



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

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

Pastor: Fr. Satish Adhav (228) 863-1610 FrSatish@saintthomaslb.org

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

Deacons: Ernest "Buddy" Vancourt & Jerry Dubuisson

Mass Schedule

Monday-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 nativitybyvmcathedral.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

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



SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word
and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a
hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." - Mt 13:23

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

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Around Our Parish...

ADORATION - Wed., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

BAPTISM CLASS - Last Sat. of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the Religious Education Center. Contact Sue Hoffman (228) 313-0157 or psuehoffman@gmail.com 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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Meetings 1st & 3rd Thurs. every month, 7pm - 4th Degree follows the 1st Thurs. meeting

KC BREAKFAST - 3rd Sun., every month, 8am-11am

LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Meetings 3rd Thurs. every month, 7pm

LECTIO DIVINA - Meets every Tues. after Mass to reflect on the following Sunday's readings.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR - 1st Sun. every month

LUNCHKINS - On Summer Break

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

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, 9:00am - 4:30pm

COLLECTION July 1 and 2

Electronic transfers	\$7,875.00
Regular collections	\$12,712.00
Peter's Pence	\$673.00
Utilities & Insurance	\$1,266.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$235.00
Extension Society	\$5.00
Priest retirement	\$10.00



PRAYER FOR PROTECTION AGAINST STORMS

*God our Father, You set the earth on its foundation.
Keep us safe from the danger of hurricanes and storms
and let us always feel the presence of your love.*

*May we be secure in your protection and
serve You with grateful hearts.*

*We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.*

Amen

*Oh Mary, conceived without sin,
Pray for us who have recourse to you.*



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Youth Ministry: Kaitlynn Claret 228 236-4899

youthministry@saintthomaslb.org

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Why Use Incense?

Question: Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer: The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass). ©LPi

PRIEST MASS ASSIGNMENT

July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23
8:30am - Fr. Vincent	8:30am - Fr. Satish	8:30am - Fr. Satish	8:30am - Fr. Vincent	6:30am - Fr. Vincent	4:00pm - Fr. Satish	7:30am - Fr. Satish 9:00am - Fr. Vincent 11:30am - Fr. Vincent 5:30pm - Fr. Satish

**NEEDED: EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS,
LECTORS, ALTAR SERVERS, AND GIFT BEAERS**



We are highly in need of Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, and Gift Bearers for all Masses. Please prayerfully consider serving "Around the Table."



"New Wine" is open for applications.

The next "New Wine" lay ministry formation program by the Diocese of Biloxi will begin in August 2023. "New Wine" is for lay Catholics who want a basic foundation in theology and pastoral skills or who seek to be leaders in ministry. The program consists of 94 weekly two-hour classroom sessions over three years. Applications must be made through the parish and approved by the pastor. The program costs, \$300 a year, are shared between the participant and the parish. Completed applications are due July 31st. For more information contact Ann Marie McIntyre at (228) 860-8749.

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DONATE

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF HELP WITH SPONSORING TEENS ON OUR MANY RETREATS, SPONSORING A MEAL, OR SPONSORING THE ACTIVITIES WE DO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY TIME TO ST. THOMAS LIFETEEN! DONATIONS HELP US BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DO ALL OF THE EVENTS WE PROVIDE FOR OUR TEENS! TO GET INVOLVED OR ASK QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR YOUTH MINISTER, KAITLYNN, AT YOUTHMINISTRY@SAINTTHOMASLB.ORG OR (228) 236-4899



**ACCOMPANY A NEW CATHOLIC
ON HIS FAITH JOURNEY**

The Diocese of Biloxi is redefining the way new Christians are brought into the Church. Bishop Kihne- man writes that in the past we have used a classroom model for new Catholics, but "what is proving to be much more effective is the development of a faith formation plan for each person. . . . Prayer, worship, parish life and Sunday Mass become the real curriculum."

As we move from the classroom model to the parish model for Christian Initiation, we need individuals who will accompany the candidates as personal guides, who will be their companions on their journey. The job description of a Faith Formation Companion is a demanding one. You are charged with three important tasks: (1) Knowing the Candidate, (2) Assisting the Candidate, and (3) Witnessing the Conversion of the Candidate.

Yes, some sacrifice is required. There is a commitment of time and energy on your part to fit into your already busy life. But if we are going to call the candidates to pick up the cross and follow Christ, can we offer them anything less than the best effort we can provide?

If you are ready to be a Faith Formation Companion, attend an information and training session on Thursday, August 17th, at 6:30pm in the Religious Education Center.

To attend the session, or for more information, contact Dave Gauthier 228-596-8835 or Sue Hoffman 228-313-0157, or email at rcia@saintthomaslb.org.



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Prayer is Powerful. Please Pray with Us.

St Thomas has a very active Prayer Chain. 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. *"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



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Alan Barcelona, Georgianna Barnett, David Bass, George Bass, Marilyn Beard, Floyd "Butch" Bishop, Helen Bristol, Bob Bullard, Linda Carden, Gary Carver, Beatrice Cuevas, Joyce Drake, Mark Giuffria, Ron Gross, Cleve Harrington, Melissa Heaton, John Hertz, Doc Holliday, Nellie Johnson, Anne Ladner, Joe Loftus, Jamie Manning, Snowball McKenna, Amanda Meynard, Robert Peno, Leah Robertson Price, Bonita Randazzo, Eddie Reid, Jr., Liz Ruth, Josie Sandoz, Phyllis Seal, Tammy Sentz, Pete Skrmetta, Elaine Thibodeaux, Belinda Hosli Tipton, Ashley Weaver, Jerry and Charlotte West

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

PETITIONS OF PRAYER

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

Names appearing on the Prayer list come from hospital visitation lists, emails to prayer@saintthomaslb.org, and from telephone calls made to the Parish Office. We are aware that there are many others in the parish and community who are suffering and, therefore, we ask those who are praying to include "...and all in our parish and community who are in need of healing, physical or spiritual." We regret that space does not allow us to list the names of each and everyone in the bulletin each week.

All of the requests for prayers remain on our list for four weeks. If notified, we will extend the time frame.



Mass Intentions

Mon, Jul 17	8:30 am	Souls in Purgatory Phyllis Seal
Tue, Jul 18	8:30 am	Robert and Sue Schnebelen
Wed, Jul 19	8:30 am	John and Katy Schnebelen
Thu, Jul 20	8:30 am	Martha Seabaugh
Fri, Jul 21	6:30 am	Emmitt Thames
Sat, Jul 22	4:00 pm	
Sun, Jul 23	7:30 am	
	9:00 am	The people of St. Thomas Parish and Long Beach
	11:30 am	+Clara and + J.C. Landry
	5:30 pm	



+ Angela Bowell



Pray for Our Clergy

July 17	Fr. Ignacio Jimenez- Morales
July 18	Fr. Jeyanthan Jordan
July 19	Fr. Fintan Kilmurray
July 20	Fr. Piotr Kmiecik
	Fr. Bartosz Kunat
July 21	Fr. Michael Marascalco
July 22	Msgr. John McGrath
July 23	Fr. David Milton H.G.N
	Fr. Ryan McCoy



Eucharistic Adoration: Spending time with Jesus

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION OPENS THE WAY TO DISCOVER GOD'S PLAN

"There is a need for a youth ministry and a vocational promotion that can open the way to discovering God's plan, above all through prayer, meditation on God's word, Eucharistic adoration and spiritual accompaniment."

~Pope Francis, Message, 31st January 2019

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 welcome to drop in anytime on Wednesday to spend whatever time you can in adoration.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful. (Is 55:10)

Psalm: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

Second Reading: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God. (Rom 8:18-19)

Gospel: And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. (Mt 13:3)

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

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: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14 (Luke 8:8)/
Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9
Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/
Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/
Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/
Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc,
17-18/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 (5a)/
Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:
Tuesday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Wednesday:
Thursday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
Friday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and
Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Mary Magdalene
Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: The prophet Isaiah assured the Israelites who were exiled in Babylon that God's word is reliable and purposeful. How might you help friends or family trust more in God?

Second Reading: Paul sees creation itself sharing in the redemption and future glory that awaits all believers — "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God." What do you imagine earth would look like filled with God's glory, absent any "corruption"?

Gospel: Over the next few Sundays, we will be hearing many parables from Jesus. Today's parable of the sower and the seeds speaks to how people react differently to the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. How would you describe your reaction to Jesus's parables of the kingdom?

LIVE THE LITURGY

We are all sowers in the field. Our time, our money, our attention: these finite resources are the seeds, and the choice is ours where we scatter them. Do we focus our efforts on soil that will bear fruit for the kingdom?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



It's not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it's interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew's gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The

Lord's riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we're dealing with a *relationship*, not new data. When we aren't willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the "info" of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It'll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don't understand the Church or the Lord, let's be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi

RECOGNIZE GOD

IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Soil Conditions

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like "Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard." I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow. This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that *it's all about the soil*.

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

"...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." — *Isaiah 55:11*

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Prayer

God, help my heart to be soft. Help your Word to change my life.

Mission for the Week

Visit a garden center. Learn why plants need good soil to grow.

Sharing the Gospel

The farmer is God. The seed is God's Word. That makes the soil your heart. If your heart is angry or stubborn, God's Word can't sink in. If your heart is shallow, God's Word can't take root. Instead, you will worry about getting power or riches. If your heart is discouraged by people who hate God, your faith will choke. If your heart is soft, God's Word will change your life, and it will show.

Now color the picture!



Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

farmer	rocky	birds
soil	thorns	choked
root	path	seed

frarme	<u>f</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u> <u>m</u> <u>e</u> <u>r</u>
sede	_____
ptah	_____
brisd	_____
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