

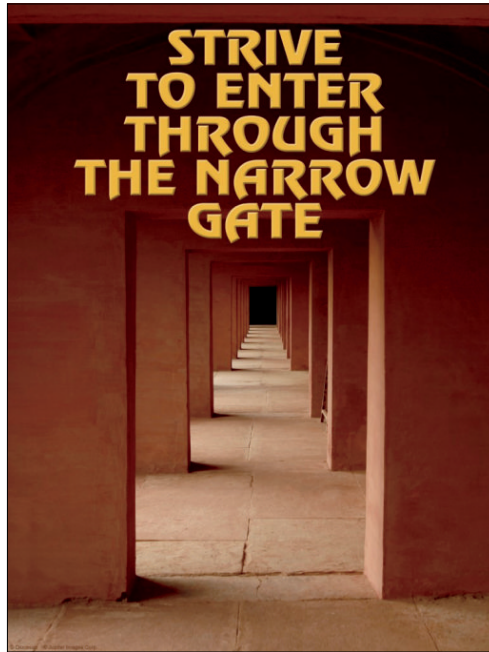
Today's Gospel reading is the third of three parables in Chapter 13 that deal with the theme of the unexpected reversals brought by the Kingdom of God. The other two parables are about the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree and the small amount of yeast that makes a large batch of dough rise. All three are about the few and the many and the Kingdom of God.

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem. This journey, this exodus as Luke refers to it, makes up the entire middle of the Gospel. He is teaching as he goes. A question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to make a prophetic statement. Luke uses this question device a number of times in his Gospel. A few weeks ago, the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" led to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The question about will only a few be saved uses typical Christian language about salvation but also expresses the Jewish concern about whether everyone who calls himself a Jew is actually faithful to the covenant. This was a concern of the Pharisees.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time remaining to enter through the narrow door because many will be trying to get in but won't be strong enough. He then moves to a parable about another door. (The translation says "gate" then "door," but the

same Greek word is used.) Once all those entering the master's house are in and he locks the door, there will be no way for others to get in. Those left outside may knock, but the master will say he doesn't know them. Unlike the Gospel reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock and the door would be opened, in this parable, the master will not open and say he does not know us. People from the north, south, east, and west will take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of God. Those who do not make it through the narrow door will be cast out to where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses of the parable with the image of the heavenly banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of God bringing Israel's descendants back from the east and from the west, the north and the south. And Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be saved, but many who thought they would be saved will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic warning to repentance in order to enter the kingdom.



## 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](http://www.christon624.com) • Email: [stthomastheapostle@christon624.com](mailto: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

**"For steadfast is his kindness toward us, and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever."**

Psalm 117

### Masses and Intentions for the Week

#### 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  
*†Joseph Kubena* by Renna Bockholt

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025

12:00 PM: No Mass

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *†Rance Vaughan (AOB)* by Karen Vaughan

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *Tyler Skidmore (Birthday)* by the Polasek Family

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *†Harlew Conally (AOB)* by Betty Conally

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

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

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**  
*†Kay Havelka* by C.B. & Kathleen Trial  
 5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**  
*†Augustine Carpenter* by Danny & Roberta Kurtz

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*  
 11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**  
*James Lozano (Special Intention)* by Frank & Velma Lozano  
*Karen Vaughan (Birthday)* by the Smith Family  
*†Mike Hunter (AOB)* by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink  
*†Maggie Benys (AOD)* by Vic & Denise Benys

### 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, Solomon Abdo II, Frank Cain, Estefana Munoz, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Stasha Landreth, Rose Pfeiler, Elaine Cain, Ted & Jeanette Respondek, Fred Guerra, Todd Crawford, Eileen Champine, Tyler Skidmore, Arnold Guerra, Yolanda Galvan, Joanna Guerra, Ramiro Trevino, Tom Crawford, Simon Bucknall, Ravyn Brown, Frances Hicks, Graciela Garza, Evelyn Castillo, T. J. Williams, Kathy Rathke, Susan Chavary, Nicole Ginn, Jaime Garza, Homer Garcia, Rita Conroy, Joe Garza, Dalia Gutierrez, Wilma Grupe, and The Deases and Ramos Families.

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



### LECTORS for AUGUST 30-31, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Ann Clarke  
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: John Harris  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Velma Garcia



### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - AUGUST 30-31, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo  
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Matt Kimmel, Rosa Trevino  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Javier Flores, Gianna Flores, Tony Nelson

### ALTAR SERVERS for AUGUST 30-31, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Able Flurry, Abraum Flurry  
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Gabriel & Cyprian Kimmel  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson

### USHERS for AUGUST 30-31, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: D. Kurtz, W. Riebschleager, E. Flurry, J. Freeman  
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: B. Gwynn, M. Rektorik, M. Reilly, R. Mendiola  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: R. Polasek, D. Dusek, M. Ybarra, R. Garcia

Our deepest condolences to the Deases Family  
 on the death of



†Mrs. Aida Deases



Wife of Louis Deases  
 and Sister of Anna (Fred) Ramos of St. Thomas Parish

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

Pastor and Parishioners

### 2025 PARISH FESTIVAL/CZECHFEST

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Sunday, October 5, 2025**

St. Thomas the Apostle is in the planning stages of our parish festival "CZECHFEST". To find out where your help is needed, please call the parish festival chairman, Tom Schumacher at 361-563-4130.

Tom Schumacher, Chairman

### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

8/14-15/2025 The Assumption: \$989.72  
 8/16-17/2025 Regular Collection: \$6,702.00  
 8/9-10/2025 Online Giving: \$1,894.00  
**TOTAL \$8,596.00**

### ST. PATRICK MISSION

8/9/2025 Regular Collection: \$547.01  
 Money Counters: A. Freeman and C. Hoelscher



Go to church website  
[www.christon624.com](http://www.christon624.com)  
 click on icon  
 to give online

### A THANK YOU for the ALTAR FLOWERS

To Rosa Carrillo in memory of her mother and to the Catholic Daughters Court \$2290 for the Feast of the Assumption.

Pastor and Parishioners

**CONDITIONAL BAPTISM****WHAT IT IS AND WHEN IT IS APPLIED?  
A THEOLOGICAL AND PASTORAL GUIDE**

At the heart of the sacramental life of the Catholic Church lies **Baptism**, the gateway to life in Christ and salvation. As the Lord said: *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned"* (Mark 16:16). But what happens when there is doubt about the validity of a previous baptism? This is where **conditional baptism** comes into play—a little-known yet vitally important pastoral practice.

**1. What Is Conditional Baptism?**

Conditional baptism is a sacrament administered **when there is reasonable doubt about the validity of a previous baptism**. Unlike ordinary baptism, which is performed with certainty that it is being administered for the first time, conditional baptism is conferred with the formula: *"If you are not baptized, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

**Why is it necessary?***(To be continued)**From the desk of the Pastor***SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES****Monday:** St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest; **Wednesday:** St Monica;**Thursday:** St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church;**Friday:** The Passion of St. John the Baptist;**Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary.**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 email the parish office at [stthomastheapostle@christon624.com](mailto:stthomastheapostle@christon624.com) or call our office at 361-387-1312.

Thomas Schumacher, Chairperson  
Email: [tmslawofc@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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.**

The registration fee is \$25 for the first kiddo and \$10 for each additional kiddo. You can put your registration fee in an envelope marked "Religious Ed Registration Fee" and put it in the collection basket when you go to Holy Mass. If you write a check, please make it payable to St. Thomas the Apostle. No pressure or rush on the registration fee . . . Just when you can and if you can.

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](mailto: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

**SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 7, 2025****The Catholic University of America**




Diocese of C.C.





Diocesan is proud to be printing  
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*Sunday Bulletin*

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