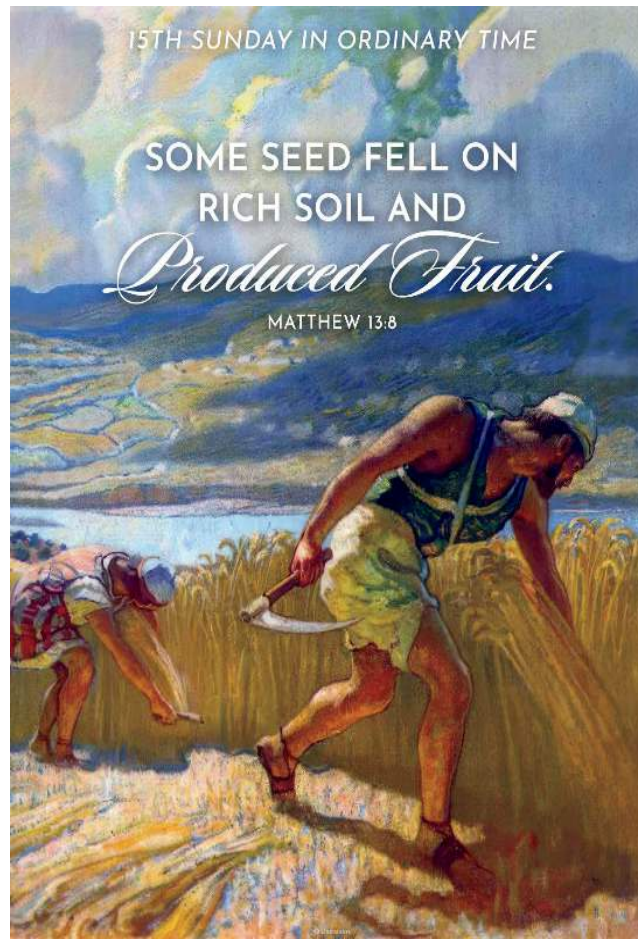


Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward — of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree



of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but

will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

Readings for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65:10-14; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23.



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 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

*"The seed is the Word of God,
Christ is the sower.
All who come to him
will have life forever."*

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Hali Browning Tajchman (Birthday) by Susie Tajchman

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †David Tajchman, Sr. by John & Annette Freeman

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Lincoln Polasek (Birthday) by Raymond & Melissa Polasek

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Jameson David Dee (Birthday) by Susie Tajchman

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

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

†Matt McNeill by Yolanda Peña

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

†Robert Keys (AOB) by Danny & Roberta Kurtz

†Dawn Sherek by Yolanda Peña

†Alicia Rodriguez by Yolanda Peña

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: Parishioners

11:00 AM: Grace Ann Skidmore (Birthday) by Raymond & Melissa Polasek

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 Nemec, 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, Valerie Rich, Tommy Lopez, Debbie Wood, Bill Wilson, A.C. Basaldua, Richard Osburg, Tyler Skidmore, Yolanda Peña, Todd Crawford, M. P. Wright, Stan Soultaire, the Gonzalez and Valdez Families.

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



LECTORS for JULY 18-19, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Agnes Flores

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Andres Trevino

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Paul Pilarczyk



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - JULY 18-19, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Rosa Trevino, Matt Kimmel

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Karen Vaughan, Barbara Rychetsky, Tony Nelson

ALTAR SERVERS for JULY 18-19, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Able Flurry, Abraum Flurry

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Gabriel Kimmel, Cyprian Kimmel

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Carlos Camacho, Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson

USHERS for JULY 18-19, 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. Gonzalez, R. Garcia, D. Bluntzer, J.R. Sanchez

Our deepest condolences to the Gonzalez Family on the death of

†Mrs. Rosario Gonzalez

of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

Please keep the family in your prayers.

May her soul rest in peace.

Pastor and Parishioners

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Henry; Tuesday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin;

Wednesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church;

Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel;

Saturday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest, Blessed Virgin Mary.



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 13:1-23)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's Gospel reminds us that in order for God's Word to take root in us and produce abundant fruit, we must endeavor to be like good soil. Families, in particular, hold the responsibility for "preparing the soil" so that the seeds of God's Word can grow strong. There are many ways in which families do this—family traditions in which faith is celebrated, prayer and reading of Scripture, and instruction on the faith. In these ways, parents fulfill the promises they made at their child's Baptism.

Gather together as a family and reflect together on the Sacrament of Baptism. Tell the story of the Baptism of each child, showing any pictures that were taken. If you have your child's Baptism candle or gown, share these as well. Recall together that one of the promises that parents make at their child's Baptism is to bring them up in the practice of our faith. Talk together about the importance of this promise to your family. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:1-23. Reflect together on the ways in which your family practices your faith (daily prayer, Mass attendance, religious instruction, etc.). Remind one another that we do these things as a family so that God's Word can take root in our lives and produce abundant fruit. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm, Psalm 65.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk



Thank you to Fr. Philip for his unwavering support as well as all of those who made this year's VBS a huge success. We had amazing adult, teen, and pre-teen volunteers who shared their love of God with the children who participated. We appreciate the time and effort it took to help us with this week of VBS. Also thank you to those who gave a donation to help cover the cost. We knew our hard work paid off when we heard parents were complimentary of our VBS and that their children were excited about coming again next year.

God blessed us with a wonderful week!

Karen Harris, Pauline Pechacek, and Katherine Shimek

CZECHFEST/PARISH FESTIVAL

All parishioners are invited to the planning of our parish festival CZECHFEST on Tuesday, **July 14, 2026** at 6:00 p.m. in the I.C. Hall. We need your ideas and help to make our festival successful.

Tom Schumacher, Chairman
tmslawofc@aol.com

Tony Arredondo, Co-Chairman
tonyent62@gmail.com

**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

2026 PARISH FESTIVAL/CZECHFEST**SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, October 11, 2026**

Mark your calendars now for our Parish Festival. "CzechFest" has been very successful in the past thanks to all the volunteers and the generous donations of our parishioners, local merchants, and friends. For any questions or to find out where your help is needed email Tom Schumacher or Tony Arredondo or you can call the parish office.

Tom Schumacher, Chairman
tmslawofc@aol.com

Tony Arredondo, Co-Chairman
tonyent62@gmail.com

SPECIAL OFFERING — JULY 12, 2026**Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa**

Diocese of Corpus Christi

OFFERINGS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

7/4-5/2026 Regular Collection:	\$5,774.00
7/4-5/2026 Online Giving:	\$1,463.00
TOTAL	\$7,237.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION7

7/4/2026 Regular Collection:	\$242.00
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Counters: C. Hoelscher and R. Unterbrink



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

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

SPECIAL OFFERING — AUGUST 9, 2026**Diocesan Catholic Schools Development**

Diocese of Corpus Christi



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