



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 hour has
come for the
Son of Man
to be glorified.
Amen, amen,
I say to you,
unless a grain of
wheat falls to the
ground and dies,
it remains just
a grain of wheat;
but if it dies,
it produces
much fruit."

John 12: 23,24

Jesus Discourses with His
Disciples by James Tissot
Circa 1886-1894



5TH SUNDAY OF
LENT

March 17, 2024



TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

17 March, 2024, *Fifth Sunday in Lent*



17 March 2024 | Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

1. Two more Sundays until Easter, can you believe it? I pray this note finds everyone well and still sticking to your Lenten promises. Personally, I have been obedient to my promises, for the most part. We all fail sometimes, but to me it is not always about what we give up that is important. I like to also add things that will make me a better Christian. I have tried hard not judge, to give more to the needy, and to recognize Jesus in others. The first and the third items are the most difficult to adhere to. In this time of history, in which we live, we are torn apart in our faith and politically. God will judge us, and we will have to answer to Him some day. Let this lent be a springboard so that we can recognize all that God wants from us, and to do His Will and not fall into lure of the world.
2. A campus transformation has begun, I hope you have noticed some changes to the campus. The woods line on the eastern edge of the property has been given a facelift. The trees and bushes are cleaner, the tree canopy has been lifted. Our parish is now visible to all who travel on US 19 north and south. You can thank Steve and Michael in maintenance for this beautification. Hopefully, by Easter, more changes will become visible. We are going to change our parking lot lighting from manual timers to a photosensor so that the lights will automatically turn on and off. Please feel free to email me with other ideas for our campus. Deaconmark@mystthomas.org
3. In today's Gospel Jesus gives us an example on how to be obedient to the will of the Father. Obedience is a difficult pill to swallow for us, especially when it involves suffering for ourselves or a loved one. Being Catholic can be difficult, but following Jesus' example and proclaiming our faith to the world is what the Father calls us to do. My friends, we can tie our suffering to Jesus. By doing this, we are reminded of how He suffered for us and why we proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior!

God bless you and Happy Easter early my friends!
Praise God, for God is good all the time!

March 6, 2024 | Deacon Mark Manko

Corner of Gratitude

The Pregnancy & Family Life Center would like to express our many thanks to the Respect Life Ministry for their donation of toiletries and personal items. Thank you for filling our shelves for weeks to come. Our moms and dads will be extremely blessed by your generosity. Warm Regards, Paula Joy | Executive Assistant, Pregnancy & Family Life Cen-

Bulletin Advertisers Needed!

Jenny Lusk from Diocesan (our bulletin publishing partner) is working to secure NEW bulletin advertisers. The bulletin is available in print and digitally online. We are grateful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost THANKS to the generous support of our bulletin sponsors. Please call Jenny if you're interested in placing an advertisement in the bulletin on behalf of your business, family, favorite charity OR to memorialize a loved one. Bulletin sponsors recognize the tremendous value of connecting with our church family, and we ask our parishioners and guests to patronize our supporters when using a local service. Jenny can be reached at 913-205-6387 or JLusk@Diocesan.com. Thank you!

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

Sunday, March 17

8:00 am: Our Parish Family

10:30 am: Gary Gray†

Requested by: Mary Gray

Monday, March 18

8:00 am: Solange Suich†

Requested by: Anne Schaknecht

Tuesday, March 19

8:00 am: Emanuel Vincitore

Requested by: Bobbi Hall

Wednesday, March 20

8:00 am: Joseph Koczur†

Requested by: Helen† & Gene Koczer

Thursday, March 21

8:00 am: Janis Stacey

Requested by: The Prayer Group

Friday, March 22

8:00 am: SVdP Intentions

Requested by: Trish Grove

Saturday, March 23

4:30 pm: Kelly Watson

Requested by: Bertha Watson

Sunday, March 24

8:00 am: Our Parish Family

10:30 am: Anthony Medved†

Requested by: Joyce Flotkoetter

Scripture Readings

For the Week of March 17, 2024

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

Monday

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; PS 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday

Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday

Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday

Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 or Mk 15:1-39

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, Sandra Marecki

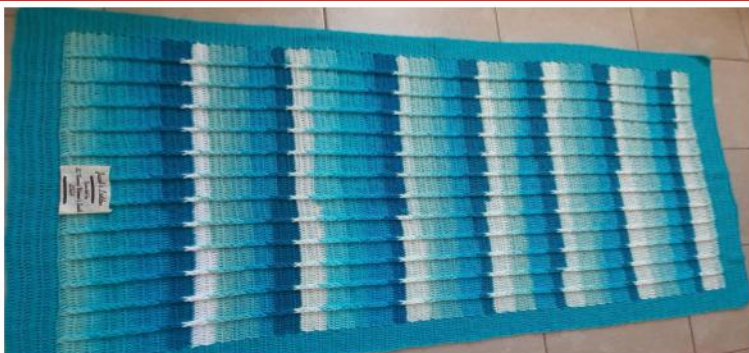
Names will remain on our prayer list for three months.
To add or remove a name, contact the parish office.



Dates for the Women's Guild Raffle Have Been Extended!

Tickets will now be sold at all Masses on the following weekends: March 16/17, and April 13/14, April 20/21, and April 27/28. The winners will be drawn at the 8:00 am Mass on April 28.

Raffle items include a quilt and an afghan (pictured below). Tickets will be 3 for \$10. A separate raffle for a carved olive wood statue of an Angel holding a scroll reading "Gloria" (retail value is \$3.5K!) will be sold for \$20 a ticket.



Places to Go

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**



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and
KAREN M. ROBBEN, GROUP LEADER
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*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!





SCHEDULE FOR LENT 2024

Date	Time	Event
Fridays in Lent: Abstinence March 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

6th Annual Marian Congress Saturday, May 11, 2024 – A Day to be Renewed

Give yourself and your family a day of rest and the time to be renewed! Join us for the Diocese of St. Petersburg's 6th Annual Marian Congress. This year's theme is *Mary, Joseph, and the Eucharist: Forming a Holy Family*. Make plans to attend on Saturday, May 11th, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, 5815 5th Avenue N., St. Petersburg.

To learn more and to register, visit www.FloridaMarianCongress.org.

SAVE THESE DATES

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.

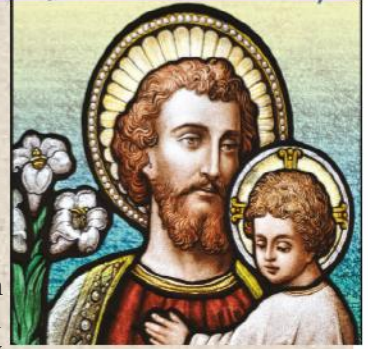
The heart of this tradition can be found in three aspects:

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!



Save the Date

Divine Mercy Sunday

Please join us at the deanery celebration of Divine Mercy that will be held
at 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 7,
at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
in Citrus Springs.



CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL REPORT

Thank You! to everyone who responded to the call to support the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. As of February 26, 2024, 222 pledges were made totaling **\$41,703** - that's **69.9%** of our parish goal of **\$59,640**! Our participation rate is 45%.



100% of your donations support the ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. You can make donations by submitting a Catholic Ministry Appeal monthly church collection envelope or by visiting: dosp.org/catholicministryappeal.

The 2024 Catholic Ministry Appeal has received \$3.8 million in pledges toward a goal of \$9 million; that's 41.8% of the diocesan goal.



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

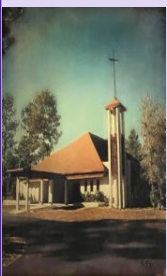
is prayed every weekday following the 8:00 am Mass.
Together We Pray!



SUNDAY/COLLECTION	TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY
Sunday, March 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent Collection: Catholic Ministry Appeal SVdP: Food	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Mass Youth Faith Formation Class YFF Lenten Reconciliation Mass
Monday, March 18:	8:00 am 2:00 pm	Mass Bible Study: Mary
Tuesday, March 19:	8:00 am 8:45 am 9:00 am	Mass Holy Face Devotion 3rd St Joseph's Table
Wednesday, March 20:	8:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	Mass Women's Guild SVdP Business Meeting
Thursday, March 21:	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 22:	8:00 am 3:00 pm 6:00 pm—8:00 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross Youth Group
Saturday, March 23:	8:00 am 3:15 - 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Communion Service Reconciliation (Confession) Vigil Mass
Sunday, March 24: Sixth Sunday of Lent Collection: School & Camp Support	8:00 am 9:00 am - 10:15 am 10:30 am	Palm Sunday Mass NO YFF Class Mass

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Gracious God, You have called us to be missionary disciples of Jesus, your Son. Grant that we, your loving sons and daughters, may become living witnesses to the gospel. Together as a parish family, we are committed to follow Christ's example by using our time, talent, and treasure in building up God's kingdom on earth.



Through the intercession of our patron, St Thomas the Apostle, we humbly ask that you keep us steadfast in our faith, serene in our hope, and faithful in our love. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER FOR ANNA



Lord, grant Anna the forever home that she deserves and strongly desires.

Touch the hearts of her future family and give them courage and peace. Amen. More information is available at heartgallerytampa.org



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