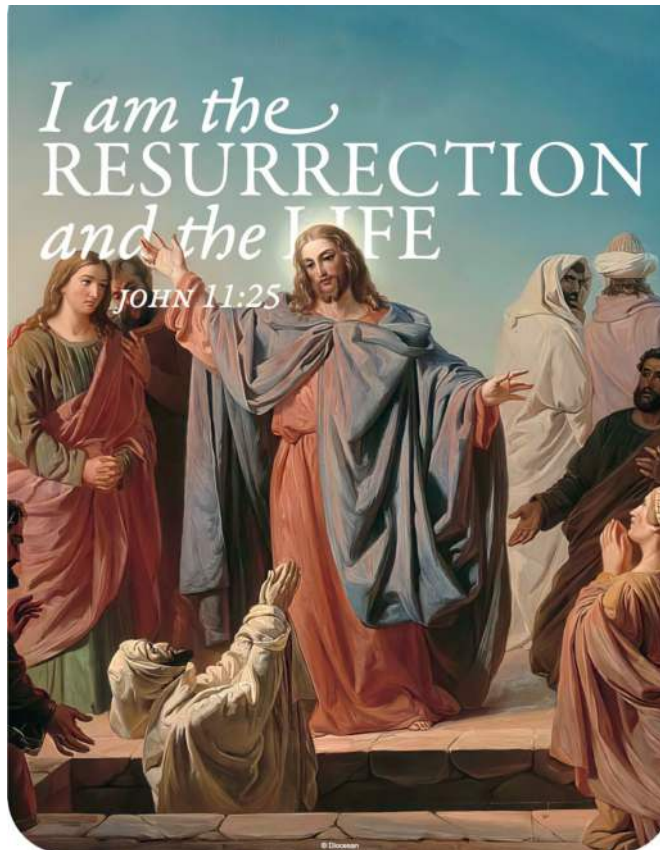


Our Gospel on this day, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus.

Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend



is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus' resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus

asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.



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



*"With the Lord there is
MERCY and FULLNESS
of redemption."*

Psalm 130:7

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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**
Lily Grace Dee (Birthday) by Susie Tajchman
†Lydia Gonzalez by John & Annette Freeman
†Monica Marie Villarreal by Tony & Yolanda Villarreal

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

12:00 PM: *No Mass*

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

12:00 PM: *†Cheryl Tajchman* by Susie Tajchman

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: *Fr. Philip Panackal (Anniversary of Ordination)* by CDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

11:30 AM: *Lenten Day of Reflection with the Bishop and Priests of the Diocese of Corpus Christi*

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 - Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Kirby Parks by Elizabeth Hackfeld
5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas**
†David Tajchman, Sr. by Paul & Connie Pilarczyk

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 - PALM SUNDAY

Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: *†Robert Grunloh* by Joyce Compton

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

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.

Knights of Columbus Council #9318: Contact Tony Arredondo, Grand Knight at Tonyent62@gmail.com or 361-947-8036.

LECTORS for MARCH 28-29, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annette Freeman
Sunday, 8:30 AM: John Harris
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Velma Garcia



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - MARCH 28-29, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Matt Kimmel, Rosa Trevino
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Javier Flores, Gianna Flores, Tony Nelson

ALTAR SERVERS for MARCH 28-29, 2026

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

USHERS for MARCH 28-29, 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: R. Polasek, S. Woolf, R. Garcia, B. Boatright



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

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 Nemeck, 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.

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (John 11:1-45)
(continued from page 1)

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

FAMILY CONNECTION: Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the Apostles' Creed.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk

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)

Middle base is a field of blue azure with three eight-pointed stars of gold. This design is taken 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. Bishop Aviles arms are impaled per pale sinister on the bearers left/viewer's right of the divided shield.

Bishop Aviles chose *Caritas Dei diffusa est in cordibus nostris* as his motto. Translated: "the Love of God has been poured out into our hearts" recalls the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:5; used as the introit to Mass for the feast of Saint Philip Neri in remembrance of his mystical experience while praying in the catacombs of St. Sebastian in Rome.

The heraldic achievement is completed by the external ornaments (processional cross of gold with one traversal bar impaled; the galero with twelve tassels in three rows, all in green; described earlier) which are the heraldic insignia of a prelate of the rank of bishop.

Courtesy of Diocese of Corpus Christi

From the Pastor's desk

SPECIAL OFFERING – APRIL 3, 2026

The Holy Land Collection

Diocese of Corpus Christi

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| OFFERING | <u>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE</u> | |
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| | 3/14-15/2026 Online Giving: | \$2,142.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$9,678.68 |
| | 3/14-15/2026 CRS Collection: | \$513.00 |
| | <u>ST. PATRICK MISSION</u> | |
| 3/14/2026 Regular Collection: | \$773.00 | |
| Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman | | |



*Go to church website
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click on icon
to give online*

KC SCHOLARSHIP

The Knights of Columbus Council #9318 is offering scholarships for graduating seniors. For more information and application, go to the St. Thomas the Apostle website www.christon624.com under the MINISTRIES Tab or contact Frank Wilson at 361-877-6926. The deadline is **April 23, 2026**.

Grand Knight Tony Arredondo and Frank Wilson, Chairpersons

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