

In this week's Gospel reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to



the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: "... the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is

followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.



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

"Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you."

Romans 15:7

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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**
†Lydia Gonzalez by David Gonzalez & Rosa Carrillo
†Kay Havelka by C.B. & Kathleen Trial
†Aida Deases by John & Annette Freeman

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 Masses @ St. Thomas

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025 - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

6:00 PM: *†Maria Nguyen* by John & Chi Bowman

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *†Judy Barber* by Yolanda Peña

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *Peña Family Birthdays and Anniversaries* by Yolanda Peña

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *†Aida Deases (AOB)* by Gary & Ann Clarke

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

6:00 PM: *†Octavio Carrillo* by Rosa Carrillo & David Gonzalez

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
Myrtle McCoy by the McCoy Family
 5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Harlew Conally by Betty Conally

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
 11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**
†Allen Migura by Owen & Kim Gallagher
†Herb Welch by Owen & Kim Gallagher
†Herlinda Arredondo (AOD) by Tony Arredondo
†Aida Deases by Louis Deases

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, Jim Landreth, Jr.,
 Graciela Garza, Elaine Cain, Arnold Dill, Rita Conroy, Joe Garza,
 Simon Bucknall, Arnold Guerra, Joanna Guerra, Ramiro Trevino,
 Dalia Gutierrez, Tom Crawford, Evelyn Castillo, Frances Hicks,
 T. J. Williams, Nicole Ginn, Susan Chavarry, Jeanette Respondek,
 Jaime Garza, Miles Elliott Martinez, Pat Landreth, Susie Tajchman,
 Cindy West, Elmyra Casner, Harold Prejean, Annette Freeman,
 Fred Guerra, Ravyn Brown, Wilma Grupe, John Bowman and
 Traci Klepac.

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

LECTORS for DECEMBER 13-14, 2025

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Ann Clarke
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Terri Kimmel
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Velma Garcia



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - DECEMBER 13-14, '25

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Matt Kimmel, Fred Ramos
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Jesse Garcia, Bill Kelly

ALTAR SERVERS for DECEMBER 13-14, 2025

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

USHERS for DECEMBER 13-14, 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. Polasek, D. Dusek, T. Brown, D. Brown

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary;

Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin;

Wednesday: Our Lady of Loreto; **Thursday:** St. Damasus I, Pope;

Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe; **Saturday:** St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr.

OFFERING

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

11/29-30/2025 Regular Collection: \$6,907.00
 11/29-30/2025 Online Giving: \$1,031.00
TOTAL \$7,938.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

11/29/2025 Regular Collection: \$699.00

Counters: K. Gallagher and C. Pilarczyk



Go to church website
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 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 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.

**BISHOP ELECT THE MOST REV.
BISHOP MARIO ALBERTO AVILES, C.O.
and Eucharistic Prayer during Sede Vacante**

With great joy and deep gratitude to God, the Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey writes to share that the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, the **Most Reverend Bishop Mario Alberto Aviles, C.O.**

On Monday, December 1, 2025 the day of the announcement of the ninth bishop of Corpus Christi, the Diocese of Corpus Christi becomes *Sede Vacante* (Episcopal Vacancy). Bishop Michael Mulvey has been named Apostolic Administrator until such time as the new bishop is installed. No bishop's name is to be mentioned during the Eucharistic Prayer during the time of *Sede Vacante*. When the new bishop is installed, his name alone is to be named in the Eucharistic Prayer.

(from the Pastor's desk)

Diocese of Corpus Christi

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

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM BY CGS STUDENTS

The Elementary children (CGS kiddos) will be presenting a Christmas Program at 5:15 p.m. on **December 24th** (prior to 5:30 Christmas Eve Vigil Mass) bringing to life the Infancy Narratives in the Bible which they learn through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program. We invite all parishioners to come and support our kiddos and enjoy the celebration of Christmas through the eyes of a child.

Michele Hoelscher, DRE

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 3:1-12).

FAMILY CONNECTION: We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk

Holy Mass Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

**Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12.**

Join us in
celebration

*Virgen de
Guadalupe*

12/12

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

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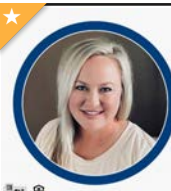
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