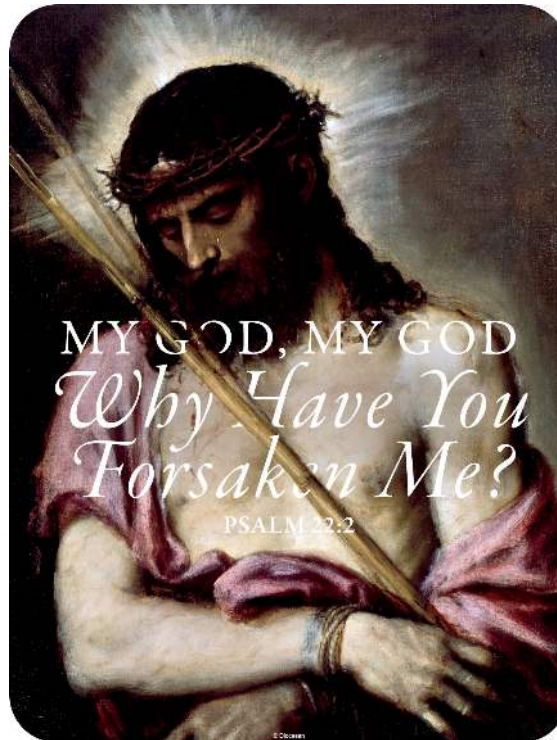


Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus'



prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the

reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: "... for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish Robstown, Texas and Saint Patrick Mission, San Patricio, Texas



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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



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest."

Matthew 21:9

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 PALM SUNDAY VIGIL THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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



SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 - PALM SUNDAY THE PASSION OF THE LORD Holy Masses @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: †Robert Grunloh by Joyce Compton

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

12:00 PM: *No Mass*

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

12:00 PM: †Maria Nguyen by John & Chi Bowman
6:30 PM: **Sacred Chrism Mass**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Amelia DeLeon by Yolanda Peña

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas HOLY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND WASHING OF THE FEET

7:00 PM: *Lauren Unterbrink (Birthday)* by the Unterbrink's

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

2:30 PM: **Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Novena**
3:30 PM: **Passion Narratives and Good Friday Services**

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026 EASTER SUNDAY VIGIL

7:30 PM: **Divine Mercy Novena**
8:00 PM: **Collective Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†JoAnn Dominguez by the Robert Dominguez Family
†All Souls in Purgatory by Jerry Knesek
†Herb Welch by the Juliet Welch



SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 - EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8:00 AM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Patrick Nemecek by Bob & Joan Black
10:00 AM: **Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle followed by the Divine Mercy Novena**
Byron Unterbrink (Birthday) by Rachel Unterbrink

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 Nemecek, 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 APRIL 4-5, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annette Freeman, Michele Hoelscher
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Francis Nelson
Sunday, 11:00 AM: David Gonzalez



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - APRIL 4-5, 2026

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

ALTAR SERVERS for APRIL 4-5, 2026

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

USHERS for APRIL 4-5, 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



GOOD FRIDAY

is a Day 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.

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 1st and 3rd 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.

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 26:14—27:66)
(continued from page 1)

is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

FAMILY CONNECTION: Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be

the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as the focal point. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

- Sunday: [Matthew 21:1-11](#) (Procession with Palms)
- Monday: [Matthew 26:14-25](#)
- Tuesday: [Matthew 26:26-35](#)
- Wednesday: [Matthew 26:36-56](#)
- Thursday: [Matthew 26:57—27:14](#)
- Friday: [Matthew 27:15-54](#)

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer,

Courtesy of Loyola Press

From the Pastor's desk

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

The Holy Mass Readings for Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Philipians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66.

OFFERINGS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	
3/21-22/2026 Regular Collection:	\$4,372.25
3/21-22/2026 Online Giving:	961.00
TOTAL	\$5,333.25
ST. PATRICK MISSION	
3/14/2026 Regular Collection:	\$585.00
Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman	



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

SPECIAL OFFERING – APRIL 3, 2026

The Holy Land Collection

Diocese of Corpus Christi

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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