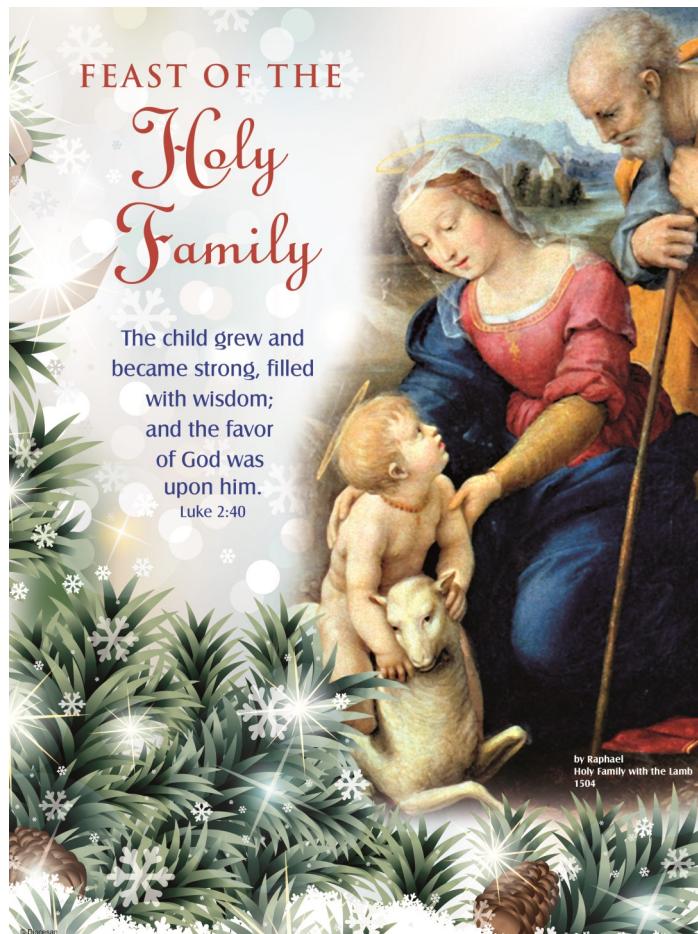


Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth.

Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the



messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not

everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. All these events remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

## 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  
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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 Tobòn  
Catholic Daughters of America Court #2290

**Deacon:** Bill Cleavelin (361-208-2146)  
**Bookkeeper/DRE:** Michele Hoelscher (361-244-2138)  
**EDGE:** Pauline Pechacek  
**LIFETIME:** 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  
**CONFESIONS @ 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

**CONFESIONS @ St. Patrick Mission:** 3:30 PM

**Masses and Intentions for the Week****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025**

4:00 PM: Mass @ St. Patrick Mission  
*tGertrude Blunzter (AOD) by Her Children*  
 5:30 PM: Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle  
*tDavid and Susie Tajchman (In Memory of Wedding Anniversary)*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

8:30 AM: Parishioners  
 11:00 AM: Collective Mass  
*tRolando Chapa by the Chapa Family*  
*tCaitlyn Prukop (AOD) by Karen Vaughan*  
*tTomas B. Valdez (AOD) by Rosario Gonzalez & Family*  
*For Rain by Karen Vaughan*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025**

12:00 PM: No Mass

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

12:00 PM: *tAllen Migura (AOD) by Owen & Kim Gallagher*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025****THE VIGIL OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

5:00 PM: Mass @ St. Patrick Mission  
*Myrtle McCoy by the McCoy Family*  
 6:30 PM: Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle  
*tFrances Rektorik by Michael Rektorik*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle****THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

12:00 PM: *tJim Landreth, Sr. (AOD) by Pat Landreth*

**FIRST FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

12:00 PM: *tAll Souls in Purgatory by Jerry Knesek*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026**

4:00 PM: Mass @ St. Patrick Mission  
*tDavid Tajchman by Jerry & Kathy Vancick*  
 5:30 PM: Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle  
*tCardoza Wells by tDavid & Susie Tajchman*  
*tHerb Welch by Juliet Welch*  
*tClement Vo by John & Chi Bowman*  
*tAida Deases by John & Annette Freeman*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle****THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

8:30 AM: Parishioners  
 11:00 AM: *tFrances Gutierrez (AOD) by Dalia Gutierrez*

**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, Wilma Grupe, Susie Tajchman, Cindy West, Elmyra Casner, Harold Prejean, Annette Freeman, Fred Guerra, Ravyn Brown, John Bowman, Traci Klepac, Sue Malek, Bill Havelka, Mary Beth Matocha, Courtney Dodd, and Shannon Clubb.

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

**LECTORS for JANUARY 3-4, 2026**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Agnes Flores  
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Frances Nelson  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: David Gonzalez

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - JANUARY 3-4, 2026**

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

**ALTAR SERVERS for JANUARY 3-4, 2026**

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 JANUARY 3-4, 2026**

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. Blunzter, D. Dusek, P. Pilarczyk, M. Ybarra

**HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR!****“THE HOLY FAMILY”**

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. We can take for granted that Jesus, the Son of God, Mary, the Mother of God, and St. Joseph, the Just, must have been holy. But what about the rest of us? What is the key to living as a holy family?

In his Letter to the Colossians, St. Paul puts his finger on one of the best ways to experience holiness in family life: *bearing with and forgiving one another* (3:13). Because despite our love for each other, annoyances or misunderstandings or frustration will arise. So what do we do? Paul tells us that when we have grievances against someone else, we need to bear with them and be willing to forgive them just as the Lord has forgiven us.

That's the beauty of today's second reading. Paul doesn't present a stained glass image of holiness for us to strive for but never attain. He shows us how to get there! It starts as we acknowledge that we are all God's chosen ones, forgiven and beloved. So living as a holy family isn't just a matter of doing the "hard work" of loving one another. It's also a matter of receiving the grace and mercy God offers so that we can love in ways that we can't do on our own. It's a matter of giving away what we've received.

Practically, this means treating our family members with the heartfelt compassion and patience that we have received from Christ. It means bearing with our fellow sinners because we know how much Jesus bears with us.

Courtesy of Word Among Us

from the Pastor's desk

**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

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Monday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr;  
**Wednesday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; **Thursday:** Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; **First Friday:** Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church;  
**Saturday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus.

**Holy Mass Readings for the  
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5;  
Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23.**

**A THANK YOU for the ALTAR FLOWERS**

Thank you to all the parishioners who made a donation to the beautiful poinsettias on the altar at Christmas time.

Pastor and Parishioners

**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.

**LITURGY OF THE DAY**

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:13-15,19-23).

**FAMILY CONNECTION:** In the midst of the Christmas season, it is quite appropriate that our liturgy asks us to pause to consider the Holy Family. In today's Gospel, we hear about how Joseph protected Jesus from danger by relocating the family to Egypt in obedience to God. Following the model of the Holy Family, we might use this feast to recall the responsibility that each family member has to contribute to the good of the family and recommit ourselves to one another.

Gather together as a family to work on a common project. You might prepare a meal together, prepare a special dessert, or perhaps do a craft together. When you finish, talk about how each family member contributed to the common project. Remind one another that each member of the family contributes to the good of the whole family. Recall that Jesus was also part of a family and that this Sunday we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 2:13-15,19-23. Pray together that your family will continue to protect and care for one another as Mary and Joseph protected and cared for Jesus.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk

**Parish Website: [www.christon624.com](http://www.christon624.com)**

**"MY OFFERING" ENVELOPE BOX**

The 2026 "My Offering" Envelope Boxes have arrived. Kindly pick up your box as soon as you can. If you do not see a box for your family and would like offering envelopes, please call or email the parish office that you would like envelopes. Thank you for your support of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.

Parish Office

Knights of Columbus Council #9318 9th Annual Father Matthew Lyng

**SUPER BOWL EXTRAVAGANZA**

**FOOTBALL NUMBERS**

Super Bowl Sunday—February 8, 2026

Winning Numbers Pay \$1250.00 Per Quarter (NO OVERTIME)

\$100.00 Donation (need not be present to win)

Tickets are available after each weekend Mass. Your support in this KC fundraising event is most appreciated.

Tony Arredondo, KC Grand Knight

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