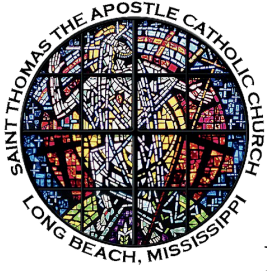


JULY 12, 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

720 East Beach Boulevard, P. O. Box 1529, Long Beach, MS 39560

Phone: (228) 863-1610, Fax: (228) 868-6068

www.saintthomaslb.org

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

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

Deacons: Ernest "Buddy" Vancourt and Jerry Dubuisson

ADORATION:

Wednesday:

9:00am to 5:00pm

in the Chapel

5:00pm to 6:00pm

in the Church

Friday:

7:00am - 5:00pm

in the Chapel

ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Monday - Friday

Recited 35 Minutes

Before Daily Masses

RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday:

5:00pm

Saturday:

3:00pm - 3:45pm

or by appointment

JOIN OUR PARISH!

To join our St. Thomas family,
please visit our website or scan the QR code.



Complete and submit a registration form.

Paper forms can be found in the office
or in the back of the Church.



MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday-Thursday:

Mass: 8:30am

Wednesday:

6:00pm

Charismatic Mass

Friday:

Mass: 6:30am

Saturday:

4:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday:

7:30am, 9:00am,
11:30am, and 5:30pm

Holy Days:

(Watch the Bulletin
for Mass Times)

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.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Annie Nguyen 832-794-5309

anniemsu@yahoo.com

Marriage

Contact the office

at 228-863-1610

at least six months in advance
of the planned wedding date.

FAITH FORMATION

OCIA Director

Dave Gauthier 228-596-8835

rcia@saintthomaslb.org

SRE Coordinator

Dave Gauthier 228-596-8835

religioeducation@saintthomaslb.org

saintthomaslb.org

Youth Ministry

Kaitlynn Claret 228-236-4899

youthministry@saintthomaslb.org

saintthomaslb.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Liturgical Music Director

Lauren Hymel 228-863-1610

music@saintthomaslb.org

Bell Choir

Tyler Brandon 228-424-2970

music2@saintthomaslb.org

Lifeteen Music

Timothy Raborn

Tim@raborn.org

CHARITABLE

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Darlene Barry 404-630-6624

svdp.president@saintthomaslb.org

saintthomaslb.org

OTHER CONTACTS

Altar Server

Steve Hymel

altarserver@saintthomaslb.org

Maintenance

228-863-1610

maintenance@saintthomaslb.org

Prayer Chain

Martha Johnson

prayer@saintthomaslb.org

Secretary

Dee McKenna 228-863-1610

secretary@saintthomaslb.org

Bulletin Editor

Lori Lea Sawyer 228-863-1610

bulletin@saintthomaslb.org

DEADLINE FOR

ARTICLES SUBMISSION

IS THE TUESDAY BEFORE THE
PUBLICATION DATE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE

THE BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU,

PLEASE CONTACT

LORI LEA SAWYER

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, JULY 12

ALL DAY

8:00am – 9:00am

10:30am – 11:30am

12:30pm – 1:00pm

4:15pm – 5:15pm

6:40pm – 8:00pm

MONDAY, JULY 13

10:00am – 11:00am

11:00am – 12:00pm

12:00pm – 2:00pm

9:30am – 12:30pm

7:30pm – 8:30pm

TUESDAY, JULY 14

9:00am – 12:00pm

9:00am – 2:00pm

9:30am – 12:30pm

2:00pm – 4:00pm

5:00pm – 8:00pm

5:15pm – 6:45pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

9:00am – 10:00am

9:00am – 2:00pm

9:00am – 5:00pm

9:15am – 11:15am

9:30am – 12:00pm

6:00pm – 8:00pm

5:00pm – 6:00pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

THURSDAY, JULY 16

9:00am – 2:00pm

9:30am – 12:30pm

2:00pm – 4:00pm

5:00pm – 10:00pm

5:45pm – 7:00pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

6:00pm – 8:00pm

7:00pm – 8:00pm

7:00pm – 8:00pm

FRIDAY, JULY 17

7:00am – 5:00pm

6:00pm – 8:00pm

SATURDAY, JULY 18

9:00am – 11:00am

10:00am – 3:00pm

2:30pm – 3:30pm

3:00pm – 3:45pm

SUNDAY, JULY 19

8:00am – 9:00am

8:00am – 11:00am

10:30am – 11:30am

12:30pm – 1:00pm

4:15pm – 5:15pm

6:40pm – 8:00pm

Special Collection for the Vincentians during all Masses

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Choir Rehearsal Room

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church

Baptisms in the Church

Life Teen Music Practice in the Church

NO Life Teen or Edge Meeting (Summer Break)

Funeral Visitation for Frances Carrubba LeBlanc in the Church

Funeral Mass for Frances Carrubba LeBlanc in the Church

Funeral Reception for Frances Carrubba LeBlanc in the Community Center

Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices

Youth Band Practice in the Church

Quilters Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Catholic Kids Summer Camp in the REC SRE Classroom

Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices

NO Homeschool Band practice (Summer Break)

NO Cub Scouts (Summer Break)

Young at Heart Line Dance in the REC Multi-Function Room

Cancer Ministry Meeting in the Office Conference Room

Catholic Kids Summer Camp in the REC SRE Classroom

Adoration in the Chapel

Lectio Divina in the REC Library

Society of SVdP Monthly Meeting in the REC Multi-Purpose Room

NO Cub Scout Meeting (Summer Break)

Reconciliation/Adoration/Praise/Worship in the Church

Charismatic Mass in the Church

Catholic Kids Summer Camp in the REC SRE Classroom

Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices

NO Homeschool Band practice (Summer Break)

DBYC Called by Name Follow-Up Dinner in the Community Center

Music Ministry Practice in the Choir Rehearsal Room

Women's Bible Study in the REC Classroom

Men's Bible Study in the REC Library

NO New Wine Meeting (Summer Break)

Knights of Columbus Meeting in the KC Room

KC Ladies Auxiliary Meeting in Meeting Room 204

Adoration in the Chapel

Catholic in Recovery Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

OCIA "Come and See" Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Private Event in the Community Center

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church

Reconciliation in the Church Confessional

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Choir Rehearsal Room

Parish Family Breakfast/Free Donut Holes for Kids in the Community Ctr

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church

Baptisms in the Church

Life Teen Music Practice in the Church

NO Life Teen or Edge Meeting (Summer Break)



**Catholic
in Recovery**

Healing for those seeking recovery
from addiction and a deeper
relationship with Jesus Christ
and the Catholic Church

EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00PM

**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
in the Religious Education Center**

PRAYER IS POWERFUL! PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

Danny Alderman; Cinnamon Barry; Mike Barry; Patsy Bishop; Corey Bradley; Fran Bridgett; Susan Bush; Sheryl Carver; David Croenne; David Wayne Culley; Ashley Dean; Lori Dunaway; Doug Farwell; Carol Ferrara; Dominick Fimiano; Victoria Fouquier; George Frazer; Linda Frost; Nita Gross; Nancy Howard; Evelyn Hutchins; Bettye Johnson; Gwen Killebrew; Mary Kirkpatrick; Renee Leva; Angela Ladner Lucas; Kenneth Ray McDonald; Ginny Macken; Claire McMillan; Baby Ruth McMillan; Candi Mauffray; Ron Mauffray; Julie Mikolajczyk and Family; David Mink; Randy "Rip" Moran; Diane Moudy; Don Moudy; Danny Ray Necaie; Huguette Necessary; Sr. Cecilia Nguyen; Dayne O'Neal; Sheri Paulson; Carolyn Bryan Raborn; Olivia Rachal; Peggy Rester; Stephanie Rester; Joe Schepens; Donna Levens Schmidt; Robert Shirley; Jacob Smith; Belinda Tipton; Karen Perronne-Tripp; Jim Westmoreland; Rosemary Wittman; Jim Allen Young; and all others in our parish and community in need of healing, physical or spiritual.

If you know of someone homebound, in a hospital or care facility and would like a visit from Father Ward, Deacon Buddy or Deacon Jerry, and/or their name on the bulletin prayer request list, please call the Parish Office at 228-863-1610 or email bulletin@saintthomaslb.org or secretary@saintthomaslb.org with the person's name, address, phone number, name of hospital or care facility and room number. Names will appear in the Bulletin for four weeks unless an extension is requested. Please keep us informed.

PRIEST MASS ASSIGNMENTS AND MASS INTENTIONS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Sun 07/12	7:30 AM Fr. Ward	✝ Edward McKenna, Jr.
	9:00 AM Fr. Ward	🙏 St. Thomas Parish and the People of the City of Long Beach
	11:30 AM Fr. Ward	🎂 Sara Peno
		❤ Olivia Rachal
	5:30 PM Fr. Ward	🙏❤ Cancer Ministry Prayer List
		✝ Linda Lawless
Mon 07/13	8:30 AM Fr. Clyde	🎂 Kennedy Adam
Tue 07/14	8:30 AM Fr. Ward	✝ David LaRosa, Sr.
Wed 07/15	8:30 AM Fr. Ward	✝ June Glass (First Anniversary)
	6:00 PM Fr. Maxwell	🙏❤ Charismatic Mass
Thurs 07/16	8:30 AM Fr. Ward	✝ Roni Sprinkle
		❤ Victoria Fouquier
Fri 07/17	6:30 AM Fr. Ward	✝ Margaret Necaie
Sat 07/18	4:00 PM Fr. Satish	✝ David LaRosa, Sr.
		✝ Agnes Seal
		💍 Lucy and Pyke Van Delsem (16 th Anniversary)
Sun 07/19	7:30 AM Fr. Satish	✝ Mary Levens
		✝ Fay Castiglia
	9:00 AM Fr. Satish	🙏 St. Thomas Parish and the People of the City of Long Beach
	11:30 AM Fr. Ward	✝ Marilyn Brandt
		💍 Glenn & Yvette Waguespack (50 th Wedding Anniversary)
	5:30 PM Fr. Ward	❤ Julie Mikolajczyk and Family

💧 Baptism 🎂 Birthday ✝ Deceased ❤ Healing 💎 School Mass 🙏 Special Intention 💍 Wedding Anniversary

Income for 07/04/26 - 07/05/26

Regular	\$28,413.90
Building Restoration	\$2,458.00
Pickle jar	\$153.50
TOTAL	\$31,025.40

**THANK YOU
for your generosity!**

Pray For Our Clergy

Sun 07/12	Father Sergio Balderas
	Father Greg Barras (Retired)
Mon 07/13	Father Hyginus Boboh, SSJ
Tue 07/14	Father Tommy Conway
Wed 07/15	Father Ruben Covos
	Father Joe Dilettuso (Retired)
Thu 07/16	Father Adam Frey
Fri 07/17	Monsignor Dominick Fullam
Sat 07/18	Father Martin Gillespie
	Father Tomaz Golab
Sun 07/19	Father Martin Herrera, SVD

Quarterly Capital Campaign Update through June 30, 2026

We started our three year capital campaign in July 2024 with a goal of raising \$1,000,000. For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, we have received donations totaling approximately \$92,000.

Our cumulative capital campaign donations received, since the campaign started two years ago, total \$782,106, so we are 78% toward our campaign goal. These funds have been used to address chiller replacement, LED lighting upgrade, facility renovations and ongoing repairs and to increase our funding of the replacement reserve investment fund for future facility needs.

I want to offer my sincere thanks for your continued wonderful response to our Capital Campaign! As we enter the last year of our capital campaign, please continue to make your donations to our campaign and make any payments on pledges that you have made. With everyone's help, we should meet our \$1 million goal by the campaign ending this time next year on June 30, 2027.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Satish



SECOND COLLECTION

For the Vincentians

JULY 11TH and 12TH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
AND FOR KEEPING THE VINCENTIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS.



CONGREGATION
of the **MISSION**

THE VINCENTIANS
WESTERN PROVINCE

STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC *Youth Conferences*

HOSTED BY
LIFE TEEN

Heavenly Father,

We lift up our Life Teen youth who are attending
the Steubenville Atlanta Retreat this weekend.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon each of them,
opening their hearts to Your love, truth, and mercy.

May this be a time of deep encounter with Jesus,
lasting friendships, and renewed faith.

Bless their leaders with wisdom, patience,
and joyful hearts as they guide these young disciples.

Keep everyone safe in their travels and throughout the weekend.

May our teens return home strengthened in their faith,
on fire for Christ, and eager to share His love with others.

As a parish family, let us keep them in our prayers
throughout the weekend, asking the Lord
to continue the good work He has begun in each of their hearts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



POPE LEO XIV's

Intention for the

Month of

JULY 2026

**FOR RESPECT FOR
HUMAN LIFE**

Let us pray for the
respect and
protection of human
life in all its stages,
recognizing it as a gift
from God.

To pray with Pope Leo
for his July Prayer
Intention, please visit
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMPPrZdo95Us>



JULY

THE MONTH OF THE
MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD





PLEASE JOIN US
EVERY
Wednesday
FOR A
CHARISMATIC
MASS
OF
Healing
AND
PERPETUAL NOVENA
TO
Mary, Undoer of Knots

BEGINNING WITH
ADORATION
INTERCESSORY PRAYER
RECONCILIATION
PRAISE AND WORSHIP

AT
5:00 PM

AND A
CHARISMATIC MASS
BEGINNING AT **6:00 PM**

CELEBRATED BY
Father Maxwell

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

For those who use contribution envelopes, please note that our envelope company, Cathedral Letter Concepts, will not be mailing July envelopes due to a production delay. During the month of July, please use a personal envelope and be sure to write your name and envelope number on it so your contribution is properly credited.

TEAM
Ferrell-Collins
SAVE *the* DATE!

JULY 10 TH	+ BUNCO
JULY 25 TH	+ ROYALTY LUAU
AUGUST (DATE TBD)	+ TALENT SHOW
AUGUST (DATE TBD)	+ STOCK THE BAR
SEPTEMBER 19 TH	+ CAR SHOW
OCTOBER 17 TH	+ POKER RUN
OCTOBER 24 TH	+ GOLF TOURNAMENT
NOVEMBER 14 TH	+ BUNCO DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE
DECEMBER 6 TH	+ NUTCRACKER TEA
JANUARY 8 TH & 9 TH	+ JEEP-A-GRAS
JANUARY 16 TH	+ DRAWDOWN & SILENT AUCTION
JANUARY 23 RD	+ POKER NIGHT
JANUARY 29 TH	+ ROYAL BALL
JANUARY 30 TH	+ CALB PARADE



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
ABIDE
A WOMEN'S RETREAT INSPIRED BY
SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

AUGUST 21-23

SACRED HEART
DEDEAUX

21 & UP

SCAN TO SIGN UP



REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ALSO
AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Rest in Peace



Bea Burge
Frances Carrubba LeBlanc



St Vincent de Paul Society

x *Donut Moms*



PRESENT

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING

A **FREE** SHOPPING EVENT

♥ *for local children & families* ♥

Donut Moms and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to host a 2-day Back-to-School Shopping Experience for local families in our community. ♥



Families will be invited to come "shop" for gently used clothing, school supplies, backpacks, and other essentials so their children can start the new school year feeling confident, prepared, and excited.

This cause is especially close to our hearts. Helping children feel comfortable, included, and excited about the school year can make such a difference in their confidence and helps support anti-bullying efforts. ♥



SHOPPING EVENT DATES:

JULY 23 & 24

More details coming soon!



STARTING TO COLLECT DONATIONS ON **JUNE 5!**

WE ARE COLLECTING:



GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Please ensure all clothing donations are freshly washed and in good condition.



BACKPACKS



SCHOOL SUPPLIES



ROOM ITEMS

Lamps, décor, and other age-appropriate bedroom accessories

OUR MISSION

Our goal is to gather enough donations and volunteers to create a shopping experience where each child feels special, valued, and excited to pick out items just for them.



EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE.



EVERY VOLUNTEER HELPS CREATE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.



EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO START SCHOOL WITH CONFIDENCE.



Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of local children and families. Every donation, big or small, will have an impact.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Call the parish office at
228.863.1610



As we serve others, we serve Christ. ★ Matthew 25:40





Moms' Back-to-School Retreat



As mothers, we are the primary instructors of our children in the faith. Regardless of your child's educational setting (private, public, home), this retreat is designed to encourage and equip you for the school year ahead with a full day of prayer, learning, fellowship, and time to journal and/or plan. This retreat is hosted by Stella Maris Explorers and St. Michael Catholic Church.



Guest Speakers

Fr. Clinton Sensat
Diocese of Lafayette



Sr. Lynn McKenzie OSB
Sacred Heart Monastery

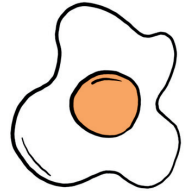
Saturday, July 18, 2026 9:00am - 4:30pm

St. Michael Catholic Church
177 E 1st St, Biloxi, MS 39530

Please register via the QR code
\$35 includes coffee, lunch, and afternoon refreshments



COME JOIN US!



PARISH FAMILY BREAKFAST



EGGS, BACON & PANCAKES
FREE DONUT HOLES FOR KIDS!

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH | 8AM-11AM
\$8 PER PLATE



BUNCO FUNDRAISER

\$20
PER PERSON

Come roll for a cause with us!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

**ST THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
COMMUNITY CENTER**

720 EAST BEACH BLVD, LONG BEACH, MS 39560

DOORS OPEN AT 5 * GAME STARTS AT 6

JOIN US FOR POT LUCK, DOOR PRIZES, & LOTS OF FUN!

*** BYOB ***



SCAN ME TO
REGISTER IN
ADVANCE!
PINKHEARTFUNDS.ORG



EVENT BENEFITTING
PINK HEART FUNDS
Caring for all
with CANCER

**NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BRENDA AT 228-547-8761



DIOCESE OF BILOXI
1977-2027



Save the Date

Golden Jubilee
Catholic Diocese of Biloxi
Saturday, April 3, 2027



9:00 Eucharistic Adoration & 10:30 Mass



Mississippi Gulf Coast
Convention Center

*Celebrating 50 Years of
Faith, Hope, and Service*

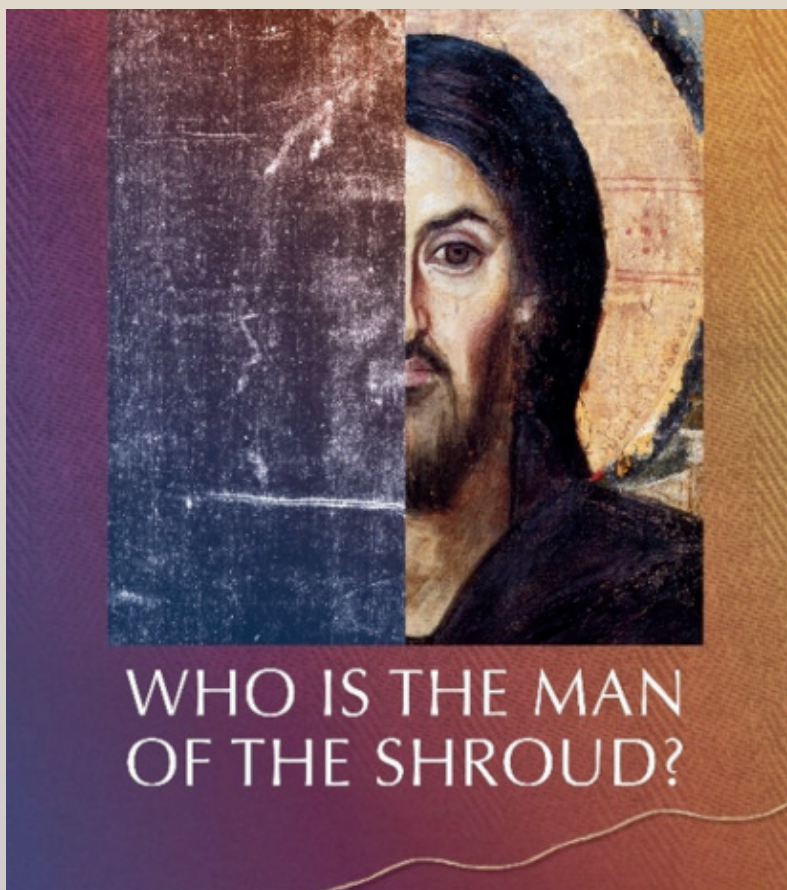
*Save
the
Date*

**AUGUST
15-16, 2026**

**EXPERIENCE
THE
SHROUD
OF TURIN**
Exhibit

COMING TO
**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The exhibit is a self-guided tour with video, information stations, and physical exhibits. A content expert will be on hand to answer questions to all attendees, as well as providing a presentation to any group(s) interested in pre-scheduling a specific time slot.



The exhibit is privately owned through Othonia, which was represented at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress held in Indianapolis in 2024.

Please visit the Othonia website for more information:
<https://othonia.org>

The Shroud of Turin has been venerated for centuries as the actual burial cloth of Jesus and is widely considered to be the most studied object in the world.

You are invited to explore faith, science, scripture, and hope in this exhibit by Othonia, a part of the institute of Science and Faith at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University located in Rome, Italy.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

There are many reasons for someone to yearn for a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church. A person you know may be searching for Meaning in his or her life, or simply searching for God. There are those on the outside who are searching for Belonging, or for Truth, or for a path to Family Unity.

Someone you know is searching.

Christ is ready to welcome them into His loving embrace.

The only thing lacking is an invitation from you.

Someone you know is searching.

TAKE HIM OR HER BY THE HAND TO COME AND SEE,

Saturday, July 18th, at 9:00 am in the Religious Education Center.

HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW CONNECT WITH CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

OCIA Weekly meetings start Monday evening, August 10th.

For more information, contact Dave Gauthier
at (228) 596-8835 or rcia@saintthomaslb.org

HURRICANE PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Who once walked on the waters, Who uttered a word of command to the raging tempest of wind and sea and there came a great calm; please let Your glance fall upon us, Your servants. Please grant that by the power of Your blessing poured out on our Gulf waters, all wicked spirits may be repelled, the danger of the tempestuous winds may subside, and we may be protected from the ravages of storms and hurricanes. We ask this of You, Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION OF LONG BEACH
MISSISSIPPI

TEAM FERRELL-COLLINS

Free Tuition RAFFLE

\$50.00 PER TICKET OR SIX TICKETS FOR \$250.00

FOR THE 2027/2028 SCHOOL YEAR
= Tuition Cost Only! =

TUITION IS FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL ONLY.

WINNER WILL BE DRAWN LIVE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH
DRAWN LIVE AT PRAYER AND PLEDGE AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
JENNIFER GLENN (228) 860-4000
BRAYDEN SEAL (228) 860-9391

PAY WITH VENMO!
venmo @CALBTEAM
Please include your name and phone number in the payment note.

Saint Michael
- THE ARCHANGEL -

PRAY FOR US

FEATURED ADVERTISER

S.A.L.U.T.E.
SEAFOOD AND ITALIAN
CATERING CREATIONS

WE WILL CATER TO YOU! 228-864-2500

DAILY READINGS

July 12, Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 65: 10, 11, 12-13, 14

Second Reading: Romans 8: 18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23

July 13, Monday

First Reading: Isaiah 1: 10-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 50: 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23

Alleluia: Matthew 5: 10

Gospel: Matthew 10: 34 – 11: 1

July 14, Tuesday

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 1-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 48: 2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8

Alleluia: Psalms 95: 8

Gospel: Matthew 11: 20-24

July 15, Wednesday

First Reading: Isaiah 10: 5-7, 13b-16

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 94: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15

Alleluia: Matthew 11: 25

Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-27

July 16, Thursday

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

First Reading: Isaiah 26: 7-9, 11, 16-19

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 102: 13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21

Alleluia: Matthew 11: 28

Gospel: Matthew 11: 28-30

July 17, Friday

First Reading: Isaiah 38: 1-6, 21-22, 7-8

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 38: 10, 11, 12abcd, 16

Alleluia: John 10: 27

Gospel: Matthew 12: 1-8

July 18, Saturday

First Reading: Micah 2: 1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 10: 1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14

Alleluia: Second Corinthians 5: 19

Gospel: Matthew 12: 14-21

July 19, Sunday

First Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 86: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Second Reading: Romans 8: 26-27

Alleluia: Matthew 11: 25

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43

<https://www.catholicgallery.org/mass-reading/daily-mass-readings-2026>



OUR PARISH
HAS A
FORMED
SUBSCRIPTION!

Visit
signup.formed.org
and Select our Parish
by Zip Code
(39560)



BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's Gospel reminds us that in order for God's Word to take root in us and produce abundant fruit, we must endeavor to be like good soil. Families, in particular, hold the responsibility for "preparing the soil" so that the seeds of God's Word can grow strong. There are many ways in which families do this—family traditions in which faith is celebrated, prayer and reading of Scripture, and instruction on the faith. In these ways, parents fulfill the promises they made at their child's Baptism.

Gather together as a family and reflect together on the Sacrament of Baptism. Tell the story of the Baptism of each child, showing any pictures that were taken. If you have your child's Baptism candle or gown, share these as well. Recall together that one of the promises that parents make at their child's Baptism is to bring them up in the practice of our faith. Talk together about the importance of this promise to your family. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:1-23. Reflect together on the ways in which your family practices your faith (daily prayer, Mass attendance, religious instruction, etc.). Remind one another that we do these things as a family so that God's Word can take root in our lives and produce abundant fruit. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm, Psalm 65.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

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