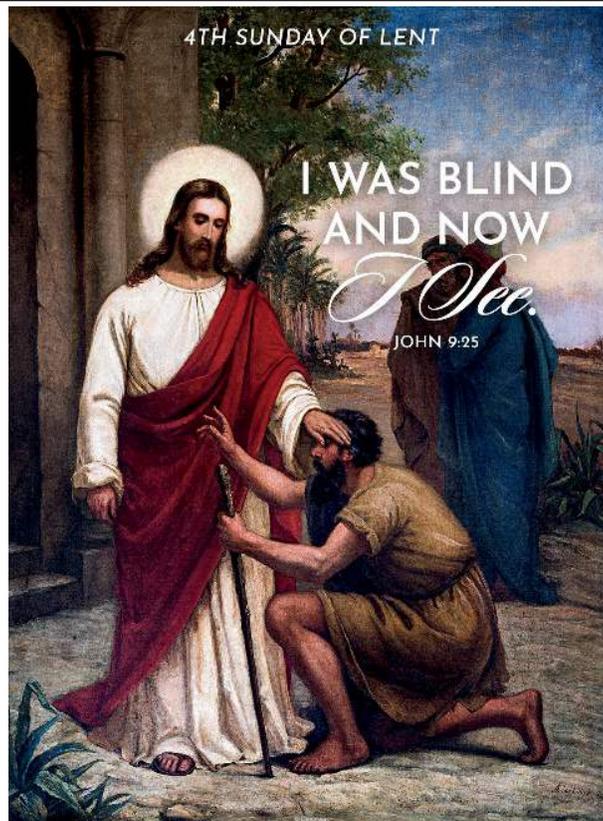


As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.



questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for

the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.



## 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.-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



*“Live as children of light,  
for light produces  
every kind of goodness and  
righteousness and truth.”*

*Ephesians 5:9*

**Masses and Intentions for the Week**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026**

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**  
†Johnny Guerra and †Gloria Guerra (AOB) by Dr. 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

**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026**

12:00 PM: *No Mass*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

12:00 PM: *Jon Landreth (Birthday)* by Pat Landreth

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas**

12:00 PM: *†David Tajchman, Jr.* by Susie Tajchman

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

12:00 PM: *†Diana Flores* by Javier & Gianna Flores

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026 - @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

12:00 PM: *†Aida Deases* by John & Chi Bowman

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026**

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**  
†Herb Welch by Juliet Welch  
5:30 PM: **Stations of the Cross and Mass @ St. Thomas**  
†JoAnn Dominguez by the Robert Dominguez Family

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle and Stations of the Cross  
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*  
11:00 AM: **Collective Mass**  
†Monica Marie Villarreal by Tony & Yolanda Villarreal  
†Lydia Gonzalez by John & Annette Freeman

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



*Cathy Sikes, T. J. Williams, Larry Bryant, Frances Hicks, Eileen Champine, Dalia Gutierrez, Annette Freeman, Fred Nemece, 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 21-22, 2026**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Les Hoelscher  
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Michele Hoelscher  
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Frank Wilson



**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - MARCH 21-22, 2026**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo  
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Fred Ramos, Aaron Hoelscher  
Sunday, 11:00 AM: J.R. Sanchez, Heather Sanchez, Kera Steward

**ALTAR SERVERS for MARCH 21-22, 2026**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Grace Landry, Matthew Cortino, Michael Cortino  
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Joseph Hess, Miles, Shimek, Casey Gwynn  
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Morgan Boatright, Liam Sanchez, Eliana Garza

**USHERS for MARCH 21-22, 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: S. Woolf, B. Boatright, R. Garcia, T. Zurick



**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.

**Confession:** Religious Education Student will have confessions on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7:30-8:30 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.

**LITURGY OF THE DAY**

**Reflection on the Gospel Reading (John 9:1-41)**  
*(continued from page 1)*

**FAMILY CONNECTION:** When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

*Courtesy of Loyola Press*

*From the Pastor's desk*

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent Holy Mass Readings**

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Psalm 23:1-6;  
 Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.**

**KC SCHOLARSHIP**

The Knights of Columbus Council #9318 is offering scholarships for graduating seniors. Go to the **St. Thomas the Apostle website** for more information and application or contact Frank Wilson at 361-877-6926. The deadline is **April 23, 2026**.

*Frank Wilson, Chairperson*

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**COAT OF ARMS**



**MOTTO**

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

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. This is the design of the crest of the Aviles family name traced to the Kingdom of Castile in medieval Spain; for Bishop Aviles, this represents the importance of the essential virtues and unity inherent to family life.

Sinister chief is a field of gold with a pattern of red roses. The field of red roses honors the Blessed Virgin Mary in her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe which recalls the Mexican heritage of Bishop Aviles, and the miracle of the roses that our Lady used to impress her image on the tilma.

Middle base is a field of blue azure with three eight-pointed stars of gold. This design is from the Neri family crest, and used for the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, of which Bishop Aviles has been a member since the beginning of his vocation.  
 (to be continued)

*Courtesy of Diocese of Corpus Christi*

*From the Pastor's desk*

**SPECIAL OFFERING – MARCH 15, 2026**

**The Catholic Relief Services Collection**

*Diocese of Corpus Christi*

**OFFERINGS**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

3/7-8/2026 Regular Collection:	\$5,302.08
3/7-8/2026 Online Giving:	\$1,299.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,601.08</b>

**ST. PATRICK MISSION**

3/7/2026 Regular Collection:	\$943.00
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Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman



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**PARISH BUILDING COMMITTEE**

The St. Thomas the Apostle Building Committee members are as follows:

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Daniel Bluntzer          | Darrell Dusek  |
| David Gonzalez           | Agnes Flores   |
| Hannelore Schleicher     | Paul Pilarczyk |
| Tom Schumacher, Chairman | Allen Walzel   |

*Pastor*

**40 Cans for Lent**  
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