance to assist you with registration.

Scan the QR code to register or go online at www.MyStThomas.org/join-us.



*We look forward to welcoming you
to St. Thomas!*



The WINNER of our Fourth Annual Pick the Prize Raffle is *Edward Smolski!*

The final jackpot for the raffle was \$11,621! Ed had a \$30 raffle ticket and won 30% of the overall prize - \$3,486.30!

Congratulations, Ed!

Thank you to everyone who entered our raffle and helped us exceed our goal of \$9,000! The parking lot improvements have already been made, and we hope you like the results.



Say a Prayer... to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families, too, may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel, and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection, and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 325

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!



The **Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving** will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 3:00pm. 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.

Is your will a **CHRISTIAN WILL?**

Remembering St. Thomas the Apostle Church in your will says something about what was meaningful in your life. To remember St. Thomas in your will, please ask your attorney to use the following terminology:

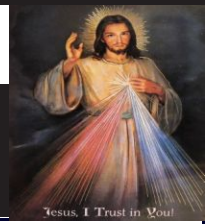
I give, devise, and bequeath (dollar amount, stocks, etc.) to Gregory L. Parkes, as Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, and his Successors in Office, for the sole use of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 7040 S. Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa, FL, 34446.

Note that 100% of all monies contributed to St. Thomas the Apostle Church via bequests stay with the parish and are never assessed by the Diocese.



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 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	Going forward, the Recitation of the Rosary at the 8:00 am Mass will start at 7:25 am.
Monday, January 1 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God	9:00 am There is no Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary	Mass. The office is closed. <i>Happy New Year!</i>
Tuesday, January 2	8:00 am 8:45 am 11:00 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion Respect Life Ministry
Wednesday, January 3	8:00 am 4:00 pm	Mass St. Vincent de Paul Spiritual Meeting
Thursday, January 4	8:00 am 9:15 am 1:00 pm	Mass Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Prayer Group Bereavement Group
Friday, January 5	8:00 am 8:30 am 8:30 am 11:00 am	Mass First Friday Adoration until Noon Vianney Cenacle Knights of Columbus Holy Hour
Saturday, January 6	8:00 am 9:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	First Saturday Mass Respect Life Ministry First Saturday Rosary Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 7 Feast of the Epiphany Collections: Initial Offering, PFLC		Name Tag Weekend



And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
Matthew 28:20

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

is a special time to visit Jesus; to give him thanks for our redemption; to praise Jesus' love; to thank God for granting us grace, joy, and hope; and to be united with Jesus in the sacrament.

Join us on the **First Friday of the year, January 5**, and spend an hour with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, **following the 8:00 a.m. Mass until noon.**

The **Vianney Cenacle** will pray the rosary for the sanctification of priests beginning at 8:30 am, and the **Knights of Columbus** will have their Holy Hour beginning at 11:00 am.

The FIRST SATURDAY

of the year is January 6.
Mass is held at 8:00 a.m., followed by confession, & the *Respect Life Ministry's* First Saturday Rosary at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join us, as we pray for the respect of all life from conception to natural death.





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



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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
Korey Yngstrom, D.O. - Hip/Trauma
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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