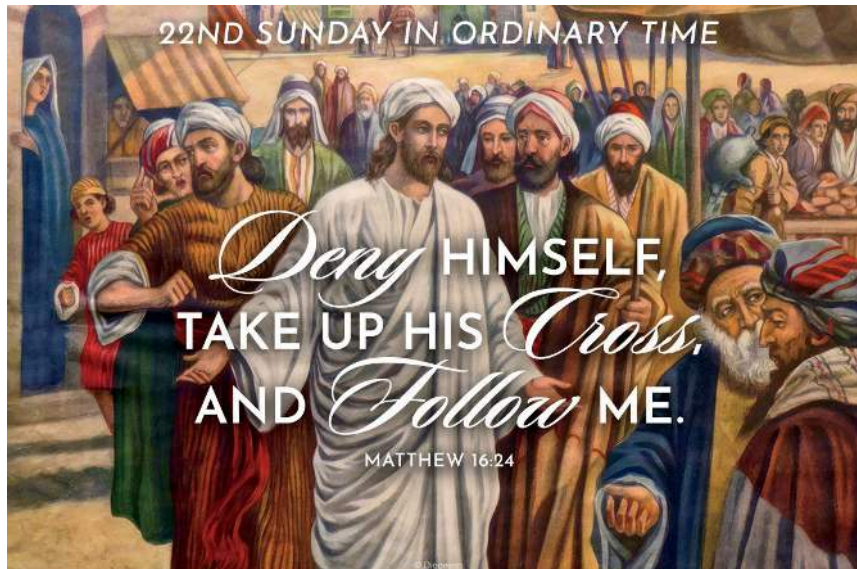


Today's Gospel continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus

confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ's disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-



century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps

what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

Readings for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27.



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

*"May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
that we may know what is the hope
that belongs to our call."*

Ephesians 1 : 17-18

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †David Tajchman, Sr. by Bob & Joan Black

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Aida Deases by the Bowman Family

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Sonya Landreth (Birthday) by Pat Landreth

FIRST FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

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

†Amelia DeLeon by Yolanda Peña

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

†Linda Bodie (AOB) by Danny & Roberta Kurtz

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

8:30 AM: Parishioners

11:00 AM: †C.K. Joseph and Thankamma Joseph Panackal by
Fr. Philip Panackal

SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Parish Festival "CzechFest"

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 SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Steven Gonzalez

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Frances Nelson

Sunday, 11:00 AM: David Gonzalez



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2026

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

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Tony Nelson, Aaron Hoelscher

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Kera Steward, Gianna Flores, Javier Flores

ALTAR SERVERS for SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Grace Landry, Able Flurry, Abraum Flry

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson, Casey Gwynn

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Carlos Camacho, Liam Sanchez, Eliana Garza

USHERS for SEPTEMBER 5-6, 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. Bluntzer, D. Dusek, P. Pilarczyk, J.R. Sanchez

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR CHECK DONATIONS

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support of our parish. To ensure your monetary gifts are processed safely, legally, and without delay, please take a moment to double-check that your donation checks are fully completed.

Please remember to:

- **Date** the check with the current date.
- **Write the payee name** clearly on the "Pay to the Order of" line.
- **Fill in the numeric box** with the exact dollar amount.
- **Write the amount in words** on the line below the payee field.
- **Sign the check** in the bottom right corner to authorize payment.
- **Optional:** Add a **memo note** to specify a fund (e.g., Offering, Building Fund).

Your attention to these details is a immense help to our money counters, parish staff, and bank personnel.

Thank you for your cooperation and stewardship!

Fr. Philip Panackal
Pastor

OFFERINGS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

8/22-23/2026 Regular Collection: \$7,286.00

8/22-23/2026 Online Giving: \$1,258.00

TOTAL \$8,544.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

8/22/2026 Regular Collection: \$614.00

Counters: C. Pilarczyk and K Gallagher



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

SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Catholic University of America

Diocese of Corpus Christi

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 16:21-27)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

Peter was expecting a Messiah that would carry out a different plan than the one Jesus had explained. Jesus was indeed the Messiah, but his life and death would show a different understanding of what it means to be the Messiah. We too have expectations of God and our own ideas about what we think God ought to be doing in our world. Like Peter we may risk limiting our image of God by thinking only in human ways. God's plan is always more than we can ever imagine.

As you gather as a family, talk about what we expect God to be doing in our world and in our family life. Do we sometimes forget to let God be God for us? That is, do we sometimes get discouraged because God doesn't act in our world in the ways that we expect? Pray together that your family will remember that God is always working for the world's salvation in ways that are beyond our human imaginings. Pray today's Psalm.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk

St. Thomas the Apostle
PARISH FESTIVAL GIFT CARD RAFFLE



Our parish is having a Fall fundraiser with a Gift Card Raffle. The drawing will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2026 with prizes ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. The tickets sell for \$5 each and there are 10 tickets in a book. Raffle books to purchase and/or sell may be picked up after each Mass, or in the parish office,

There will also be a "loser's pot" drawing at the festival live auction at 5:00 p.m. – MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN and have not won any other prizes. (We have received more raffle donations beyond those on the printed tickets.)

We are asking all Religious Ed students to participate in the fundraiser. There will be GREAT prizes for the children in each grade level (Elementary, Middle School, and High School) that sell the most tickets for this fundraiser. Be sure to note on the sign-out sheet the child's name, so we can be sure to give them credit for the tickets sold. All money and sold ticket stubs (and unsold tickets) should be turned in to Michele Hoelscher.

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.

Michele Hoelscher, Coordinator

RELIGIOUS ED / EDGE / LIFE TEEN REGISTRATION

Religious Ed / EDGE / LIFE TEEN registration is now open: We look forward to a fabulous 2026-27 year.

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 questions concerning Religious Education, please feel free to contact me.

Michele Hoelscher, DRE

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

DUMPSTER (WASTE CONTAINER)

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



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