



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. I am so happy you could join us today. My hope is that you feel at home here at St. Thomas. Together, let us reflect on the Word of God as we partake of the Eucharist. ~ 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

Steve Balcom: Maintenance

Karen Ballaban: Comms. Specialist

Juanita Fuge: Bulletin Editor

Robin Furciato: Coord. of Religious Ed.

David Martin: Custodian

Joseph McEvoy: Pastoral Assistant

Michael Nischan: Maintenance

Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director

Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor and
Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office & Comms. Mgr.



**THE COMING
OF THE LORD
IS AT HAND**
JAMES 5:8

February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

11 February, 2024, *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



11 February 2024 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1. Today, February 11, the Catholic Church observes **World Day of the Sick**. It was introduced by Pope St. John Paul II in 1992 to encourage the faithful to pray for those who are sick and suffering, and to find concrete ways to draw closer to them. Today is also the liturgical memorial of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. As of this writing (Jan 6), plans are afoot to host a “virtual pilgrimage” to Lourdes here in our parish this coming February 21st. Conducted by Lourdes Volunteers, this event will re-create a pilgrimage experience to Lourdes (France) without ever leaving the US. More details about this event will be shared as we get closer to the date. Please mark your calendars.

2. This Wednesday, February 14th, is **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the Lenten season. We will have two masses on that day: 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Once again, ashes will be imposed on our foreheads to remind us “to turn away from sin and believe in the gospel.” The season of Lent challenges us to see the world around us with fresh, new eyes. This Lent, let us be on the lookout for new opportunities to encounter Jesus. One such opportunity is to take part in our annual Lenten retreat. I have invited the Rev. Msgr. Joseph Pellegrino, a retired priest of this diocese, to facilitate our **Parish Lenten Mission on February 26-28**. Join us!

3. The thing that strikes me most about today’s **gospel** (Mark 1:40-45) is the manner chosen by Jesus to heal the leper. He could have done it just by saying a word, or even just by thinking a thought. But Jesus chose to be up close and personal. He stretched out his hand and touched the leper. Jesus continues to reach out to us even today, to heal us of our pains and sufferings. Today we are also challenged to reach out and touch the “new lepers” of our society: the homeless, the illegal immigrants, the ex-convicts - people whom we normally avoid. Usually, we build walls around ourselves to keep them out. Do we have the guts to reach out and touch them?

Fr Glenn | 6 January 2022

St Vincent de Paul Monthly Activity and Provisions List

This month, through your gifts, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers were able to assist families, providing food, utility, rent, and other bills. In January our Visitation Case Workers received **59** phone calls serving **40** households. They made **22** home visits providing support for **77** individuals. Our volunteers delivered **166 lbs.** of food and distributed **\$3579.58** for lodging, utilities, food, and clothing in support of the needy. They volunteered **93** hours and drove **325** miles in the service to our clients.

Our next Food Collection will be on the weekend of February 17 and 18.

Items listed below are in short supply. We accept, and appreciate, any food items that you donate.

Thank you for all you do to help those in need!

Pasta Sauce, Diced Tomatoes and Pasta Sauce Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, Instant Rice, Potatoes, Coffee, Instant Coffee, Tea, Powdered and Evaporated Milk, Chef Boyardee, Canned Meats, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Vegetables and Soups, Ramen Noodles, Instant Potatoes, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Fruit, Instant Oatmeal, Cereal, Crackers, Snacks and Drinks, Laundry or Dish Soap, Body Wash, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Napkins.

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

Sunday, February 11

8:00 am: Bob & Sue Grove†

Requested by: Trish Grove & Terri Harrison

10:30 am: Our Parish Family

Monday, February 12

8:00 am: Christopher Manko†

Requested by: The Respect Life Ministry

Tuesday, February 13

8:00 am: Joseph White†

Requested by: Karen & Mike Robles

Wednesday, February 14

8:00 am: Rev. Joy Colina†

Requested by: The Pastoral Staff

4:30 pm: John† & Vivian† Mussulli

Requested by: David & Tina Mafia

Thursday, February 15

8:00 am: Elena Perez-Velez†

Requested by: Martin & Carmen Faulmino

Friday, February 16

8:00 am: Helen L. Sheridan†

Requested by: Charles J. Sheridan

Saturday, February 17

4:30 pm: Fr. Laurence F. Pafchik, OFM

Requested by: Cousin Norma Pafchek

Sunday, February 18

8:00 am: Our Parish Family

10:30 am: 24th Anniversary of Joe & Jane Prefer

Requested by: Jane & Joe Prefer

Scripture Readings

For the Week of February 11, 2024

Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lv 13:1-2; 44-46; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45
Monday	Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18- 19; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16- 18
Thursday	Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday	Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday	Memorial of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22, Mt 4:4b; Mk 1:12-15

This week's altar flowers are donated by and in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Wayne and Marcy Male.

At the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, February 17th the Bread and Wine are donated in loving memory of John Flotkoetter

LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

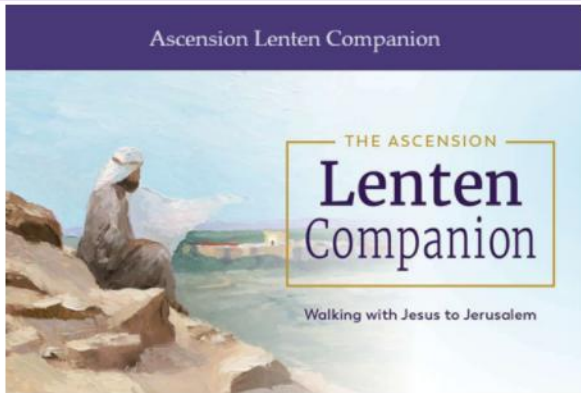
Please remember in your prayers all those in our parish family who are ill, especially:

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, Maria Casey, Barbara Diaz, Glenn Hultgren, Carl Campise, Imre Beke Sr., Dayl Kohorst, Victor & Phyllis Ciosi, Terry Brausch, Karen Ballaban, Gene Koczur, Wayne Stringer, Mark Fuge, Karl Wolf, Gene Dalton, Al Papino, Julia Szucsik, Phyllis Fylak, James McCarthy

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



LENTEN REFLECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES



This Lent, experience deeper peace and healing as Fr. Mark Toups immerses you in Christ's final journey to Jerusalem, inviting you to reflect on Jesus' suffering and death, and celebrate in his resurrection.

The Ascension Lenten Companion consists of **5-minute weekly reflection videos** from Fr. Mark Toups to guide you to an encounter with the person of Christ and help you arrive at Easter transformed by God's love. To register call the office or email us at: info@mystthomas.org

Suffering Well With Christ

Is there really any value to suffering? How can I better process suffering in my life? What practical steps can I take to better utilize my sufferings for the salvation of souls?

This **11-day series** of reflections from the team at Exodus **begins** just **before Holy Week** and will help you slowly and prayerfully begin processing suffering and its place in Christian life. To register call the office or email us at: info@mystthomas.org



Holy Heroes Lenten Adventure

Through **Holy Heroes**, you can receive daily emails with activities for kids and families. Coloring pages, crossword puzzles, word searches, and more!

To receive these activities and reflections to your e-mail, register at info@mystthomas.org or call the office.



FESTIVAL RESCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

The Fun Begins at 11:30 AM



OUR MARKETPLACE & TALENT SHOWCASE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Whether it is baked goods, speciality foods*, crafts or artwork, your contributions will brighten the festival. Likewise, entering the Talent Showcase with song, dance, music, or mime you will bring joy to your audience. With any form of participation your fame will spread across the parish. **Make your efforts known, come to our Festival and bring your talents to share.**

See you at the Festival on Sunday, February 25

*Food items must list ingredients.

Ash Wednesday

*Today is the start of Lenten season.
Time to give time to the one who
made us and sacrificed himself for us.*



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. Masses with the distribution of ashes will be celebrated at **8:00 am & 4:30 pm**. Drive-thru ashes will be available immediately following the 4:30 pm Mass.

Lenten Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Ash Wednesday February 14 Day of Fast and Abstinence	8:00 am, 4:30 pm 5:30 pm	Masses with distribution of ashes Drive thru ashes
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence February 16, 23 March 1, 8, 15, 22	3:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Friday February 16	3:30 pm	Women's Guild Soup & Dessert to Go
Wednesday February 21	3:00 pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage
Monday – Wednesday February 26 - 28	3:00 pm* *Time to be confirmed	Parish Lenten Retreat Preacher: Msgr. Joseph Pellegrino Lenten Reconciliation following retreat on Monday, February 26
Sunday, March 17	9:00 am	Faith Formation Lenten Reconciliation
Tuesday, March 19	8:30 am	5th Annual St. Joseph's Table
Palm Sunday Saturday, March 24 Sunday, March 25	4:30 pm Vigil Mass 8:00 am Mass 10:30 am Mass	Blessing of palms before each mass
Tuesday, March 26	11:00 am	Chrism Mass (Cathedral of St. Jude)
Holy Thursday March 28	4:30 pm	Mass of the Last Supper with Washing of the Feet Procession to Altar of Repose; Adoration
Good Friday March 29	3:00 pm	The Lord's Passion (with communion) Day of Fast and Abstinence
Holy Saturday March 30	10:00 am 11:00 am 8:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt Blessing of Easter Food Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday March 31	8:00 am & 10:30 am	Easter Sunday Masses

Second Annual Toiletries Collection February 17 & 18

The **Respect Life Ministry** at St. Thomas the Apostle will be holding their 2nd Annual Toiletries Collection for the Pregnancy and Family Life Center at Saturday and Sunday Masses on February 17th and 18th. Last year we had a tremendous response from our parishioners that far exceeded our expectations. We are again hopeful of your repeat generosity. Please use the following list to guide you with your donations:

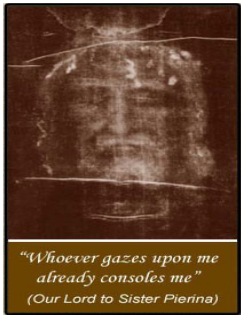
**SHAMPOO / CONDITIONER (men & women), DEODORANT, BODY WASH, TOOTH PASTE / TOOTHBRUSH
HAND & BODY LOTION, SHAVING CREAM AND GEL, FACE MOISTURIZER, HAIR BRUSH/COMB**

We will be there to thank you when you drop off the toiletries.

We would love to again overfill our bins.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

February 13th



This year, the **FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS** is on Tuesday, **FEBRUARY 13th**.

All are invited to join us in prayers of reparation before the **IMAGE OF THE HOLY FACE** after the 8:00 Mass on Tuesday, February 13th.

Corner of Gratitude:

My prayers and special thanks to the wonderful people at the 8 AM Mass on Sunday, January 14. They were able to help me recover from my fainting episode, and I am forever grateful for their quick thinking and actions.

I'm also grateful for all the prayers.

Sincerely, Mary Watson



The **Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage** experience is coming to St Thomas the Apostle on **Wed. Feb. 21st between 3:00 pm & 4:00 pm**. Hosted by the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality, North American Volunteers, the pilgrimage experience will include praying a decade of the rosary, a eucharistic blessing, access to a rock from our Lady's grotto and to Lourdes' water.

A plenary indulgence is granted to participants of the virtual pilgrimage.

Admission is free;
Donations are welcome.

Come and join us in this unique and moving experience.



January 2024 Family of the Month

With a new year, we have a new Knights of Columbus Family of the Month. This month features the **McKissock family**, Daniel and Jean and their five daughters and one son. Daniel is an Air Force veteran and Jane is from the Cleveland area. Four of their daughters are in the Youth Faith Formation group. They enjoy how welcoming our Parish is to families and they attend the 10:30 am Mass.

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.

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

Support Our Catholic Ministry Appeal!



In today's Gospel story, Jesus cleanses a leper with the words, "Be made clean" (Mark 1:41). The faith of this leper moves God to give him the outward cleanliness he sought. This healing would allow him to re-enter Jewish society, from which he had been cast out. Jesus says he came that "they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

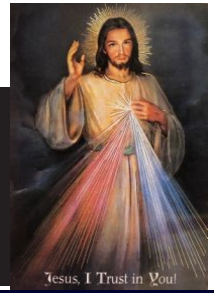
He didn't just come to cleanse the outside, like the Pharisees, who "cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish" (Luke 11:39). He came to renew all of us, outside and in.

We need your help to meet the many needs of those around you. Jesus says that, "As to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be made clean for you" (Luke 11:41). Jesus says there is a connection between almsgiving and the true cleanness of life which the Jews sought. Small wonder: Almsgiving requires sacrifice. It requires the same spirit of sacrifice that we need to valiantly take up our personal cross. Our

Catholic Ministry Appeal is in full swing and we encourage you to take this opportunity to help us help others!



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.

Together We Pray!

SUNDAY/COLLECTION	TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY
Sunday, February 11: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Collection: Catholic Ministry Appeal St Vincent de Paul Money collection	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	World Day of the Sick World Marriage Day Mass Youth Faith Formation Class (YFF) Children's Mass
Monday, February 12:	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Mass RCIA Mystagogy Session #3
Tuesday, February 13:	8:00 am 8:45 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion
ASH WEDNESDAY Wednesday, February 14:	8:00 am 4:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Mass-Ashes Distributed Mass-Ashes Distributed Ashes Distributed—Drive-through Knights of Columbus Meeting
Thursday, February 15:	8:00 am 8:30 am—9:30 am 9:30 am 1:00 pm	Mass Holy Hour Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Bereavement Group Meeting
Friday, February 16:	8:00 am 3:00 pm 3:30 pm 6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross Women's Guild Soup & Dessert take out Youth Group Meeting
Saturday, February 17:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation (Confession) Vigil Mass
Sunday, February 18: First Sunday in Lent Collection: Pregnancy & Family Life Toiletries	8:00 am 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am 8:00 am—12:00 pm	Mass No YFF Class Mass K of C Coffee & Donuts

Immediately following Stations of the Cross on Friday, February 16, you are invited to the

Women's Guild Soup & Dessert To Go

Get your choice of soup and dessert for just \$5.00!
All Women's Guild fundraisers support the upkeep and beautification of our worship space.

Magnificat Lenten Companion

Ladies of the **Women's Guild** will be distributing Lenten companion booklets to all interested parishioners after all Masses on the weekend of February 10 & 11. A \$1 donation is requested for each book.
Deepen your Lenten experience by using the ***Magnificat Lenten Companion!***



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



You are invited to help support our Parish!
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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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