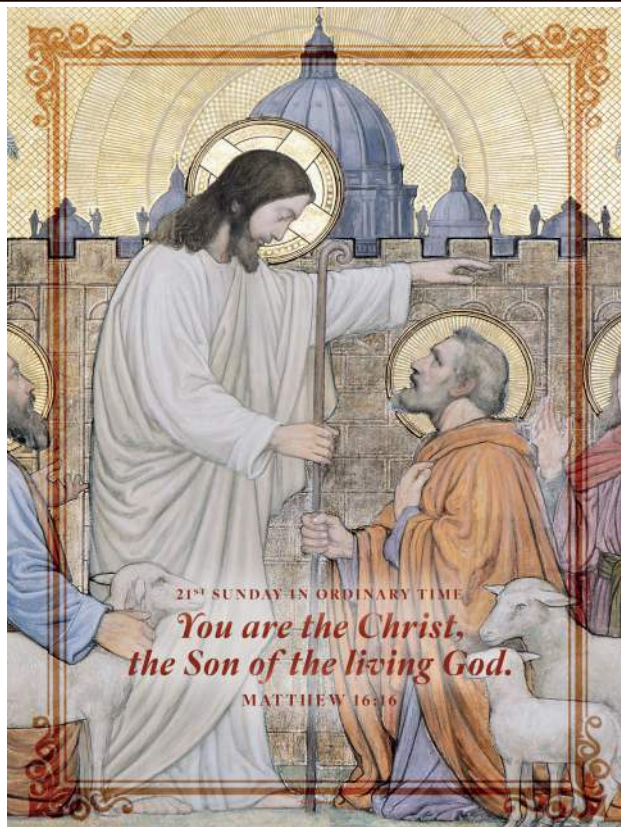


It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus



will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as

humans do.

The use of the term *church* in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his

(continued on page 3)

Readings for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 138:1-3, 6, 8; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20.



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: sthomastheapostle@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

*"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom
and knowledge of God!
How inscrutable are his judgments
and how unsearchable his ways!"*
Romans 11:33

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Kara Knesek by Jerry Knesek

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Brian Dee (Birthday) by Susie Tajchman

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †David, Sr. and †David, Jr. Tajchman by Susie Tajchman

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Linda Bodie by Danny & Roberta Kurtz
5:30 PM: **Collective Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Augustine Carpenter (AOB) by Danny & Roberta Kurtz
†Juan B. Mendoza (AOB) by Alma Mendoza & Barrera Family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: †Michael Hunter (AOB) by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink

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 29-30, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Les Hoelscher
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Agnes Flores
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Velma Garcia



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - AUGUST 29-30, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Matt Kimmel, Rosa Trevino
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Tony Nelson, Gianna Flores, Javier Flores

ALTAR SERVERS for AUGUST 29-30, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Grace Landry, Able Flurry, Abram Flry
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Gabriel Kimmel, Cyprian Kimmel, Casey Gwynn
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson

USHERS for AUGUST 29-30, 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: R. Polasek, D. Dusek, T. Zurick, R. Garcia

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Bartholomew, Apostle; Tuesday: St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest; Thursday: St. Monica; Friday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Saturday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist.

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

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

recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 16:13-20)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's Gospel reminds us that the Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Peter announces the core of our faith, that Jesus is God's only Son. The family, as the domestic church, has this same faith as its foundation.

As you gather together as a family, talk about people whose faith has helped you to be a member of the Church and talk about what you have learned from leaders in our Church today. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20. Talk about what you know about Peter and his importance to the early Christian community. Talk about what we can learn from Peter and his profession of faith about Jesus. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm or an Act of Faith.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk

SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Catholic University of America

Diocese of Corpus Christi

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

8/15-16/2026 Regular Collection: \$5,631.00
8/15-16/2026 Online Giving: \$2,186.00
TOTAL \$7,817.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

8/15/2026 Regular Collection: \$579.00

Counters: C. Pilarczyk and K. Gallagher



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

SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Parish Festival "CzechFest"

Diocese of Corpus Christi

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

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.

CLASSES RESUME

CGS/EDGE—Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

LIFE TEEN—Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.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.

PARISH FESTIVAL "CZECHFEST"

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, October 11, 2026

Mark your calendars now for our Parish Festival.

The **auction** committee will now be accepting items for the live and silent auction. Recommended value of new items for the live auction can be \$35-\$45.

Tom Schumacher, Chairman
tmslawofc@aol.com

Tony Arredondo, Co-Chairman
tonyent62@gmail.com



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