

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider



the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. *(continued on page 3)*

Holy Mass Readings for the Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42.

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 Tobón

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



"Anyone who wishes to come after me must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Luke 9:23

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Parick Nemeec by Bob & Joan Black
 5:30 PM: **Stations of the Cross and Mass @ St. Thomas**
†David Tajchman, Sr. by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle and Stations of the Cross
 8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
 11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**
Bernie Cantu (Healing) by Michael Cantu
†JoAnn Dominguez by Karen Vaughan
†James E. Smith by Owen & Kim Gallagher

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

12:00 PM: *No Mass*

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *†Margaret Young (AOD)* by Gary & Ann Clarke

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *Fred Gimbel (Birthday)* by Susie Tajchman

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *Peña Family (Birthdays)* by Yolanda Peña

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *†Charles Lawley (AOB)* by Patrick & Moria Cain

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Johnny Guerra and †Gloria Guerra (AOB) by Sandra Garcia
 5:30 PM: **Stations of the Cross and Mass @ St. Thomas**
†Aida Deases by John & Annette Freeman

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle and Stations of the Cross
 8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
 11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**
†Peter Gallagher (AOB) by Owen & Kim Gallagher
†Frances Gutierrez by Dalia Gutierrez
†Rance Vaughan by Karen Vaughan

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 Nemeec, 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, Delia Moya, Yolanda Peña, Beckie Ranly, Cindy Cleavelin, Todd Crawford, Tyler Skidmore, Tommy Lopez, and Dawn Shrek.

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



LECTORS for MARCH 14-15, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Ann Clarke
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Andres Trevino
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Paul Pilarczyk



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - MARCH 14-15, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Matt Kimmel, Rosa Trevino
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Barbara Rychetsky, Karen Vaughan, Tony Nelson

ALTAR SERVERS for MARCH 14-15, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Able Flurry, Abraum Flurry
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Gabriel Kimmel, Cyprian Kimmel
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Carlos Camacho, Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson

USHERS for MARCH 14-15, 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. Gonzalez, D. Bluntzer, T. Zurick, J.R. Sanchez



LENTEN REGULATIONS

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

INFORMATION CORNER

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Altar Flowers: Contact the parish office to schedule flowers "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or for a special occasion.

Baptism: Contact 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.

Religious Ed: For registration and questions contact the parish office or the DRE Michele Hoelscher at 361-244-2138.

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.

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (John 4:5-42)
(continued from page 1)

When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshipping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Courtesy of Loyola Press From the Pastor's desk

SPECIAL OFFERING – MARCH 15, 2026

The Catholic Relief Services Collection
Diocese of Corpus Christi

CONFESSION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS

Confession for the Religious Education Students will be held on the first and third **Wednesday** of every month from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Pastor

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

COAT OF ARMS



MOTTO

Caritas Dei diffusa est in cordibus nostris
(The love of God has been poured into our hearts (Romans 5:5))

A bishop of a diocese exercises ordinary jurisdiction which is connected with their office. In this case, the personal arms of the Ordinary are marshalled (displaying two coats of arms together) with the arms of their diocese.

BLAZON. The arms of the Diocese of Corpus Christi are a red field with three gold ciboria. A ciborium is a liturgical vessel which holds the consecrated species of The Blessed Sacrament, the real and true presence of Jesus Christ. These consecrated hosts are the Body of Christ—*Corpus Christi*. The Diocesan arms are marshalled by impalement per pale (dividing the shield in half vertically and displaying the contents of the entire shield in this area) dexter (bearer's right/viewer's left.) Bishop Aviles' personal arms are composed of a scutcheon tierced per pall reversed (divided into three sections in an upside down "Y" shape.

Dexter chief is a field of red with a triple-towered castle, the center tower being higher and winged, all in gold, opened, and with windows in black, placed on a field of silver (argent) with blue waves. (to be continued)

Courtesy of Diocese of Corpus Christi From the Pastor's desk

6621111111	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	
	2/28-3/1/2026 Regular Collection:	\$8,015.00
	2/28-3/1/2026 Online Giving:	\$1,465.00
	TOTAL	\$9,480.00
	ST. PATRICK MISSION	
2/28/2026 Regular Collection:	\$623.00	
Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman		



*Go to church website
www.christon624.com
click on icon
to give online*

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

ADULT CONFIRMATION SPRING 2026

The Adult Confirmation Mass will be held on **Saturday, March 21 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



Diocesan is proud to be printing
St. Thomas the Apostle's
Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise,
please call 800-994-9817

Katrina Albert
 REALTOR®
 ☎ (361) 946-9552 Cell
 ☎ (361) 241-5363 Office
 ✉ anirtakk@outlook.com
 ✉ ucbluntzrealestate.com
 📍 4250 Five Points Rd #8
 Corpus Christi, TX 78410



**Consider
 Remembering
 Your Parish in
 Your Will**

*For further information,
 please call the parish office.*

catholicmatch®
 Texas

CatholicMatch.com/goTX



Samuel C. Hartman, M.D.
 Family Medicine
 361-387-3616

THIRD COAST SEPTIC
 RELIABLE. LOCAL. FAMILY-OWNED.

SEPTIC DESIGN • INSTALLATION
 PUMPING • SERVICE • REPAIR
 Residential & Commercial
 Aerobic Treatment & Conventional

TCEQ LICENSED & INSURED
 Fast, Honest, & Professional
CALL TODAY!
(361) 774-6614
ThirdCoastSeptic.com

**Get this bulletin emailed to
 you every week.**

Simply go to
www.DM.CHURCH/5555 ...or scan → 

❖ DISCOVERMASS

ADVERTISE HERE

Promote your Business *Give us a call!*
AND support your Parish. 800-994-9817

FRANCO'S GARAGE
 Automotive
 Repair & Service

- Air Condition
- Transmissions
- Brakes
- Tune-ups
- Alignments

387-5011
 821 E. Main Robstown

**TEXAS FARM BUREAU
 INSURANCE®**
 AUTO / HOME / LIFE

Brent Klostermann, Agent
 361.815.0608

MERRILL
 A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY

Andrew Harlan
 Team Financial Advisor
 361-887-4354

**TEXAS FARM BUREAU
 INSURANCE®**
 AUTO / HOME / LIFE

Brent Klostermann, Agent
 361.815.0608

EWTN.COM/RADIO

EWTN | Global Catholic Radio

TUNE IN



The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible.
Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week.
 Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe