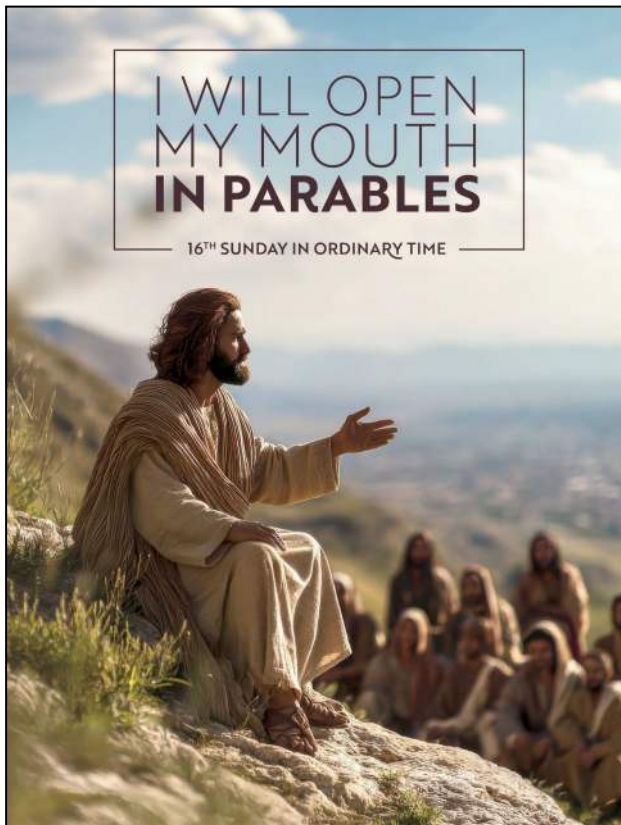


In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.



Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Readings for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16;
Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43.**



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 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

*"You, O Lord, are a merciful and
gracious God, slow to anger,
abounding in kindness and fidelity."*

Psalm 86:15-16

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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 Schreck 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

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Aida Deases by John & Chi Bowman

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *Fred and Suzette Gimbel (Wedding Anniversary)* by Susie Tajchman

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Frank Nemec and †Henry Strmiska by Susie Tajchman

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *Fr. Philip Panackal (Birthday)* by the CDA

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Dawn Schreck by Yolanda Peña
5:30 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
Susie Tajchman (Birthday) by the Tajchman Family

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: †Roxy Ybarra (AOB) by Owen & Kim Gallagher

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, and Fred Guerra.

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

LECTORS for JULY 25-26, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Ann Clarke
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Michele Hoelscher
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Frank Wilson



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - JULY 25-26, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Richard Gonzalez, Aaron Hoelscher
Sunday, 11:00 AM: J.R. Sanchez, Heather Sanchez, Kera Steward

ALTAR SERVERS for JULY 25-26, 2026

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

USHERS for JULY 25-26, 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, T. Zurick, R. Garcia

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr;
Tuesday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church;
Wednesday: St. Mary Magdalene; **Thursday:** St. Bridget, Religious;
Friday: St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest; **Saturday:** St. James, Apostle.

St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Patrick Mission PARISH FACILITIES and Responsibilities

Reminders:

1. Loss of Keys to Parish Buildings: report to the parish office if you have lost your keys.
2. Thermostat Settings: after use of buildings, please reset thermostat to 78-80 degrees.
3. Secure the Parish Buildings: Make sure the parish buildings are locked and lights are off.
4. Secure the Storage Closets: Keep storage closets locked.

Thank You from your 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.

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 13:24-43)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

Taken together, the parables found in today's Gospel offer both a sobering reminder about the Kingdom of God and words of encouragement. As the wheat and the weeds must grow together until the harvest, so we may not know whether our actions contribute to God's Kingdom until God's final judgment. With this word of caution in mind, we act always in prayer that our actions will be consistent with God's plans. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we hear words of encouragement. God can bring the Kingdom of Heaven from even the smallest of beginnings. Thus, we ask God to work through us for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Set aside some time this week to make bread with your family. Show the amount of yeast that is required to raise an entire batch of bread. Observe that little things can go a long way. After the bread has been baked, gather together as a family. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:24-43. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed and like yeast. In these parables, Jesus is teaching us that God can work wonders from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of God. This means that even the little things that we do can make a big difference in the lives of others. What are some of the little things that we can do in our family that help to make things better for others? Decide on one action to take together. Pray that God will use your action to make a difference in the world. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk

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

Diocese of Corpus Christi

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

7/11-12/2026 Regular Collection:	\$4,481.33
7/11-12/2026 Online Giving:	\$1,048.00
TOTAL	\$5,529.33
7/11-12/2026 Church in Africa:	\$268.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

7/11/2026 Regular Collection:	\$992.00
-------------------------------	----------

Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman



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

THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

(continued from last week)

THE EPISCOPACY

The Greek word for "sent" here is *apostolosin*. What does it mean? It means that, for St. Paul, unless you are sent with apostolic authority, you have no authority in the Church. You speak in your own name rather than the name of Jesus Christ.

So, who are these "sent ones" that Paul talks about? Timothy certainly qualifies, as we saw from 2 Timothy 1:6. But most important for us now: this succession does not stop with Timothy and those ordained by apostles: "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" --2 Timothy 2:1-2.

And remember, Paul is not just talking about "teachers" such as a Sunday school teacher. First and Second Timothy are both pastoral epistles that focus on the pastoral ministry of the ordained.

(to be continued)

Courtesy of Tim Staples, Catholic Answers

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

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



Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise,
please call 800-994-9817

 **1 Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.**

Simply go to
www.DM.CHURCH/5555 ...or scan 

 **DISCOVERMASS**

 **Consider
Remembering
Your Parish in
Your Will**

*For further information,
please call the parish office.*

catholicmatch®
Texas 

CatholicMatch.com/goTX

Samuel C. Hartman, M.D.
Family Medicine
361-387-3616

 **THIRD COAST SEPTIC**
RELIABLE. LOCAL. FAMILY-OWNED.

SEPTIC DESIGN • INSTALLATION
PUMPING • SERVICE • REPAIR
Residential & Commercial
Aerobic Treatment & Conventional

TCEQ LICENSED & INSURED
Fast, Honest, & Professional
CALL TODAY!
(361) 774-6614
ThirdCoastSeptic.com

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

**Promote your Business
AND Support your Parish.**

Give us a call! 800-997-4986

FRANCO'S GARAGE
Automotive
Repair & Service

- Air Condition
- Transmissions
- Brakes
- Tune-ups
- Alignments

387-5011
821 E. Main Robstown

**TEXAS FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE®**
AUTO / HOME / LIFE

Brent Klostermann, Agent
361.815.0608


MERRILL
A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY

Andrew Harlan
Team Financial Advisor
361-887-4354

 **TEXAS FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE®**
AUTO / HOME / LIFE

Brent Klostermann, Agent
361.815.0608

EWTN.COM/RADIO

 **EWTN** | Global Catholic Radio **TUNE IN**

The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible.
Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week.
Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe