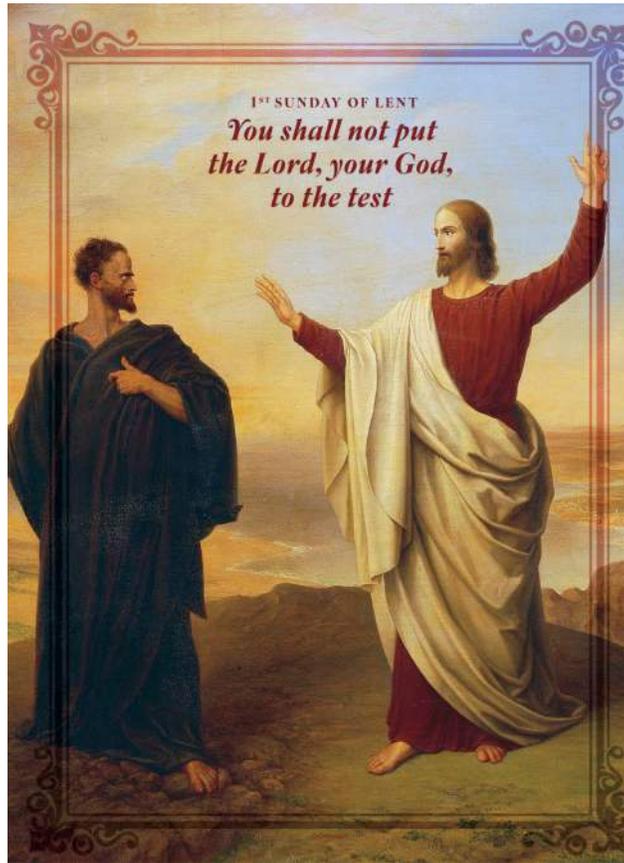


In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert



is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

Holy Mass Readings for the First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11.



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

***"A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me."***

Psalm 51:12-13

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Diane Johnson (Special Intention) by Michael Cantu
5:30 PM: **Stations of the Cross and
Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Frank and †Kathryn Burgess by Susie Tajchman
†JoAnn Dominguez by the Robert Dominguez Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Stations of the Cross and Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: †Philip Prukop (AOB) by Karen Vaughan

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

12:00 PM: *No Mass*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †Bernard Unterbrink (AOD) by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Patrick Landreth (Birthday) by Pat Landreth

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *Jim Landreth, Jr. (Birthday)* by Pat Landreth

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †Sylvester Vo by John & Chi Bowman

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Parick Nemeč by Bob & Joan Black
5:30 PM: **Stations of the Cross and
Collective Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
Eric and Hali Tajchman (Wedding Anniversary)
by Susie Tajchman

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle and Stations of the Cross
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: *Caroline Steffek (Birthday)* by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin; **Wednesday:** St. Casimir;
First Friday; **Saturday:** Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs.

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, Frances Hicks, Eileen Champine, Dalia Gutierrez, Annette Freeman, Fred Nemeč, Harold Prejean, Mary Elva Estrada, Dee Molina, John Bowman, Wallace and Judi Prukop, Jeanette Respondek, Shannon Clubb, Courtney Dodd, Ruthie Weathersby, Marty Douglas, Simon Bucknall, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Rose Pfeiler, Delia Moya, Beckie Ranly, Cindy Cleavelin, Tyler Skidmore, and the Johnson Family.

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

LECTORS for FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 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 - FEB. 28-MAR. 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 FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 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

HERS for FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 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



LENTEN REGULATIONS

Lent is the penitential season of the Church year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. Traditionally, the Lenten Season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. In addition to fasting, various elements support us during Lent: penance, confession, prayer, almsgiving, and service. The Easter Duty is the obligation to receive Holy Communion between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence.

Fasting binds all Catholics 18 to 59 years of age. On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken in accordance to each one's needs, but together should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Abstinence binds all older than 14. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, a parish priest or confessor should be consulted.

Pastor



Our deepest condolences to the Johnson Family on the death of
†Mrs. Diane Johnson
Daughter of Fayette Bender of St. Patrick Mission
Please keep the family in your prayers.
May her soul rest in peace.
Pastor and Parishioners

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 5:17-37)

FAMILY CONNECTION: When Jesus resists the temptations presented to him by the devil, he draws on his religious upbringing and tradition. Jesus is able to quote from Scripture because he is the Son of God and because he was a human person who lived his Jewish beliefs fully. We who are responsible for raising children are also called upon to immerse them fully in our Catholic Christian tradition so that they too will be able to draw upon this tradition to resist the temptations they will face in their lives.

Use this Sunday as an opportunity to call your family's attention to the importance of Scripture in our lives. Gather your family around the family Bible and read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11. Recall that Jesus rebuked the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. Take some time as a family to talk about the words that are found in the Bible and the importance of Scripture to our faith. Perhaps the older members of the family can share a favorite Scripture passage with everyone. Younger family members can tell their favorite story from the Bible and be shown where that story can be found. In each case, encourage a deeper sharing of faith by asking each person to tell why the Scripture passage shared is important to him or her. Conclude your time together by again reading Jesus' reply to the devil found in Matthew 4:4 ("One does not live by bread alone . . .") and praying the Lord's Prayer.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk



FIRST AID TRAINING

A First Aid Training Course will be offered in our parish on **Saturday, March 7, 2026** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the I.C. Hall. The courses offered are: the American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support CPR/AED Course, Basic First Aid Medical, and the "Stop the Bleed" certification course.

The courses are offered to our parishioners. Please call the parish office to reserve your spot in the class for the class size is limited to 20. For questions please contact the parish office.

Matt Kimmel

**THE MOST REVEREND
MARIO ALBERTO AVILES, CO
BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI**



MOTTO

Caritas Dei diffusa est in
cordibus nostris

(The love of God has been poured into our
hearts (Romans 5:5))

COAT OF ARMS

The design is described (blazoned) as if the description is being given by the bearer (from behind) with the shield being worn on the left arm. As the heraldic device is viewed from the front, the viewer must remember that the heraldic terms dexter (from Latin dextera or right) and sinister (from Latin sinistra or left) are described for the bearer; for the viewer, the directions are reversed.

By tradition in the Roman Catholic Church, the heraldic achievement the arms of bishops contain:

- A shield with its charges (symbols) of family, geographic, religious, or historical importance;
- A golden processional cross with one traversal bar indicating the rank of bishop which is impaled (displayed vertically) behind the shield;
- A green galero with twelve tassels (six on each side, ordained 1-2-3 from the top); (to be continued)

Courtesy of Diocese of Corpus Christi

From the Pastor's desk

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ST. PATRICK MISSION		
2/14/2026 Regular Collection:	\$487.00	
Counters: C. Pilarczyk and K. Gallagher		



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SPECIAL OFFERING – FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Black and Indian Missions

Diocese of Corpus Christi

ADULT CONFIRMATION SPRING 2026

The Adult Confirmation Mass will be held on **Saturday, March 23 at 11:00 AM** at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church. Please note that this Adult Confirmation celebration is only for catechized adult Catholics who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation but have received Baptism and First Holy Communion. The sacramental catechesis of the candidate for Confirmation is the responsibility of the parish of the candidate.

Diocese of Corpus Christi



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