



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

## HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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***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](http://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

Steve Balcom: Maintenance

Karen Ballaban: Comms. Specialist

Juanita Fuge: Bulletin Editor

Robin Furciato: Coord. of Religious Ed.

David Martin: Custodian

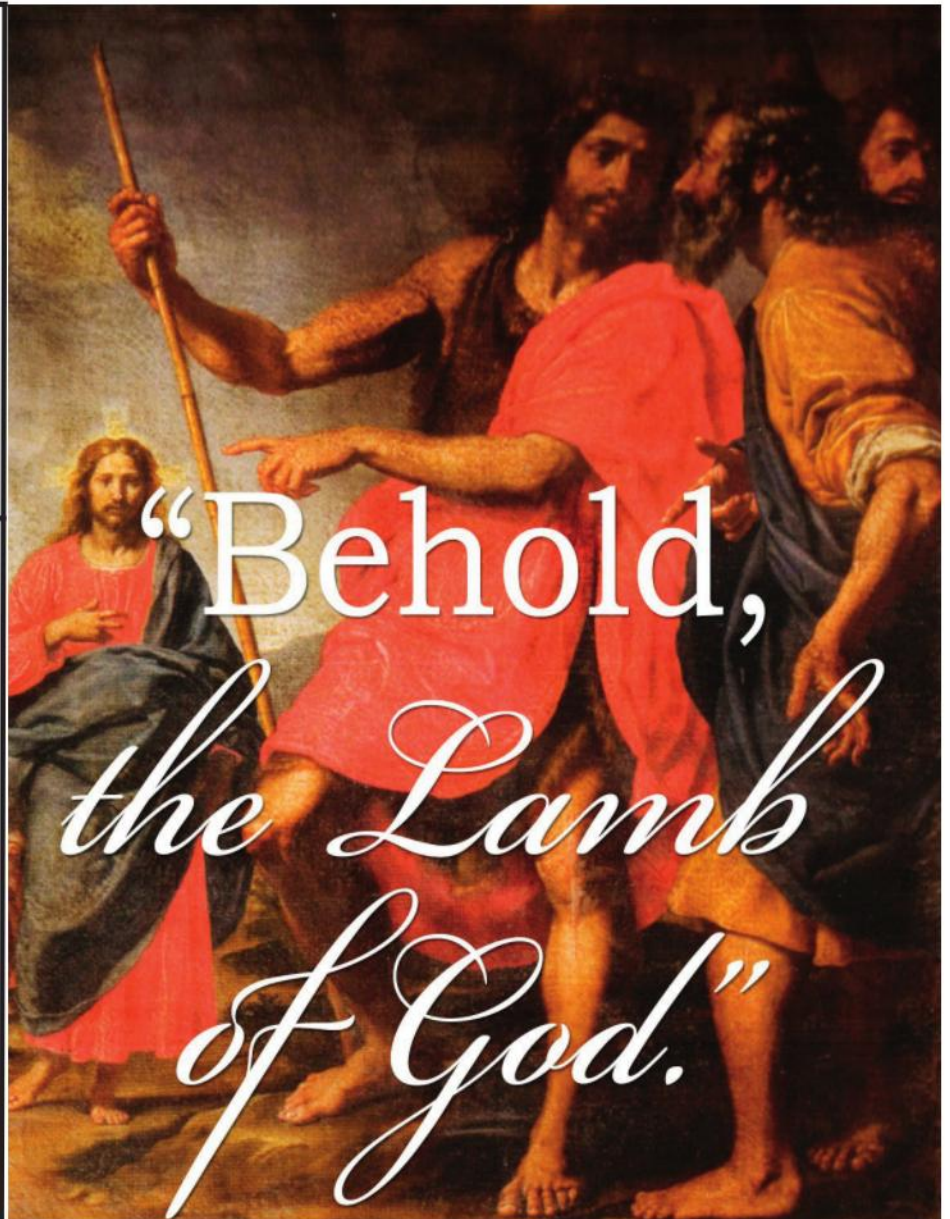
Joseph McEvoy: Pastoral Assistant

Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director

Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor and  
Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office & Comms. Mgr.



*January 14, 2024*

*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*



# TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

14 January, 2024, *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*



## TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

14 January 2024 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1. The songs that we sing in church for our Sunday liturgy are not just chosen at random, but carefully chosen to match the liturgy for that weekend. During these years when we are observing the National Eucharistic Revival, I have asked our choir to lead us in singing a **traditional Eucharistic hymn** right after communion. My favorite among these is "Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All" by Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863). Singing these songs fosters a sense of continuity with the past. It helps preserve and pass on the beauty of sacred music, contributing to a collective worship experience that transcends generations. These hymns often carry profound theological meanings, thus deepening our understanding of the Eucharist.

2. This week you will receive in the mail my letter inviting all parishioners to participate in the **Catholic Ministry Appeal 2024**. This annual appeal is a reminder for us to support the various critical ministries of our diocese that no one single parish could address alone. We have a lower **goal for 2024: \$59,640**, yay! Our goal for 2023 was \$61,085. Out of the 477 total number of families in our parish at the beginning of 2023, 262 families made a pledge (about 55% participation rate). Hopefully this year, we'll have more parishioners supporting CMA. Our commitment weekend is on January 27-28. If you're still unable to make a pledge, please consider making a one-time contribution of \$20 for CMA.

3. "What are you looking for?" we hear Jesus asking in today's **gospel** (John 1:35-42). What do you want? In whatever stage of life we may find ourselves right now, it would be good for us to ask ourselves today this question: What is it that I want for the rest of my life? If we ponder on this question long enough, we will realize that we are really looking for love, for peace and happiness. We are looking for meaning. We are really looking for God. Today let us ask for the grace to be open to our Lord's invitation to "Come and see." May we have the generosity to answer his call and to be of service to God and to one another.

Fr. Glenn | 9 December, 2023

Our beautiful new stained glass windows.  
Thank you anonymous donors!





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

### Sunday, January 14

8:00 am: Our Parish Family

10:30 am: Deceased Members of the Gerbino Family†

Requested by: Pauline & Tony Gerbino

### Monday, January 15

8:00 am: 52nd Anniversary of Scott & Jeanne Shaw

Requested by: Scott & Jeanne Shaw

### Tuesday, January 16

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

Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

### Wednesday, January 17

8:00 am: William Brooks†

Requested by: Patricia Brooks

### Thursday, January 18

8:00 am: St. Thomas Bereavement Group

Requested by: Anonymous

### Friday, January 19

8:00 am: Jane Callahan†

Requested by: John T Callahan, Jr.

### Saturday, January 20

4:30 pm: Our Parish Family

### Sunday, January 21

8:00 am: Christopher Manko†

Requested by: Jane & Joe Prefer

10:30 am: Art Frisbie†

Requested by: Cherie & Dick Byrnes

### Scripture Readings

For the Week of January 14, 2024

#### Sunday

#### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

#### Monday

1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mk 2:18-22

#### Tuesday

1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28

#### Wednesday

#### Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbot

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6

#### Thursday

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mk 3:7-12

#### Friday

1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11; Mk 3:13-19

#### Saturday

#### Memorial of Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr and Saint Sebastian, Martyr

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21

#### Sunday

#### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

### 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.

### 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, Karen Ballaban, Gene Koczur, Wayne Stringer, Mark Fuge, Karl Wolf

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

# Support Our Catholic Ministry Appeal!

More numerous than the stars in the sky are your blessings, O Good and Gracious God. You have called us to spread the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ, through our words and actions.

Strengthen our faith and open our hearts to care for all our brothers and sisters, especially those ■ who need us the most.

Help us to understand the difference we can make, the love we can share, and the lives we can bring to Christ through our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

We pray that your grace, O Lord, will lead us to be your loving heart and hands today.

*Amen*



With gratitude for your generosity, we exceeded our goal in 2023 of \$61,086! Our parish pledged \$64,681 - 106% of our goal! Our commitment weekend for the 2024 Catholic Ministry Appeal is January 27 & 28. Our goal for 2024 is lower than last year at \$59,640.



As disciples of Jesus, we are called to continue God's work on earth. Taking care of God's poor is one way to live gospel values. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing food, and paying utility, rent, and other bills. **May God Bless you for your continuing support!**

In December our Visitation Case Workers received **95** phone calls. They served **77** households and made **41** home visits that provided support for **77** individuals. Our volunteers delivered a total of **325 lbs.** of food and distributed **\$5482.87** in support of the needy. They volunteered **252** hours and drove **836** miles in the service to our clients.

Our Food Pantry had **112** Cases that provided support for **309** individuals. Our Food Pantry had **21** volunteers who worked **69** hours stocking shelves and giving out **3050** pounds of food to our clients.

We also gave out 22 \$15.00 Publix gift cards, 2 hams, bread and pastries; as well as numerous toys, socks, children's underwear, T-shirts, gloves, sweatshirts, blankets, mats, candles, and Christmas ornaments, and one blow-up mattress.

Our SVDP phone number for **assistance** is **352-628-3366**. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please tell them to call us. **We are still trying to recruit volunteers to do home visits or to help with our money and food collections. All interested parishioners are invited to attend our meetings** which are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month @ 4:00 PM in St Martin's Hall or call Bill Scarfo, 727 230-1883, or Pauline Papino, 401 241-9404 for more information. Next weekend January 20-21, SVdP collects food for the needy.

***Items currently in short supply are listed below; however,*** we continue to accept, and very much appreciate, all food items that you kindly donate. **Canned meats (Chicken, Ham, Spam & Tuna), Dry Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, Hearty Soups, Chef Boyardee, Chili, Vegetables, Pork & Beans, Beans: Kidney or Black; Rice, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Marshmallow Fluff, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Sugar, Flour, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Relish & Mustard. Coffee, Tea, Dry Milk, Evaporated Milk. Laundry Soap, Dishwashing Liquid; Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Napkins. Personal Care Items: Bar Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes**





### December Family of the Month

Congratulations to the Bello Family, selected as the Knights of Columbus December Family of the Month. Lauren has been a server and is a Lector at the 10:30 am Mass. Clarissa is a past sacristan for the Sunday Mass, and very active with the Church.

The Knights of Columbus look for registered parishioners who attend weekly mass, have an active prayer life, and give evidence of strong Christian Family values. Please join the Knights in congratulating them as the December Family of the Month!

### Christmas Festivities Lessons and Carols, Cookies and Cocoa, and Simbang Gabi



See more pictures for these events on Flickr.  
Go to our website at [MyStThomas.org](http://MyStThomas.org) and click on About: Photo Albums



Our next bible study to be led by Deacon Mark Manko: **Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother has reached capacity.** Please contact the Office to be placed on the wait list. Thank you for your interest.



*Parishioner Registration Weekend is  
January 20 & 21, 2024*

**Your Parish Needs You and  
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 parish pastor and staff to get to know you better, to welcome you, and to 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 registering. Scan the QR code to register or go online at [www.MyStThomas.org/join-us](http://www.MyStThomas.org/join-us). Registration forms are available on our website as well as in the lobby of the Church and in the Parish Office during business hours 8:30 am–1:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

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



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!**



*love more*  
**Ministry**

The mission of Love More Ministry is to help the homeless by preparing and serving a hot meal weekly.

St. Thomas the Apostle Church has committed to connect with our neighbors in need, and the Nature Coast Church, one Sunday a month to join in this worthy cause. We have established groups which prepare and serve meals to the homeless on a rotating basis. **Each team prepares and serves a hot meal to its clients twice in a year.**

All members of Love More Ministry, and those who would like to join, are invited to an informational meeting with Fr. Glenn and Deacon Mark on **Sunday, Jan. 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the church. We look forward to seeing you there!**

**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](mailto: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.**



The church is open Monday- Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for personal prayer.  
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.

SUNDAY/COLLECTION	TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY
<b>Sunday, January 14:</b> <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Collection: Building Fund</b> <b>SVdP Money Collection</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	<b>Mass</b> <b>No Youth Faith Formation Class (YFF)</b> <b>Mass Feast of Santo Nino</b>
<b>Monday, January 15:</b>	8:00 am	<b>Mass Office Closed—MLK</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 16:</b>	8:00 am 8:45 am	<b>Mass</b> <b>Holy Face Devotion</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 17:</b>	8:00 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Women's Guild Meeting</b> <b>St Vincent de Paul</b> <b>Knights of Columbus Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, January 18:</b>	8:00 am 8:30 am 9:30 am  1:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Holy Hour</b> <b>Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary</b> <b>Bereavement Group Meeting</b>
<b>Friday, January 19:</b>	8:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> <b>Youth Group</b>
<b>Saturday, January 20:</b>	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	<b>Communion Only Service</b> <b>Reconciliation</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday, January 21:</b> <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Collection: Catholic Ministry Appeal</b> <b>SVdP Food Collection</b>	8:00 am 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Day of Prayer for the Unborn</b> <b>Mass</b> <b>YFF Class</b> <b>Mass</b>



**Today we honor the Holy Child with a special Mass at 10:30**

### **SANTO NIÑO de CEBU**

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



### **ARIMATHEAN MINISTRY**

Arimatheans help those parishioners who are in the grieving process and who may have little or no family in the area. Those who sign up for this ministry are volunteering to attend the funeral Mass of parishioners as they are able. You'll be notified via a text message when there is a funeral in the church; if you are able, you would attend and represent the St. Thomas the Apostle parish family in supporting the family of the deceased with your presence. Please contact Karen Robben in the parish office if you are interested.





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