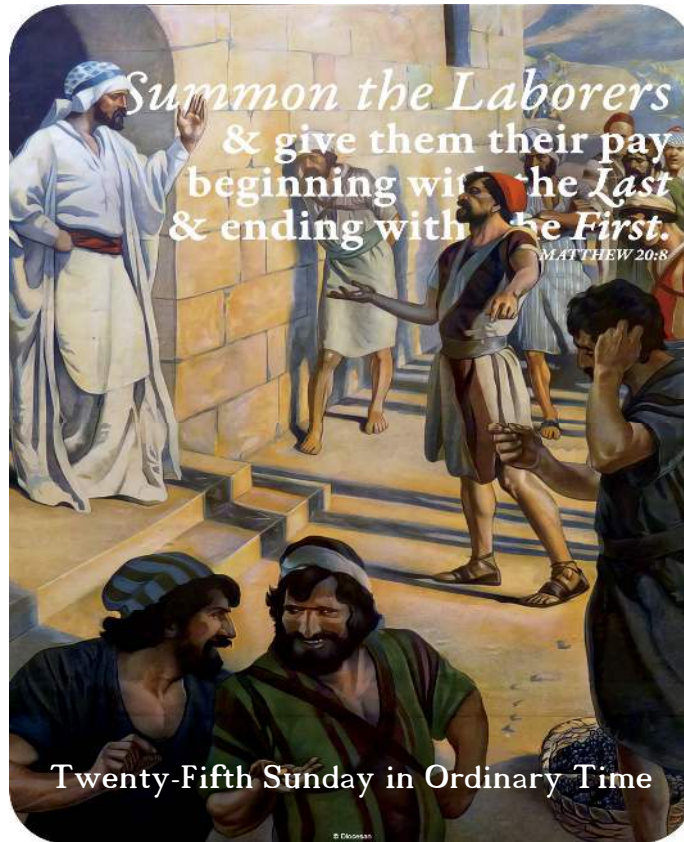


In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.



A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due.

God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

Readings for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16.



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

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 with Msgr. Michael Howell

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

†JoAnn Dominguez by 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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas with Fr. Kurian Joseph

12:00 PM: Yolanda Peña (Birthday) by the Peña Family

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas with Fr. Kurian Joseph

12:00 PM: †Emerick and †Angeline Tajchman by Susie Tajchman

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Communion Service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Communion Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

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

†Jacqueline Garcia by Dr. Sandra Garcia

†Gloria Guerra by Dr. Sandra Garcia

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

†Monica Marie Villarreal by Tony & Yolanda Villarreal

†Antonio and †Herlinda Arredondo by Tony Arredondo

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

8:30 AM: Parishioners

11:00 AM: Preston and Breanne Smith (Wedding Anniversary) by Karen Vaughan

Parish Website: www.christon624.com

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, Laura Greenwood, Yolanda Peña, Tyler Skidmore, Beckie Ranly, Michael Chapman, Valerie Rich, Tommy Lopez, Debbie Wood, Bill Wilson, M. P. Wright, A.C. Basaldua, Fred Guerra, Richard Osburg, Todd Crawford, Stan Soultair, Chad Morton, Alva Rosas, Viridiana Castillo, Tony Ochoa, Robert and Geraldine Cortino, Mary Helpert, and Ryan Harlanon.

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



LECTORS for SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Les Hoelscher

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Michele Hoelscher

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Frank Wilson



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - SEPTEMBER 26-27,

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo

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

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

ALTAR SERVERS for SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2026

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

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

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

USHERS for SEPTEMBER 26-27, 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: S. Woolf, B. Boatright, T. Zurick, R. Garcia

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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist;

Wednesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest;

Saturday: Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs, Blessed Virgin Mary.

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 Joyce Compton.

Knights of Columbus Council #9318: Contact Tony Arredondo, Grand Knight at Tonyent62@gmail.com or 361-947-8036.

LITURGY OF THE DAY

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

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

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously.

Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favorite food at dinner or dessert? Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make comparisons.

Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family.

*Courtesy of Loyola Press**from the Pastor's desk***CZECHFEST/PARISH FESTIVAL**

All parishioners are invited to our parish festival CZECHFEST meeting on Monday, **September 21, 2026** at 6:00 p.m. in the I.C. Hall. We need your help to make our festival successful.

Tom Schumacher, Chairman
tmslawofc@aol.com

Tony Arredondo, Co-Chairman
tonyent62@gmail.com

SPECIAL OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**Disaster Relief Collection***Diocese of Corpus Christi***ADULT CONFIRMATION**

The Fall Adult Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on **Saturday, November 7, 2026** at 11:00 a.m. at Corpus Christi Cathedral.

This Adult Confirmation celebration is intended only for catechized adult Catholics who have received Baptism and First Holy Communion but have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Registration deadline is Friday, October 30, 2026.
For more information, please contact the parish office at 361-387-1312.

*Parish Office***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

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.)

If you have any questions, please call Michele at 361-244-2138 or call the parish office at 361-387-1312.

Michele Hoelscher, Coordinator

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	
9/12-13/2026 Regular Collection:	\$8,697.17
9/12-13/2026 Online Giving:	\$1,173.00
TOTAL	\$9,870.17
9/12-13/2026 2nd Coll. Parish Festival:	\$820.00
ST. PATRICK MISSION	
9/12/2026 Regular Collection:	\$851.00
Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman	

OFFERINGS

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