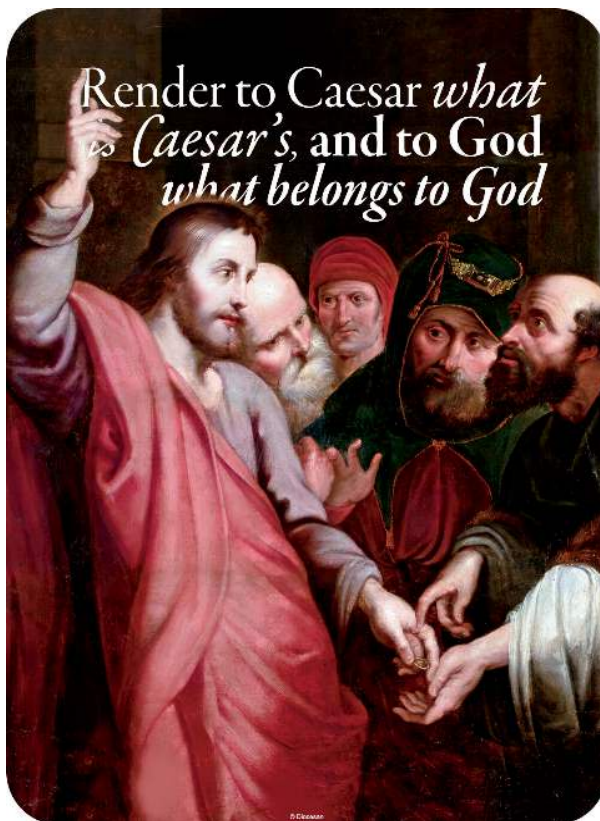


In today's Gospel Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue their tense exchange of questions and challenges. At this point the disciples of the Pharisees, together with the Herodians, try to entrap Jesus by their question about the payment of taxes.

Matthew sets up an unusual partnership between the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Herodians were supporters of Herod Antipas, a Jewish political leader who collaborated with the Romans. Such collaboration would have required a compromised observance of the Mosaic Law. The Pharisees, on the other hand, taught scrupulous observance of the Mosaic Law and opposed Roman occupation. Herodians favored the payment of taxes; the Pharisees opposed it. The Herodians and the Pharisees approach Jesus, asking that he take sides in their dispute. If Jesus answers with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome. If he answers with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities.

Jesus' response to this attempt to trap him exposes



the guile of his questioners. From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, which is readily provided to him. It may have come from the hand of a Herodian, but the Pharisees show themselves to be quite willing to accept this compromise. Jesus has already exposed the Pharisees as hypocrites.

He asks that his questioners examine the coin. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with

simple logic. Then, going further still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God.

Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honor that we owe to God?

Readings for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Psalm 96:1, 3-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21.



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

*"We give thanks to
God always."*

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission** with Fr. John

†Tip Crutchfield by Deb Bauer

5:30 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle** with Fr. John

†JoAnn Dominguez (AOB) by the Robert Dominguez Family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas with Fr. John

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*

11:00 AM: *Collective Holy Mass*

Sutton Smith (Birthday) by Karen Vaughan

Leigh-Anne Hewlett (Birthday) by Pat Landreth

†Rance Vaughan (AOD) by Karen Vaughan

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

12:00 PM: *No Mass*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †David Tajchman, Jr. (AOB) by Susie Tajchman

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 - St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *Communion Service*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026 - St. Thomas

12:00 PM: *Communion Service*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: †Evelyn Martini by John & Annette Freeman

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

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

†Jimmy and †Betty Bauer by Deb Bauer

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

†Aida Deases by the Bowman Family

†David Tajchman, Sr. by John & Annette Freeman

†Sylvester Vo by Chi Bowman

†Frank and †Kathryn Burgess by Susie Tajchman

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*

11:00 AM: *Preston Smith (Birthday)* by Karen Vaughan

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, Valerie Rich, M. P. Wright, Beckie Ranly, Michael Chapman, Tommy Lopez, Tyler Skidmore, Debbie Wood, A.C. Basaldua, Fred Guerra, Elva Rosas, Chad Morton, Tony Ochoa, Mary Helpert, Ryan Harlan, Todd Crawford, Viridiana Castillo, Virginia Atkinson, Diane Saenz, Stan Soultair, Richard Osburg, Robert and Geraldine Cortino and the De Los Santos Family.

Please call/email the parish office to include a person on the 2026 Prayer List.

LECTORS FOR OCTOBER 24-25, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Ann Clarke

Sunday, 8:30 AM: Michele Hoelscher

Sunday, 11:00 AM: Frank Wilson



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER 24-25, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo

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

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

ALTAR SERVERS FOR OCTOBER 24-25, 2026

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

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

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

USHERS FOR OCTOBER 24-25, 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

WORLD MISSIONS

When the first issue of MISSION Magazine was published in early 1951 by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, the then national director of The Pontifical Mission Societies, it offered readers a glimpse into the life of the Church in what were at the time called "mission territories." The numbers were striking: more than 41,000 schools educating 3.2 million students, over 1,100 hospitals caring for tens of thousands of the sick, and 174 leper colonies serving some of the most vulnerable in the world.

Those figures told a story—of a Church present where human need was greatest, sustained by missionaries and by the generosity of Catholics who might never see the places they were helping to build.

Seventy-five years later, the story continues and the Church's mission continues to grow and adapt. USSCB

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.

Reflection on the Gospel Reading *(continued from page 1)*

Family Connection: Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the competing issues of importance in our lives.

As your family gathers, make a list of the activities that your family spends time doing together, such as household tasks, jobs, academics, and recreational activities. Talk about the importance of each of these activities. Ask what would happen if there were an imbalance in our attention to these activities and we spent too much time on one activity at the expense of another.

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honoring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember that God is of the greatest importance in our lives. Pray together that your family will learn to keep things in proper perspective, remembering to keep God first in your lives. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 96.

*Courtesy of Loyola Press**From the Pastor's Desk***SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Monday: Sts. John De Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs; **Tuesday:** St. Paul of the Cross, Priest;

Thursday: St. John Paul II, Pope;

Friday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest;

Saturday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop,
Blessed Virgin Mary.

Parish Website: www.christon624.com**OFFERINGS****ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

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TOTAL \$10,834.28

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10/3/2026 Regular Collection: \$964.25

Counters: A. Freeman and C. Pilarczyk



Go to church Website
www.christon624.com
click on icon

**THE MAN WHO BROUGHT THE MISSIONS
TO AMERICAN HOMES**

In 1926, Father Sheen joined the faculty of the Catholic University of America. Over the next 23 years, he taught, wrote and became one of the university's best-known professors. Invitations to preach and lecture soon carried him far beyond Washington. Radio expanded his classroom to the nation.

In 1930, Father Sheen began hosting "The Catholic Hour" on NBC. He spoke about God, conscience, suffering, family life, human dignity, and moral responsibility at a time when Catholics still faced suspicion in parts of American society. Protestants, Jews, and people without a religious affiliation listened as well.

His gift was not merely simplifying difficult ideas. He understood them deeply enough to make them accessible. He prepared intensely, spoke without notes, and used humor to narrow the distance between himself and his audience.

Pope Pius XI gave him the title "Monsignor" in 1934. By then, Monsignor Sheen was firmly established as a national Catholic voice.

In 1950, his missionary vision received an institutional home when Monsignor Sheen was appointed National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith has long been the best known of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, since it oversees the World Mission Sunday collection, Archbishop Sheen served as, National Director of all of them except the Missionary Childhood Association. The following year, he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of New York.

When "Life is Worth Living" premiered in 1952, its format was strikingly simple. Bishop Sheen stood before a blackboard, wrote "J.M.J."--Jesus, Mary and Joseph--at the top, and spoke directly to viewers without a visible script. Yet his presentations were never improvised. He devoted many hours to preparing each episode.

The program succeeded despite competing against some of the era's most popular entertainers.

*(to be continued)**Courtesy of Mission Magazine***SPECIAL OFFERING — OCTOBER 17-18, 2026****World Mission Sunday***Diocese of Corpus Christi*View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



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