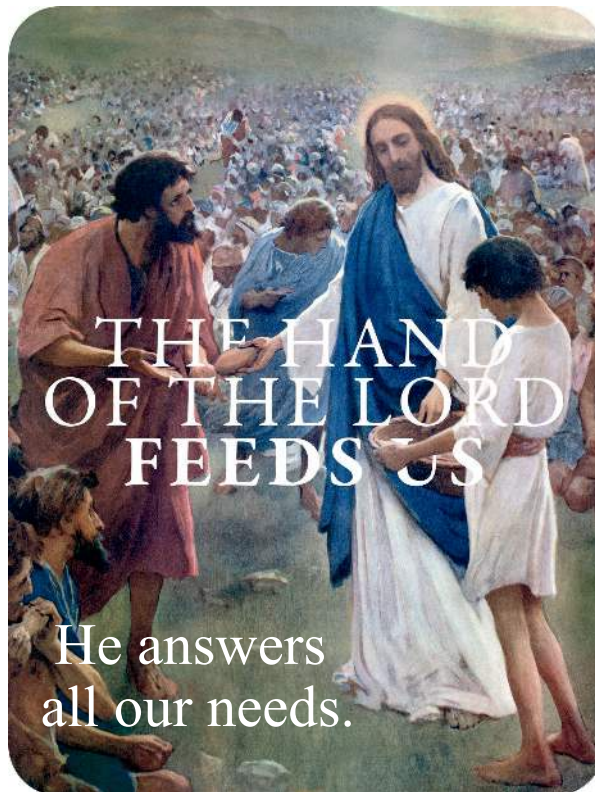


Today we jump ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel to Chapter 14. Last week we heard Jesus conclude his discourse with the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew's narrative, Jesus then leaves the crowds and returns to Nazareth, where he is rejected. Matthew then recounts the story of John the Baptist's arrest and execution at the hands of Herod. Today's Gospel reading begins at this point.

Upon hearing the news of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus seeks to withdraw, but the crowds follow him. Jesus reaches out to them in compassion and heals the sick. At the end of a long day, the disciples encourage Jesus to send the crowds away so that they might find provisions for themselves. Jesus again responds with compassion for the crowd. Jesus tells his disciples to provide food for the crowd. The disciples reply with a report of the meagerness of their own provisions—five loaves and two fish. The result is the very familiar miracle of the multiplication



of the loaves and fish. Matthew's Gospel tells us that 5,000 men were fed, and this number does not even include the women and children.

Jesus' blessing brought abundance from the meager provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions — remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for Christian life and ministry. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service

of the Kingdom of Heaven.

We find the story of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fish in each of the four Gospels. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus performs this same miracle on two separate occasions. The story of this miracle is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we

(continued on page 3)

Readings for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:1-3; Psalm 145:8-9, 15-18; Romans 8:35, 37-39; Matthew 14:13-21.



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

**"One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God."**

Matthew 4:4b

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026

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

†JoAnn Dominguez by Karen Vaughan

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

†John Bowman II by John and Chi Bowman

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: Parishioners

11:00 AM: Collective Mass

†Alicia Rodriguez by Yolanda Peña

†Matt McNeill by Yolanda Peña

Haley Landreth (Birthday) by Pat Landreth

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Rodrigo R. Gonzalez (AOB) by Rosario Gonzalez

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Noel Peña (Birthday) by Yolanda Peña

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Zaragosa Salinas (AOD) by David & Delma Tamez

FIRST FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †All Souls in Purgatory by Jerry Knesek

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

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

†Michael Rathke by Kathy Rathke

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

†Kristi Stark (AOD) by Danny & Roberta Kurtz

†James Kurtz by Danny & Roberta Kurtz

†Herb Welch by Juliet Welch

†Frank Nemec and Henry Strmiska by Susie Tajchman

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: Parishioners

11:00 AM: †Adelfa Tamez by Cruz & Diane Hernandez

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, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Dee Molina, Marty Douglas, Simon Bucknall, Brady Scarborough, Beckie Ranly, Laura Greenwood, Michael Chapman, Yolanda Peña, Valerie Rich, Tommy Lopez, Debbie Wood, Bill Wilson, M. P. Wright, A.C. Basaldua, Richard Osburg, Tyler Skidmore, Todd Crawford, Stan Soultaire, Fred Guerra, and Chad Morton.

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



LECTORS for AUGUST 8-9, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annette Freeman

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Terri Kimmel

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Velma Garcia



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - AUGUST 8-9, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Fred Ramos, Matt Kimmel

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Deacon Bill, Jesse Garcia, Bill Kelly

ALTAR SERVERS for AUGUST 8-9, 2026

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

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

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

USHERS for AUGUST 8-9, 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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. John Vianney, Priest;

Wednesday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major;

Thursday: The Transfiguration of the Lord;

First Friday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs,

St. Cajetan, Priest; **Saturday:** St. Dominic, Priest.

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

St. Patrick Mission

NEW AIR CONDITIONER UNIT

St. Patrick Mission is in need of a new air conditioner unit for the church. Donations are highly appreciated to meet the expense of this project. Kindly mark in the memo - A/C Unit.

Pastor

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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

are fed by the abundant grace of God. The importance of the Eucharist has been a defining element of Christian life from the very beginning.

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 14:13-21)

(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

In our family life we can sometimes hear echoes of the disciples' excuses: "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Sometimes this echo is heard from children squabbling about the last piece of cake. Sometimes it is heard in our concern about the limits of the family's income or possessions. Sometimes this echo is heard in our complaints about the seemingly endless demands for our time and attention. Jesus understood these feelings and taught us to see beyond our limitations. Jesus modeled for us a compassion that reaches out to others, even when we would rather withdraw into ourselves. Jesus taught us that God blesses compassion offered to others with his grace. Today's Gospel reminds us that with God there is not only enough, there is an abundance!

Talk together about some of the stresses and demands for time and attention that your family members might feel. Acknowledge that we sometimes have to make difficult choices about how to use our time, talents, and treasure. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 14:13-21. Notice how much Jesus cared for the crowds, healing the sick even though he wanted to withdraw to a quiet place. Notice how the disciples responded to Jesus' instruction to feed the crowd; they noted their limited supply of food. Jesus blessed this limited supply of food, and it was enough to feed the entire crowd, more than 5,000 people, and there were leftovers! Pray together that Jesus will grant us compassion like his so that we will offer whatever we have to others with compassion and generosity. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 145.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk

OFFERING

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

7/25-26/2026 Regular Collection: \$7,055.56
7/25-26/2026 Online Giving: \$ 998.00
TOTAL \$8,053.56

ST. PATRICK MISSION

7/25/2026 Regular Collection: \$727.00
Donation for A/C Unit \$1200.00

Counters: A. Freeman and R. Unterbrink



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to give online

**SOURCE AND SUMMIT
OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

"To revere the sacred mysteries of your body and blood."
This is what St. Thomas Aquinas asks of the Lord Jesus in his collect prayer for the great feast of Corpus Christi. This oration summarizes in a few words that should be the great desire of our hearts to adore Christ in the Eucharist—there through Christ to worship the Father "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24)—that, as the collect continues, "we may always experience in our selves the fruits of your redemption."

In this way, we begin to anticipate the pervading joys and blessedness of heaven and in fact have a prelude to heavenly worship itself. *(to be continued)*

Courtesy of Most Reverend James Sean Wall Catholic Answers

From the Pastor's desk

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

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.

Pastor

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

Diocese of Corpus Christi



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