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Fr. Cuthbert "Cuddy" O'Connell
Cell: 228-493-9303

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Fr. Colten M. Symmes
228-760-0607
frsymmes@saintthomaslb.org

In Residence:
Fr. Pat O'Shaughnessy

Deacon:
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Youth Ministry:
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youthministry@saintthomaslb.org

SRE Coordinator:
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religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org

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Lisa Starita
228-669-3205
LStarita1021@gmail.com

Baptism:
Sue Hoffman
Please see
"Recurring Around the Parish"

NEW!
E-GIVING IS HERE
SEE PG. 5

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Faith Community

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Website: www.saintthomaslb.org
Office Hours: M-F
9:00am-4:30pm
Phone: 228-863-1610
Fax: 228-868-6068

MASS SCHEDULE

Visit the Website and follow the Facebook link to the Livestreamed Masses.

Also available on YouTube.

Sunday Masses

at 9am and 11:30am

Daily Mass

On Tuesday and Thursday

At 11:00am

Reconciliation:

call 228-863-1610

for an appointment

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secretary@saintthomaslb.org

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Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."
JOHN 20:19

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Poor Thomas. Singled out from among the disciples because he refused to believe what they were telling him—that they had seen, in the flesh, their friend and their Lord, Jesus Christ. Can any of us really blame him? All of the disciples were terrified, crestfallen, hiding. But what of Thomas? Just where was he when Jesus appeared the first time to the group huddled in fear? He had gone "out"—out of the community where his faith had life. Maybe this was actually a blessing for Thomas and not the curse associated with the "doubting Thomas" moniker bestowed on him by tradition. Oh, the divine mercy of the Lord! Could Thomas be the forerunner of all of us who come in fragile hope and uncertainty to the Christian community, so beautifully described in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles? Could Thomas be an ultimate exemplar of the faith described in the First Letter of Peter?

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE!

Most of us have had the misfortune of missing something important simply by being absent, and then hearing about what happened. In today's reading, unique to John's Gospel, Thomas is the only apostle who was not around when Jesus appeared to his friends for the first time after his death and resurrection. They were frightened and grieving, not knowing what would happen to them. Remember, they found themselves to be fugitives, seemingly guilty by association with a criminal executed by government officials. Suddenly, Jesus was with them, beaming peace and mercy to his fragile followers. What joy! What a shock, too!

We will never know why Thomas had left their hiding place. All we know is that he returned to wild stories about Jesus being alive after dying a brutal death. He must have thought that the other apostles in their grief had a shared delusion of what they wished was true. When Thomas finally saw Jesus, he gave what is considered the most profound profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" In his tender mercy, Jesus ministered to Thomas by helping him to see for himself.

APRIL 19, 2020 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

WE WALK BY FAITH

But what of us? The early Christian community could only trust the words of these same apostles, the ones Thomas couldn't believe, when they preached Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Who could believe what they said? The Holy Spirit, breathed upon the disciples in that first encounter, emanated so powerfully from them that they were able to convene seemingly utopian communities of faith. Filled with "divine mercy," their lives became an evangelization to the world.

This is how we too are sent out, like the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit and bearing the Lord's peace and mercy to a troubled, suffering world. The wounds of Jesus are very real today in the needy and broken. May we always work to bind up those wounds wherever we find them.

X-TREME CHRISTIANS

You may notice that Acts of the Apostles is the source of the first reading during the Easter season. This book describes how Christianity grew from a handful of disciples to a major religion. Today's reading about an ideal Christian community is meant to show ordinary believers how to be extraordinary, using three examples I call power, property, and prayer.

Power means the "signs and wonders" (Acts 2:43) performed by the disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit. This should be named last because it takes a lot of faith to heal the sick. If you had the same faith as the apostles, you just might be able to cure the sick. Or you might study to become a doctor and cure them with medical skills. As long as you acknowledge that God gave you the brains and the talent to become a doctor, you are doing God's work.

By property, I mean sharing what you have with those in need. Many disciples were moved to sell their goods and share them with the poor, and word of that must have spread. If you are not called to sell all your goods and become a monk or a nun, you can still tithe to your church or the poor, tutor disadvantaged kids, or help build or repair houses in poor areas. The point is that followers of Christ are not just individual do-gooders. They are a community of believers who care about each other and also care about the non-believers who need help of any kind.
So where did these first disciples get the faith to cure the sick and the love to help the needy? The answer is the third example--prayer.

In the first reading we hear how "they devoted themselves . . . to the breaking of the bread" (Acts 2:42, 46)--their name for the Eucharist. They also went to the temple to pray, because at that time most disciples were Jewish Christians. As they heard the Hebrew scriptures, they saw how God's promises were fulfilled in Christ. All of these practices helped unite them to Christ and to each other.

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APRIL 19, 2020 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

Dear Jesus,

I believe You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

The Coronavirus is big... God is BIGGER!!! **Fr. Cuddy**

ON LINE WORSHIP

NATIVITY BVM LIVESTREAM MASS

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral will livestream daily Mass Monday through Saturday at 8 a.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m. To view these Masses, visit the Diocese of Biloxi's YouTube Page. You can also view Mass from St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans Monday-Friday at 12:05 p.m.by visiting www.thedailymass.com

BISHOP SUNDAY HOMILIES

http://www.kihneman.podbean.com/

LIVESTREAM MASS FROM SAINT THOMAS 9AM AND 11:30AM, SUNDAY
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LIVESTREAM DAILY MASSES ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 11:00AM

Click the link on the Home page of our website (Link to website is also on the front cover.)

ANGELS AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

There are two places to locate the YouTube videos, one is a news item (on the right) of saintthomaslb.org webpage and the other is on a St Thomas Parish Mission Angels and the Spiritual Life graphic that you click on to go to the news item. Please note the news item will be retained on the website after it is removed from the main page.

https://saintthomaslb.org/news/youtube-angels-and-spirituality-life-with-fr-mike-austin

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

SAINT THOMAS FAMILY

In an effort to keep you up to date on how the pandemic has effected our community, the parish has sent two (perhaps more by the time you read this) general emails to parishioners who submitted email addresses when joining this church.

If you are a registered member, did not get the emails and would like to receive them in the future please call the office and give us your personal email address. Please try to avoid using business addresses as many businesses and organizations have security that prevent you from receiving mass email. In some cases the email is sent to your spam folder and in others it does not get to you at all.

We look forward to getting back to normal routine sooner rather than later. However, we pray for all of you to stay healthy and safe until this crisis passes.

God Bless

APRIL 19, 2020 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

GET REAL!

Those of us who flatter ourselves that we have a "realistic" view of the world may listen to the first reading today and say, "Get real!" when we hear Luke's account of the early Elysian days of the Christian movement. All seems to be rosy: lots of wonders are performed, everyone shares selflessly, they eat together in "exultation," and the Lord added to their numbers. Well, who wouldn't be attracted to a group like this? From the wind that swept through the upper room at Pentecost as the Spirit of God blew over the face of the waters in Genesis, and the fire that appeared over each disciple as the light appeared at the dawn of creation, Luke's intent in Acts is to show a new creation, a restoration of creation's original goodness through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who continues to make us into the Body of Christ. We may occasionally, like Thomas in the Gospel, say, "Get real!" but our ultimate reality in the Spirit is to work continually to make our Christian community a new creation, one in which others will find God's joy and beauty.

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You can now make your donations on line!
Go to our website www.saintthomaslb.org
Select the "on line giving" at the top
Fill out the form and you are
DONE!

There is a block for 2nd collections. Please use the comments section to specify the collection you are contributing to, such as, Insurance & Utilities, SVdP Society, Catholic Relief Services, etc.

Listed below are some of the 2nd collections we hope you are able to support!

FEATURED ADVERTISER

WEEKLY/MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember that the following collections are still an important part of our church and The Church and we hope you are able to continue your support:

Catholic Sharing Appeal
Operation Rice Bowl (ongoing through Apr 12)
Catholic Relief Services (Mar 21&22)
Holy Land (Good Friday)
Catholic Home Missions Appeal (Apr 25&26)
SVdP Society (5th Sunday)

Please address correspondence, especially check submission, to the Office using the P.O. Box.

P.O. Box 1529, Long Beach, MS, 39560

The Office is minimally staffed for the safety of all concerned and is open to accept your check or Mass Intention.

BULLETIN DIRECT!!!!

In addition to viewing the bulletin on our website you can sign up to have the bulletin sent directly to your email every week. Please visit the following link:

https://ebulletin.jspaluch.com

FROM SR. CONSILIO

Tell the people that I remember and pray for them every day in the rosary. They will always remain very special to me. Wish them all a very Happy and Blessed Easter.

I am doing well in spite of all this epidemic when we have to be cocooned and distancing from one another. These are very strange times. Stay safe and I will keep you in my prayers. Love always from Sr.Consilio

Happy Easter to you!

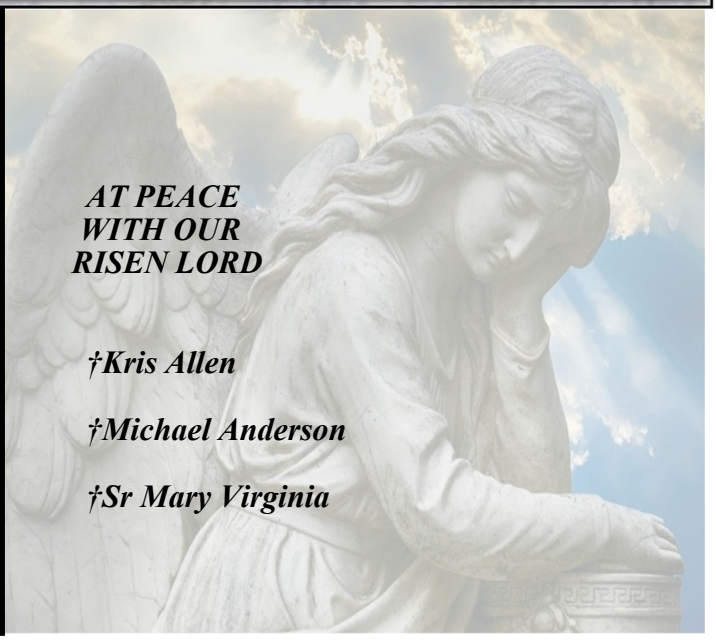
APRIL 19, 2020 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

PETITIONS FOR PRAYER

Brenda Bartley
Donna Bass
Graison Bauer
Bert Bertucci
Melissa Boyd
Marilyn Branch
Beverly Carver
Jessica Cecil
Donovan Cirksena
Ron Cole
Catherine Cooper
James Thomas Crawford
Lester Denley
Dilberto Ednacot
Lionel Fayard
John French
Marie Fry
Marta Fuentes
Solan Garner
Mark Giuffria
Leo Hamel
Blakely Quinn Hammons
Jimmy Hillman
Byron Hoda
Andrew Hogg
Lorre James
Dodie Ford Jones
Marie Elizabeth Kuechler
Roger Ladner
Vick Ladner
Jeff Lock
Sherry Long
Cathy McIntyre
Elmer Mullins
Kathleen O'Connell
Henrietta Peters
Martita Pierce
Richard Pique
Garrett Ryle
Tony Salvador
Mike Sanders
Wilfredo Sandoval
Crystal Skrmetta
John Taylor
Morgan Ulrich
Al VanCourt
Maureen Vedros
Joe Weems
Sullivan Wilson
Charles Wright
Victoria Yarrow

...and all people across the globe inflicted with Coronavirus, strength for their loved ones and God's protection for those who care for them

PLEASE PRAY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND ALL MEDICAL PERSONNEL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF COVID 19 VICTIMS



AT PEACE WITH OUR RISEN LORD

†Kris Allen

†Michael Anderson

†Sr Mary Virginia

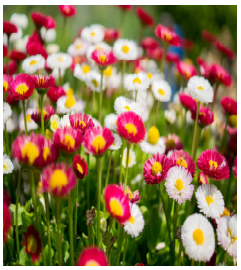
MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Apr 21, 11am

+Gene Marie Mount
+Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Apr 23, 11am

+Curtis P Falks



Sunday, Apr 26, 9am

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Family

Sunday, Apr 26, 11:30am

Cecilia Galindo (healing)
+Mary Lynn Necaise

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

You expired, O Jesus,
but the source of life gushed forth for souls
and an ocean of mercy opened up for
the whole world.
O Fount of Life,
unfathomable Divine Mercy,
envelop the whole world
and empty Yourself out upon us.
O Blood and Water,
which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus
as a fount of mercy for us,
I trust in You.
Amen.

PRAYER CHAIN

Engage the power of prayer and submit your requests to our prayer line at prayer@saintthomaslb.org

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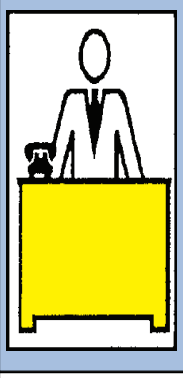
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