



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. 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.

He made a whip
out of cords
and drove them
all out of the
temple area.
"Take these out
of here, and
stop making my
Father's house
a marketplace."

John 2:15,16

Jesus Casting Out the Money
Changers at the Temple
by Carl Bloch, circa 1800s



3RD SUNDAY OF

LENT

March 3, 2024



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

3 March, 2024, *Third Sunday in Lent*



3 March, 2024 | Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

1. I am writing these lines from the Philippines, a few days after I buried **my father**, Virgilio Diaz Sr., who died last January 26th. He was 89 years old when he passed, leaving behind my 88-year old mother, his six children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. My father fought a lengthy battle with kidney cancer. He spent his final days in severe pain from the chest catheter his doctors had to insert to drain fluids from his lungs. I feel blessed to have spent a couple of days by his bedside, praying with him, helping him to transition peacefully to eternal life. He taught his children the values of thrift, resiliency, and resourcefulness. He was far from perfect, but there's no doubt I love him, warts and all!
2. It is difficult to have a sense of relief even when death comes after a long battle with illness. There is a **great mystery** about illness which can be a form of silent witness to weakness, to helplessness, and pain. This is what comes to my mind when I think of my father's painful experience before he finally died. I am reminded of how difficult it was for me to watch St. John Paul II during the last few years of his ministry as pope. Yet he left us with a powerful example of how to live through our sufferings, a silent witness to endurance and commitment.
3. We have in today's **Gospel** (John 2:13-25) the "cleansing" of the Jerusalem temple. The people asked Jesus for a sign from heaven as proof that he has authority to overturn the moneychangers' tables and to drive the animals out of the temple area. In reply, Jesus said: "**Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.**" There is a connection between the Jerusalem temple and the temple of the body of Jesus. For the Jews, the Jerusalem temple was a sign of God's presence in their midst. But this is now supplanted with the coming of Jesus, in whom a new presence of God is manifested.

Fr. Glenn | Cebu City, 6 February 2024



Say a Prayer... from the **FLAME OF LOVE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**. Jesus said, "**Through this prayer, Satan will be blind and souls will not be led into sin.**" (p.25 of abridged diary) The Lord explained, "**Satan being blind signifies a worldwide triumph of my Sacred Heart, the freedom of souls and a full opening of the road of salvation.**" (p. 87)

Our prayer group meets every Thursday after Holy Hour. All are welcome to join us! Visit <https://flameoflove.us/> to discover more about the Flame of Love.



FFRA's "TOP HAT" CONCERT & DANCE

Swing into Spring with Big Band Sounds! Featuring a 20-piece swing band: "**Downing Street**" Sunday, March 10, 2024, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Sunday Best Attire)

Citrus Springs Community Center, 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs, FL 34434

Tickets—\$20 contact: Robert DeSimone (352) 628-5606

Presented by: Family & Friends Reaching for Abilities



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

Sunday, March 3

8:00 am: Our Parish Family

10:30 am: Christina Rondinelli†
Requested by: Louis Rondinelli

Monday, March 4

8:00 am: Norma Beattie †
Requested by: Wayne & Marcy Male

Tuesday, March 5

8:00 am: Piorkowski & Klein Families
Requested by: Fran & Bud Klein

Wednesday, March 6

8:00 am: Katherine Reid†
Requested by: Helen & Gene Koczer

Thursday, March 7

8:00 am: Michael Breindl†
Requested by: Karen & Mike Robles

Friday, March 8

8:00 am: Barbara Fullerton†
Requested by: Robert & Lucille Asklund

Saturday, March 9

4:30 pm: Richard Fox†
Requested by: Mary Fox

Sunday, March 10

8:00 am: Nettie† & Ross† Frustaci
Requested by: The Puma Family
10:30 am: Our Parish Family

Scripture Readings

For the Week of March 3, 2024

Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25
Monday	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday	Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday	Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Lent 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

The **Respect Life Ministry** will not meet on March 5th.
Meetings will resume on April 2.

Flowers for the weekend of March 9-10
have been donated in loving memory of
Christina Rondinelli†

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, Imre Beke Sr., Dayl Kohorst, Victor & Phyllis Closi, Terry Brausch, Karen Ballaban, Gene Koczur, Wayne Stringer, Mark Fuge, Karl Wolf, Gene Dalton, Al Papino, Julia Szucsik, Phyllis Fylak, James McCarthy, Martin Faulmino, Jr., Pat Allard, Rev. Ron Marecki, Joseph Marecki, Lorraine & Richard Kwiecienski, Ron Smeeton

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

PRAYER IN OUR LIVES

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



ROAR OF THE ROSARY

Let this night move you! We believe May 10th will be a powerful evening at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Tampa. It will be a night of bold and holy witness. We will gather at this beautiful venue and shine the light of Christ in a new way to proclaim what is true, beautiful, and good. We will worship Jesus truly present in the Holy Eucharist, hear from amazing speakers, and give our hearts a reason to hope.

This experience includes a Eucharistic and Rosary Procession. A large monstrance will be carried from the Straz to the Riverwalk and then carried onto a boat to proceed along the Hillsborough River. Everyone along the Riverwalk will be able to adore Jesus and reverence his most holy Presence in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.

This event is sponsored in part by Legatus, Scarpo Family, Guarino Family, Hyer Family, Young Catholic Professionals, Tampa Bay Focus, St. Paul's Outreach, and Spirit FM.

When: Friday, May 10th, 2024 | 6 pm – 10 pm

Where: Straz Center, Morsani Hall, 1010 N Macinnes Place, Tampa

Speakers: Cardinal Raymond Burke, Bishop Gregory Parkes, Mother Adela, and Gus Lloyd

Music: The Vigil Project

This event is *FREE* but registration is required and tickets are limited.



Parish Lenten Drive

Our Poor Box donations and Holy Thursday collection will be used to support The St. Thomas Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the local homeless community.

ONLINE GIVING

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ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
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As a friendly reminder, online giving is an easy, safe and secure way to support our parish! To set-up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit give.mystthomas.org/give

We are grateful for your support!



SCHEDULE FOR LENT 2024

Date	Time	Event
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence March 8, 15, 22	3:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sunday, March 17	9:00 am	Youth Faith Formation Lenten Reconciliation
Tuesday, March 19	8:45 am	Fifth Annual St. Joseph's Table



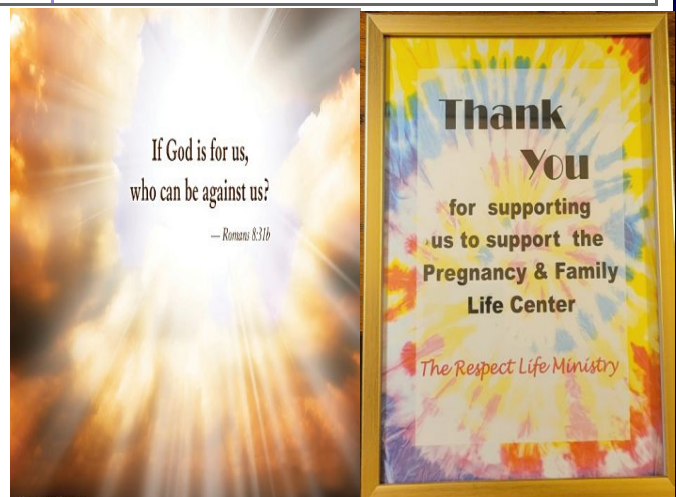
Palm Sunday Saturday, March 23 Sunday, March 24	4:30 pm Vigil Mass 8:00 am Mass 10:30 am Mass	Blessing of palms before each mass
Tuesday, March 26	11:00 am	Chrism Mass (Cathedral of St. Jude)
Holy Thursday March 28	4:30 pm	Mass of the Last Supper with Washing of the Feet Procession to Altar of Repose; 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. This fundraiser is known as the "Tootsie Roll Drive". We will be outside of the church again April 6/7.

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



Goings On at St Thomas

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS: March

10th: 10:30 Children's Mass

17th: 9:00 am Lenten Reconciliation

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

30th: 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

TEAM G OF LOVE MORE MINISTRY GETS RIGHT TO WORK SHADOWING TEAM D



Please mark your calendar for March 19th

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. *The Solemnity of St. Joseph is Tuesday, March 19th.*

We will celebrate the **5th Annual St. Joseph Table** following the **8:00 am Mass on March 19th.**

The tradition of St. Joseph's table, or "Tavola di San Giuseppe", began in Medieval Sicily. During a drought, the people were starving and made a special devotion to St. Joseph. The rains came and the people were saved. In gratitude, they prepared a table with special foods to honor St. Joseph and to distribute to the poor.

The heart of this tradition can be found in three aspects:

1. Veneration: recognition of St. Joseph during Mass & at the table;
2. The Table: an altar of reverence and communal celebration
3. The Poor: gifts to help those in need.

We ask you to please bring non-perishable items to be placed on the table and given to the needy.

You are also welcome to make or bring foods to be shared in celebration with other parishioners after Mass. Items, such as: Cannoli, Zeppole, Sfingi, olive & fig side dishes; cakes, biscotti and cookies, pasta, and breads—often baked in symbolic shapes—are typically found on a St. Joseph table.

Come Celebrate!

Like last year, we will also have a small area to honor St. Patrick, whose feast day is March 17.

TREASURES OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE 11 DAYS: NOVEMBER 4-14, 2024

VISITING: FLORENCE * ASSISI * LANCIANO * SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO
MONTE SANT'ANGELO * SORRENTO * POMPEII * MONTE CASSINO * ROME



Hosted by
REV. J. GLENN DIAZ
PASTOR OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
and
KAREN M. ROBBEN, GROUP LEADER

\$3799 FROM ORLANDO*

*Air/land tour price is \$3229 plus \$570 gov't
taxes/airline surcharges

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

Karen M. Robben
Tel: (352) 628-7000
Email: Info@MyStThomas.org



DON'T MISS OUT! SIGN UP TODAY!

Qualified Charitable Distributions

When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may consider making charitable donations through a Qualified Charitable Distribution. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met. If you're 70½ years of age or older, you are eligible to make a QCD. Download our QCD form at www.mystthomas.org/giving to assist you in making a QCD to St. Thomas.



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, March 3: Third Sunday of Lent Collections: Building Fund, Easter Flowers, Pregnancy & Family Life	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	NAME TAG SUNDAY Mass Youth Faith Formation Class Mass
Monday, March 4:	8:00 am 2:00 pm	Mass Bible Study 1st session: Mary
Tuesday, March 5:	8:00 am 8:45 am 5:00 pm	Mass Holy Face Devotion COR Meeting
Wednesday, March 6:	8:00 am 4:00 pm	Mass SVdP Spiritual Meeting
Thursday, March 7:	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, March 8:	8:00 am 3:00 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 9:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Communion Only Service Reconciliation (Confession) Vigil Mass
Sunday, March 10: Fourth Sunday of Lent Collection: Catholic Relief Services	8:00 am 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am	Daylight Savings Time Starts (Spring Ahead) Mass YFF Class Children's Mass

LET US PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF OUR BELOVED DECEASED PARISHIONERS.



Name	Date of Death	Name	Date of Death
David Redman	November 1, 2023	Norma Menzies	January 1, 2024
Fr. Joy Colina	November 14, 2023	James Booth	January 9, 2024
Ruth Urig	November 21, 2023	Norma Galvin	January 11, 2024
Robert Firminger	December 7, 2023	William Burns	January 27, 2024
Robert Adams	December 20, 2023	Helen Koczur	February 13, 2024
		Carl Campise	February 16, 2024



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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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