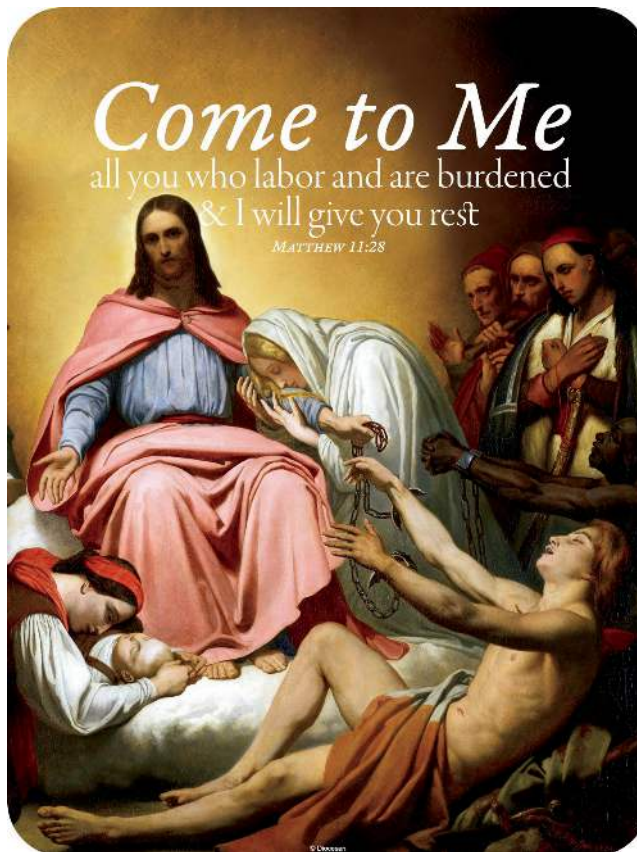


Today's reading from Matthew's Gospel comes after a discourse in which Jesus reproaches people who have witnessed his mighty deeds yet still lack belief. In this context, today's Gospel explains the reason for this unbelief and reveals what is necessary for faith. Today's Gospel also continues to enhance our understanding of discipleship as last week's Gospel did.

Jesus first prays in thanksgiving to God who has made himself known to Jesus' disciples. He praises God who has made himself known to the "little ones" and not to the wise and learned. As in other recent readings from Matthew's Gospel, a contrast is made here between the unbelieving Pharisees, who are wise and learned, and the faithful disciples, tax collectors, and sinners with whom Jesus keeps company.

The second part of this reading calls to our attention the unity between the Father and



the Son. God has made himself known through Jesus, and in knowing Jesus, we come to know the Father. In Jesus' life and in his person, God reveals himself to us.

In the concluding sentences of today's Gospel, Jesus' teaching is again contrasted to the teaching of the Pharisees. This common theme of Matthew's Gospel probably reflects tension that existed between Jesus and the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the community of Christians for whom Matthew wrote. Pharisaic Judaism became the predominant form of Judaism after the destruction of the Temple

in Jerusalem about 70 A.D. Here that tension is expressed as alternative paths of holiness. The careful observance of the Mosaic law taught by the Pharisees could be experienced by some as difficult and burdensome. In contrast, Jesus' way of holiness is presented as uncomplicated and even restful.

Readings for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30.



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
Housekeeper: Yolanda Tobon

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

*"The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness."*

Psalm 145:8-9

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

INDEPENDENCE DAY

- 4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Diana Flores by Javier & Gianna Flores
- 5:30 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Monica Marie Villarreal by Tony & Yolanda Villarreal



SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

- 8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
- 11:00 AM: **Collective Holy Mass**
Rosario Gonzalez (Healing) by the Gonzalez Family
†Allen Migura (AOB) by Owen & Kim Gallagher
†Patrick Knesek by Owen & Kim Gallagher
†JoAnn Miller by Yolanda Peña

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Frank Nemecek (AOB) by Susie Tajchman

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Peña Family Birthdays by Yolanda Peña

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Clement Vo by John & Chi Bowman

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Herb Welch by Juliet Welch

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

- 4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Herb Welch by Juliet Welch
- 5:30 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†JoAnn Dominguez by the Robert Dominguez Family

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

- 8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
- 11:00 AM: †Philip Prukop (AOD) by Karen Vaughan

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, Jeanette Respondek, Wallace and Judi Prukop, Fred Nemecek, Harold Prejean, Mary Elva Estrada, Shannon Clubb, Courtney Dodd, John Bowman, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Dee Molina, Marty Douglas, Simon Bucknall, Brady Scarborough, Beckie Ranly, Laura Greenwood, Michael Chapman, Tommy Lopez, Debbie Wood, Dawn Sherek, Bill Wilson, Richard Osburg, Tyler Skidmore, Yolanda Peña, Todd Crawford, A.C. Basaldua, Gloria Valdez, M. P. Wright, Stan Soultair, Valerie Rich, Rosario Gonzalez, and the Martini Family.

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

LECTORS for JULY 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 - JULY 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 JULY 11-12, 2026

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

USHERS for JULY 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

Our deepest condolences to the Martini Family
on the death of



†Mrs. Evelyn Martini



Mother of Jim Martini (Theresa)

Please keep the family in your prayers.
May her soul rest in peace.

Pastor and Parishioners

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr;

Thursday: St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs;

Saturday: St. Benedict, Abbot.



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 11:25-30)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches an important lesson for families: from the youngest and simplest among us we can learn the most profound insights about God. Parents who are attentive to this reality can learn much from their children even as their children are learning from them. Families who create time and space for encounters with God will enrich the faith of all who share in family life.

Gather as a family and read together today's Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30. Allow time for each person to reflect on what Jesus reveals to us about God. Invite each person to show these things in a creative way, perhaps through a picture, poem, or some other means. Share these with one another. Conclude in prayer together, thanking Jesus for making God known to us. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk

St. Thomas the Apostle
GIFT CARD RAFFLE



Our parish is having a Gift Card Raffle at the Parish Festival "CzechFest" in October. If you would like to make a donation to the PRIZE FUND for this raffle, please contact the parish office.

Please help us make this Raffle a great success. If you have any questions, please call Michele at 361-244-2138 or call the parish office at 361-387-1312. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Michele Hoelscher, Coordinator

SPECIAL OFFERING – JULY 12, 2026

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

Diocese of Corpus Christi

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

6/27-28/2026 Regular Collection: **\$7,021.66**
6/27-28/2026 Online Giving: **\$1,553.00**
TOTAL \$8,574.66

6/27-28/2026 Peter's Pence Collection: **\$413.00**

ST. PATRICK MISSION?

6/20/2026 Regular Collection: **\$623.28**

Counters: A. Freeman and R. Unterbrink



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

THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

(continued from last week)

SUCCESSION

According to Scripture, the apostles ordained others to succeed them in their ministry. Just as Jesus "sent" the apostles, the apostles would send men as well. And those men would send men, and those men would send men—until the end of time. And they alone possess the fullness of the authority of Jesus Christ on Earth. Again, that is the definition of apostolic succession. And this is made clear in the New Testament.

Apostolic succession has as one of its central purposes infallible certitude regarding Christ's promise to remain with the Church until the end of time: "Lo, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). This promise was given in the context of the sending of the apostles to the ends of the Earth, the implications being that the apostolic gift would continue until the end in their successors, the bishops.

THE EPISCOPACY

Apostolic authority is also seen to succeed in the Church in the choosing of the replacement (successor) of Judas. St. Peter declared, In Acts 1:15-22:

In those days Peter stood up and said, "Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas. . . . For it is written in the book of Psalms, "Let his habitation become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it", and "His office let another take."

The Greek word here for "office" is a form of *episcopos*, or "bishopric." Thus, the office of apostle in succession is referred to as *tein episkopein* or "the episcopacy." According to 1 Timothy 3:1, that office continues in the Church beyond the original apostles.

Being "sent" by an apostle or by someone sent by an apostle is just as necessary if one is going to be an official representative of Jesus in the Church after the apostles as it was for the apostles to be sent by Jesus.

The Greek word for "sent" here is *apostolosin*. There's that word again! What does it mean? It means that, for St. Paul, unless you are sent with apostolic authority, you have no authority in the Church.
(to be continued)

Courtesy of Tim Staples, Catholic Answers

From the Pastor's desk



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