

JULY 26, 2026

SEVENTEENTH 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



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)

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.

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

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saintthomaslb.org

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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

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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 26

8:00am – 9:00am Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Choir Rehearsal Room
10:00am – 10:30am Baptisms in the Church
10:30am – 11:30am Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church
4:15pm – 5:15pm Life Teen Music Practice in the Church
6:40pm – 8:00pm NO Life Teen or Edge Meeting (Summer Break)

MONDAY, JULY 27

9:30am – 12:30pm Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices
7:30pm – 8:30pm Youth Band Practice in the Church

TUESDAY, JULY 28

9:00am – 5:00pm Diocese of Biloxi Retreat for Opening of Schools (Entire Complex)
9:00am – 12:00pm No Quilters Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room
9:30am – 12:30pm Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices
2:00pm – 4:00pm Homeschool Band Practice in the REC Multi-Function Room
5:00pm – 8:00pm NO Cub Scouts (Summer Break)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

9:00am – 5:00pm Adoration in the Chapel
9:15am – 11:15am Lectio Divina in the REC Library
5:00pm – 6:00pm Mercy Meals Team Fouquier/Sawyer Packing in Upstairs Supply Room
5:00pm – 6:00pm Reconciliation/Adoration/Praise/Worship in the Church
6:00pm – 7:00pm Charismatic Mass in the Church
6:00pm – 8:00pm NO Cub Scout Meeting (Summer Break)

THURSDAY, JULY 30

9:30am – 12:30pm Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices
2:00pm – 4:00pm Homeschool Band practice in the REC Multi-Function Room
5:45pm – 7:00pm Music Ministry Practice in the Choir Rehearsal Room
6:00pm – 7:00pm Women's Bible Study in the REC Classroom
6:00pm – 7:00pm Men's Bible Study in the REC Library
6:00pm – 8:00pm NO New Wine Meeting (Summer Break)

FRIDAY, JULY 31

7:00am – 5:00pm Adoration in the Chapel
6:00pm – 8:00pm Catholic in Recovery Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

2:30pm – 3:30pm Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church
3:00pm – 3:45pm Reconciliation in the Church Confessional
3:30pm – 5:00pm Long Beach Food Pantry Donation in the East Foyer before/after Mass

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

All Day Long Beach Food Pantry Donations - East Foyer before/after all Masses
8:00am – 9:00am Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Choir Rehearsal Room
9:00am – 10:00am Back to School Mass/Blessing of the Backpacks in the Church
10:00am – 12:30pm Back to School Waterslide Bash at the Pavilion
10:15am – 11:15am SRE Teachers' Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room
10:15am – 11:30am Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church
12:30pm – 1:00pm Baptisms in the Church
4:15pm – 5:15pm Life Teen Music Practice in the Church
6:40pm – 8:00pm 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; Nancy Bosarge; Corey Bradley; Fran Bridgett; Greg Busche; Susan Bush; Sheryl Carver; Kendra Case; David Wayne Culley; Vergie Dannheim; Sarah Dubuisson and the Dubuisson Twins; Lori Dunaway; Doug Farwell; Carol Ferrara; Dominick Fimiano; Victoria Fouquier; George Frazer; Linda Frost; Donna Gauthier; Nita Gross; Evelyn Hutchins; Bettye Johnson; Gwen Killebrew; Jesse Leslie; Renee Leva; Angela Ladner Lucas; Kenneth Ray McDonald; Ginny Macken; Dee McKenna; Candi Mauffray; Ron Mauffray; Julie Mikolajczyk and Family; Joli Millet; Randy "Rip" Moran; Sr. Cecilia Nguyen; Dayne O'Neal; Olivia Rachal; Peggy Rester; Stephanie Rester; Joe Schepens; Donna Levens Schmidt; Robert Shirley; Karen Perronne-Tripp; Penny Tripp; Sonny Watts; 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 Satish, 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 07/26	7:30 AM Fr. Ward	🕯️ Pamela Clifford
		✚ Margaret Necaie
	9:00 AM Fr. Ward	🙏 St. Thomas Parish and the People of the City of Long Beach
	11:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ David LaRosa, Sr.
		✚ Lou O'Connell
	5:30 PM Fr. Satish	🙏 Pat Holliday
		✚ Carol Raborn
Mon 07/27	8:30 AM Fr. Clyde	✚ Frances Carrubba LeBlanc
		✚ Mary Levens
Tue 07/28	8:30 AM Fr. Ward	✚ Terry Paul Stennett (Anniversary)
Wed 07/29	8:30 AM Fr. Ward	✚ Alice Veronica Papania
	6:00 PM Fr. Maxwell	❤️🙏 Charismatic Mass
Thurs 07/30	8:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ Frances Carrubba LeBlanc
Fri 07/31	6:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ Frances Carrubba LeBlanc
		✚ Margaret Hatem
Sat 08/01	4:00 PM Fr. Satish	🕯️✚ Bernadette Levens Tolson
		✚ Mary Ellen Montgomery
		✚ Betty Ober
		✚ Warren B. Doussan, Sr.
Sun 08/02	7:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ Clay Bishop
		✚ Frances Carrubba LeBlanc
	9:00 AM Fr. Satish	🙏 St. Thomas Parish and the People of the City of Long Beach
	11:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ David LaRosa, Sr.
	5:30 PM Fr. Satish	✚ David Croenne



💧 Baptism 🎂 Birthday ✚ Deceased ❤️ Healing 🏫 School Mass 🙏 Special Intention 💍 Wedding Anniversary

Income for 07/18/26 - 07/19/26

Regular	\$22,893.00
Capital Campaign	\$5,650.00
Building Restoration	\$1,431.00
Special Collection	\$422.00
Pickle jar	\$188.00
Insurance and Utilities	\$60.00
TOTAL	\$30,644.00

THANK YOU
for your generosity!

Pray For Our Clergy

Sun 07/26	For Our † Deceased Popes, † Bishop Joseph Howze and † Bishop Roger Morin
Mon 07/27	For Retired, Extern, and † Deceased Priests, Brothers, and Deacons
Tue 07/28	For Priest and Brothers at St. Augustine Seminary and St. Stanislaus High School
Wed 07/29	For Our Seminarians
Thu 07/30	For Our Deacons and Those Discerning
Fri 07/31	Father Satish Adhav
Sat 08/01	For An Increase In Vocations
Sun 08/02	Pope Leo XIV

Thank you

On behalf of the entire St. Thomas the Apostle Parish family, we extend our deepest gratitude to **Father James Ward, C.M.**, for so graciously returning to St. Thomas to shepherd our parish while Father Satish was on his Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.

For so many of us, Father Ward's return felt like welcoming home a beloved member of our parish family. Having faithfully served St. Thomas in the late 1980s and early 1990s, his presence brought back cherished memories while creating new ones for another generation of parishioners. Thank you, Father Ward, for your faithful celebration of the Holy Mass, your inspiring homilies, your gentle guidance, your wisdom, and the genuine care and love you have shown to every member of our parish. Your kindness, humility, and Vincentian spirit have been a true blessing, reminding us of Christ's love through your ministry.

We are profoundly grateful for your willingness to travel from Missouri to answer this call and to serve our parish so selflessly. Your generosity and dedication have been an incredible gift to our St. Thomas family.

May God abundantly bless you for your faithful priesthood and the many lives you continue to touch. Please know that you will always have a home and a family here at St. Thomas the Apostle. We will continue to keep you in our prayers with grateful hearts.

Thank you, Father Ward. We love you, we appreciate you, and we pray that God continues to bless you with good health, joy, and many more years of faithful service.



CHARACTER. LEADERSHIP. ADVENTURE.

Your family is invited to join Scouting!

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church proudly sponsors Scouting in Long Beach. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are offered to all youth. Build skills, make friends, serve others—and have fun outdoors!



Boy Scout Troop 205
Boys age 11-17
Meets Tuesdays, 7pm
Troop 205 Scout Hut
207 E 1st St
Long Beach



BSA Troop 205 Long Beach, MS
www.facebook.com



Cub Scout Pack 321
Boys & Girls K-5
Meets 1st Wednesday
of the month at 6:30pm
St Thomas Catholic Church
720 E Beach Blvd
Long Beach



Cub Scout Pack 321 Long Beach,
Mississippi
www.facebook.com

For more information, Contact:
Pyke Van Dalsem
228-343-0373 or pyke.vandalsem@gmail.com

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

July

THE MONTH OF THE
**MOST
PRECIOUS BLOOD**

Love Thy Neighbor

PLEASE BRING
NONPERISHABLE GROCERY ITEMS
TO RESTOCK THE
LONG BEACH FOOD PANTRY
WHEN YOU COME TO MASS ON
AUGUST 1ST AND 2ND
AND LEAVE THEM
IN THE EAST FOYER
THANK YOU!

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

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

ST THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

SPLISH + SPLASH

BACK-TO-SCHOOL WATERSLIDE BASH

SUNDAY

2

AUGUST

10 AM - 12:30 PM

CHURCH PAVILION

WATERSLIDE + BOUNCE HOUSE
FREE HOT DOGS, CHIPS & WATER
SNOWBALLS FOR SALE

Welcome

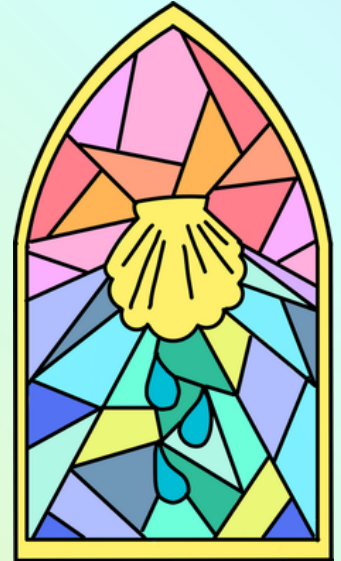
to our newest member

Lane Maverick McGoey

born to new life

in Christ

through Baptism!



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!
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ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Back to SCHOOL

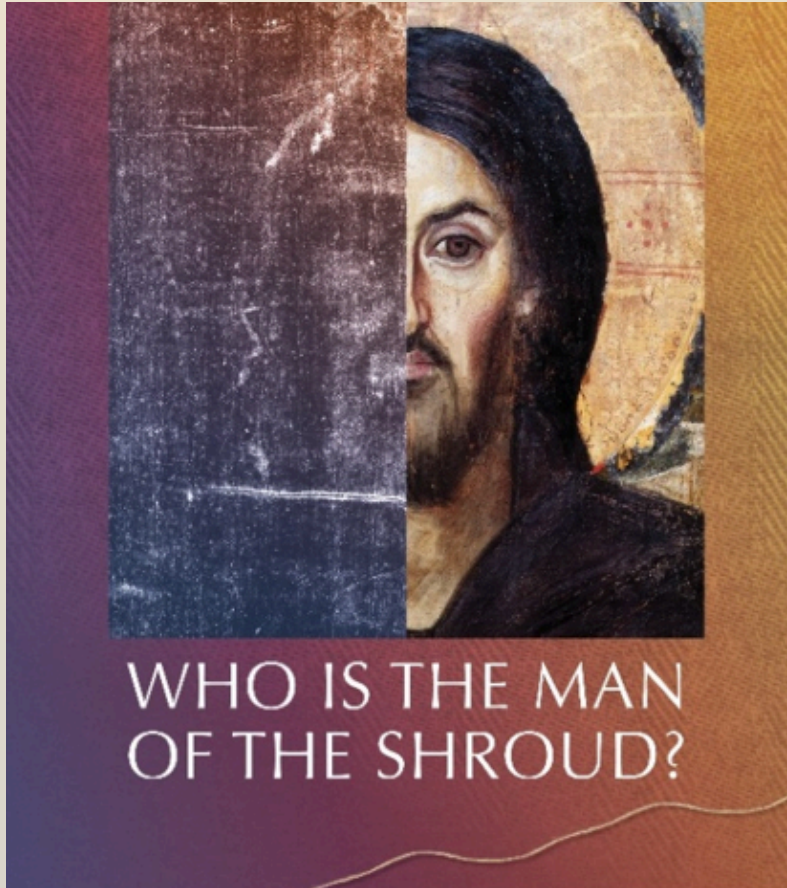
MASS & BLESSING OF THE BACK PACKS
WEAR SCHOOL SHIRT OR UNIFORM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
9 AM MASS

WATERSLIDE + HOT DOGS AFTER MASS
PRESENTED BY: DONUT MOMS

EXPERIENCE THE SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBIT

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PLEASE TEXT
ALAN ROBERTS
228-343-6049

AUGUST 15-16, 2026

Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Sunday: 8:30am - 6pm

NO CHARGE, BUT DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
720 EAST BEACH BOULEVARD
LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI**



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.

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

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>

She Shall Be Called Woman

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY
Prodigious Dei

SEASON THREE LOVE UNVEILED

In this season, we will explore what it means for us, as women, to represent the identity of Christ's bride to the world. This relationship is marked by joy and intimacy, but also, like any relationship, it includes moments of failure, heartbreak, and the need for restoration. As we journey together, we will delve into the depths of Christ's love for His Bride, discovering the beauty of reconciliation and the grace that heals and strengthens us. Prepare your heart to be pursued by the Lord in a way that deepens your love for Him, invites your soul to heal, and fortifies your relationship with Christ.



HEATHER KHYM

Co-Founder of Life Restoration Ministries &
Co-Host of Abiding Together Podcast



KATIE HARTFIEL

Content Coordinator
She Shall Be Called Woman



MARY BIELSKI

Speaker, Evangelist, &
Life Coach



DEBBIE HERBECK

Founder of Be Loved Revolution
Pine Hills Girls Camp



STEPHANIE REGITZ

Founder of Saint Gianna's
Hope Ministry



EMILY STIMPSON CHAPMAN

Best Selling Author



ALI HOFFMAN

Catholic Evangelist & Artist



RACHEL BULMAN

Author & Speaker

DISCOVER CHRIST'S LOVE

EACH SESSION OFFERS:

- ENCOUNTER:** "SHE inspires me for the week ahead and helps to keep me on track with my faith and daily prayer time."
- MESSAGE:** "I appreciate that a personal relationship with Jesus is central to each video presenter. This series is excellent!"
- FELLOWSHIP:** "I really felt heard and listened to by the other ladies in my small group, and I enjoyed growing spiritually with other women."

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Two Options on Monday
MORNING OR EVENING SESSIONS
September 14, 2026 - November 16, 2026

SCHEDULE:

9:15am or 6:00pm - Fellowship
9:30am or 6:15pm - Video Presentation
10:00am or 6:45pm - Small Group
10:30am or 7:15pm - Dismissal



**In-Person Registration Coming in August
OR Scan the QR Code to Register Now!**

For more information, contact:
Lori Lea Sawyer at 228-596-8040
lorileasawyer@gmail.com (Morning Sessions)
Natalie Auger at 281-853-5398
dougnat@prodigy.net (Evening Sessions)

SEASON FOUR
RESTORED to RADIANCE
COMING THIS SPRING



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*



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 SATISH AND FATHER MAXWELL

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rest in Peace



David Mink

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.

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PROPERTIES



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DAILY READINGS

July 26, Sunday

First Reading: First Kings 3: 5, 7-12

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 119: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

Second Reading: Romans 8: 28-30

Alleluia: Matthew 11: 25

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52

July 27, Monday

First Reading: Jeremiah 13: 1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Deuteronomy 32: 18-19, 20, 21

Alleluia: James 1: 18

Gospel: Matthew 13: 31-35

July 28, Tuesday

First Reading: Jeremiah 14: 17-22

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 79: 8, 9, 11 and 13

Gospel: Matthew 13: 36-43

July 29, Wednesday

First Reading: Jeremiah 15: 10, 16-21

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 59: 2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18

Alleluia: John 8: 12

Gospel: John 11: 19-27 or Luke 10: 38-42

July 30, Thursday

First Reading: Jeremiah 18: 1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 146: 1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab

Alleluia: Acts 16: 14b

Gospel: Matthew 13: 47-53

July 31, Friday

First Reading: Jeremiah 26: 1-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 69: 5, 8-10, 14

Alleluia: First Peter 1: 25

Gospel: Matthew 13: 54-58

AUGUST 1, Saturday

First Reading: Jeremiah 26: 11-16, 24

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 69: 15-16, 30-31, 33-34

Alleluia: Matthew 5: 10

Gospel: Matthew 14: 1-12

AUGUST 2, Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 145: 8-9, 15-16, 17-18

Second Reading: Romans 8: 35, 37-39

Alleluia: Matthew 4: 4b

Gospel: Matthew 14: 13-21

<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 concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Like the person who found the buried treasure and the merchant who acquired the pearl of great price, we seek to find the signs of the kingdom of heaven in our lives. In fact, we even work to bring about God's kingdom in our actions and in our words. We pray that our family values reflect our pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

As you gather as a family, talk about what your family values. Make a list together of those things that your family considers most important, such as family, friends, faith, trust, and love. Place this list before you as you read today's Gospel in its shorter form, Matthew 13:44-46. In these parables, Jesus teaches us that it is worth giving up even valuable things in order to possess the kingdom of heaven. Look at the list your family made and talk about how these things are important to the kingdom of heaven. What has your family given up to make these values important in your life? As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Pray together for God's kingdom by praying the Lord's Prayer.

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

S.A.L.U.T.E.

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