



**December 31, 2023**  
**Feast of the Holy Family**  
**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)

**Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm**

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

**Parochial Vicar: Fr. Vincent Ajayi (228) 863-1610 [FrVincent@saintthomaslb.org](mailto: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**

**Holy Days: Vigil Mass 6:30 pm, 8:30 am,  
12:00 noon**

### **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](http://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!



### **THE HOLY FAMILY**

**The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40**



## 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](mailto:psuehoffman@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.

**BELL CHOIR** - Contact Tyler Brandon 228-424-2970 [music2@saintthomaslb.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

## FYI

Starting with February 17, 2024, our Sunday Bulletin will be published in-house, allowing us to provide you with more up-to-date information. As a result, the last newsletter will be emailed on February 9, 2024. If you would like to receive the bulletin via email, please contact [bulletin@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:bulletin@saintthomaslb.org).



## A BIG THANK YOU!

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may all families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them." We were able to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas to the

hearts of the poor by providing food, paying utility bills, providing rental assistance, and assistance with medical needs. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks each and every one of you for your support throughout the year. It is by the Grace of God and your support we are able to help others. Wishing you and your families all of God's rich blessings in the New Year! ~ St. Vincent de Paul Members



## Contact Information

**Baptism:** Sue Hoffman 228 313-0157

[psuehoffman@gmail.com](mailto:psuehoffman@gmail.com)

**Maintenance:** Ben DiLorenzo 228-596-3379

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

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[dfdchiefjerry@att.net](mailto:dfdchiefjerry@att.net)

**Prayer Intentions:** Martha Johnson

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

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

**St. Vincent de Paul:** Mike Barry 228- 822-0609

[svdp.president@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:svdp.president@saintthomaslb.org)

**Secretary:** Dee McKenna 228 863-1610

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

**SRE Coordinator:** Dave Gauthier 228-596-8835

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

**Youth Ministry:** Kaitlynn Claret 228 236-4899

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

## Income

## Dec 16 & 17

ACH (electronic draft)	\$4,825.00
E-giving	\$915.00
E-giving Maintenance & Restoration	\$50.00
E-giving Insurance & Utilities	\$0.00
Regular Collection	\$14,314.00
Maintenance & Restoration	\$7,518.00
Insurance & Utilities	\$125.00
Pickle Jar	\$137.00
St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy	\$1,184.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,068.00</b>

**THANK YOU**  
for your generosity

feast of the  
**MOTHER OF GOD**

**Happy New Year**  
**Office Closed**  
**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.



## Adult Confirmation Classes Are Forming.

Contact Dave Gauthier at 228 596 8835 or  
[RCIA@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:RCIA@saintthomaslb.org)



**January 7<sup>th</sup> – Spring Kick off! Bingo Night**

**January 14<sup>th</sup> – No Lifeteen or Edge: MLK Holiday & Fair-hope retreat weekend**

**January 21<sup>st</sup> – Alive-** The goal of *Alive* is to explore why we were created. It discusses how we were created from love and for love, and that we are created to love. The Life Night challenges teenagers to be satisfied in God's love and live extraordinary lives.

**January 28<sup>th</sup> – Overfed yet Starving -** The goal of *Overfed Yet Starving* is to bring awareness to substitutes of God's love that keep us overfed yet starving. The Life Night introduces the teens to ways they can be satisfied by the extraordinary, the Bread of Life, in Eucharistic Adoration, as opposed to ordinary substitutes, like streaming TV and social media.

### LIVE THE LITURGY

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

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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](http://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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4p1ENUCrrE)

Use this link to view the travel packages arranged by Cara Group Travel: [caragrouptour.com/nec-2024-tour](http://caragrouptour.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](http://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org)



From the Office of Infectious Diseases at MHG:  
When visiting patients at MHG, please use hand sanitizer outside the patient's door to prevent the spread of diseases.



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOD**  
Sunday, Dec. 31 6:30pm  
Vigil Mass  
**Mon, Jan 1:**  
9am Mass



Dear Lord,  
We lift our families to you in prayer — every generation!  
Bind our wounds, forgive our debts, show your mercy!  
Lead us to deeper communion with each other and You.  
Help us, too, to be a holy family.  
Amen.



Please bring non-perishable grocery items to restock the Long Beach Food Pantry to the Masses on the weekend of January 7, 2024 and leave them in the East foyer.



### 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 Schulkens: 504-401-6990 or  
Colin Taulis: 504-494-4511**

Register at [stdominicparish.com/emmaus-registration](http://stdominicparish.com/emmaus-registration) or  
email for a registration form at  
[sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com](mailto:sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com)

Registration Fee: \$200; checks payable to:



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(call about Scholarships)

Mail the payment to:

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New Orleans, LA 70124 or

text a picture of your Zelle payment to  
[sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com](mailto:sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com)

include in Zelle memo: **your name and Feb 2024 Retreat**

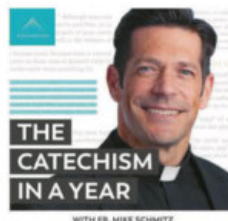
## Understand Your Catholic Faith with *The Catechism in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

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Scan this QR code with your phone to download the Ascension App — the best place to listen to *The Catechism in a Year*.



## Read and Understand the Bible with *The Bible in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

"As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together."  
—Ignacio G.

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Scan this QR code with your phone to download the Ascension App — the best place to listen to *The Bible in a Year*.





# **Prayer is Powerful. Please Pray with Us**

*Jadon Michael, Marie, Georgia Bailey, Darlene Barry, Margie Bitner, Roby Blakley, Shannon Bourn, Frances X. Carrubba-LeBlanc, Nancy Damino, Randy Fischer, Richard Fleming, Janet Flynn, Cleve Harrington, Cindy Harris, Jerry Kenney, Joe Bill Moller, Gary Moony, Richard Mueller, Myrtle Pace, Bernard Papania, Chris Papania, Greg Stokes,*  
**...and all others in our parish and community in need of healing, physical or spiritual.**

## **Mass Intentions**

Mon	Jan 1	9:00 am	✙ James Hoselle
Tue	Jan 2	8:30 am	🍰 Clay Levens
Wed	Jan 3	8:30 am	✙ Laura Creel
Thu	Jan 4	8:30 am	✙ Michael Murphy
Fri	Jan 5	6:30 am	
Sat	Jan 6	4:00 pm	✙ Clay Bishop
Sun	Jan 7	7:30 am	✙ Sr. Mary Anne O'Brien
		9:00 am	🕯 The people of St. Thomas Parish and Long Beach
		11:30 am	✙ Karen Fayard
			❤ Jeff Lawson
		5:30 pm	

🍰 -Birthday ✙ -Deceased ❤ -Healing 🕯 -Special intentions  
 🕊 -Wedding Anniversary 🎓 -Ordination Anniversary



Fr. Mike Austin, Deacon Buddy Vancourt, Deacon Stephen O'Brien, and Deacon Jerry Dubuissou after serving Mass at St. Peter Basilica in the Vatican.  
 The Deacons' wives were also present.

## **Pray For Our Clergy**

Mon	Jan 1	Father Satish Adhav
Tue	Jan 2	Father Vincent O. Ajayi
Wed	Jan 3	Father Godfrey Andoh
Thu	Jan 4	Father Charles Arthur
Fri	Jan 5	Bishop Louis F. Kihneman, III
Sat	Jan 6	An Increase In Vocations
Sun	Jan 7	Pope Francis



 **Rest in Peace**

*James Hoselle*

## **Priest Mass Assignment**

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			
Monday	January 1	9:00 am	Fr Vincent
Tuesday	January 2	8:30 am	Fr Vincent
Wednesday	January 3	8:30 am	Fr Vincent
Thursday	January 4	8:30 am	Fr Vincent
Friday	January 5	6:30 am	Fr Vincent
Saturday	January 6	4:00 pm	Fr Vincent
Sunday	January 7	7:30 am	Fr Vincent
		9:00 am	Fr Vincent
		11:30 am	Fr Vincent
		5:30 pm	Fr Vincent

False

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### December 31, 2023 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— Father John Muir

### Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

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
Monday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
Friday:	1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

### Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday:	The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
Monday:	Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Tuesday:	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Wednesday:	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday:	Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Friday:	St. John Neumann, Bishop
Saturday:	St. André Bessette, Religious
Next Sunday:	The Epiphany of the Lord

## Catholic Trivia

**Q:** True or False: The Catholic Church teaches that those people who don't know and accept the Church will NOT be saved.

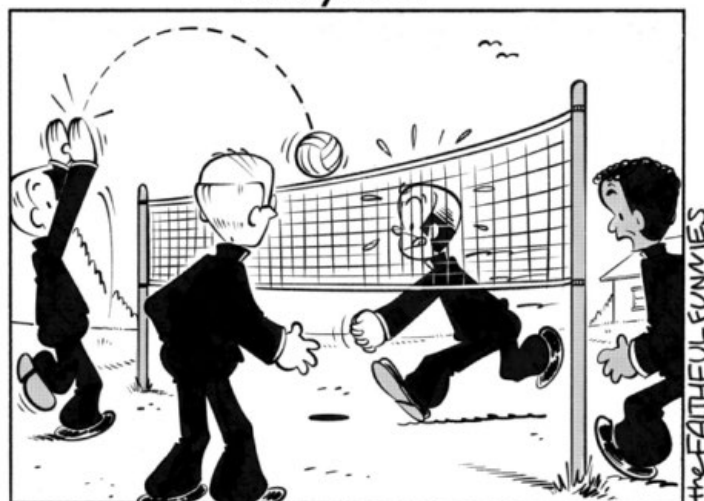
**Find the answer somewhere in the bulletin**

### Last Weeks Catholic Trivia

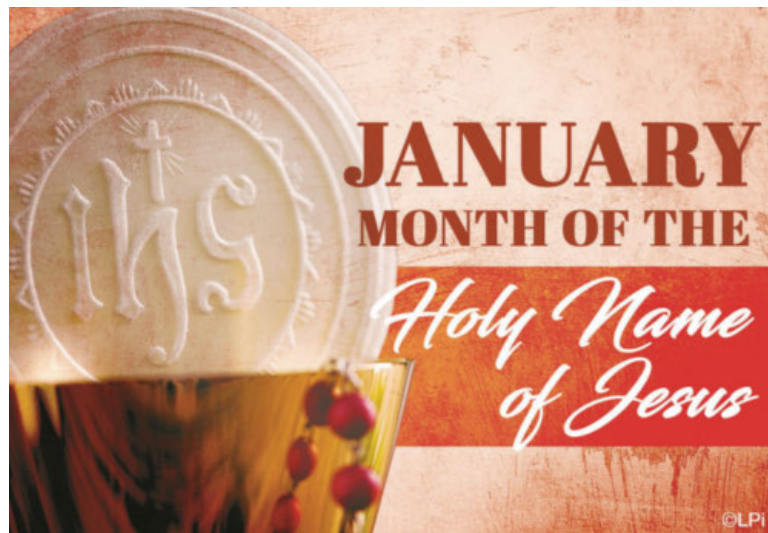
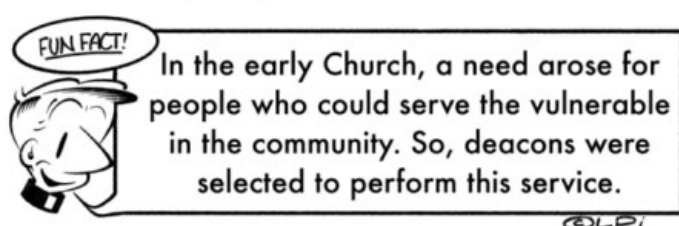
**Q:** What is the name of the popular Christmas song about a boy playing his drum for Jesus?

**A:** The Little Drummer Boy

### "Which vocation is best at volleyball?"



### "Deacons, they're ordained for service!"





# Growing with the Gospel



## GOSPEL

Love God and trust him with your life. Then you will want to do what God asks. Simeon listened to God. Anna served God for many years in the temple. Mary and Joseph did everything God asked them to do for Jesus. Everyone in the temple knew that Jesus was sent

## SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of God watching over you and your



## PRAYER

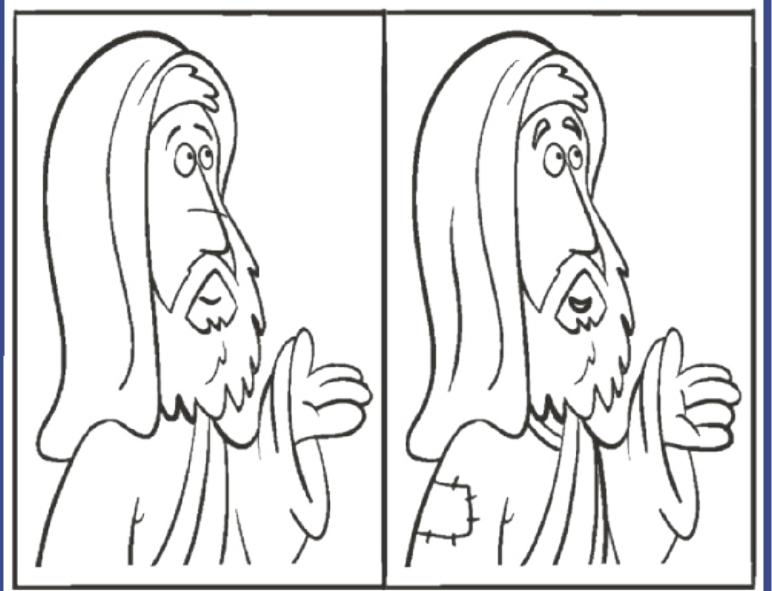
God, help me to love you enough to do all that you ask

## MISSION

Jesus belonged to God. Look up the word “belong” in the dictionary. Thank God that you are his

## PUZZLE

Find 8 differences



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



**Holy Family • Luke 2:22-40**

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