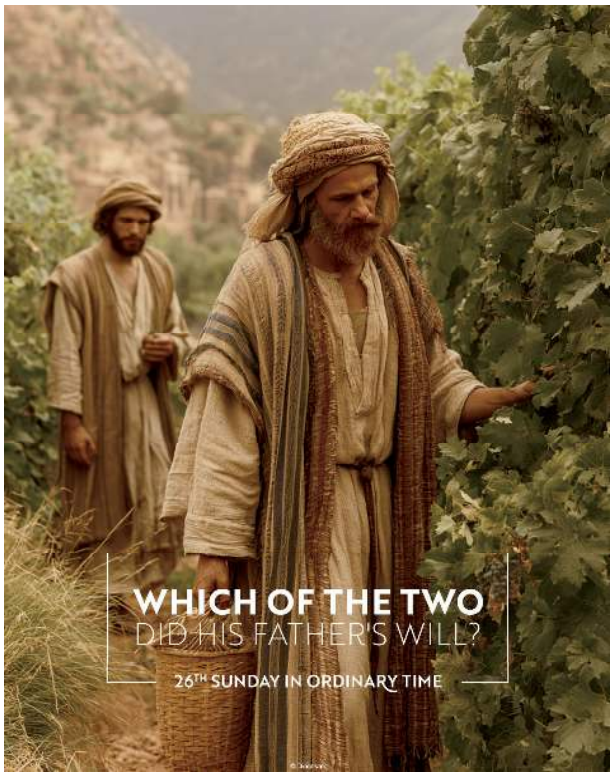

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent — tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words) will give evidence of our love for God.

Readings for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-28; **Psalm 25:**4-9; **Philippians 2:**1-11; **Matthew 21:**28-32.

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

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

Weekday Masses @ St. Thomas: 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday
CONFESSIONS @ St. Thomas: 30 Minutes before Masses or by Appointment

CONFESSIONS @ St. Patrick MIssion: 3:30 PM

"Your ways, O Lord, make known to me, Teach me your paths." Psalm 25:4

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026
12:00 PM: No Mass

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
12:00 PM: *Riley Yeats (Birthday)* by Pat Landreth

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
12:00 PM: *Ismael C. Peña, Jr. (Birthday)* by Yolanda Peña

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
12:00 PM: †*Ismael Peña, Jr. (AOD)* by Yolanda Peña

FIRST FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
12:00 PM: †*All Souls in Purgatory* by Jerry Knesek

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†*JoAnn Miller* by Yolanda Peña
5:30 PM: **Collective Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†*Steve Kurtz (AOB)* by Danny & Roberta Kurtz
†*David Tajchman, Sr. (AOD)* by Susie Tajchman
†*Maria Nguyen* by Chi Bowman

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: †*Herb Welch* by Owen & Kim Gallagher

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, Fred Nemec, Frances Hicks, Eileen Champine, Dalia Gutierrez, Jeanette Respondek, Wallace and Judi Prukop, Dee Molina, Harold Prejean, Mary Elva Estrada, Shannon Clubb, Courtney Dodd, Charlie & Jean Chapman, Bill Wilson, Marty Douglas, Simon Bucknall, Brady Scarborough, Laura Greenwood, Yolanda Peña, Tyler Skidmore, Beckie Ranly, Michael Chapman, Valerie Rich, Tommy Lopez, Debbie Wood, M. P. Wright, A.C. Basaldua, Fred Guerra, Elva Rosas, Richard Osburg, Todd Crawford, Stan Soultaire, Chad Morton, Elva Rosas, Tony Ochoa, Viridiana Castillo, Robert and Geraldine Cortino, Mary Helpert, and Ryan Harlanon, and Virginia Atkinson.

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

LECTORS for OCTOBER 3-4, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Steven Gonzalez
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Agnes Flores
Sunday, 11:00 AM: David Gonzalez

Liturgical Ministers — St. Thomas the Apostle

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - OCTOBER 3-4, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo, Louis Deases
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Tony Nelson, Aaron Hoelscher
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Javier Flores, Gianna Flores, Kera Steward

ALTAR SERVERS for OCTOBER 3-4, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Able Flurry, Abraum Flurry
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Sarita & Charleigh Nelson, Joseph Hess
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Carlos Camacho, Liam Sanchez, Eliana Garza

USHERS for OCTOBER 3-4, 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, JR Sanchez

Our deepest condolences to the Bryant Family on the death of

†Mr. Larry Bryant

Husband of Patricia Bryant of St. Thomas

Please keep the family in your prayers.
May his soul rest in peace.
Pastor and Parishioners

Our deepest condolences to the Luckenbach Family on the death of

†Mr. Kyle Luckenbach

Husband of Pam Luckenbach of St. Thomas

Please keep the family in your prayers.
May his soul rest in peace.
Pastor and Parishioners

O.C.I.A.

The process by which adults come into the Catholic Church is knows 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

SPECIAL OFFERING – OCTOBER 3-4, 2026

Respect Life Collection

Diocese of Corpus Christi

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Matthew 21:28-32)
(continued from page 1)

FAMILY CONNECTION

The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is *conversion*. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word. Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words.

Courtesy of Loyola Press *from the Pastor's desk*

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions;
Tuesday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels;
Wednesday: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church;
Thursday: St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church;
First Friday: The Holy Guardian Angels;
Saturday: 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, Regent.

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

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 *Tony Arredondo, Co-Chairman*
tmslawofc@aol.com *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 between 5-6 p.m. – MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN and have not won any other prizes. (Raffle donations received after the tickets were printed.)

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

Michele Hoelscher, Coordinator

OFFERINGS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

9/19-20/2026 Regular Collection:	$6,275.56
9/19-20/2026 Online Giving:	$2,591.00
TOTAL	$8,866.56
9/19-20/2026 2nd Coll. Parish Festival:	$1,501.95
9/19-20/2026 2nd Coll. Disaster Relief:	$448.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

9/19/2026 Regular Collection:	$605.00

Counters: C. Hoelscher and A. Freeman

Online Giving

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

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