

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has



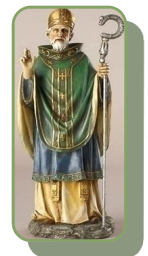
been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.



## 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](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 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

**HE IS RISEN  
ALLELUIA**

**Masses and Intentions for the Week**

**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  
*†Antonio B. Valdez (AOD)* by Rosario Gonzalez  
*†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 Nemeč* 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

**MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026**

12:00 PM: *No Mass*  
 6:30 PM: **Divine Mercy Novena**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas**

6:30 PM: **Divine Mercy Novena followed by  
a Communion Service**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas**

6:30 PM: **Divine Mercy Novena followed by  
a Communion Service**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas**

12:00 PM: *†Kara Knesek (AOD)* by Jerry Knesek  
 6:30 PM: **Divine Mercy Novena**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas**

12:00 PM: *Dylan Whitley (Birthday)* by Pat Landreth  
 6:30 PM: **Divine Mercy Novena**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026**

4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**  
*†Danien Cantu (AOD)* by Michael Cantu  
 5:30 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**  
**followed by the Divine Mercy Novena**  
*†Aida Deases* by John & Annette Freeman

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*  
 11:00 AM: **Holy Mass followed by the Divine Mercy Novena**  
*Raymond and Melissa Polasek (Birthdays)* by Polasek Family

*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 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, Beckie Ranly, Yolanda Peña, Cindy Cleavelin, Todd Crawford, Tyler Skidmore, Tommy Lopez, Dawn Shrek, and Rose Martinez.*

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

**LECTORS for APRIL 11-12, 2026**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annette Freeman  
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Terri Kimmel  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Velma Garcia



**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - APRIL 11-12, 2026**

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo  
 Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Matt Kimmel, Fred Ramos  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM: Bill Kelly, Jesse Garcia

**ALTAR SERVERS for APRIL 11-12, 2026**

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

**USHERS for APRIL 11-12, 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: R. Polasek, D. Dusek, T. Brown, D. Brown

**The Holy Mass Readings for Easter Sunday**

**Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9.**



**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](http://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*

**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 (John 20:1-9)**  
*(continued from page 1)*

**FAMILY CONNECTION:** In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

*Courtesy of Loyola Press*

*From the Pastor's desk*

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

**OFFERINGS**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

3/28-29/2026 Regular Collection: \$9,365.12  
 3/28-29/2026 Online Giving: 1,101.00  
**TOTAL \$10,466.12**

**ST. PATRICK MISSION**

3/28/2026 Regular Collection: \$416.00

Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman



Go to church website  
[www.christon624.com](http://www.christon624.com)  
 click on icon  
 to give online



Everyone who **believes in him** will receive forgiveness of sins **through his name**

Acts 10:43

**HE SAW AND BELIEVED (John 20:8)**

**ALLELUIA! Christ is risen!** Today we celebrate the culmination of the longing of God's people through the ages. In today's Gospel, we hear that when John looked into the empty tomb, he "saw and believed." His eyes were opened, and he was able to respond to what he saw with faith. As we consider the empty tomb today, let's ask the Lord to open our eyes and give us the grace to respond with faith as well!

Throughout Lent, our Sunday Gospel readings have been preparing the way for us:

- ◆ We saw Jesus defeat the devil, clinging to Scripture to overcome his temptations (Matthew 4:1-11). We now know that Jesus has freed us from Satan's power.
- ◆ We saw Jesus manifest his glory and give the disciples a glimpse of what was in store for them (Matthew 17:1-9). And we now believe that Jesus is inviting us into heavenly glory.
- ◆ We saw Jesus give living water to the Samaritan woman, showing us that as Messiah, he came for all people (John 4:5-42). So now we recognize that Jesus brought God's promises to fulfillment for every person.
- ◆ We saw Jesus heal a man born blind, opening the man's eyes to recognize him as the Son of Man (John 9:1-41). We believe now that our spiritual blindness can be healed and that we can see Jesus for who he is.
- ◆ And we saw Jesus raise his friend Lazarus from the dead, showing that he has power over death itself (John 11:1-45). We now know that we are freed from the fear of death and that death is not the end for us.

Today as you rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus, rejoice in all its effects—both in your own life and for everyone. He has conquered sin and death and the devil! All our hopes have been fulfilled in him.

***"Jesus, I rejoice in your resurrection!  
 Open my eyes to see and believe  
 all that you have accomplished."***

*Courtesy of The Word Among Us*

*From the Pastor's desk*

**SPECIAL OFFERING – APRIL 26, 2026**

**The Catholic Home Missions Appeal**

Diocese of Corpus Christi