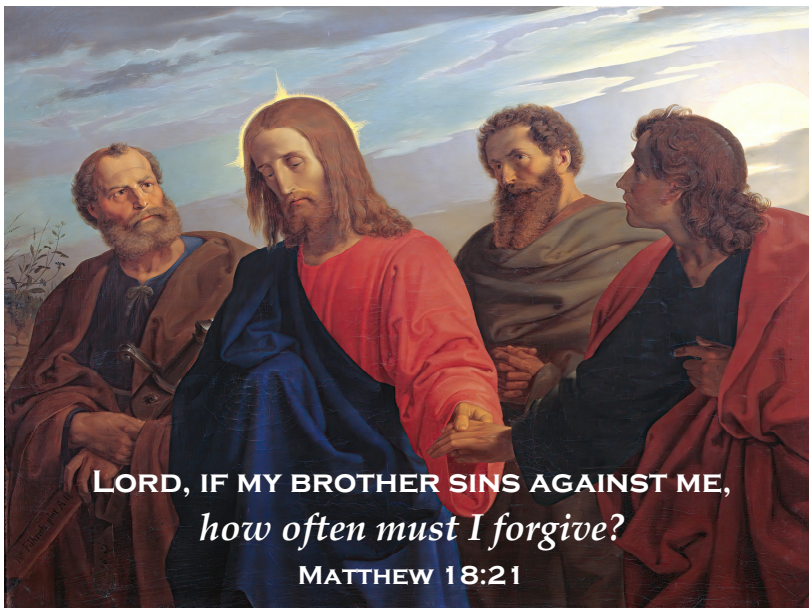


In today's Gospel reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant

is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes



him a small debt — a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he

refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

(continued on page 3)

Readings for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:30–28:9; Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35.



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

*"I give you a new commandment,
says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you."
John 13 : 34*

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

4:00 PM: Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission
†Irma Clark by St. Patrick Parishioners
5:30 PM: Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle
†Monica Marie Villarreal by Tony & Yolanda Villarreal

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

8:30 AM: Parishioners
11:00 AM: Karen Vaughan (Birthday) by the Smith Family

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Communion Service

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas with Fr. Kurian Joseph

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas with Fr. Kurian Joseph

12:00 PM: †Cecilia Diegel by Pat Landreth

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Communion Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 with Msgr. Michael Howell

4:00 PM: Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission
†JoAnn Dominguez the Robert Dominguez Family
5:30 PM: Collective Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle
†Aida Deases by the Bowman Family
†Lisa Marie Landreth by Pat Landreth
†JoAnn Dominguez by John & Annette Freeman
†Richard Chavarry by Terri Chavarry

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas with Fr. Jim Craig

8:30 AM: Parishioners
11:00 AM: †Pat and Peter Gallagher 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, 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, Chad Morton, Alva Rosas, and Viridiana Castillo.

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

LECTORS for SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Annette Freeman
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Agnes Floes
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Paul Pilarczyk



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Fred Ramos, Matt Kimmel
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Barbara Rychetsky, Karen Vaughan, Tony Nelson

ALTAR SERVERS for SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Able Flurry, Abraum Flurry
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Joseph Hess, Gabriel & Cyprian Kimmel
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Carlos Camacho, Sarita Nelson, Charleigh Nelson

USHERS for SEPTEMBER 19-20, 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. Gonzalez, R. Garcia, D. Bluntzer, J.R. Sanchez

*Our deepest condolences to the Ramos and
Gonzalez Family on the death of*



†Mrs. Elvira Ramos



Grandmother of Richard Gonzalez of St. Thomas Parish

*Please keep the family in your prayers.
May her soul rest in peace.*

Pastor and Parishioners

O.C.I.A.

The process by which adults come into the Catholic Church is known as "OCIA," or "Order of Christian Initiation of Adults." OCIA is a faith journey for those desiring to enter the Catholic Church or for those who wish to complete their initiation into the Church.

If you are interested in this faith journey, please contact the parish office at 361-387-1312 for registration as classes will be beginning soon.

Parish Office

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

PARISH FESTIVAL "CZECHFEST"

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

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. The Country Store Committee is also accepting new items or handmade items for the Country Store. Items can be brought to the parish office.

Tom Schumacher, Chairman
tmslawofc@aol.com

Tony Arredondo, Co-Chairman
tonyent62@gmail.com

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 18:21-35)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. We must forgive one another from the heart. Pray together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life.

Courtesy of Loyola Press

from the Pastor's desk

SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026***Parish Festival "CzechFest"*****ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

9/5-6/2026 Regular Collection: \$4,998.00
 9/5-6/2026 Online Giving: \$1,551.00
TOTAL \$6,549.00

9/5-6/2026 2nd Coll. Catholic University: \$423.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

9/5/2026 Regular Collection: \$868.00

Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman



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

SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026***Disaster Relief Collection***

Diocese of Corpus Christi

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: (1) Date the check with the current date; (2) Write the payee name clearly on the "Pay to the Order of" line; (3) Fill in the numeric box with the exact dollar amount; (4) Write the amount in words on the line below the payee field; (5) Sign the check in the bottom right corner to authorize payment; and (6) Optional: Add a memo note to specify a fund.

Your attention to these details is an immense help to our money counters, parish staff, and bank personnel. Thank you for your cooperation and stewardship!

Fr. Philip Panackal, Pastor

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.**

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.

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.)

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