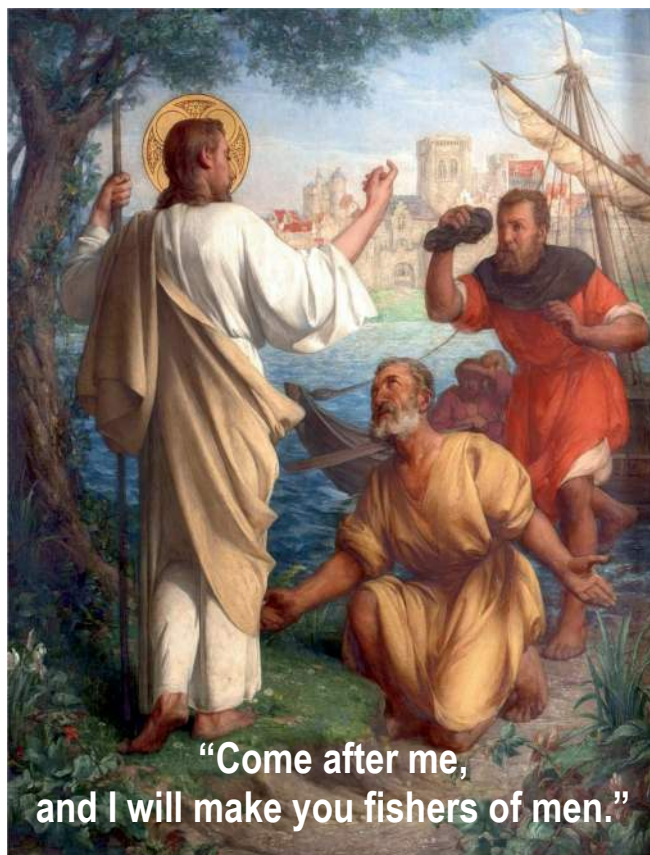


Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus' public ministry begins after his baptism by John the Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today's Gospel places Jesus' ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so.

Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.



When Jesus called his first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know him? Had they heard him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with his work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people's diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus' ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

Holy Mass Readings for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 8:23—9:3; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23.



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.-5:00 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Philip J. Panackal
Secretary: Ann Clarke
Bookkeeper/DRE: Michele Hoelscher
Catholic Daughters of America Court #2290

Deacon: Bill Cleavelin (361-208-2146)
EDGE: Pauline Pechacek
LIFETEEN: Rachel Unterbrink
Knights of Columbus Council #9318

Sacristan: Jerry Knesek
Music Director: Vic Benys
Plant Manager: Gary Clarke
Housekeeper: Yolanda Tobòn

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

*"Repent,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."
Matthew 4 : 17*

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Patrick Nemec (AOD) by Bob & Joan Black
5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Rolando Chapa by the Chapa & Hernandez Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**
†Aida Deases by John & Annette Freeman
†Lydia Gonzalez by John & Annette Freeman
†Margaret Young by Owen & Kim Gallagher
Riley Unterbrink (Birthday) by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink
Zach Cumberland (Birthday) by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: Jim Landreth III (Birthday) by Pat Landreth

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Frank and †Kathryn Burgess by Susie Tajchman

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: Mary Pat Whitley (Birthday) by Pat Landreth

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †Frank Nemec by Susie Tajchman

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Charles Lawley (AOD) by Patrick & Moria Cain
5:30 PM: **Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
Logan Walker and Anais LaHue (Wedding) by the Unterbrinks
†Rance Vaughan by Karen Vaughan
†Clement Vo by John & Chi Bowman

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026 - Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**
†Louise Rahtke (AOD) by Kathy Rathke

Parish Website:

www.christon624.com

Please Pray for ...

All the homebound, all the sick and suffering of our parish, and especially pray for all those who have asked us to pray for them.

Cathy Sikes, T. J. Williams,
Larry Bryant, Eileen Champine,
Frances Hicks, Dalia Gutierrez,
Annette Freeman, Fred Nemec,
Harold Prejean, Mary Elva Estrada,
John Bowman, the Havelka Family,
and the Ybarra/Barrera Families.

Please call/email the parish office to include a person on the 2026 PRAYER LIST.

LECTORS for JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - JAN. 31-FEB. 1, 2026

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

ALTAR SERVERS for JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Able Flurry, Abraum Flurry
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson, Casey Gwynn
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Carlos Camacho, Liam Sanchez, Eliana Garza

USHERS for JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1, 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. Bluntzer, D. Dusek, P. Pilarczyk, J.R. Sanchez

Our deepest condolences to the Ybarra Family
on the death of

†Mr. and Mrs. Marcos Ybarra

Parents of Karina, Vicente, Joaquin, Ximena

Please keep the family in your prayers.
May their souls rest in peace.

Pastor and Parishioners

Our deepest condolences to the Havelka Family
on the death of

†Mr. Bill Havelka

Father of Mark Havelka

Please keep the family in your prayers.
May his soul rest in peace.

Pastor and Parishioners

Silver & Gold

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 our bishop.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 AT 10:30 A.M.

Most Precious Blood, Pro Cathedral | 3502 Saratoga Blvd, Corpus Christi

Couples that register before the deadline will receive a certificate recognizing their Silver or Golden Anniversary. Registration is open to any validly married couple celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage in 2026.

To receive an Anniversary Certificate, please submit registration by January 30, 2026

Online Registration: diocesecc.org/anniversarymassregistration
or scan the QR code:





With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God

THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI
INVITES YOU TO THE SOLEMN INSTALLATION
of
HIS EXCELLENCY
MOST REVEREND MARIO ALBERTO AVILES, C.O.
as the
NINTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI

By His Excellency
MOST REVEREND JOE S. VASQUEZ
ARCHBISHOP OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

In the presence of His Eminence
CHRISTOPHE CARDINAL PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES

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ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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1/17-18/2026 Online Giving: \$1,712.00
TOTAL \$6,712.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

1/17/2026 Regular Collection: \$332.00

Counters: C. Hoelscher and R. Unterbrink



LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 4:12-23)

FAMILY CONNECTION: Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus.

Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In Matthew 8:14-15 for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a fever. Matthew 20:20-28 relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships.

Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be "fishers of men" even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life.

As a family, detail the activities of a typical day. Discuss together what priorities are reflected in this daily schedule. How does your family respond when your daily plans are interrupted or must be changed? Together read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:12-23. Reflect together on the example of the first disciples who dropped everything to follow Jesus. Ask: Does our family schedule give evidence that we put God first in our family life? What might we do to better reflect that God is our priority?

Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today's Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops;

Tuesday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin;

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church;

Saturday: St. John Bosco, Priest.

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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