



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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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

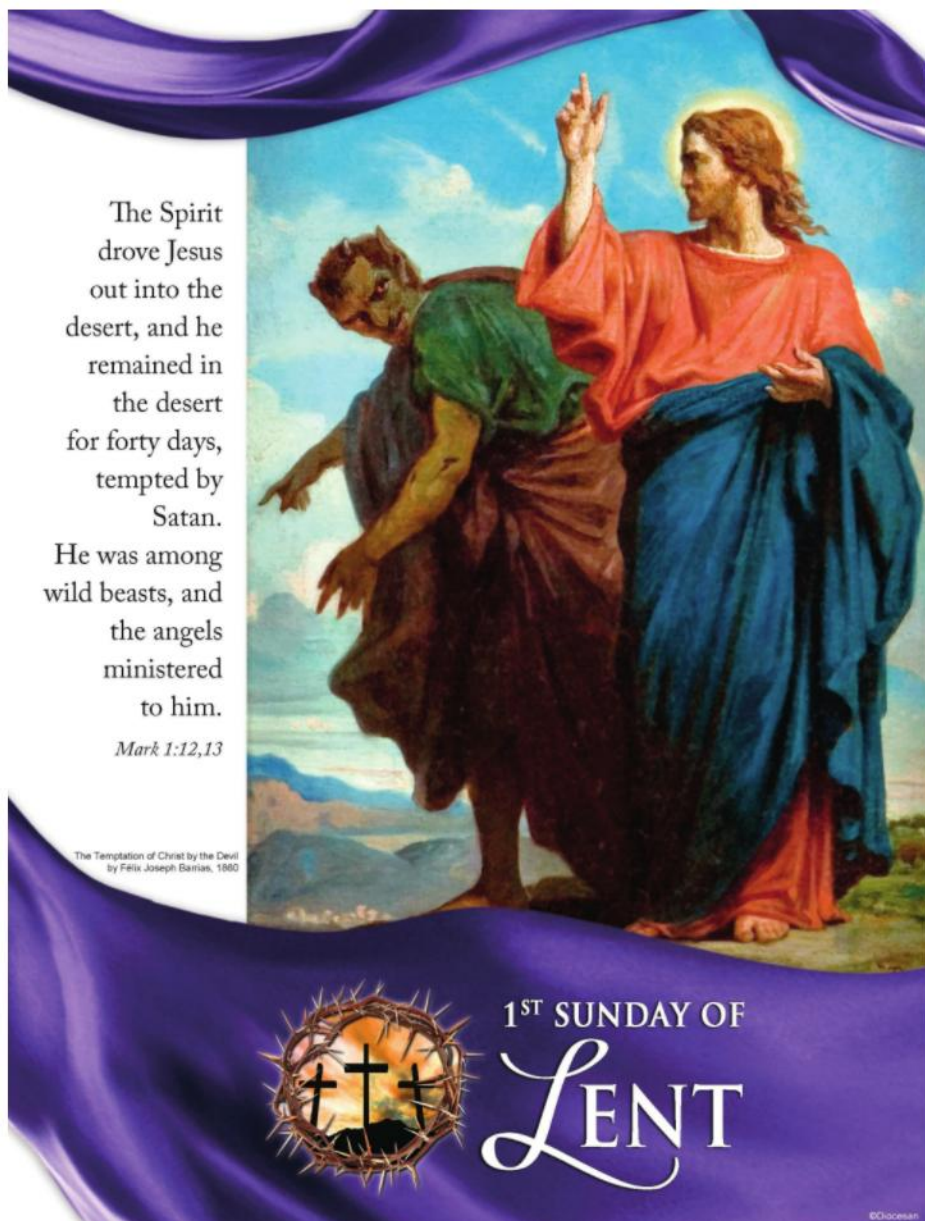
Michael Nischan: Maintenance

Michelle Kim-Painter: Music Director

Alfred Papino: Bookkeeper; Cantor and
Lead Accompanist

Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office & Comms. Mgr.



The Spirit
drove Jesus
out into the
desert, and he
remained in
the desert
for forty days,
tempted by
Satan.

He was among
wild beasts, and
the angels
ministered
to him.

Mark 1:12,13

The Temptation of Christ by the Devil
by Felix Joseph Barriak, 1980



1ST SUNDAY OF

LENT

February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

18 February, 2024, *First Sunday of Lent*



18 February 2024 First Sunday of Lent, Year B

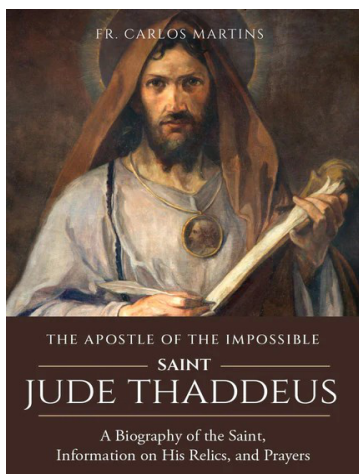
1. Here we grow again! Introducing **our newest maintenance employee: Michael Nischan**. Some of you know Mike from our 8:00am Sunday Mass; Mike runs the projection screen. Mike has his own independent Handy Man service and brings to our St Thomas team a wealth of knowledge. We continue to try to meet our ever-expanding parish needs in a healthy way. Mike will primarily work Fridays and flexible hours including opening the Church on Sunday mornings.



2. Here we are on the **first Sunday of Lent**. It feels like we just celebrated Christmas and we are already in Lent. During this time, the Church focuses on fasting and alms giving. We have an opportunity to imitate Christ by turning our lives and hearts back to God, our creator. For many it might seem irrational and valueless, but it has been a part of the Church from the earliest days. Pope Benedict XVI described fasting as “therapy for the soul to heal all that prevents us from conformity to the will of God”. We begin this period of purification with prayer and sharing to strip away what is unnecessary in our lives to make room for something better!

3. In today's **Gospel** Jesus tells us to repent and believe in the Gospel. Repent means to feel regret with a desire to change and turn away from. Now for 40 days, a number harkening to the days of the great flood, the 40 years the Jews spent wandering the desert, and the 40 days of temptation by Lucifer of Jesus, we are invited to submerge ourselves in Jesus' last days. For us it is a reminder to turn away from sin, with a new, fresh beginning. Let us repent and believe in the Gospel as children of the light, an Easter people, with a knowledge that death no longer has power over us, because of the Pascal mystery.

February 9, 2024 | Deacon Mark Manko



St. Jude the Apostle's Relic to Visit Tampa and St. Petersburg for the First Time

The arm of St. Jude the Apostle, also known as the Apostle of the Impossible will be available for veneration in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

The relic will be on display at St. Paul Catholic Church, 12708 N Dale Mabry Hwy. in Tampa on Wednesday, February 28th and at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, 5815 5th Ave N. in St. Petersburg on Thursday, February 29th. At each location, veneration of the Relic begins at 2:00 p.m. and Mass begins at 7:00 p.m.

To learn more, visit apostleoftheimpossible.com.



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

Sunday, February 18

8:00 am: Our Parish Family

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

Requested by: Jane & Joe Prefer

Monday, February 19

8:00 am: Bill Robben†

Requested by: Mary Lou Robben

Tuesday, February 20

8:00 am: William J. Flood†

Requested by: Helen & Frank Marinelli

Wednesday, February 21

8:00 am: Patricia C. Sheridan†

Requested by: Charles J. Sheridan

Thursday, February 22

8:00 am: Daly Family

Requested by: Patrick Daly

Friday, February 23

8:00 am: St Vincent de Paul Intentions

Requested by: Trish Grove

Saturday, February 24

4:30 pm: Our Parish Family

Sunday, February 25

8:00 am: John Pauley†

Requested by: Kim Pauley

10:30 am: Christopher Manko†

Requested by: The Pastoral Staff

Scripture Readings

For the Week of February 18, 2024

Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
Monday	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Jl 2:12-13; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:18; Mt 16:13-19
Friday	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS: March

2nd: 10 am- First Reconciliation
(Communion class only)

10th: 10:30 Children's Mass

15th: 6:00 pm Youth Group—CCSO K-9 dogs

17th: 9:00 am Lenten Reconciliation

30th: 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

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, Carl Campise, Imre Beke Sr., Dayl Kohorst, Victor & Phyllis Closi, Terry Brausch, Karen Ballaban, Gene & Helen Koczur, Wayne Stringer, Mark Fuge, Karl Wolf, Gene Dalton, Al Papino, Julia Szucsik, Phyllis Fylak, James McCarthy, Martin Faulmino, Jr.

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



LENT IS COMING

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

 	<p>Lent lasts 40 days (excluding Sundays)</p>
  	<p>The three pillars of Lent are: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.</p>
  	<p>Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting (one primary meal and two lesser meals) and abstinence from meat.</p>
 	<p>All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat.</p>



This year, the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SPDCCW) is once again offering **three St. Maria Goretti Scholarships** for young women in their senior year of high school. Scholarships will be granted to the young women who are **awarded first, second, or third place in the SPDCCW Essay Contest**. Please contact the parish office for an application form with instructions. **The essay must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2024**

FESTIVAL RESCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

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.

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 Robin Furciato in the parish office at: 352-628-7000.

KOC - BBQ * DJ * Raffles * 50/50 * Door Prizes * Cornhole * Horseshoes * Basketball * Golf* * Talent Showcase * KID ZONE: Games * Races * Challenges

Visit our Marketplace: Baked Goods & Specialty Foods , Crafts-Jewelry-Artwork

BBQ as long as food lasts. Door Prizes every 30 minutes; you must be present to win. Raffle drawings start at 1:30; you need not be present to win. Times for Entertainment and tournaments to be announced.

***Food items must list ingredients.**



SCHEDULE FOR LENT 2024

Date	Time	Event
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence February 23 March 1, 8, 15, 22	3:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
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	8:45 am	5th Annual St. Joseph's Table



Palm Sunday Saturday, March 23 Sunday, March 24	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 Day of Fast and Abstinence	3:00 pm	The Lord's Passion (with communion)
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



Knights of Columbus TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

One of the most popular and successful fundraisers conducted by our council is for the benefit of people with intellectual disabilities. In appreciation of your donation, we will offer you a piece of candy. Thus, this fundraiser is known as the "Tootsie Roll Drive". We will be outside of the church March 24/25 and again April 6/7.

We hope you can support our effort and enjoy a piece of candy.



The Love More Ministry held a meeting on Sunday, January 21. Deacon Mark invited the ministry's founders, Susanna and Ed Haberle from Nature Coast Church, to join us.

We're grateful for the love and support these teams give to those in need in our area, and *we welcome the 12 new members who joined us on Sunday!*

Deacon Mark led the meeting and was joined by Deacon Vince for the final prayer and blessing.



Support Our Catholic Ministry Appeal!

Today's Gospel said that Jesus "*remained* in the desert for forty days" (Mark 1:13, emphasis added). Remaining with Jesus in the desert is not easy. (Welcome to Lent.)

Further driving home how difficult it is to follow him, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus warns, "*If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily*" (Luke 9:23). Yet on another note, in John's Gospel, Jesus commands us, "*Remain in my love*" (John 15:9). Remaining in Jesus' love isn't easy, either—especially when it involves the desert.



Feeling like it's too difficult to do this by ourselves is okay. It's often exactly where God wants us—because it pushes us to rely on him. *That* can be a place of profound growth. Our parish, and those we serve, relies on you to help us meet our many needs and the needs of our community. As you lift the cross Jesus asks of you this Lent, please remember our Catholic Ministry Appeal. We are counting on you. This Lent, count on us, and count on God! We'll walk in the desert with you.



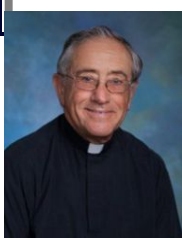
The church is open Monday- Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for personal prayer.
Access to the church is available through the rear door, directly across from the office.



THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

is prayed every weekday following the 8:00 am Mass.
Together We Pray!

SUNDAY/COLLECTION	TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY
Sunday, February 18: First Sunday of Lent Collection: Weekly Offering St Vincent de Paul Food collection, Respect Life Toiletries	8:00 am—12:00 pm 8:00 am 10:30 am	K of C Coffee & Donuts Mass No Youth Faith Formation Class Mass
Monday, February 19:	8:00 am 9:00 am	Mass Confirmation Class at Good Council Camp Office Closed: Presidents Day
Tuesday, February 20:	8:00 am 8:45 am 9:00 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion Love More Ministry Meeting Team G
Wednesday, February 21:	8:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm 4:00 pm	Mass Women's Guild Rosary Women's Guild Meeting Our Lady of Lourdes Pilgrimage SVdP: Business Meeting
Thursday, February 22:	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 23:	8:00 am 3:00 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross
Saturday, February 24:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation (Confession) Vigil Mass K of C Tootsie Roll Drive after Mass
Third Annual Parish Festival Sunday, February 25: Third Sunday of Lent Collection: School & Camp Support, Lenten Retreat	8:00 am 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am	Mass YFF Class Mass Tootsie Roll Drive after all Masses



Please join our special **Lenten Mission** with Monsignor Joseph Pellegrino. Msgr. Pellegrino will speak at all Masses on the weekend of February 24 & 25, and the mission will be held Monday - Wednesday, February 26 - 28.

Time for the mission is tentatively set at 3:00 pm in the church. Confirmation of the time will appear in the bulletin and be announced in church. **We look forward to seeing you there!**



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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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