

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th Chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.



The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in

answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.



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

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

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

Holy Day Vigil @ St. Thomas: 6:30 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ St. Thomas: 5:30 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ St. Patrick: 4:00 PM

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

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

Weekday Masses @ St. Thomas: 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday
CONFESSIONS @ St. Thomas: 30 Minutes before Masses or by appointment

CONFESSIONS @ St. Patrick Mission: 3:30 PM

*"He became the source of
eternal salvation for all who obey Him."*
Hebrews 5:9

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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



MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

12:00 PM: **NO MASS**

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Kay Havelka by Patricia Kelso

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Ethel Leach (AOD) by Mary Ann Hans

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Sister Patrice Floyd by John Floyd

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Cheryl Tajchman by David & Susie Tajchman

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Elaine McCown by Herb & Mary Helen Brauchle
5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Harlew Conally by Betty Conally

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 PASSION OF THE LORD

Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: **Collective MASS**
†Arturo Lopez by John & Annette Freeman
†Jay and †Rita Floyd by John Floyd
†Jill Ranly by Michael Rektorik
†Jim Landreth Sr. by Sammy & Shirley Syamken

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

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,
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 Young Family.

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



LECTORS for MARCH 23-24, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Les Hoelscher
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Michele Hoelscher
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Frank Wilson



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION for MARCH 23-24, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Aaron Hoelscher
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Fred Ramos, Rosa Carrillo

ALTAR SERVERS for MARCH 23-24, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Matthew Cortino, Michael Cortino
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Sarita & Charleigh Nelson, Gabriel & Cyprian Kimmel
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Wade & Fallon Hedfelt

USHERS for MARCH 23-24, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: B. Havelka, W. Riebschleager, D. Kurtz, J. Freeman
Sunday, 8:30 AM: M. Rektorik, M. Reilly, B. Gwynn, T. Schumacher
Sunday, 11:00 AM: P. Pilarczyk, S. Knezek, B. McClendon, D. Dusek



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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: St. Patrick's Day;

Monday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church;

Tuesday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary;

Saturday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop;

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.

**Our deepest condolences to the Young Family
on the death of**



†Mrs. Margaret Young

St. Thomas Parishioner and Catholic Daughter



**Please keep the family in your prayers.
May her soul rest in peace.**

Pastor and Parishioners

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (John 12:20-33).

FAMILY CONNECTION: Family life is often a balancing act in which we prioritize and attend to a variety of competing needs. We learn the value of putting others' needs ahead of our own. In family life we also learn that when we make personal sacrifices to serve others, we gain so much more than we may have lost.

As you gather as a family, talk about how important it is to your family life to gladly serve one another. Ask each person to consider the last time that another family member asked for help. What was your response? Did you cheerfully try to honor the request, or did you ask "Why me?" Read today's Gospel, John 12:20-33. How do you think Jesus would want us to respond when someone in our family asks for help? Invite each family member to make a commitment for the next week to try to respond cheerfully to requests for help. Pray together, asking God's help with this commitment. Pray the Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

(Courtesy to Loyola Press)

From the Pastor's desk

Today's Mass Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15;
Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

3/9-10/2024 Regular Collection: \$7,288.17
3/9-10/2024 Online Giving: \$1,436.00
TOTAL \$8,724.17

3/9-10/2024 Catholic Relief Services: \$410.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

3/9/2024 Regular Collection: \$784.46

Money Counters: Kim Gallagher and Connie Pilarczyk



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

SPECIAL OFFERING – MARCH 29, 2024

Holy Land Collection

Diocese of C.C.



40 CANS FOR LENT

The Knights of Columbus Council #9318 of St. Thomas the Apostle are sponsoring a food drive during Lent. Bring your cans at any time and place them in the box provided in the foyer of the church. At the end of the Lenten season, the food will be distributed to the ARK.

Tony Arredondo, 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.

Confession: 30 minutes before Masses or by appointment.




Religious Ed: Schedule for Religious Ed can be found on our website www.christon624.com under the Religious Ed Tab. on the Home Page under Parish Statement.

Catholic Daughters of America Court #2290: Contact Cynthia Garcia, Regent at 361-537-4470.

Knights of Columbus Council #9318: Contact Tony Arredondo, Grand Knight at Tonyent62@gmail.com or 361-947-8036.

Diocesan is proud to now be printing
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 Sunday Bulletin***

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