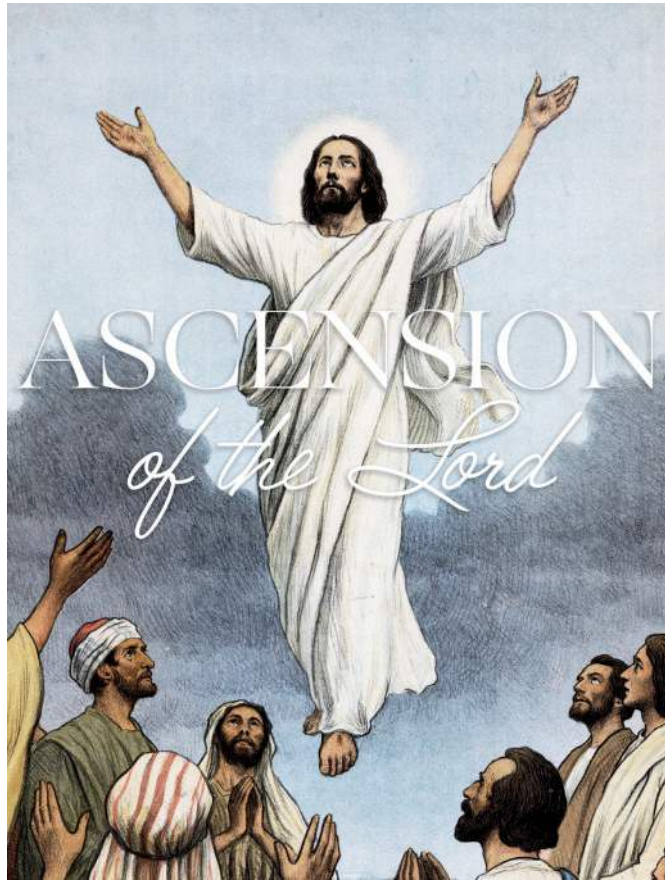


Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount.

Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same



time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. Matthew 10: 1-15). However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations

found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the



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



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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
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

**"Go and teach all the nations,
says the Lord: I am with you always,
until the end of the world."**

Matthew 28: 19a, 20b

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

4:00 PM: Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission

Mother's Day Novena

5:30 PM: Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

Mother's Day Novena

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

8:30 AM: *Mother's Day Novena*

Mass for Graduates

11:00 AM: *Mother's Day Novena*

First Holy Communion

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *†Esilla Lawley (AOD)* by Patrick & Moria Cain

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *†Rance Vaughan* by Karen Vaughan

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *Sara and Emil Gimbel (Birthdays)* by Susie Tajchman

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

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

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

4:00 PM: Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission

†Kay Havelka by C.B. & Kathleen Trial

5:30 PM: Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

Raymond and Melissa Polasek Wedding Anniversary
by the Polasek Family

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*

11:00 AM: **Collective Holy Mass**

Michael Havelka Family by Raymond & Melissa Polasek

†Michael Gallagher by Owen & Kim Gallagher

Parish Website: 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 Nemeck, Harold Prejean, Mary Elva Estrada, Dee Molina, John Bowman, Wallace and Judi Prukop, Jeanette Respondek, Shannon Clubb, Courtney Dodd, Marty Douglas, Simon Bucknall, Brady Scarborough, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Beckie Ranly, Bill Wilson, Tommy Lopez, Richard Osburg, Dawn Sherek, Tyler Skidmore, Todd Crawford, Yolanda Peña, Gary Hicks, Cindy Cleavelin, Michael Chapman, Laura Greenwood, and Debbie Wood.

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



LECTORS for MAY 23-24, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Les Hoelscher

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Michele Hoelscher

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Frank Wilson



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - MAY 23-24, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Aaron Hoelscher, Fred Ramos

Sunday, 11:00 AM: J.R. Sanchez, Heather Sanchez, Kera Steward

ALTAR SERVERS for MAY 23-24, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Grace Landry, Matthew Cortino, Michael Cortino

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Joseph Hess, Miles Shimek, Gabriel & Cyprian Kimmel

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Morgan Boatright, Liam Sanchez, Eliana Garza

USHERS for MAY 23-24, 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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. John I, Pope and Martyr;

Wednesday: St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest;

Thursday: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs;

Friday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious; **Sunday:** Pentecost.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 22-26, 2026.

Join us for a *Wilderness Adventure VBS*. For more information contact Pauline Pechacek at 281-748-7675.

Pauline Pechacek, Coordinator

Holy Mass Readings for the Ascension of the Lord

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20.

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 28:16-20)
(continued from page 1)


community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples, our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of discipleship. That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost our family should call people to discipleship by the example of our love for one another. That example is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond the family, reaching out to others and to the world.

Together with your family, identify one or more ways in which your family lives the life of Christian discipleship. Thank God for the blessing of the opportunity to be able to show God's love. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20. Discuss what Jesus sends his disciples to do. Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Courtesy of Loyola Press from the Pastor's desk



HAPPY GRADUATION

Congratulations to all the 2026 Graduates of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and St. Patrick Mission. Our prayers and best wishes go out to all of you.

Pastor and Parishioners

<u>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE</u>	
5/9-10/2026 Regular Collection:	\$8,074.00
5/9-10/2026 Online Giving:	\$1,061.00
TOTAL	\$9,135.00
<u>ST. PATRICK MISSION</u>	
5/9/2026 Regular Collection:	\$320.00
Counters: C. Pilarczyk and K. Gallagher	



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 to give online

SPECIAL OFFERING – MAY 17, 2026
Catholic Communications

Diocese of Corpus Christi

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Please pray for the following children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion at the 11:00 a.m. Holy Mass on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

- Jack Albert
- Penelope Arredondo
- Harper Bueno
- Brooke Carrizales
- Kaylynn Chodosh
- Addilyn Cox
- Emerie Elizalde
- Callie Flores
- Yasmila Garcia
- Emma Hoelscher
- Grace Hoelscher
- Khloe Hoelscher
- Sadie Llewellyn
- Cole Murphy
- Connor Otahal
- Avery Pettit
- Katherine Rakowitz
- Solon Riebschleager
- Madison Riojas
- Barrett Schwertner
- Jacob Shimek
- Owen Zurick

Pastor

THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

The first Christians had no doubts as to how to determine what was the true Church and which doctrines the true teachings of Christ: simply trace the apostolic succession of the claimants. Apostolic succession is the line of bishops stretching back to the apostles. Catholic bishops worldwide are part of that lineage, something that is impossible in Protestant denominations, most of which do not even claim to have bishops.

To make sure the apostles' teachings would be passed down after their deaths, Paul told Timothy, "What you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim 2:2). In this passage he refers to the first three generations of apostolic succession: his own generation, and the generation Timothy will teach.

Courtesy of Tim Staples, Catholic Answers

From the Pastor's desk

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