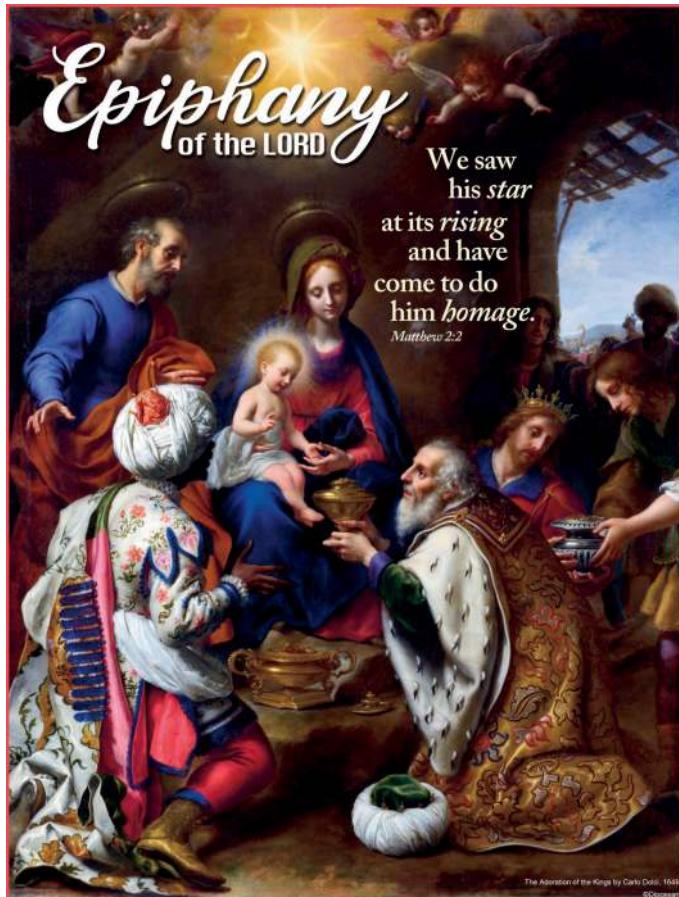


The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior.



Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth."

Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Holy Mass Readings for the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.

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
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



"It has now been revealed to all that all are members of the same body and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel."

Ephesians 3: 5



Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

4:00 PM: Mass @ St. Patrick Mission
tDavid Tajchman by Jerry & Kathy Vanecick
 5:30 PM: Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle
tCardoza Wells by *tDavid* & Susie Tajchman
tHerb Welch (AOB) 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 (AOB)* by Dalia Gutierrez

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *tJames E. Smith* by Owen & Kim Gallagher

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *tHerb Welch* by Juliet Welch

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *tSylvester Vo* by John & Chi Bowman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *tGeneva Strmiska (AOB)* by Susie Tajchman

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

4:00 PM: Mass @ St. Patrick Mission
tKay Havelka by C.B. & Kathleen Trial
 5:30 PM: Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle
tHarlew Conally by Betty Conally
tMarilyn Babin (AOB) by Donna Reeves
tEnriqueta Salinas (AOB) by David & Delma Tamez

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:30 AM: Parishioners
 11:00 AM: *tPat Gallagher (AOB)* by Owen & Kim Gallagher

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.

LECTORS for JANUARY 10-11, 2026

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



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - JANUARY 10-11, 2026

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

ALTAR SERVERS for JANUARY 10-11, 2026

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 JANUARY 10-11, 2026

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

"THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM"

In Matthew's Gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. That's why verse 9 of the Gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus? First, they take the initiative. They saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus by the gifts they brought: gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for us all. We can express our faith in many ways. We can volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for us.

Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith, or giving God credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives.

Courtesy of Diocesan

from the Pastor's desk

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:1-12).

FAMILY CONNECTION: The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk

Parish Website: www.christon624.com**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

12/20-21/2025 Regular Collection:	\$6,359.10
12/20-21/2025 Online Giving:	<u>\$2,334.00</u>
TOTAL	\$8,693.10
12/24-25/2025 Christmas Collection:	\$7,860.34
12/27-28/2025 Regular Collection:	\$6,024.00
12/27-28/2025 Online Giving:	<u>\$981.00</u>
TOTAL	\$7,005.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

12/20/2025 Regular Collection:	\$368.00
12/25/2025 Christmas Collection:	\$612.00
12/27/2025 Regular Collection:	\$1,242.00

Counters: K. Gallagher and C. Pilarczyk

**SPECIAL OFFERING — JANUARY 25, 2026****Church in Latin America**

Diocese of Corpus Christi

“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



**Bishop Elect the Most Reverend
BISHOP MARIO ALBERTO AVILES, C.O.
and Eucharistic Prayer during *Sede Vacante***

On Monday, December 1, 2025 the day of the announcement of the ninth bishop of Corpus Christi, the **Most Reverend Bishop Mario Alberto Aviles, C.O.**, the Diocese of Corpus Christi becomes **Sede Vacante**. 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 on January 28, 2026, his name alone is to be named in the Eucharistic Prayer.

(from the Pastor's desk)

Diocese of Corpus Christi

**SILVER & GOLDEN
Wedding Anniversary Mass Celebration**

Those blessed with celebrating 25 or 50 years of Sacramental Marriage are invited to attend a special Silver & Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Mulvey on **Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at Corpus Christi Cathedral**. A light reception will follow in St. Joseph's Hall at the Cathedral.

Couples that register before **January 30, 2026** will receive a certificate from Bishop Mulvey recognizing their Silver or Golden Anniversary. For online registration go to: <https://diocesecc.org/events/silver-gold-wedding-anniversary-mass-021124>.

Diocese of Corpus Christi

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the parishioners who made a donation to the beautiful poinsettias on the altar at Christmas time. Thanks to all who had a part in the decorating of the church and altar this past week. Your hard work is appreciated.

Pastor and Parishioners

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



Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin

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