

Having reminded the apostles and the crowd that facing the coming judgment takes patience, Jesus now goes on to speak of how difficult it will be to wait. He tells them that he has come to set the earth on fire. Recall that in Chapter 3 of Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd that he is baptizing with water, but someone mightier is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The fire Jesus speaks of here is the distress caused by the coming judgment. It is also the fire of the Spirit that Luke will describe descending on the disciples on Pentecost. That fire will strengthen them to go out to the whole world to preach the good news of Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus will be the first to experience the distress of the coming judgment. His baptism will be the conflict into which he will be immersed as he approaches Jerusalem and his death on the cross. His followers will not be spared that distress. The angels at Jesus' birth proclaimed peace on earth, and Simeon, holding the baby Jesus in the Temple, said to God: "Master, now you may let your servant go in peace." Here Jesus tells the crowd not to think he has come to bring peace; he has come to bring division. Simeon said as much when he turned to Mary and said that the child was destined for the

rise and fall of many and to be a sign that will be contradicted. Peace is the ultimate end of the Kingdom of God, but peace has a price. Jesus is warning the crowd that wherever the Word of God is heard and acted upon, division occurs. Fathers will be divided against sons and mothers against daughters.

The coming judgment forces us to look at the implications of our commitments. As Jesus warned in last Sunday's Gospel, a commitment of faith requires us to change our attitude toward material possessions and to take even more seriously our moral responsibilities. Here he reminds the crowd that those who commit to him will find it affects the way

they relate to friends and family members. A commitment to Jesus forces us to change the way we live our lives, and this can put strains on relationships.

We don't expect to hear such difficult words from Jesus in the Gospel. But it is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. Jesus himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. In today's reading, he reminds his followers to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.

**Jesus said
to his disciples:
"I have come to
set the earth on fire,
and how I wish
it were already
blazing!"**

Luke 12:49



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: Mon./Wed./Fri. 8:00-11:00 a.m.; Tues./Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Philip J. Panackal
Secretary: Ann Clarke
Housekeeper: Yolanda Tobòn
Catholic Daughters of America Court #2290

Deacon: Bill Cleavelin (361-208-2146)
Bookkeeper/DRE: Michele Hoelscher (361-244-2138)
EDGE: Pauline Pechacek
LIFETEEN: Rachel Unterbrink
Knights of Columbus Council #9318

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

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

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

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

CONFESSIONS @ St. Patrick Mission: 3:30 PM

"Let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us."

Hebrews 12:1

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
**Patrick Nemec* by Bob & Joan Black
 5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
**Sylvester Vo* by John & Chi Bowman

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
 11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**
**Alicia C. Carrillo* by Rosa Carrillo & David Gonzalez
**Kay Havelka* by C.B. & Kathleen Trial
**Herb Welch* by Owen & Kim Gallagher
**Cardoza Wells* by the Burney Family

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

12:00 PM: *No Mass*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *Breanne Vaughan Smith (Birthday)* by Karen Vaughan

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: **Patricia Nemec* by Fred Nemec

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *Brian Dee (Birthday)* by David & Susie Tajchman

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: **Kara Knesek* by Jerry Knesek

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
**Paul O'Brien* by Elizabeth O'Brien
 5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
**Maurice Babin (AOB)* by Donna Reeves

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
 11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**
Ella Martinez (Special Intention) by Jazmine Duff
**Patricia Nemec* by Fred Nemec
**Peter Gallagher (AOD)* by Owen & Kim Gallagher
**Maria Nguyen* by John & Chi Bowman

Please Pray for ...

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

Cathy Sikes, Larry Bryant, Mary Elva Estrada, Cambri Calaway, Stephanie Landreth, Josie Blevins, Patrick Landreth, Fred Nemec, Mari Beth, Mable Ginn, Alva Rosas, Blaine Ainsworth, Noe Ramos, Gayla Schaefer, Ruthie Weathersby, Debra Wood, David Rowden, Valerie Rich, Yolanda Peña, Tommy Pritchard, Kathryn White, Wallace Prukop, Juan Rodriguez, Emil Prukop, Solomon Abdo II, Estefana Munoz, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Stasha Landreth, Frank Cain, Ernie Skloss, Rose Pfeiler, Elaine Cain, Aida Deases, Ted & Jeanette Respondek, Todd Crawford, Eileen Champine, Tyler Skidmore, Arnold Guerra, Yolanda Galvan, Fred Guerra, Joanna Guerra, Ramiro Trevino, Tom Crawford, Simon Bucknall, Ravyn Brown, Frances Hicks, Graciela Garza, Evelyn Castillo, T. J. Williams, Kathy Rathke, Nicole Ginn, Susan Chavarry, Jaime Garza, Homer Garcia, Rita Conroy, Joe Garza, Dalia Gutierrez.

Please call/email the parish office to include a person on the 2025 PRAYER LIST.



LECTORS for AUGUST 23-24, 2025

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



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - AUGUST 23-24, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Aaron Hoelscher, Fred Ramos
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Jesse Garcia, Bill Kelly, Kera Steward

ALTAR SERVERS for AUGUST 23-24, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Grace Landry, Matthew Cortino, Michael Cortino
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Miles Shimek, Gabriel & Cyprian Kimmel, Joseph Hess
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Liam Sanchez, Eliana Garza

USHERS for AUGUST 23-24, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: D. Kurtz, W. Riebschleager, E. Flurry, J. Freeman
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: B. Gwynn, M. Rektorik, M. Reilly, T. Schumacher
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: R. Garcia, S. Woolf, B. Boatright, E. Sanchez

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. John Eudes Priest;
Wednesday: St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church;
Thursday: St. Pius X, Pope;
Friday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
Saturday: St. Rose of Lima, Blessed Virgin Mary.

LIVE WITH GRACE

Hate no one, no matter how much they've wronged you.

Live humbly, no matter how wealthy you become.

Think positively, no matter how hard life is.

Forgive all, especially yourself.

And never stop praying for the best in everyone.

From the desk of the Pastor

OFFERINGS	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	
	8/9-10/2025 Regular Collection:	\$9,569.04
	8/9-10/2025 Online Giving:	\$1,561.00
	TOTAL	\$11,130.04
	ST. PATRICK MISSION	
	8/9/2025 Regular Collection:	\$595.00
	Money Counters: K. Gallagher and C. Hoelscher	



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

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

Altar Flowers: Call the parish office to schedule flowers for the altar for a special occasion or "in honor of" or "in memory of" a person.

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.

Confession: 30 minutes before Masses or by appointment.

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Luke 12:49-53).

FAMILY CONNECTION: Families strive for unity and togetherness. Nobody enjoys occasions when divisions in family life become all too evident. Yet, in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says that he has come to bring division and that members of households will be divided.

Talk as a family about the things that you do together to bring about family unity (togetherness), such as sharing meals, going to church together, celebrating special occasions, or sharing family traditions. Explain that all of these things are important and that Jesus wants families to show this kind of love for one another. Point out that this Sunday's Gospel sounds as though Jesus is saying something very different.

Explain that sometimes as parents, you have to make decisions that are unpopular with your children. You don't do it to divide the family but because it is the right thing to do. In the short run, such decisions may "divide" children from their parents. In the long run, however, doing the right thing will bring about a deeper unity. Talk to your children about decisions that they have to make that might be unpopular with their friends and how these decisions may divide them from others. Encourage them to pray to the Holy Spirit for the gift of courage (fortitude) so that they may do the right thing even if unpopular.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk

BID SOLICITATION **FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RECTORY**

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church is seeking bids for the construction of a new rectory on the church premises at 16602 FM 624, Robstown, TX. The plans and specifications are available for inspection and copying by any contractors interested in bidding. Any bidders must meet the diocesan guidelines concerning insurance.

The bids must contain a very thorough breakdown of the proposal with detailed pricing of the roofing, foundation, framing and cabinetry. This is for residential construction and will require certification by a windstorm engineer.

If interested, please contact the parish office at 361-387-1312 or email the office at stthomastheapostle@christon624.com.

Thomas Schumacher, Chairperson
Email: tmslawofc@aol.com

RELIGIOUS ED / EDGE / LIFE TEEN REGISTRATION

Religious Ed / EDGE / LIFE TEEN registration is now open: We look forward to a fabulous 2025-26 school year with your kiddos!!!

If you have returning students in our program, please e-mail me with their names and grade level. If your contact information has changed, please also provide that information in the e-mail.

If you are new to the parish, please make sure you have submitted a parish registration form to the church office. If you have not done so, you can find the registration form on our website (www.christon624.com) under *Newcomers* and then go to tab "Register - St. Thomas". Once form is completed, please submit original to parish office or put it in the collection basket at Sunday Mass. You can also find our religious ed registration form on our website (*only new members need to complete this form*) under *Parish Life*, then go to *Religious Ed* tab. You will see "CCD Registration Form". Please complete this form for each student you want to register for religious ed. Once completed, you can e-mail that form to me. ***The Parish Registration Form must be submitted to Parish Office before we can register students for our religious ed programs.***

More information coming soon on dates for "Welcome Back and Orientation" and dates that Religious Ed, Edge, and Life Teen will resume.

If you have any other questions about registration or students that may need to get on track with their sacraments, please feel free to contact me.

Michele Hoelscher, DRE

E-Mail: mhoelscher@christon624.com; Cell: 361-244-2138.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CGS and EDGE:

Welcome Back and Orientation with parents and students—
Sunday, August 31, 2025 at 9:45 a.m. in I.C. Hall.
Sessions begin on Sunday, September 21, 2025

LIFETEEN

Welcome Back and Orientation with parents and students—
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. in I.C. Hall.
Sessions begin on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Michele Hoelscher, DRE

8 RULES FOR A BETTER LIFE

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Never hate. | 5. Give a lot. |
| 2. Don't worry. | 6. Live with love. |
| 3. Live simply. | 7. Always smile. |
| 4. Expect a little. | 8. Best of all, <i>Be with God.</i> |

From the desk of the Pastor

Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin

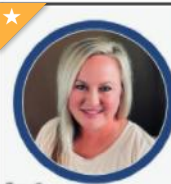
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