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<https://stthomasgassaway.org>

**Sharing God's Blessings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>May 17 &amp; 18</b>
<b>Collection</b>	<b>\$1,448.00</b>
<b>Mass Attendance</b>	<b>8 &amp; 67</b>

**Thank you for your contribution**

**Liturgy Schedule**

**RISEN LORD CHURCH**

SUNDAY MASS: **8:30am**

**Liturgy Schedule**

**AT ST. THOMAS PARISH**

ROSARY: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 p.m (Sunday Vigil)

Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY: Tue, Wed, Thu at 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**

Every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. prior to Mass

**RECONCILIATION:**

- Any time 30 minutes before or after daily Mass, After Sunday Mass
- *Other days by appointment*

**The Altar Society** will have a meeting on Sunday, June 1, after 11 o'clock mass.

**Second Collection** for today will be contributing to **Catholic Relief Services.**

Thank God, we were able to serve 256 families at Risen Lord Food Pantry on last Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Thank you all the volunteers. Your dedication and sacrifice truly allow our less fortunate brothers and sisters to experience God's love and comfort even in the trying time.



**May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**A Vocation View:** If we love, we know the presence of God. Take time to be aware of God's loving presence. Be open to the Holy Spirit.

**DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES and SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**800-553-3321**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Today's Gospel is from John 14:23-29. In this passage, Jesus tells the disciples to be aware of four important lessons.

Firstly, the disciples are the ones who keep and live his teachings. When they are practicing Jesus' teachings in their lives, they also live according to the will of the Father in heaven.

Secondly, Jesus foretells that after he rises from the dead, he would go back to the Father, and the Father will send "the Advocate, the Holy Spirit," to continue to guide, to teach, to bless, etc. the disciples on their journey to bring the good news of salvation into the world through Christ.

Thirdly, Jesus blesses the disciples with heavenly peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." The heavenly peace that the world cannot give. This heavenly peace is fully given to the disciples after Jesus's resurrection from the dead. When they were praying in the closed room, the Risen Lord appears in their midst and blesses them, "Peace be with you." This heavenly peace then gives the attentive disciples strength, courage, zeal ... to proclaim the Good News even at the times of life-threatening situations till the end of their lives, and also to all the Faithful in the past two thousand years.

Fourthly, being aware that the disciples would have to witness a deadly, fearful, overwhelming and confusing situation when their Master and Savior undergoing a cruel persecution before all people, and a brutal execution on the cross, Jesus gives the disciples comfort and guidance to strengthen their faith: "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid... I am going away and I will come back to you." Jesus then tells the disciples the joy from his resurrection will be overwhelming. It would give them the assurance on their faith journey. They also should be rejoicing when he goes back to the Father where he came from, and thus he would come back to bring all his followers to the Father (John 14:3). Telling all these four insights before his departure from this world, Jesus wants to strengthen the faith of the disciples and his followers.

As Christ has entrusted the disciples and all of His followers to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we pray that all of God's children have the openness to listen to God's voice speaking to us through the Holy Scripture under the guidance of Christ's Spirit, and may God's peace give us the courage and joy to share God's good news of salvation through the sacrificial and unconditional love of Christ to forgive our sins in season and out of season. May we all also share God's good news with our words and deeds with joy of the good news of salvation in the Liturgy, Church Ministries, Social Outreach programs, in our family and at the workplace, etc. in the same heavenly peace like the first disciples did. Amen.

**Have a Blessed and Grace-filled Sunday!**

*Fr. Dominic Pham, SVD*

**Tribute to Fr. Thien.**

During Fr. Thien's nine years here, he made a dramatic difference for St. Thomas. Fr. Thien increased our membership more than any other priest who has served here. He expanded our ministry programs: The Food Pantry, the Back Pack Program, Uitinies-Emergency Assistance, and Walking With Moms in Need. In addition to that, he increase the acreage.

Because of Fr. Thien's outgoing personality, the earned several nicknames: the Energizer Bunny, Beggar in Chief (raising funds), and Our Good Shepherd.

He will greatly missed by our parish and community. He is forever in our thought, hearts and prayers.

As Fr. Thien is following God's call to serve in a different ministry and at a different place - in the formation house of the Divine Word Missionaries in Chicago, may God continue to bless him with good health, zealous spirit and youthful heart to enjoy serving, cultivating and forming new brothers and priests for the Divine Word Missionaries and for the Church as a whole, and may his selfless services will yield abundance of fruits, and joy and fond memories in God's wondrous love and blessings on the journey ahead.

