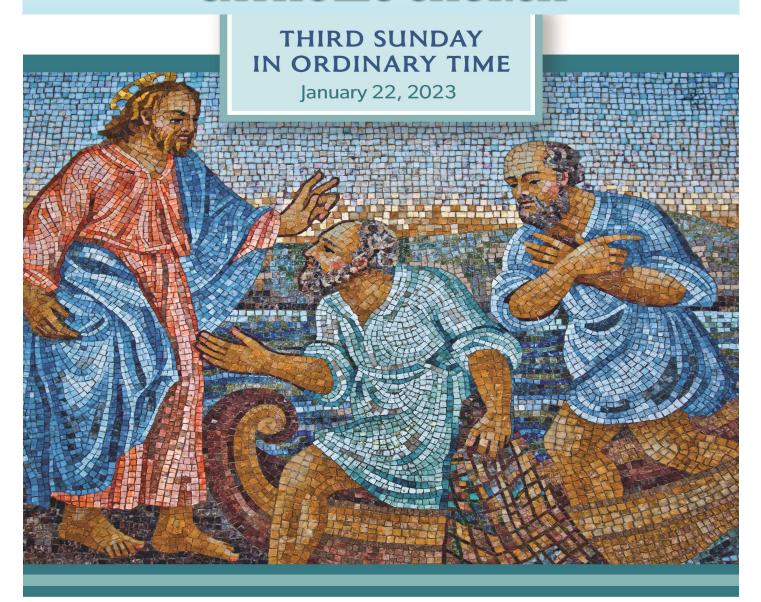
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"COME AFTER ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."

Matthew 4:19

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Parochial Vicar: Fr. Vincent Ajayi 508-369-6732

FrVincent@saintthomaslb.org

In Residence: Fr. Pat O'Shaughnessy

Deacons: Ernest "Buddy" Vancourt Jerry Dubuisson

Youth Ministry: Kaitlynn Snow Claret 228-863-1610

vouthministry@saintthomaslb.org

SRE Coordinator:
Dave Gauthier
228-596-8835
religiouseducation
@saintthomaslb.org

RCIA Director: Dave Gauthier 228-596-8835 rcia@saintthomaslb.org

Pastoral Council: Jerry Dubuisson 228-348-1997 dfdchiefjerry@att.net

Community Center Rental:
Becky Mullins
228-863-1610
secretary@saintthomaslb.org

Prayer Intentions: Martha Johnson prayer@saintthomaslb.org Please join us
before Mass
Monday 11:30
Tuesday - Thursday
8am
Friday
6am
to pray the
Holy Rosary!



MASS SCHEDULE

DAILY

TUES-THURS 8:30 AM FRI 6:30 AM

CONFESSION

SAT 3:15 PM-3:45P M or by appointment

SATURDAY VIGIL 4PM

SUNDAY

7:30AM, 9AM, 11:30AM & 5:30PM

VIRTUAL MASS

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To join the St. Thomas family, follow this link:

<u>SIGN ME UP!</u>

Complete and submit a registration form.

Paper forms can be found in the office or in the back of the church!

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri

9:00am-4:30pm Phone: 228-863-1610 Fax: 228-868-6068

> Secretary: Becky Mullins 228-863-1610

secretary@saintthomaslb.org

Bookkeeper: Beverly Leslie 228-863-1610

bookkeeper@saintthomaslb.org

Liturgical Music Director: Lauren Hymel 228-863-1610 music@saintthomaslb.org

Youth Music Director: Tyler Brandon 228-424-2970 music2@saintthomaslb.org

Maintenance: Ben DiLorenzo 228-596-3379 maintenance@saintthomaslb.org

Bulletin Editor:
Alice Necaise
228-697-1943
bulletin@saintthomaslb.org

Receptionist:
Ann Mink
228-863-1610
receptionist@saintthomaslb.org

Baptism: Sue Hoffman 228-864-5868 (home) 228-313-0157 (cell) psuehoffman@gmail.com

Webmaster: Charles Fallo webmaster@saintthomaslb.org

AROUND THE PARISH...

Adoration - Wednesdays, 9 am - 5 pm in church Baptism Class - 9:30am, Last Sat of every month, in the SRE bldg. Contact Sue Hoffman at 228-864-5868 to reserve your spot.

Choir - Small Group Practices. As per Choir Dir. Good Shepherd Showcase - Open by appointment, call Bitsy (228-669-3750) or Darlene (404-630-6624).

Knights of Columbus - Meetings 1st & 3rd Thurs every month, 7pm (4th Degree follows after the 1st Thurs meeting)

KC Breakfast - 3rd Sunday, every month, 8am-11am, CC Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus

Meetings 3rd Thursday every month, 7pm

Lectio Divina - Meets every Tuesday after Mass to reflect on the following Sunday's readings.

Love Your Neighbor - 1st Sunday every month Lunchkins - 2nd Wed, every month, 11:30am, CC Mass & Confession - See the "Welcome" page. Men's Bible Study - Every Thurs. 6pm, SRE Bldg. in the library.

Quilters - Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Tues of the month, 9:30am, Rm 222

SVdP Society - The office is open to help. Mon 9:30am-12:30pm, & Thurs 9:30am-12:30pm

Youth Gift Cards (SCRIP) - During office hours, Mon-Fri, 9am-4:30pm





LIFETEEN NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We do not have anyone signed up for meals for the rest of the semester!

Feeding our teens is such an essential part of the community each night and it is also a great opportunity for YOU to have community! Grab some friends and come give back to the teens of our parish by signing up for food one week! https://www.signupgenius.com/ go/10C0E4BABA928A1FEC43-lifeteen

January 22nd - Rosary Rally January 22nd - Dignified - The goal of *Dignified* is to explore the inherent dignity of the whole human person – body, mind, and soul.

January 29th - Fortified - The goal of *Fortified* is to empower teens to care for their bodies with temperance and gratitude.

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER Respect for Life Prayer

O God, our eyes behold the beauty of your creation, and our ears catch the sounds of your power. We hold our lives sacred because they are your gift. Bring us to greater awareness of the sanctity of human life and to sorrow for the times we have ignored or offended it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Thank you from a friend in Athenry, Ireland.

Thanks to all my friends who remembered me with cards and gifts at Christmas. I pray for you all every day as I say my rosary.

Happy and Blessed New Year.

Sr. Consilio



Please consider making an appointment with Jesus on Wednesdays if you do not already have one. I know he would love to visit with you. Please text me at (228) 313-0157 to have your name added to the schedule and have reminders sent each Tuesday. Thank You

Sue Hoffman



"Could you not watch one hour with me?" ~Matthew 26:10







Friday, January 27th Doors Open at 6:30pm The Home of Dr. Don & Katy Gaddy 18062 Commission Road Long Beach, Mississippi \$75 min buy-In Text Ashleigh to reserve your spot at 228-697-0387



Team Levens Mardi Gras Drawdown



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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

To introduce the beginnings of Jesus' ministry in Matthew's Gospel today, the evangelist quotes from Isaiah 9, which is presented to us more fully in our first reading. Isaiah acknowledges the darkness of oppression from the conquest of the Galilee region by Assyria, but reminds his people of the hope God offers them. Matthew, writing in the time of the Roman Empire centuries later, points to Jesus and his proclamation of the kingdom of heaven, to overturn all forms of oppression. Power structures like Assyria or Rome rely on fear, control, and distrust to sustain themselves. But God's reign is to be saturated with God's love, freedom, and mutual trust. Jesus began by gathering a group of disciples. When Jesus similarly gathers his community of disciples in our church today. our love of each other, and our care for all others, can make this reign of God visible to all.

CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Today's Gospel from Matthew sketches the initial movements of Jesus' public ministry. The arrest of John the Baptist signals that Jesus' time has come. His first actions include the call of his first disciples, and proclaiming the reign, or kingdom, of heaven. Jesus first gathers a community, which he can gradually form to become living evidence of this coming reign. His preaching, which begins just a few verses later in the Sermon on the Mount, is not just essential guidance for each individual life, but for life within a community of his followers.

It can be very challenging for most of us, who live in a highly individualized society, to hear this story of being summoned into community, committed to learning together and from each other. Our parishes and Christian communities need to be safe places so that we can open our hearts to each other, learning the Way of Jesus, and sharing this Way with others.

UNITED IN CHRIST

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul addresses many pastoral issues, and begins with questions of division over leadership. We hear of rival camps of loyalty for various leaders and preachers: Paul himself, Apollo, or Cephas. Paul fears that the community has lost the center of the faith, that is, Christ himself. The community is to be united in mind and purpose under Christ.

Many today experience in a very similar division. Some Christians will in effect say: "I belong to . . . (fill in the name of your favorite preacher, theologian, or leader), and those who don't are not to be trusted." Diversity of thought and background are essential to the vitality of Christian community, but here Paul describes a division that hides the message of Christ. It hides Christ's call to charity and forbearance toward all. This division hides the truth that we are all at the foot of the cross, a cross that reveals our own brokenness and our need for mercy.

Today's Readings: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13–14; 1 Cor 1:10–13, 17; Mt 4:12–23 [12–17] Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

FEATURED ADVERTISER



The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother,
casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them,
"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mt 4:18-19

V

Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

As he [Jesus] was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and ...

Н	В	Т	0
S	_	R	Н
Ν	D	Ε	Е
Α	R	R	W

Н

Answer: mouput wonton vin

cerpt from the NAB © 2010, 1991, 1970, CCD

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Betty Bentz David Berry Robert Bourdin Betty Buckley Carmel Buttam Tamra Casey Dave Davis Victor Davis D.J. Fillette Dan Fillette Steve Floyd Tal & Betty Flurry John Simon Franceski, II John French Gayle Frings Cheryl Fulgum Mack Giuffria Danny Goad Bruce Gremillion Ron & Nita Gross Leo Hamel Lisa Hamel John Hammons Clara Hansen Amos Hawes Joe Helwick John Hertz, Sr. Jimmy Hillman Pat Holliday Nancy Howard Molly Jimenez Conrad Johnson Marcus Kaszubowski Donna Kostelnik Bridgett Ladner Lesley Lara

David LaRosa

Vance & Theresa Lipe Jamie Manning Cheryl McIntyre Nancy & Fred McMartry Mary Meighen Mike Murray Baby Anthony Nagle Margaret Ann Necaise Lucy Eryn Nguyen Alan Noonan, Sr Fr. Pat O'Shaughnessy Henry & Gae Odenwald Jean Ouellette Sue Papania Keith Pierce Leah Robertson Price Robyn Richman William Riggs, Jr. Lauren Rivenbark Josie Sandoz Henry Schepens, Sr. Deborah Schmitt Kevin Schneider Debra Seal Raymond Stanley Courtney Stewart Debe Taylor Micheal Thornton Jackie Truax Richard Turpin Pamela Ulrich Gracie Weatherly Adam & Elizabeth Weaver Wayne Weeks Joe Wilson Frank Wittman. III

... and all others in our parish and community in need of healing, physical or spiritual.

PRAYER IS POWERFUL. PLEASE PRAY WITH US

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

THE PRAYER CHAIN

St Thomas has a very active Prayer Chain coordinated by Martha Johnson. Everyone on the email prayer chain will receive your request and join you in prayer for your intention. If you have a prayer intention, or if you would like to become part of the prayer chain, you may send an email to

prayer@saintthomaslb.org or you may call the office.



- +Annette Carter +Karen Fayard
- +Chris Vaurigaud
- +Chris Castiglia +Annie Pearl Lizana



	- Friday	
Jan. 24	8:30 am	+Jo Anna B. Hogan
Jan. 25	8:30 am	+Angel McGregor Bonner
Jan. 26	8:30 am	Mary Ball
		+Donald "Doc" Daquin
Jan. 27	6:30 am	+ Souls in Purgatory
Jan. 28	4:00 pm	Harry & Mary Ann Becnel
Jan. 29	7:30 am	+Sue Hughes
oum 2		The people of St. Thomas Parish
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	and Long Beach
	11:30 am	and Long Deach
		Deacon Jerry Dubuisson
	Jan. 25 Jan. 26 Jan. 27	Jan. 25 8:30 am Jan. 26 8:30 am Jan. 27 6:30 am Jan. 28 4:00 pm

January 22	Fr. David Milton, H.G.N
·	Fr. Ryan McCoy
January 23	Fr. Henry McInerney
January 24	Fr. Paddy Mockler
January 25	For Our Deceased
·	Bishop Joseph Howze
	Bishop Roger Morin
January 26	For Priests & Brothers at
·	St. Augustine Seminary &
	St. Stanislaus High School
January 27	For Retired, Extern & Deceased
·	Priests, Brothers, & Deacons
January 28	For Our Biloxi Bishop, Priests
·	& Deacons

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest, you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the cross and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit gave your priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice.

Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests. Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial Priesthood may be ever more conformed to you, the Divine Master. May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience. Let them be shepherds according to your own heart, single-minded in service to you and to the Church, and shining examples of a holy, simple, and joyful life. Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother and ours, draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. ~ Pope Benedict XVI

GOD'S LOVING CARE

Two readings today refer to the northeast region of ancient Israel: "the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali." Upon hearing these names, some of us might consult maps and determine exactly where these regions lie. Others might let the unfamiliar names drift by unnoticed. If no maps are handy—but we don't want to ignore the references completely—consider this: we might not know the latitude and longitude of Zebulun and Naphtali, but God does. We praise God for watching over every inch of land and sea, caring perfectly for each creature on the planet. While Isaiah celebrates the depth of God's care with "abundant joy and great rejoicing," Saint Paul begs us to remember how the Lord shows this loving care: through the cross. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow him. We follow too, confident that God accompanies us, wherever we are. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The burdens that were once laid upon the people have been vanquished (Isaiah 8:23 — 9:3).

Psalm — The Lord guides and saves me (Psalm 27).

Second Reading — Paul exhorts the believers at Corinth:

As there is one Christ, so too must there be no divisions among you. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17).

Gospel — After calling his first disciples, Jesus goes throughout Galilee teaching, proclaiming the gospel, and curing the people (Matthew 4:12-23 [12-17]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30,

or any of a number of readings for the Day

of Prayer

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11;

Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2;

Mk 16:15-18

Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10;

Mk 4:21-35

Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40;

Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10;

1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

OUR FASCINATING FAITH Ordinary Time

Between the end of the Christmas season and the start of Lent, the liturgical year begins a period known as Ordinary Time. That season is interrupted by the seasons of Lent and Easter, and then resumes again after Pentecost. The English translation of the Latin name for this season has received much criticism because of our association of the word "ordinary" with something of lesser value, the opposite of something special. Critics point out that Sunday is the original feast day of the Church, that there is nothing at all "ordinary" about our weekly celebration of the Lord's dying and rising. Translators explain that in this context the English word "ordinary" retains the root meaning of "ordinal," something counted "in order," and that the Sundays throughout the year are in fact named by their numerical order.

It is helpful to understand how all five of the "special" seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter) fit together to unfold the single mystery of Christ. As we continue the year now with Ordinary Time, we are mindful that what we celebrate is indeed as "extraordinary" an experience of God's grace as one could ever imagine.

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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of

Unborn Children; St. Vincent;

St. Marianne Cope

Tuesday: St. Francis de Sales

Wednesday: The Conversion of St. Paul;

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

Thursday: Ss. Timothy and Titus Friday: St. Angela Merici Saturday: St. Thomas Aquinas

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Jan. 7 & Jan. 8



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Lay Minister Schedule Jan. 28 & 29

L/C	4:00 PM Mass Patti Salvador	7:30AM Mass David Gauthier	9:00AM Mass Jerry Levens	11:30AM Mass Steven Mink	5:30PM Mass Life Teen
EM1 2 3 4	Lisa Starita Vickie Kuehnlein Deacon Jerry <u>Priest</u>	Jason Green Maureen Sheets Deacon Jerry Priest	Paige Stinson Cindy Levens Deacon Jerry Priest	Sue Hoffman Betty O'Brien Deacon Jerry <u>Priest</u>	Candy Dubuisson Jennifer Deacon Jerry <u>Priest</u>
AS1 2	Sophia Starita Ashlyn Johnson				
GR1	Jim/Joyce Delinski	Maureen Sheets	Susan Paternostro	Sue Hoffman	Life Teen



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