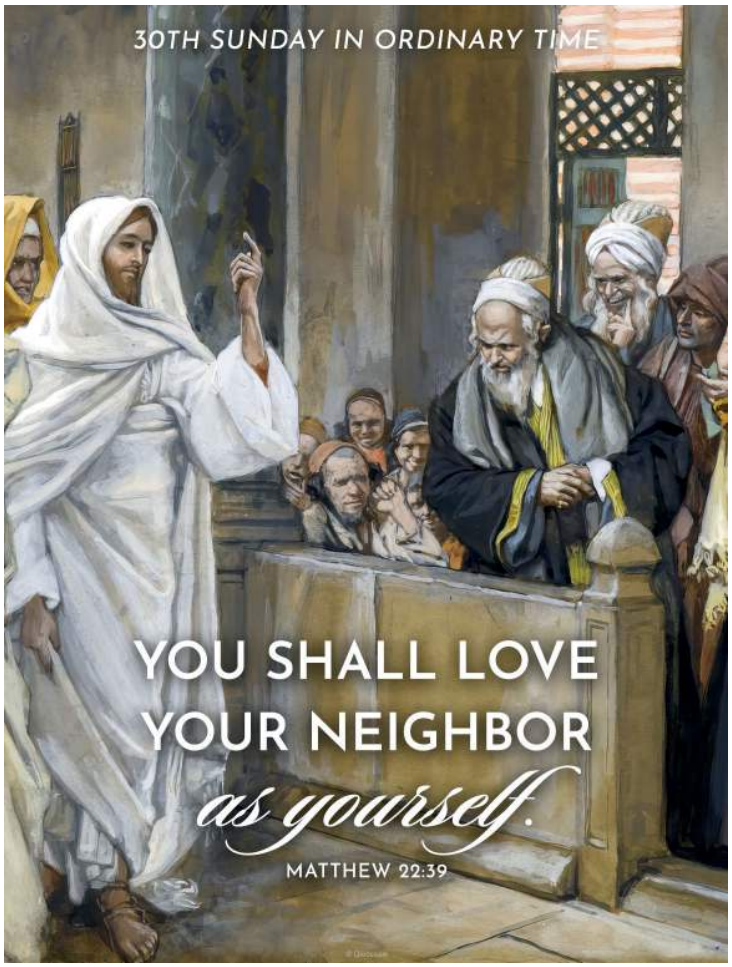
This week's Gospel follows close behind the Gospel read last Sunday. It is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. This reminds us that the context for today's reading is the mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem.



The Herodians and the Pharisees asked the first question, which was about taxes. The Sadducees asked the second question, which was about the Resurrection (see Matthew 22:22-33). The third question, considered in today's Gospel, is asked by a Pharisee who asks Jesus about the greatest of the commandments.

The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbor. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbor.

Readings for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26; Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish
Robstown, Texas
and Saint Patrick Mission, San Patricio, Texas

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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

Masses and Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026
12:00 PM: *No Mass*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
12:00 PM: †Kara Knesek *(AOB)* by Jerry Knesek

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026 - St. Thomas
12:00 PM: *Hunter Landreth (Birthday)* by Pat Landreth

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026 - St. Thomas
12:00 PM: *Peña Family Birthdays* by Yolanda Peña

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
12:00 PM: †*Santos Bosquez (AOD)* by the Rosario Gonzalez Family

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026
4:00 PM: **Holy Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†*Joan Bluntzer (AOB)* by Celestia Bluntzer
5:30 PM: **Collective Holy Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
Sheridan Husky (Birthday) by Yolanda Peña
†*Robert Keys (AOD)* by Danny & Roberta Kurtz
†Maynard Bockholt by Les & Corina Hoelscher
†*Carson Blevins* by Josie & Patricia Blevins

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
ALL SAINTS DAY
8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: *Mary Jo Hunter (Birthday)* by Byron & Rachel Unterbrink

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026 - Holy Mass @ St. Thomas
ALL SOULS DAY
6:30 PM: *All Souls Novena Begins*

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, Tommy Lopez, Elva Rosas, Debbie Wood, Fred Guerra,, Chad Morton, Tony Ochoa, Mary Helpert, Ryan Harlan, Todd Crawford, Viridiana Castillo, Virginia Atkinson, Robert and Geraldine Cortino, the De Los Santos Family, Stan Soultaire, Tyler Skidmore, Richard Osburg, Anna Ramos, and Diane Saenz.

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

LECTORS FOR OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Steven Gonzalez
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Frances Nelson
Sunday, 11:00 AM: David Gonzalez

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2026

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

ALTAR SERVERS FOR OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2026

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

USHERS FOR OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Wednesday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles;
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary;
Sunday: All Saints Day; Monday: All Souls' Day

SPECIAL OFFERING – NOVEMBER 14-15, 2026

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Diocese of Corpus Christi

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10/17-18/2026 World Missions:	$483.00

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10/17/2026 Regular Collection:	$407.00

Counters: R. Unterbrink and M. Hoelscher

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Parish Website: www.christon624.com

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: Children learn about love from real, concrete examples witnessed in family life. We can help children to love God and love their neighbors by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. These acts, small and large, are the expression of what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments: love God and love neighbor.

Make a poster together as a family. Write the words "Love God" in the center of the poster and write the words "Love Neighbor" near each of the four sides of the poster. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in the love that we show to other people. On the poster, use pictures and words to show some of the ways that your family shows their love for other people. Pray together that your family will continue to express your love for God by loving others.

Courtesy of Loyola Press *From the Pastor's Desk*

Parish Festival "Czechfest"
-Thank you-

We wanted to thank all of the parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Patrick Mission who helped make this year's parish festival "Czechfest" a resounding success. It was great to see so many parishioners working together to make sure that everything at the festival went smoothly. The main goal of Czechfest has always been less about money and more about parishioners getting to know each other better and working together toward a common goal, which includes spreading the love of Christ to others.

We also want to thank all of the parishioners who attended the festival, which also contributed to its success. Thank you to the many priests who took time out of their busy schedule to come by to support our festival. On behalf of Fr. Philip, Tony Arredondo, and all of the chairs of the various Czechfest committees, we sincerely want to thank everyone for participating.

Tom Schumacher, Czechfest Chairperson
Tony Arredondo, Co-Chairperson

THE MAN WHO BROUGHT THE MISSIONS TO AMERICAN HOMES

During his 16 years as National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the US, Bishop Sheen used preaching, broadcasting, publishing, travel, and personal sacrifice to help American Catholics understand their responsibility for the universal Church. He founded MISSION Magazine, created the World Mission Rosary, and directed much of his own income toward charitable and missionary work.

Bishop Sheen also brought his missionary experience to the Second Vatican Council. He attended all four sessions and served on the commission responsible for missionary activity.

In 1966, Pope Paul VI appointed Bishop Sheen to lead the Diocese of Rochester, New York. His Tenure lasted less than three years and included bold pastoral initiatives, concern for the poor, and some painful misjudgments. After his resignation was accepted in 1969, he received the personal title of archbishop and returned to New York City.

Retirement did not end Archbishop Sheen's apostolate. He continued to preach, write, and speak to audiences across denominational lines. He converted the second bedroom of his apartment into a chapel and remained faithful to the daily Holy Hour begun during his seminary years.

In October 1979, only weeks before his death, Pope John Paul II embraced Archbishop Sheen at St. Patrick's Cathedral and praised his long service to Christ and the Church.

Archbishop Sheen died December 9, 1979, in the chapel of his apartment, near the Blessed Sacrament. It was a fitting end to a life whose visible achievements drew their strength from a hidden discipline of prayer. The priest known by millions had spent his final moments as he had spent an hour of nearly every day for more than six decades before Christ in the Eucharist.

Blessed Fulton Sheen was a scholar, author, preacher, and pioneer of Catholic broadcasting. Yet the deepest unity of his life did not come from the media he mastered or the audiences he attracted. It came from his priesthood. He did not merely speak to America. He helped America listen for Christ--and look beyond itself.

Courtesy of Mission Magazine *From the Pastor's Desk*

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