

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores



her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand

(continued on page 3)

Readings for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28.



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

**"Thus says the LORD;
Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice about to be revealed."**

Isaiah 56:1

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026

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

†Antonio B. Valdez by the Rosario Gonzalez Family

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

†Aida Deases (AOD) by the Bowman Family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

8:30 AM: Parishioners

11:00 AM: Breanne Vaughan Smith (Birthday) by Karen Vaughan

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Silvester Vo by the Bowman Family

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Sharla Tajchman (Birthday) by Susie Tajchman

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Michael Havelka Family by Raymond & Melissa Polasek

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †John Bowman II by the Bowman Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

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

†Frances Gutierrez by Dalia Gutierrez

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

†Monica Marie Villarreal by Tony & Yolanda Villarreal

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

8:30 AM: Parishioners

11:00 AM: Collective Holy Mass

†Rance Vaughan (AOB) by Karen Vaughan

†Peter Gallagher (AOD) by Owen & Kim Gallagher

†James Skrobarczyk (AOD) by Lawanda Skrobarczyk

"O God, let all the nations praise you!" Psalm 67

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 22-23, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Les Hoelscher

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Michele Hoelscher

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Frank Wilson



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - AUGUST 22-23, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Aaron Hoelscher, Richard Gonzalez

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

ALTAR SERVERS for AUGUST 22-23, 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 22-23, 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: B. Boatright, S. Woolf, R. Garcia, T. Zurick

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Wednesday: St. John Eudes, Priest; **Thursday:** St. Bernard,

Abbot and Doctor of the Church; **Friday:** St. Pius X, Pope;

Saturday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

DUMPSTER (WASTE CONTAINER)

Your Attention Please

The Dumpster (waste container) rental comes with a weight limit and dumpster can only be filled so high while still remaining safe for transport. The load height should never exceed the top of the container, but there is generally a 'fill line' inside the dumpster to indicate the maximum fill point.

Kindly make sure that it is below the weight limits and height that the contracted service by REPUBLIC does not charge an additional payment (fine) to our business.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Fr. Philip J. Panackal, Pastor

St. Patrick Mission

NEW AIR CONDITIONER UNITS

St. Patrick Mission is in need of new air conditioner units for the church. The estimate for a new A/C unit installation is \$9,453.15. Donations are highly appreciated to meet the expense of these projects. Kindly mark in the memo - A/C Units.

Pastor

PARISH FESTIVAL "CZECHFEST"

**SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, October 11, 2026**

LITURGY OF THE DAY

how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 15:21-28)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer.

As a family recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk

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.

RELIGIOUS ED / EDGE / LIFE TEEN REGISTRATION

Religious Ed / EDGE / LIFE TEEN registration is now open: We look forward to a fabulous 2026-27 school year with your kiddos!!!

If you have returning students in our program, please e-mail me with their names and grade level. If your contact information has changed, please also provide that information in the e-mail.

If you are new to the parish, please make sure you have submitted a church registration form to the parish office. If you have not done so, you can find the registration form on our website (www.christon624.com) under *Newcomers* and then go to tab "Register - St. Thomas". Once form is completed, please submit original to parish office or put it in the collection basket at Sunday Mass. You can also find our Religious Ed Registration form on our website (*only new members need to complete this form*) under *Parish Life*, then go to *Religious Ed* tab. You will see "CCD Registration Form". Please complete this form for each student you want to register for Religious Ed. Once completed, you can e-mail that form to me. ***The St. Thomas the Apostle Registration Form must be submitted to Parish Office before we can register students for our Religious Ed programs.***

WELCOME BACK AND ORIENTATION

LIFE TEEN—Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

CGS/EDGE—Sunday, August 30, at 9:30 a.m.

If you have any other questions about registration or students that may need to get on track with their sacraments, please feel free to contact me.

Michele Hoelscher, DRE

E-Mail: mhoelscher@christon624.com; Cell: 361-244-2138.

St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Patrick Mission
Parish Facilities and Responsibilities

Reminders when using the Parish Buildings:

1. Report to the parish office if you have lost your keys.
2. Please reset thermostat to 78-80 degrees.
3. Make sure the parish buildings are locked and lights are off.
4. Keep storage closets locked.

Pastor

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

OFFERINGS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

8/8-9/2026 Regular Collection:	\$9,525.47
8/8-9/2026 Online Giving:	\$2,263.00
TOTAL	\$11,788.47

ST. PATRICK MISSION

8/8/2026 Regular Collection:	\$670.00
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Counters: C. Pilarczyk and K Gallagher





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