



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

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E-mail: Info@MyStThomas.org

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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

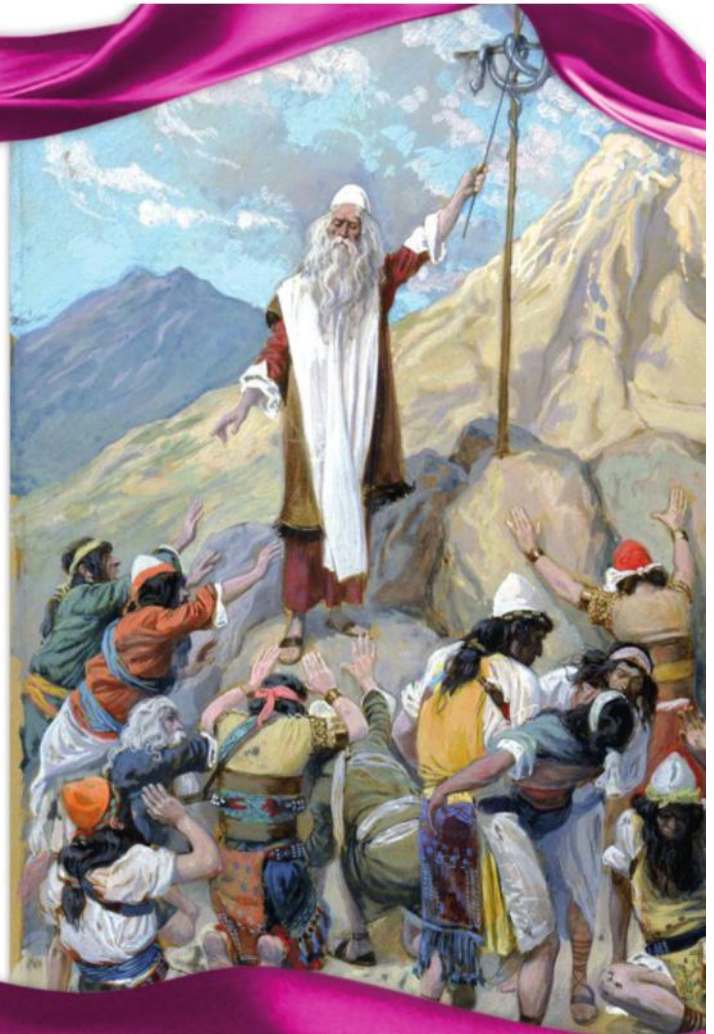
Pauline Papino: Sacristan

Karen Robben: Office & Comms. Mgr.

Jesus said to
Nicodemus:
"Just as Moses
lifted up the
serpent in the
desert, so must
the Son of Man
be lifted up,
so that everyone
who believes
in him may have
eternal life."

John 3:14,15

The Brazen Serpent
by James Tissot, circa 1899



4TH SUNDAY OF
LENT

March 10, 2024



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

10 March, 2024, *Fourth Sunday in Lent*



10 March 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

1. Last February 3rd, the Vatican Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith released a document *Gestis verbisque* (meaning: by gestures and words) on discerning the validity of the sacraments. This 11-page document reiterates that for all sacraments “the observance of both matter and form has always been required for the validity of the celebration.” It frequently refers to the dicastery’s 2020 doctrinal note on the modification of the sacramental formula of baptism, which clarified that changing the words to the baptismal formula from “I baptize you” to “we baptize you” invalidated the baptism, requiring anyone who was baptized with this formula to be considered as not yet having received baptism. While the liturgy may admit of “adaptations,” depending on the cultures in which it takes place, the document enjoins all priests to preserve “the essential elements of the sacraments” in full fidelity to the prescribed rites to ensure their validity and the unity of the Church.

2. As we approach the mid-point of Lent, it’s good for us to revisit the **message of Pope Francis for Lent 2024** which carries the theme: “*Through the desert God leads us to freedom.*” Basing his reflection on the book of Exodus, the Holy Father reminds us that the season of Lent is a journey from bondage to spiritual renewal and freedom. “*Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more - in the words of the prophet Hosea - the place of our first love,*” the pope observes. Highlighting the three pillars of Lent (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving), Pope Francis notes that they are not disparate acts but they form a symbiotic “*movement of openness and self-emptying in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us.*”

3. Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is *Laetare Sunday*, which literally means a Sunday of rejoicing. We rejoice in a God who loves us, a God who saves us despite our sins. As today’s **Gospel** (John 3:14-21) makes clear, God’s love is the reason for the cross. Our salvation was made possible through the death of Jesus on the cross. And the motivation behind this saving event is the immense love of God for an undeserving world.

Fr. Glenn | 9 February 2024

“Set Apart” retreat for Young Adults Young adults of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, YOU are invited to “Set Apart”, a retreat for those in their 20s – 30s on April 13, 2024 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 5225 N Himes Ave, Tampa. The half-day retreat will begin with Mass at 8:30 AM and go on until 2:00 PM. This retreat will be a Saturday of spiritual enrichment and growth alongside other young adults just like you. To register visit the Thrive webpage at <https://stlawrence.org/thrive>. **Hope to see you there!**

Income & Expense Report October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Income	\$	210,995.32
Expenses	\$	181,845.57
Gain	\$	29,149.75

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

Sunday, March 10

8:00 am: Nettie† & Ross† Frustaci
Requested by: The Puma Family

10:30 am: Our Parish Family

Monday, March 11

8:00 am: Mary Jane Edge†
Requested by: Karen Ballaban

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 am: Ken Weaver
Requested by: Friend of the Family

Wednesday, March 13

8:00 am: Antje Jacobson†
Requested by: Helen† & Gene Koczer

Thursday, March 14

8:00 am: Fr. Joy Colina†
Requested by: Dave & Nancy Deso

Friday, March 15

8:00 am: James (Jim) Chirumbolo†
Requested by: Jane & Joe Prefer

Saturday, March 16

4:30 pm: In Thanksgiving for the blessings of Life,
of companionship & memories
Requested by: Karen Robben

Sunday, March 17

8:00 am: Our Parish Family

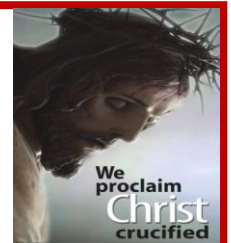
10:30 am: Gary Gray†
Requested by: Mary Gray

Scripture Readings

For the Week of March 10, 2024

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
Monday	Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday	Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday	Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Lent Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

ACT OF CONTRITION
Lord Jesus,
Son of the Father,
Have mercy on me,
a sinner.



LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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

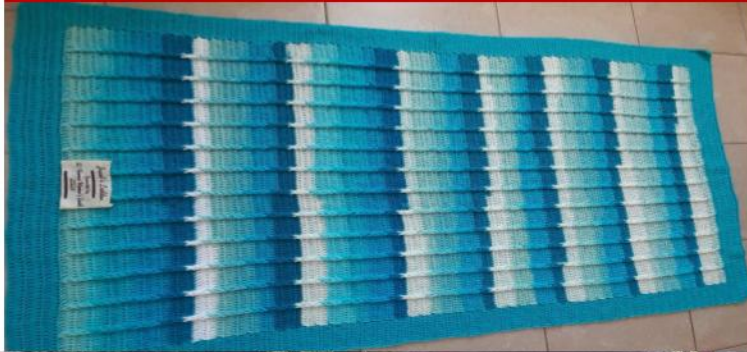
Neill Aiken, Peg Laurie, Sheyna Clements, Sandra Boros, Edward & Rusty Ryal, Fred Di Battista, Tonya Leigh & Family, Evelyn Sweeny, Kevin Watson, Fr. Robert Pesarchick, Mariann De Pue, Maria Casey, Barbara Diaz, Imre Beke Sr., Dayl Kohorst, Victor & Phyllis Ciosi, Terry Brausch, Karen Ballaban, Gene Koczur, Wayne Stringer, Mark Fuge, Karl Wolf, Gene Dalton, Al Papino, Julia Szucsik, Phyllis Fylak, James McCarthy, Martin Faulmino, Jr., Pat Allard, Rev. Ron Marecki, Joseph Marecki, Lorraine & Richard Kwiecienski, Ron Smeeton, Richard Shelton, Ralph Gianetti

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

Women's Guild Raffle

Raffle items include a quilt and an afghan. Tickets will be 3 for \$10. A separate raffle for a carved olive wood statue of St. Michael (retail value is \$3.5K!) will be sold for \$20 a ticket. Tickets will be sold at all Masses on the following weekends: March 9/10, March 16/17, and April 13/14.

The winners will be drawn at the 8:00 am Mass on April 14.



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.

Please give generously!

You can create a **Christian Will** by remembering St. Thomas the Apostle Church in your will and show what was meaningful to you 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. [Please click here to learn more about all the options available to you to help you become an intentional giver.](#)

"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." – Matthew 6:21



SCHEDULE FOR LENT 2024

Date	Time	Event
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence March 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

CORNER OF GRATITUDE

I'm deeply touched by the prayers, cards, gifts, and mass intentions from my parish family throughout my cancer journey—diagnosis, chemotherapy, surgery, and now recovery. Your unwavering support and heartfelt prayers have been my strength, and I believe God has graciously heard your prayers. I'll forever cherish the love and encouragement that has played a significant role in my healing process.

Grateful beyond words, Thank you.

Karen Ballaban



Please mark your calendar for March 19th

The month of March is known as the Month of 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 the 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 the Mass. Items, such as, Cannoli, Zeppole, Sfingi, olive & fig side dishes; cakes, biscotti and cookies, pasta, 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.



In today's Gospel, God demonstrates great love for us by sending his Son that we may believe in him. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works: reaching out to others and acting in justice and charity. Through your almsgiving you are performing good work. Your donation is multiplied by coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

In February our Visitation Case Workers received 66 phone calls. They served 76 households and made 14 home visits that provided support for individuals. Our volunteers delivered a total of 293.38 pounds of food and distributed \$3970.54 for lodging, utilities, food, clothing, etc. They volunteered 107 hours in support of the needy. Our food Pantry had 87 cases that provided support for 272 individuals. Our 23 Food Pantry volunteers worked 69 hours and distributed 2,834 pounds of food to our clients as well as 11 hours of stocking food and 12 hours giving out food.

This following list gives suggestions for items that are in short supply:

Canned meats (Chicken, Ham, Spam & Tuna), [Dry Cereal](#), [Instant Oatmeal](#), [Hearty Soups](#), [Chef Boyardee](#), [Chili](#), [Pasta Sauce](#), [Vegetable](#), [Pork & Beans](#), [Beans-Kidney or Black](#), [Rice](#), [Peanut Butter](#), [Jelly](#), [Marshmallow Fluff](#), Snacks, Pancake Mix, Ramen Noodles, Syrup, Canned Fruits, 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](#), and [Laundry Detergents](#). Our next Food Collection for the needy will be on the third weekend of the month, March 16-17



The Respect Life Ministry collected hundreds of articles including: shampoos, conditioners, body washes, lotions, sanitizers, wipes, dental needs, baby care, and other miscellaneous items. The articles were sorted into groups and then bagged and boxed. It all was sensational!

Thank you to our generous parishioners!



Immediately following the Vigil Mass
on Saturday, March 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.



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 10: Fourth Sunday of Lent Collections: Catholic Relief Services SVdP	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Youth Faith Formation Class (YFF) Children's Mass
Monday, March 11:	8:00 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mass Bible Study: Mary RCIA: Mystagogy Session 5
Tuesday, March 12:	8:00 am 8:45 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion
Wednesday, March 13:	8:00 am 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mass SVdP Spiritual Meeting K o C Meeting
Thursday, March 14:	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 15:	8:00 am 3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross Youth Group: CCSO—K-9 Dogs
Saturday, March 16:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm 5:30 pm	Communion Service only Reconciliation (Confession) Vigil Mass Soup & Dessert after Mass
Sunday, March 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent Collection: Catholic Ministry Appeal SVdP: Food	8:00 am 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am	Mass YFF Class Children's Mass

The Women's Guild
"Soup & Dessert to Go" raised \$240 for the Parish Building Fund. Thank you to the Women's Guild for their delicious soups and desserts and thank you to everyone who supported the event!



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Dolfi Herscovici, D.O. - Foot/Ankle
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Alexander Pappas, D.P.M. - Podiatrist



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