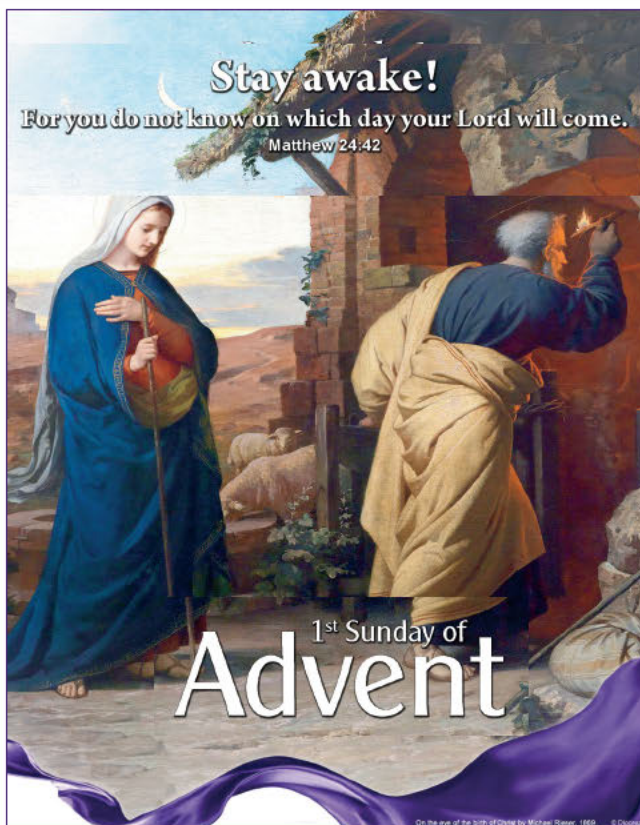


Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who



believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the

details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.



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

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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 Tobón  
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



**"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."**

**Matthew 24:44**

### Masses and Intentions for the Week

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**  
Myrtle McCoy (Birthday) by the McCoy Family  
5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**  
†Cardoza Wells by the Burney Family

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM: Parishioners  
11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**  
Yvonne Gonzalez (Birthday) by Rosario Gonzalez  
†Patrick Knesek by Owen & Kim Gallagher  
†Peter Gallagher by Owen & Kim Gallagher



#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025

12:00 PM: No Mass

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †Patricia Nemec by Fred Nemec

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †Harley and †Nina Riebschleager by Betty Conally

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †Kara Knesek by Jerry Knesek

#### FIRST FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †All Souls' in Purgatory by Jerry Knesek

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**  
†Gertrude Bluntzer (AOB) by Her Children  
5:30 PM: **Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**  
†Kay Havelka by C.B. & Kathleen Trial  
†Aida Deases by John & Annette Freeman  
†Lydia Gonzalez by David Gonzalez & Rosa Carrillo

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM: Parishioners  
11:00 AM: †Michael Gallagher by Todd & Cynthia Schroeder

**Parish Website: [www.christon624.com](http://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 Champagne, Todd Crawford, Rose Pfeiler, Tyler Skidmore, Yolanda Galvan, Elaine Cain, Arnold Dill, Rita Conroy, Joe Garza, Simon Bucknall, Arnold Guerra, Joanna Guerra, Ramiro Trevino, Dalia Gutierrez, Tom Crawford, Evelyn Castillo, Frances Hicks, Graciela Garza, T. J. Williams, Nicole Ginn, Susan Chavarry, Jeanette Respondek, Jaime Garza, Miles Elliott Martinez, Pat Landreth, Susie Tajchman, Cindy West, Elmyra Casner, Jim Landreth, Jr., Harold Prejean, Fred Guerra, Ravyn Brown, Wilma Grupe, John Bowman and Annette Freeman.

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

### LECTORS for DECEMBER 6-7, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Ann Clarke  
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Frances Nelson  
Sunday, 11:00 AM: David Gonzalez



### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - DECEMBER 6-7, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases  
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Aaron Hoelscher, Tony Nelson  
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Kera Steward, Javier Flores, Gianna Flores

### ALTAR SERVERS for DECEMBER 6-7, 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 DECEMBER 6-7, 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, P. Pilarczyk, D. Dusek, M. Ybarra

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest;

Thursday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church;

First Friday of the Month: Saturday: St. Nicholas, Bishop.

### OFFERINGS

#### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

11/22-23/2025 Regular Collection: \$5,341.50  
11/22-23/2025 Online Giving: \$1,149.00  
**TOTAL \$6,490.50**

#### ST. PATRICK MISSION

11/22/2025 Regular Collection: \$263.00

Counters: C. Hoelscher and R. Unterbrink



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

### SPECIAL OFFERING – DECEMBER 14, 2025

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

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](http://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.



## FROM THE MISSIONS TO THE CHAIR OF PETER

*By Ines San Martin*

In 1985, Father Prevost was sent to Peru as a missionary. There, in a region plagued by guerrilla violence and poverty, he became a deeply rooted pastoral figure. "Had he stayed in his native country, I think his sense of the Church would've been very different," said Aldo Llanos, a professor of philosophy and anthropology at Peru's University of Piura. "But he came to Peru in 1985—a country in crisis—and was changed by it. That experience left a mark."

He became a Peruvian citizen in 2015, fulfilling a requirement for his appointment as bishop. He led formation programs for Augustinians, taught theology, and served as a judge in the regional ecclesiastical court. He was known for pragmatic compassion, scholarly rigor, and a quiet charisma.

Father Prevost was affectionately known as the "Saint of the North" for his humanitarian outreach in northern Peru. He supported soup kitchens, advocated for better housing in flood-prone areas, and actively collaborated with charities and social outreach programs.

*(to be continued)*

*From the desk of the Pastor*

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND PARISH LUNCH

Our Religious Ed kiddos will be presenting a Christmas program in the I.C. Hall on **Sunday, December 14th** following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Lunch will be served following the program. All parishioners are invited to the program and lunch. We look forward to a day of fellowship with our parish family during this very special time of the year.

*Pastor and DRE*

### CDA CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE

The St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Daughters will again be selling Christmas ornaments for the Memory Tree. After each weekend Mass, you can purchase an ornament for \$6.00 "in memory of" or "in honor of" a special person you may want to remember or honor at Christmas time. The Memory Tree will be put on the altar for a special Holy Mass at Christmas time. With your support of this fundraiser, the CDAs are able to continue their ministries and charitable works in the parish and community.

*Jean Chapman, CDA Ornament Chairperson*

### LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Luke 23:35-43).

**FAMILY CONNECTION:** Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

*Courtesy of Loyola Press*

*From the Pastor's desk*

### Holy Mass Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9;  
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

Join us in  
celebration

*Virgen de  
Guadalupe*

**12/12**

06:00-7:00PM | Mariachi Mass  
Dinner & Celebration with  
Mariachis following in IC Hall

St. Thomas the Apostle  
16602 FM 624,  
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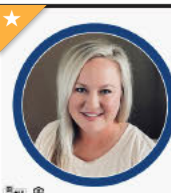




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