



December 24, 2023
4th Sunday of Advent
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 9:00 am-4:00 pm

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

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Vincent Ajayi (228) 863-1610 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**

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/register-family-at-st-thomas-the-apostle and complete and submit a registration form. Paper forms can be found in the office or in the back of the church!



Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



**"BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD
WOULD BE FULFILLED."**

—LUKE 1:45

GOSPEL MEDITATION

December 24, 2023 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, **"But she was greatly troubled at what was said."** An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her *precisely when she is troubled*. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, **"Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."**

— Father John Muir

Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Monday: **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent;
Christmas Eve

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

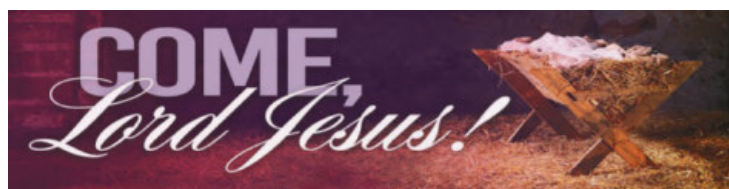
Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Friday: St. Thomas Becket,
Bishop and Martyr

Saturday:

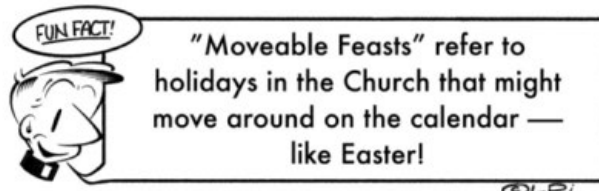
Next Sunday: The Holy Family;
New Year's Eve



"Did you hear about the parish picnic that was set up on the back of a pickup?"



"It was a moveable feast."



Catholic Trivia

Q: What is the name of the popular Christmas song about a boy playing his drum for Jesus?

Find the answer somewhere in the bulletin

Last Weeks Catholic Trivia

Q: What are the only materials acceptable for use as an altar cloth?

A: Hemp and Flax



Around Our Parish...

ADORATION - Wed., 9am-5pm

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

BELL CHOIR - Contact Tyler Brandon 228-424-2970 music2@saintthomaslb.org

CHOIR - Small Group Practices. As per Choir Dir.

GOOD SHEPHERD SHOWCASE - Open every other month before and after all masses. By appointment. Call Bitsy (228) 669-3750 or Darlene (404) 630-6624 or email svdp.member@saintthomaslb.org

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 - 2nd Wednesday, every month, 11:30am

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, 9am - 4pm



Second Collection

December 30 & 31

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. Next Sunday the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will have a second collection. Your gifts to our Society bring light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty, bring them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas. We appreciate your support.

Dear Lord,
Visit our homes!
Visit our families!
Bring your goodness and light
to every broken heart we've met
on this journey of life.
Your presence brings healing and
rebirth.
Come, Lord Jesus!



Contact Information

Baptism: Sue Hoffman 228 313-0157

psuehoffman@gmail.com

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prayer@saintthomaslb.org

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rcia@saintthomaslb.org

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svdp.president@saintthomaslb.org

Secretary: Dee McKenna 228 863-1610

secretary@saintthomaslb.org

SRE Coordinator: Dave Gauthier 228-596-8835

religionseducation@saintthomaslb.org

Youth Ministry: Kaitlynn Claret 228 236-4899

youthministry@saintthomaslb.org

Income

Dec 9 & 10

ACH (electronic draft)	\$1,515.00
E-giving	\$1,525.00
E-giving Maintenance & Restoration	\$100.00
E-giving Insurance & Utilities	\$50.00
Regular Collection	\$5,702.00
Maintenance & Restoration	\$5,039.00
Insurance & Utilities	\$275.00
Pickle Jar	\$114.00
St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy	\$2,373.00
Total	\$16,693.00

THANK YOU
for your generosity



December 25 & 26
and January 1



Eucharistic Adoration: Spending time with Jesus

Last Advent we began having Adoration on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 5:00. It has been very successful. The chapel is rearranged and is so conducive to prayer. Now we would like to expand our Adoration to include Fridays. It would be in the chapel from 7:00 to 5:00. Sign-up sheets are in the east foyer or you can call or text Sue Hoffman at 228-313-0157. Adoration is a wonderful way to spend a quiet hour with Jesus. You will reap many blessings.



Many thanks to our homeschool families and choir members who helped change out the Breaking Bread Hymnals/Missals last week. They gathered together on Friday, December 1st, and did a fantastic job making sure that our church had the new hymnals/missal in the pews.



Adult Confrimtion Classes Are Forming.

Contact Dave Gauthier at 228 596 8835 or
RCIA@saintthomaslb.org



January 7th – Spring Kick off! Bingo Night
January 14th – No Lifeteen or Edge: MLK Holiday & Fairhope retreat weekend

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Can you imagine reciting the Confiteor or praying the Our Father with 80,000 other Catholics at the Lucas Oil Stadium in July 2024? Talk about whenever two or more are gathered in His name!

Can you imagine five days with our brothers and sisters from across the country...encountering Jesus in the celebrations of the Eucharist, discovering the depth of our faith through powerful preaching, receiving the healing Jesus longs to give us, embarking on a new chapter in our faith journey, gathering with our Catholic family from every corner of the nation, being set on fire with the Holy Spirit like never before and being equipped and empowered to bring Christ's love to the world?

All this and more awaits us at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN, July 17 - 21, 2024. You can learn more and purchase your 5-day pass at www.eucharisticcongress.org. But there are all those other pesky details concerning travel and hotel accommodations to deal with....but have no fear...your Diocese of Biloxi Eucharistic Revival Team has put together a package that includes everything you need...ground or air transportation, airport transfers, a luxury hotel near the stadium and event passes that are just waiting for you!

Take a moment to view this short video from the Eucharistic Congress promotion team regarding the National Eucharistic Congress (you may get an advertisement at first): www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4p1ENUCrrE

Use this link to view the travel packages arranged by Cara Group Travel: caragrouptavel.com/nec-2024-tour

This is an amazing opportunity...a once in a lifetime experience...the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years!

Leading up to the Eucharistic Congress...there will be a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage consisting of 4 separate Eucharistic Processions starting at 4 corners of our country and ultimately meeting in Indianapolis.

South Mississippi is blessed to be on the Juan Diego route that begins in Brownsville, TX. Jesus and His 12 member Eucharistic Pilgrimage Team will arrive in Mississippi on Monday, June 10, 2024 and head to Mobile on Friday, June 14, 2024.

Your Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Team is planning 5 days of activities to include Masses, community gatherings and Eucharistic Processions across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. St. Thomas the Apostle is one of the stops. This will be an amazing public display of faith to our community.

Stand-by for more information. You may also visit for more national level information:
www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sun, Dec 24:

NO 11:30 OR 5:30 MASS

4pm Christmas Vigil Mass with
Children's Bell Choir
& Family Choir

7pm Christmas Vigil Mass

11:30pm Christmas Carols

Christmas Midnight Mass to follow

Mon, Dec 25:

7:30am, 9am Mass



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, Dec 31

7:30 am & 9 am

NO 11:30 OR 5:30 MASS



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, Dec. 31 6:30pm

Vigil Mass

Mon, Jan 1:

9am Mass



Make a Gift for the Christ Child

Children are invited to bring gifts to the Christ Child during the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Come early to the community center where children will make and wrap gifts to bring up to the Baby Jesus during the offertory procession. All ages welcome. This is great way for our children to adore Jesus on **His birthday**. Children will pick up their gift after Mass, in the east, foyer to place it at they Nativity Scene in they home.

December 24th, 3:00pm (Prior to 4:00pm Mass.)

Parish Community Center

Contact: Dave Gauthier; 228-596-8835,
religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org

The Little Drummer Boy

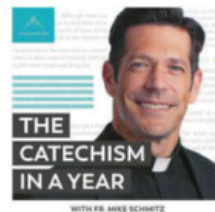
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—Ignacio G.

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Prayer is Powerful. Please Pray with Us



Jadon Michael, Marie, Georgia Bailey, Darlene Barry, Margie Bitner, Nancy Damino, Randy Fischer, Janet Flynn, Cleve Harrington, Jerry Kenney, Myrtle Pace, Joe Bill Moller, Gary Moony, Richard Mueller, Chris Papania

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



Mass Intentions

Mon	Dec 25	7:30 am	
		9:00 am	✙ Maureen Newcomb
Tue	Dec 26	8:30 am	🕯 Mary Ball
Wed	Dec 27	8:30 am	🕯 Robert Schnebelen
Thu	Dec 28	8:30 am	✙ Harold "Hal" Cioffi
			✙ Travis Andrews, Sr
			✙ Travis Andrews, Jr
Fri	Dec 29	6:30 am	🕯 John Schnebelen
Sat	Dec 30	4:00 pm	✙ Warren Doussan, Jr
			✙ John E. Sprinkle, Jr
Sun	Dec 31	7:30 am	✙ Sr Mary Anne O'Brien
		9:00 am	🕯 The people of St. Thomas Parish and Long Beach

Mary, Mother of God Vigil 6:30 pm

🎂 - Birthday ✙ - Deceased ❤️ - Healing 🕯 - Special intentions

👰 - Wedding Anniversary 🕊 - Ordination Anniversary



MEN'S EMMAUS RETREAT

Feb 2-4, 2024.

William J. Kelley Retreat Center
Bay St. Louis, MS.

Based on the scripture passage

"The appearance on the road to Emmaus" ~ Luke 24: 13-35
Beginning at 5:30pm Friday and ends at 4pm on Sunday.

Contact: Norm Madere: 504-481-0411 or
Steve Schulken: 504-401-6990 or
Colin Taulis: 504-494-4511

Register at stdominicparish.com/emmaus-registration or
email for a registration form at
sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com

Registration Fee: \$200; checks payable to:



St. Dominic Church Men's Emmaus Retreat.
(call about Scholarships)

Mail the payment to:

St. Dominic Church Emmaus Retreat Ministry,
775 Harrison Ave,
New Orleans, LA 70124 or

text a picture of your Zelle payment to

sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com

include in Zelle memo: your name and Feb 2024 Retreat



Pray For Our Clergy

Mon	Dec 25	Father Marcin Wiktor
Tue	Dec 26	Retired, Extern & Deceased Priests, Brothers, & Deacons
Wed	Dec 27	Priest & Brothers at St. Augustine Seminary & St. Stanislaus High School
Thu	Dec 28	✙ Bishop Joseph Howze
		✙ Bishop Roger Morin
Fri	Dec 29	Our Deacons & Diaconate
Sat	Dec 30	Candidates & Those Discerning
		For Our Seminarians
Sun	Dec 31	Father Satish Adhav
		Father Vincent Ajayi



Rest in Peace

Birdie Daniels
David Bishop



Priest Mass Assignments

Sunday	December 24	7:30 am	Fr Satish
		9:00 am	Fr Vincent
	Children's Mass	4:00pm	Fr Satish
	Christmas Vigil	7:00 pm	Fr Vincent
	Midnight Mass	12:00am	Fr Satish
			Fr Vincent
Monday	December 25	7:30 am	Fr Satish
		9:00 am	Fr Vincent
Tuesday	December 26	8:30 am	Fr Vincent
Wednesday	December 27	8:30 am	Fr Vincent
Thursday	December 28	8:30 am	Fr Vincent
Friday	December 29	6:30 am	Fr Vincent
Saturday	December 30	4:00 pm	Fr Vincent
Sunday	December 31	7:30 am	Fr Vincent
		9:00 am	Fr Vincent
	December 31	6:30 pm	Fr Vincent
	Mary Mother of God Vigil		

Growing with the Gospel



PUZZLE

Complete the picture.



GOSPEL

Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle - a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You can trust God, too.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of three people you trust.



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image



4th Sunday of Advent • Luke 1:26-38

PRAYER

God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

MISSION

Name three reasons you can always trust God.

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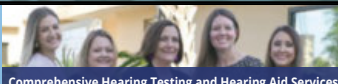
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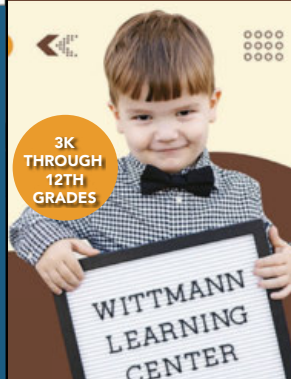
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