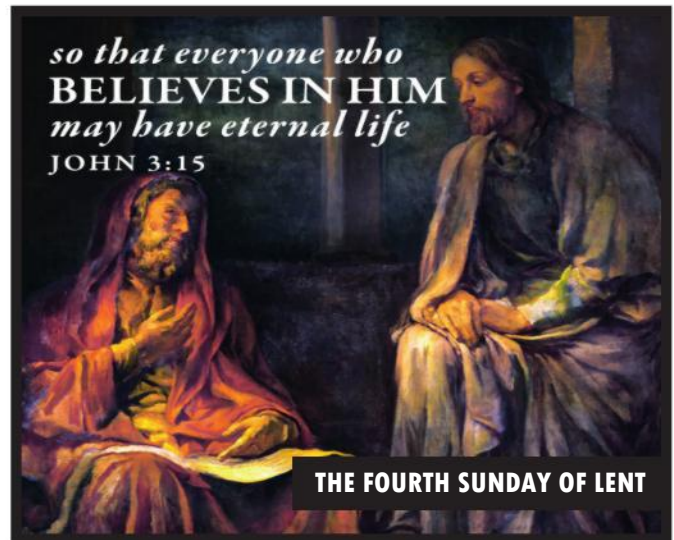


The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today’s Gospel reading is taken from John’s Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus’ reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today’s Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses’ prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.



The second part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John’s Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John’s reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish Robstown, Texas and Saint Patrick Mission, San Patricio, Texas

DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS • 16602 FM 624 • Robstown, Texas 78380

Phone: 361-387-1312 or 361-387-7842 • Fax: 361-387-9311

Website: www.christon624.com • Email: stthomastheapostle@christon624.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Philip J. Panackal
Secretary: Ann Clarke
Bookkeeper: Anna Ramos
Housekeeper: Yolanda Tobón
Knights of Columbus Council #9318

Holy Day Vigil @ St. Thomas: 6:30 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ St. Thomas: 5:30 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ St. Patrick: 4:00 PM
Weekday Masses @ St. Thomas: 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday
CONFESSIONS @ St. Thomas: 30 Minutes before Masses or by appointment

Deacon: Bill Cleavelin (361-208-2146)
DRE: Michele Hoelscher (361-244-2138)
EDGE: Pauline Pechacek
LIFETEEN: Rachel Unterbrink
Catholic Daughters of America Court #2290

Holy Day Mass @ St. Thomas: 12:00 PM Noon
Sunday Masses @ St. Thomas: 8:30 AM & 11 AM

Sacristan: Jerry Knesek
Music Director: Vic Benys
Plant Manager: Gary Clarke
Custodian: Rosalva Treviño

Holy Rosary: Thurs. 11:40 AM
Divine Mercy: Fri. 11:45 AM

CONFESSIONS @ St. Patrick Mission: 3:30 PM

***"God so loved the world that He gave
His only Son, so everyone who
believes in Him might have eternal life."***

John 3:16

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

4:00 PM: **Collective Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Elaine McCown by Boice Hoffstadt and Pam Clark
†John and †Gloria Guerra Jr. by Dr. Sandra Garcia
5:30 PM: **STATIONS OF THE CROSS and Collective MASS**
@ St. Thomas the Apostle
†Peggy Jo Ybarra by JoAnn Dominguez
†Irma Cantu by Yolanda Peña
Javier Peña and Family (Birthdays) by Yolanda Peña

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: **STATIONS OF THE CROSS and MASS**
†Ethel Leach (AOB) by Mary Ann Hans

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024

12:00 PM: **NO MASS**

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Fred Gimbel (Birthday) by David & Susie Tajchman

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Kay Havelka by Jerry Burkhardt

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Jon Landreth (Birthday) by †Jim & Pat Landreth

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †David Tajchman Jr. by David & Susie Tajchman

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Pamela McCown Forshage by Rick & Maggie Malek
5:30 PM: **STATIONS OF THE CROSS and MASS**
@ St. Thomas the Apostle
†Sylvester Vo by John & Chi Bowman

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: **STATIONS OF THE CROSS and Collective MASS**
†John Knezek by John & Annette Freeman
†Rance Vaughan by Karen Vaughan
†Bill Rakowitz by John & Annette Freeman
†Jim Landreth Sr. by Raymond & Melissa Polasek

Please Pray for ...

**All the homebound, sick and suffering of our parish,
especially all those who have asked us to pray for them:**

David Rowden, Brandon Fernandez, James Nemec, Emil Prukop,
Patricia Nemec, Fred Nemec, Mari Beth, Petra Tobon, Larry Bryant,
Mary Elva Estrada, Valerie Rich, Frances Sparks, Jason Cavalier,
Margaret Young, Angie Gomez, Lincoln Polasek, Tyler Skidmore,
Henrietta Vrana, Marty Douglas, Cindy Cleavelin, Frank Prukop,
Juan Rodriguez, Wallace Prukop, Ashley Jimenez, Charlie & Jean
Chapman, Joe Arnold Guerra, Richard Barraza, Charlie Toler,
Richy Price, Barry Kimbal, Liz Yaklin and the Zaruba Family.

Please call/email the parish office to include a person on the 2024 PRAYER LIST.



LECTORS for MARCH 16-17, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annette Freeman
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Andres Trevino
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Paul Pilarczyk



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION for MARCH 16-17, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Rosa Trevino
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Karen Vaughan, Barbara Rychetsky

ALTAR SERVERS for MARCH 16-17, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Matthew Cortino, Michael Cortino
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Gabriel & Cyprian Kimmel
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Taylor Dusek, Brantley Cook

USHERS for MARCH 16-17, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: B. Havelka, W. Riebschleager, D. Kurtz, J. Freeman
Sunday, 8:30 AM: M. Reitorik, M. Reilly, B. Gwynn, R. Mendiola
Sunday, 11:00 AM: D. Gonzalez, R. Carrillo, D. Bluntzer, M. Ybarra



LENTEN REGULATIONS

Lent is the penitential season of the Church year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. Traditionally, the Lenten Season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. Easter Duty is the obligation to receive Holy Communion between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Fasting binds all Catholics 18 to 59 years of age. On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken in accordance to each one's needs, but together should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

***Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days
of fast and abstinence.***

Abstinence binds all older than 14. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, a parish priest or confessor should be consulted.

Pastor

SPECIAL OFFERING – MARCH 10, 2024

Catholic Relief Services

Diocese of C.C.

OFFERINGS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

3/2-3/2024 Regular Collection: \$7,571.00
3/2-3/2024 Online Giving: \$1,607.00
TOTAL \$9,178.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

3/2/2024 Regular Collection: \$315.00
Money Counters: Kim Gallagher and Connie Pilarczyk



Go to church website
www.christon624.com
click on icon
to give online

SPECIAL OFFERING – MARCH 29, 2024

Holy Land Collection

Diocese of C.C.

THE SYNODAL PROCESS

What theological justification do they give for the need to listen?

Pope Francis, the Synod organizers, and its preparatory documents insist *ad nauseam* that “The whole body of the faithful . . . cannot err in matters of belief. This characteristic is shown in the supernatural sense of the faith (*sensus fidei*) . . . These are the famous words *infallible ‘in credendo.’*”

How do they justify such a statement theologically?

Between 2011 and 2014, the International Theological Commission (ITC) conducted a study on the meaning of faith, which resulted in the publication of the document “*Sensus fidei* in the Life of the Church.”

This study describes the sense of faith of the faithful as “a natural, immediate and spontaneous reaction, and comparable to a vital instinct or a sort of ‘flair’ by which the believer clings spontaneously to what conforms to the truth of faith and shuns what is contrary to it” (no. 54). This spiritual instinct derives “from the connaturality that the virtue of faith establishes between the believing subject and the authentic object of faith, namely the truth of God revealed in Christ Jesus” (no. 50).

This *sensus fidei fidelis* is “infallible in itself with regard to its object: the true faith” (no. 55). But it is not infallible in every believer, on the one hand, because its development is proportionate to the development of the virtue of faith. For this reason, it is proportional to each person’s holiness of life (see no. 57). Moreover, in the real world, believers’ intuitions can mix with purely human opinions or even with the prevailing errors of their cultural context.

For this reason, the ITC document hastens to add, quoting paragraph 35 of the declaration *Donum Veritatis* of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: “Although theological faith as such cannot err, the believer can still have erroneous opinions since all his thoughts do not spring from faith. Not all ideas which circulate among the People of God are compatible with the faith” (no. 55).

(to be continued)

From the Pastor's desk

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6;
Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21.

[illegible]

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

(Drive Thru Only)

Friday, March 8th, 2024



Pickup a plate of fried fish, french fries, hush puppies, and coleslaw for \$12.00 a plate from 5:00-7:30 PM. The Friday fish fries are sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9318 of St. Thomas.

Tony Arredondo, KC Grand Knight

INFORMATION CORNER

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Baptism: Call the parish office to register for the Sacrament of Baptism. All paperwork must be completed before attending class or scheduling Baptism. See website for more information.

Bulletin: Bulletin announcements are due on Monday by 1:00 PM.

Scripture Study: Sunday's after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the KC Bldg.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Spring Fundraiser

GIFT CARD RAFFLE

We will be having our Parish Spring Fundraiser (Gift Card Raffle we usually do for Czechfest).




We need your assistance and are asking for donations to the prize fund for the raffle gift card prizes. You can donate cash and we will do the legwork and purchase the gift card for you. Pledge cards will be available after all Masses or at the parish office. If you have any questions, please call Michele Hoelscher at 361-244-2138 or call the parish office.

Michele Hoelscher, Chairperson



Diocesan is proud to now be printing
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