

The second parable that Jesus tells in Luke 18 addresses attitude in prayer. In contrasting the prayer of the Pharisee with the prayer of the tax collector, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in humility before God. Jesus again surprises his listeners by showing the tax collector as the example of faith, rather than the Pharisee. Remember that Pharisees were members of a sect of Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for Jewish piety. If anyone would be a model for prayer, a Pharisee was a likely candidate. In contrast, Jesus offers the tax collector as a model for prayer. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax collectors to line their own pockets by charging in excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us.

Family Connection:

In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention,



for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. Parents who provide continual reminders to their children that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do, help children develop a healthy spirituality.

As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss

whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's talents) In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it prevents one from valuing the abilities of another)

As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14. Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector?

Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that your family will be free from unhealthy competition. Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.



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

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



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Catholic Daughters of America Court #2290

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LIFETEEN: Rachel Unterbrink
Knights of Columbus Council #9318

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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

Masses and Intentions for the Week**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025**

with Msgr. Michael Howell

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**

†Joan Bluntzer (AOB) by Celestia Bluntzer

5:30 PM: **Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

†Aida Deases by John & Annette Freeman

†Cordoba Wells by David & Susie Tajchman

†Marylyn Webb by Hazel Grimes

†Lydia Gonzalez by John & Annette Freeman

†Herb Welch by Juliet Welch

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle with Fr. John Gaffney, SOLT8:30 AM: *Parishioners*11:00 AM: *Preston Smith (Birthday)* by Karen Vaughan**MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025**12:00 PM: *No Mass***TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**12:00 PM: *Communion Service***WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**12:00 PM: *Communion Service***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle**12:00 PM: *Communion Service***FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle**12:00 PM: *Mary Jo Hunter (Birthday)* by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025****ALL SAINTS DAY**4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**

†Joan Bluntzer (AOD) by Celestia Bluntzer

5:30 PM: **Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

†Harlew Conally by Betty Conally

†Paul O'Brien by Mary Ann Mangold

†Patrick Nemec by Bob & Joan Black

†Sylvester Vo by John & Chi Bowman

†Herb Welch by John & Annette Freeman

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle**ALL SOULS DAY**8:30 AM: *Parishioners*11:00 AM: **ALL SOULS NOVENA BEGINS****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.**

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, Valerie Rich, Yolanda Peña, Tommy Pritchard, Kathryn White, Wallace Prukop, Juan Rodriguez, Solomon Abdo II, Frank Cain, Estefana Munoz, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Stasha Landreth, Eileen Champine, Todd Crawford, Rose Pfeiler, Tyler Skidmore, Yolanda Galvan, Elaine Cain, Ted & Jeanette Respondek, Rita Conroy, Joe Garza, Simon Bucknall, Arnold Guerra, Joanna Guerra, Ramiro Trevino, Tom Crawford, Evelyn Castillo, Frances Hicks, Graciela Garza, T. J. Williams, Ravyn Brown, Dalia Gutierrez, Susan Chavarry, Fred Guerra, Nicole Ginn, Jaime Garza, Arnold Dill, Wilma Grupe, Miles Elliott Martinez, Pat Landreth, Susie Tajchman, Cindy West, Jim Landreth, Jr., Elmyra Casner, and Harold Prejean.

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



**"The Lord will rescue me
from every evil threat and
will bring me safe
to his heavenly kingdom.
To Him be glory forever and ever."**

2 Timothy 4:18**LECTORS for NOVEMBER 1-2, 2025**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annette Freeman

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Frances Nelson

Sunday, 11:00 AM: David Gonzalez

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - NOVEMBER 1-2, 2025**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Tony Nelson, Aaron Hoelscher

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Javier Flores, Gianna Flores, Kera Steward

ALTAR SERVERS for NOVEMBER 1-2, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Able Flurry, Abraum Flurry

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Carlos Camacho, Liam Sanchez, Eliana Garza

USHERS for NOVEMBER 1-2, 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: D. Bluntzer, D. Dusek, P. Pilarczyk, M. Ybarra

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Counters: R. Carrillo and R. Unterbrink



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SPECIAL OFFERING — NOVEMBER 9, 2025**Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA**

Diocese of Corpus Christi

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

COLLABORATING WITH OUR NEW MISSIONARY POPE

By Monsignor Roger J. Landry, National Director

It was an extraordinary privilege for me to be in Rome helping to anchor EWTN's daily onsite coverage of the funeral of Pope Francis, the interregnum, the papal conclave and the election and first days of the papacy of Pope Leo XIV.

We first gave thanks for all the ways God blessed us through the papacy of Pope Francis, in particular for the way he sought to help the whole Church go out with God's mercy to those on the peripheries of life. He helped us all to grasp that, as he wrote in his first major papal document, entitled the Joy of the Gospel, the Church doesn't have a mission but is a mission, and that God wants to help each of us recognize that the reason why we're born is to fulfill the mission God has given us of completing Jesus' saving work in us and in others.

His beautiful funeral began nine days of mourning with Masses each day entrusting his soul to the mercy of God he so powerfully preached and reflecting on the various ways he sought to lead us to be more faithful to God. While these Masses were taking place, the Cardinals were meeting to discuss the needs of the Church and to discern the qualities of the man they thought God would be calling to lead the Church to meet those challenges.

Few were ready for what would be announced after only about 24 hours, and four ballots, in the conclave: that the 267th Peter was an American: Cardinal Robert Prevost, a native of Chicago, and the first true missionary to be chosen pope since Christ chose St. Peter.

Every pope—and indeed every baptized Catholic—is supposed to be a missionary. We have seen this missionary dimension of the papacy on display in the indefatigable apostolic journeys of Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis. We have witnessed it in several popes with burning missionary zeal, like Gregory XV, who founded the Society of the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith in 1622, and Gregory XVI, who led that Congregation for five years before the Cardinals elected him in 1831.

We have had popes from missionary lands—until the establishment of Christianity as a majority religion in various countries, every place was properly

missionary territory. We have also had popes serve in places far from their country of origin before their papal election, like Pope Urban IV, the French-born former Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem before being elected Pope in 1261.

Somewhat shockingly, however, until May 8, 2025, we had never had a Pope whose vocation in the Church had been to serve the Church's missions to the nations: leaving home and traveling to a far different part of the world to share the Gospel in places where people have not yet heard it or where the Church is too young, too poor, or too persecuted to be self-sufficient.

That was the vocation of Father, and later Bishop, Robert Francis Prevost. As a child, he nourished a priestly vocation through celebrating "Mass" at home on an ironing board, preaching to his forbearing older brothers. He entered an Augustinian high school seminary and continued his formation at the Augustinians' flagship university, Villanova, before officially becoming a novice and making first vows. Living in community with fellow Augustinians, he met several friars who had returned from the Order's missions in Peru, established in 1551, and developed a desire, to dedicate himself to that work.

(to be continued)

From the desk of the Pastor

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles;

Saturday: ALL SAINTS DAY; **Sunday:** ALL SOULS DAY.



Rekindling Our Faith is a special study series for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope with Bishop Michael Mulvey. Go to the Diocese of Corpus Christi Website: diocesec.org/lent-series in which Bishop Mulvey will talk about some of the original documents of the Second Vatican Council. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* is the first document which reflects on the Sacred Liturgy. The second document *Dei Verbum* reflects on the Word of God. *Gaudium Et Spes* reflects on the Church in the Modern World. It is his hope that these reflections will help you to grow in your faith, your love of God, and your love of the Church.

Diocese of Corpus Christi



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