



## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

720 East Beach Boulevard

P. O. Box 1529

Long Beach, MS

Phone: (228) 863-1610

Fax: (228) 868-6068

[www.saintthomaslb.org](http://www.saintthomaslb.org)

Email: [secretary@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:secretary@saintthomaslb.org)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am-4:30 pm

**Pastor:** Fr. Cuthbert "Cuddy" O'Connell (228) 493-9303

**Parochial Vicar:** Fr. Vincent Ajayi (508) 369-6732 [FrVincent@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:FrVincent@saintthomaslb.org)

**Deacons:** Ernest "Buddy" Vancourt & Jerry Dubuisson

### Mass Schedule

**Tuesday-Thursday** 8:30 am

Rosary 8 am

**Friday** 6:30 am

Rosary 6 am

**Saturday** 4 pm (vigil)

**Sunday** 7:30 am, 9 am, 11:30 am,

5:30 pm

### Live Stream Mass

**Nativity Cathedral** 8 am Daily and

11 am Sun [nativitybvmcathedral.org](http://nativitybvmcathedral.org)

### Confession

**Saturday** 3:15 pm - 3:45 pm or  
by appointment

### Our Mission Statement

The people of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Long Beach form a community of faith dedicated to Catholic teaching and tradition. We welcome God's children of all ages to worship with us. Through prayer, education and formation, we are called by Jesus to bring hope and healing for life eternal to all people. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to use our personal and communal gifts to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Join Our Parish

To join the St. Thomas family, go to  
[www.saintthomaslb.org/parish-registration-form](http://www.saintthomaslb.org/parish-registration-form)

Complete and submit a registration form.  
Paper forms can be found in the office or  
in the back of the church!



SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## Around Our Parish...

**ADORATION** - Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**BAPTISM CLASS** - Last Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the Religious Education Center. Contact Sue Hoffman (228) 313-0157 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 or [dar.gbarry@gmail.com](mailto:dar.gbarry@gmail.com)

**Knights of Columbus** - Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursday every month, 7pm - 4th Degree follows the 1st Thursday meeting

**KC BREAKFAST** - 3rd Sunday, every month, 8am-11am

**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 Wednesday, every month, 11:30am

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - Every Thursday, 6pm, in the library of the Religious Education Center

**QUILTERS** - Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 9:30am, Rm 222

**SVDP SOCIETY** - The office is open to help.

Monday 9:30am-12:30pm, & Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm

**YOUTH GIFT CARDS (SCRIP)** - During office hours, Monday-Fri, 9am-4:30pm

### COLLECTION April 22 & 23

Envelopes	\$6490.00
Loose	\$1,334.00
Electronic giving	\$1,390.00
eCatholic giving	\$1,085.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$759.00



## GENUFLECTING & KNEELING

**Question:** Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

**Answer:** Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during Eucharistic Adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar. ©LPi

## Contact Information

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[youthministry@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:youthministry@saintthomaslb.org)

## Lay Minister Schedule May 6 & 7

	<u>4:00 PM Mass</u>	<u>7:30 AM Mass</u>	<u>9:00 AM Mass</u>	<u>11:30 AM Mass</u>	<u>5:30 PM Mass</u>
<b>L/C</b>	Patti Salvador	Frankie Castiglia	Jerry Levens	Special Scheduling	Life Teen
<b>EM1 Priest</b>		<b>Priest</b>	<b>Priest</b>	<b>First Communion Priest</b>	<b>Priest</b>
<b>2</b>	Pam Fallo	Mary Levens	Mallory Morgan		Cyndi Kouba
<b>3</b>	Kasey Chappell	Maureen Sheets	Cindy Levens		Jennifer Thomas
<b>4</b>	Charles Fallo	Jennifer Schmidt	Jerry West		Candy Dubuisson
<b>AS1</b>	Sophia Chappell	Jenna Shirk	Branson Sumrall		Life Teen
<b>2</b>		Ava Shirk			
<b>GRI</b>	Susan Bush	Frankie Castiglia	Susan Paternostro	Sue Hoffman	Life Teen



## Piano Needed

Do you have a piano in good condition that you are not using? Saint Thomas music ministry will be regularly bringing music to a couple of local assisted-living centers on the coast, having choir practice and singing hymns with the residents. One of the locations does not have a piano. If you can help, please email Lauren Hymel at [music@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:music@saintthomaslb.org)



Since we traditionally recite the Rosary before each Mass during the month of May, we are asking volunteers to lead the Rosary. We need Men, Women, and Children to volunteer, and there are only 20 slots available for the entire month!

Please Contact Deacon Jerry at 228-348-1997 to sign-up. *"You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary."* - Mary to Blessed Alan de la Roche



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

## Musical Competition

The USCCB is inviting Catholic composers, hymn-writers, and poets to submit entries for the Eucharistic Revival Musical Competition. The goal of this competition is to express and renew our zeal for the Eucharist through poetry and song. Submit your own entry here!

<https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/musical-competition>



May 14th, 10:30am  
May Crowning  
At the Grotto



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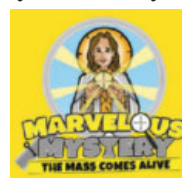
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228-832-1202

Mon.-Sat. 10am to 7pm

Sun: Closed

SAVE THESE DATES  
St Thomas Catholic Kids Camp  
July 10th - July 14<sup>th</sup>



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THE MASS COMES ALIVE

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**Lunchkins**  
Please bring your  
favorite dish

Lunchkins will have their monthly lunch May 10, 2023, 11:30 am then be off for summer break June, July and August.



Annunciation Catholic Church in Kiln, MS is having an Annunciation School Reunion. Annunciation School was established in 1960 with the assistance of the Trinitarian Sisters, followed by the Sisters from the order of Religious of Jesus and Mary from New York and continued to operate until 1985. The reunion will be held on May 21, 2023 at 11:30 AM at the Parish Hall. Come join in on the fun. This is open to all students, teachers, staff and families who were a part of Annunciation School. You may contact Mary Ann Haas Richards on Facebook messenger or [Maryann.richards1@gmail.com](mailto:Maryann.richards1@gmail.com) for more information.

MAY 14TH AT 5:30 PM

**BACCALAUREATE  
Mass**

SENIORS WILL GATHER IN THE BACK OF  
THE CHURCH BY 5:15PM  
TO RSVP, EMAIL  
[YOUTHMINISTRY@SAINTTHOMASLB.ORG](mailto:YOUTHMINISTRY@SAINTTHOMASLB.ORG)

## TODAY'S READING

**First Reading:** "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36)

**Psalm:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

**Second Reading:** For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (1 Pt 2:25)

**Gospel:** "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." (Jn 10:9)

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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPi

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/  
1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10  
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18  
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14  
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/  
Jn 13:16-20  
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6  
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14  
Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)  
1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Monday: St. Joseph the Worker  
Tuesday: St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Wednesday: Sts. Philip and James, Apostles  
Thursday: National Day of Prayer  
Friday: Cinco de Mayo  
Saturday:  
Next Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**First Reading:** After his speech in Jerusalem, the crowds asked Peter, "What are we to do?" He replied, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ... and you will receive the Holy Spirit." How open are you to receiving the Holy Spirit?

**Second Reading:** Peter teaches us as followers of Jesus, we are called to be patient when we are suffering. What value do you see in this practice?

**Gospel:** Jesus speaks of himself as the gatekeeper for the "sheep" (his followers) who are kept safe from strangers. When have you turned to Jesus in your life in times of trouble?

©LPi



**Question:** What does it mean if a Mass is offered "pro populo?"

**Answer:** This means it is offered for parishioners with no specific intention.

## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### Cut to the Heart

Everyone who has been married knows this feeling: you're in the midst of a disagreement with your spouse. You've really dug in your heels. You're ready to die on this hill. And you have the awful, heartbreaking realization that you are wrong. Whatever it is you're arguing about, you're wrong. You.

So where do you go from here? The only way forward is to own it. Fess up. Grab a fork and dig into that humble pie. It makes me cringe just to write about it, because it's the worst feeling.

I use the example of marriage because it's the one I'm most familiar with — my closest relationship, the one that teaches me the most about who I am and who God asks me to be. But this is a universal experience, and everyone — single or married, child or adult, lay or ordained — knows how badly it feels to realize that you're wrong. You're human. You messed up.

It is hard to recognize that the Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. It is painful to acknowledge the ways in which we are falling short, even as we strive to follow in Christ's example. It can, in the words of today's reading, "cut to the heart."

But that feeling of despair is what propels forward motion. We have to allow ourselves to feel bad, that's the fertile ground of penitence. We are meant to have not just life, but life "more abundantly." Stasis isn't the goal. Baptism isn't the finish line. Examining our conscience is hard. It cuts to the heart. It cuts to the truth.

*"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." — Acts 2:38*

~Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

## GOSPEL MEDITATION



I recently rescued a dog. She's a terrier and rather adorable. And she's crazy about me. She could spend all day with me. But I'm a pastor at a parish and sometimes I leave her at the front desk of the church office. She constantly amazes me by her ability to distinguish between my voice and that of everyone else. If I say one word, even if I'm hidden around a corner, she'll sprint toward me and jump up into my arms.

This week the readings focus our attention to the *voice* of the risen Jesus Christ. Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, he says, **They recognize my voice.** He speaks to us and wants us to respond. When we hear his voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God's love, and to love Him in return. That's his voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

By contrast, some voices we will hear do not convey God's concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for him to speak. You will recognize his voice. Then run to him as fast as you can.

~Father John Muir ©LPi

## LIVE THE LITURGY

We know the voice of our shepherd. We know he speaks a language of love, of patience, of long-suffering sacrifice. The voice of the thief will offer us freedom, but it is a freedom that ends in destruction. There is only one gate that leads to everlasting life. ©LPi



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Shane Anderson  
Georgianna Barnett  
George Bass  
Jim Beck  
Angela Howell  
Teresa Bush  
Bruce Carver  
Gary Carver  
Maxine Carver  
Brayden Davis  
Dave Davis  
Lydia DeMoss  
Julius Dubuison  
Amber Elliott  
Mike & Susan Evans  
Elise Fayard  
Mary Fields  
John & Marsha French  
Dottie Goad  
Ron Gross  
Leo & Lisa Hamel  
Amos Hawes  
John Hertz, Sr.  
Jimmy Hillman  
Chris Johnson  
Marcus Kaszubowski  
Nancy Kurowski  
Lesley Lara  
David LaRosa, Sr.

Jamie Manning  
Ron Mauffray  
Lisa McBride  
Mary Meighen  
Rhonda Miketinas  
John Mitchell  
Fred Morehead  
Christel Nauts  
Margaret Ann Necaise  
Lucy Eryn Nguyen  
Fr. Pat O'Shaughnessy  
Henry & Gae Odenwald  
Tommy Rand  
Leah Robertson  
Dan Rogers  
Rachel Rogers  
Josie Sandoz  
Lorrie Schiro  
Kevin Schneider  
Phyllis Seal  
Tracie Sowell  
Veronica Sprinkle  
Richard Turpin  
Jean Warburton  
Ashley Weaver  
Peggy West  
Donna Whaley  
Cheryl Woodward  
Margie Young

... 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

### 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](mailto:prayer@saintthomaslb.org) or you may call the office.



## Rest in Peace in the Hands of Our Lord

+Yoko Fortenberry  
+Warren Migues  
+Harold "Spunky" Ray  
+Vicky Ann Youngblood



## Mass Intentions

<b>Tue, May 2</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	+Kristen Schmidt
<b>Wed, May 3</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	Sr. Mary Anne O'Brien
<b>Thu, May 4</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	+ Pat Pruitt
<b>Fri, May 5</b>	<b>6:30 am</b>	+Florence & +Matthew Ajayi
<b>Sat, May 6</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	+Clay Bishop +Lois Garnett +Steve Bosarge +Joe Paola
<b>Sun, May 7</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>	
	<b>9:00 am</b>	The people of St. Thomas Parish and Long Beach + Pat Pruitt
	<b>11:30 am</b>	
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	



## Pray for Our Clergy

**April 30**

Fr. Cuddy O'Connell  
Fr. Vincent O. Ajayi

**May 1**

Fr. Satish Adhav

**May 2**

Fr. Vincent O. Ajayi

**May 3**

Fr. Godfrey Andoh

**May 4**

Fr. Charles Arthur

**May 5**

Bishop Louis F. Kihneman III

**May 6**

An Increase In Vocations



National Day of Prayer is May 4th. It is a day set aside in the U.S. to seek God in faith and unity by praying for our leaders and their ability to come together and make our nation a better place. We pray for the military and law enforcement, family and friends, and those who are suffering and in need.

## Adoration

Watch on YouTube [What Really Happens in Eucharistic Adoration](#) with [Father Mike Schmitz](#)

The Catechism quotes Pope John Paul II: "The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease." (CCC, 1380) ~ [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

Please join us in letting Jesus know we love Him and are anxious to spend time with Him.

Please call Sue Hoffman at 228-313-0157 to let her know what hour you wish. Reminders will be sent every Tuesday afternoon. You are also welcome to drop in anytime on Wednesday to spend whatever time you can in adoration.



## Prayer

Jesus, when I am sad or confused, help me to remember that you are alive and with me always.

## Mission for the Week

Pack a bag with some snacks and your Bible, and take a long walk with your family. When you stop to eat your snacks, read your favorite story about Jesus.

## Sharing the Gospel

Even though he had risen from the dead, two of Jesus' friends had not seen him yet. These men were still sad and confused. Imagine their surprise when Jesus walked with them, explained the Scriptures about the Savior, and then broke bread for a meal. They saw him alive!

**Now color the picture!**



Unscramble the words from today's Gospel:

Emmaus  
talking  
Cleopas

Christ  
Moses  
Prophets

village  
bread  
Simon

Emuams

E m m a u s

Pohprets

\_\_\_\_\_

vliagel

\_\_\_\_\_

taklign

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Crihts

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