

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

TWENTY-FOURTH 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:

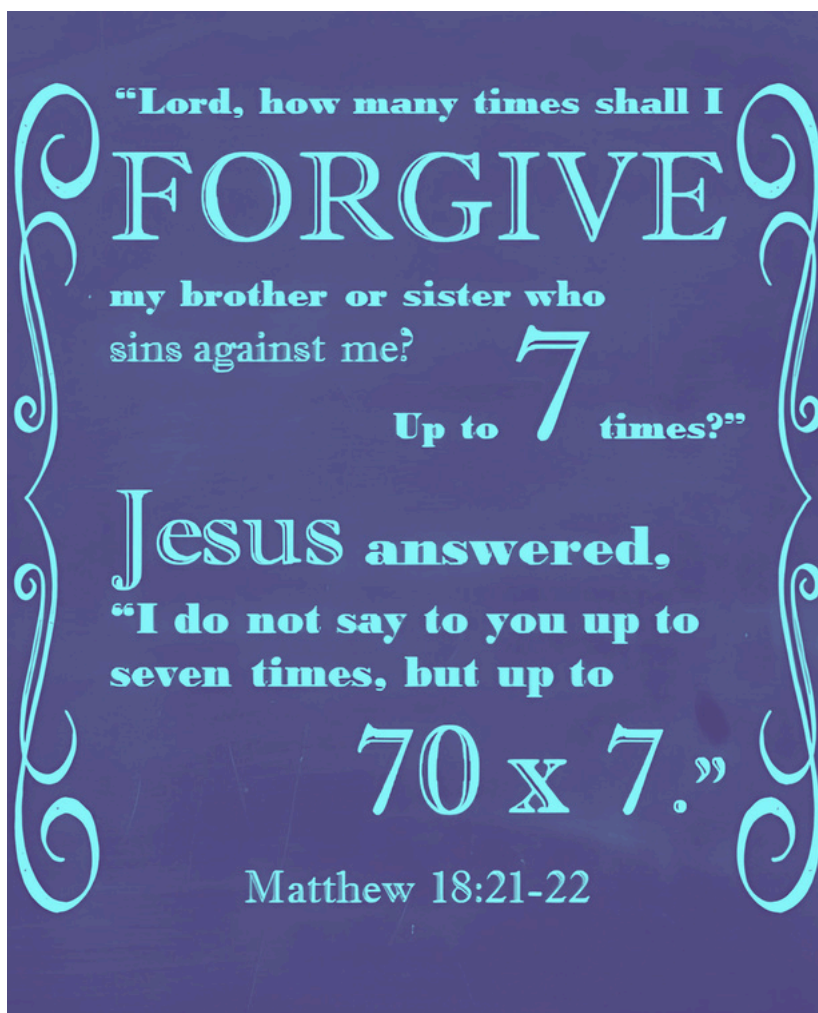
7:30am, 9:00am,

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.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

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

religionseducation@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

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altarserver@saintthomaslb.org

Maintenance

228-863-1610

maintenance@saintthomaslb.org

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Martha Johnson

prayer@saintthomaslb.org

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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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

All Day

8:00am – 9:00am

10:10am – 11:10am

10:15am – 11:30am

12:30pm – 1:00pm

4:15pm – 5:15pm

6:30pm – 8:00pm

6:40pm – 8:00pm

Registration for She Fall Program before/after all Masses

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Choir Rehearsal Room

SRE Classes in the REC Classrooms

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church

Baptisms in the Church

Life Teen Music Practice in the Church

Men's Bible and Beers Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Life Teen/Edge Meetings Kickoff at the Pavilion

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ALL DAY

9:15am – 10:30am

9:30am – 12:30pm

6:00pm – 6:45pm

6:00pm – 7:15pm

6:30pm – 8:00pm

7:30pm – 8:30pm

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

She Shall Be Called Woman Program in the Church/Community Center

Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices

Children's Bell Choir Practice in the Choir Rehearsal Room

She Shall Be Called Woman Program in the Church/Community Center

OCIA Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Youth Band Practice in the Church

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ALL DAY

9:00am – 12:00pm

9:30am – 12:30pm

2:00pm – 4:00pm

5:00pm – 8:00pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

MEMORIAL OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY

Quilters Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices

Homeschool Band Practice in the REC Multi-Function Room

Cub Scout Den Meeting in the REC in SRE Classrooms

Cursillo #303 Meeting in the Choir Rehearsal Room

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00am – 5:00pm

9:15am – 11:15am

5:00pm – 8:00pm

5:00pm – 6:00pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Adoration in the Chapel

Lectio Divina in the REC Library

Cub Scout Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Reconciliation/Adoration/Praise/Worship in the Church

Charismatic Mass in the Church

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:30am – 12:30pm

11:00am – 12:00pm

2:00pm – 4:00pm

5:45pm – 7:00pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

6:00pm – 8:00pm

6:30pm – 7:00pm

7:00pm – 8:00pm

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Society of SVdP Offering Help in the REC SVdP Offices

Funeral Service for Renee Leva in the Church

Homeschool Band practice in the REC Multi-Function Room

Music Ministry Practice in the Choir Rehearsal Room

Men's Bible Study in the REC Library

New Wine Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Mercy Meals Team Loftus/Cuevas Packing Meals Upstairs Supply Room

Knights of Columbus Meeting in the KC Room

Ladies KC Auxiliary Meeting in Meeting Room 204

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00am – 5:00pm

12:00pm – 6:00pm

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Adoration in the Chapel

Set-Up for the Mother-Son Dinner/Dance in the Community Center

Catholic in Recovery Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:00am – 12:00pm

9:00am – 10:00am

11:00am – 2:00pm

2:30pm – 3:30pm

3:00pm – 3:45pm

5:30pm – 8:00pm

CALB Event at the Pavilion

Catechist Commissioning Breakfast in the Multi-Function Room

Quo me Deus nunc vocat in the Church

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church

Reconciliation in the Church Confessional

Mother-Son Dance in the Community Center

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00am – 9:00am

8:00am – 11:00am

10:10am – 11:10am

10:15am – 11:30am

4:15pm – 5:15pm

6:30pm – 8:00pm

6:40pm – 8:00pm

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Choir Rehearsal Room

KC's Parish Family Breakfast/Free Donut Holes for Kids - Community Ctr

SRE Classes in the REC Classrooms

Music Ministry Rehearsal in the Church

Life Teen Music Practice in the Church

Men's Bible and Beers Meeting in the REC Multi-Function Room

Life Teen and Edge Meetings in the Youth/Edge Rooms and Community Ctr

*The Month of September is Dedicated to
Our Lady of Seven Sorrows*

PRAYER IS POWERFUL! PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

Danny Alderman; Dave Anderson; Belinda and Rob Andrus; Bryan Babin, Sr.; Cinnamon Barry; Mike Barry; Patrick Bishop; Fran Bridgett; Susan Bush; Kim Busche; Sheryl Carver; Kendra Case; Scott College; Ed Cuevas; David Wayne Culley; Keith Dedeaux; Father Robert Dore; Sarah Dubuisson and the Dubuisson Twins; Lori Dunaway; Carol Ferrara; Dominick Fimiano; Linda Frost; Fuentes Family; Ashleigh Gaddy; Donna Gauthier; Nita Gross; Ron Gross; John Herring; Jamie Hornberger; Tommy Hysmith; Bettye Johnson; Jillian Landry; Jesse Leslie; Angela Ladner Lucas; Kenneth Ray McDonald; Ginny Macken; Larry McKay; Dee McKenna; Deloris McQueen; Joli Millet; Don Moudy; Sr. Cecilia Nguyen; Dayne O'Neal; Olivia Rachal; Peggy Rester; Stephanie Rester; Ray Roberts; Donna Levens Schmidt; Robert Shirley; Peggy Small; Roy Tootle; Karen Perronne-Tripp; Allison Voiron; Rosemary Wittman; 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 receptionist@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 09/13	7:30 AM Fr. Satish	🙏 Mary Levens
		🙏 Margaret Necaie
		❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
	9:00 AM Fr. Satish	🙏 St. Thomas Parish and the People of the City of Long Beach
	11:30 AM Fr. Satish	🎂 Sue Hoffman
		✚ Anthony Sevano
		✚ Frances Carrubba LeBlanc
	5:30 PM Fr. Satish	✚ Lederle Taylor
Mon 09/14	8:30 AM Fr. Satish	❤️ Robert Shirley
		❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
		✚ Jimmy A Mero
Tue 09/15	8:30 AM Fr. Satish	🎂 ✚ Margaret Roberts
		✚ David Clifford
		❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
Wed 09/16	8:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ Roni Sprinkle
		❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
		🙏 ❤️ Charismatic Mass
Thurs 09/17	6:00 PM Fr. Maxwell	❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
	8:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ Margaret Roberts
		🎂 Cathy Chandler
Fri 09/18	6:30 AM Fr. Satish	🎂 ✚ Bobbie Bourdin
		❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
		✚ Frances Carrubba LeBlanc
Sat 09/19	4:00 PM Fr. Clyde	❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
		✚ Gregory Ferrara (Anniversary)
		✚ Marcus Barrett
Sun 09/20	7:30 AM Fr. Satish	❤️ Ashleigh Gaddy
		🙏 St. Thomas Parish and the People of the City of Long Beach
	9:00 AM Fr. Satish	✚ Anthony Sevano
	11:30 AM Fr. Satish	✚ Al Koenenn
		✚ Mary Levens
	5:30 PM Fr. Satish	✚ Colleen Bastiani
		🙏 Cathleen Purdy
		🙏 Ashley Bastiani
		🙏 Elizabeth Bastiani



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

Income for 09/05/26 - 09/06/26

Regular	\$26,944.00
Building Restoration	\$6,066.00
Capital Campaign	\$4,511.00
Pickle Jar	\$181.00
Special Collection	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$37,722.00

THANK YOU
for your generosity!

Pray For Our Clergy

Sun 09/13	Father Hyginus Boboh, SSJ
Mon 09/14	Father Tommy Conway
Tue 09/15	Father Ruben Covos
	Father Joe Dilettuso (Retired)
Wed 09/16	Father Adam Frey
Thu 09/17	Monsignor Dominick Fullam
Fri 09/18	Father Tomaz Golab
Sat 09/19	Father Martin Herrera, SVD
Sun 09/20	Father Robert Higginbotham (Retired)



School of Religious Education
Monthly Newsletter
September 2026

Class Schedules

Class is from 10:10-11:20

September 13th

First Day!

September 20th

September 27th

October 4th

**No Class
Fall Break**

October 11th

**Safe Environment
Class**

First Communion
Class Parent
Meeting October
18th at 10:15

Welcome Our New Teachers

Assisting Ms Donna in 2nd Grade:

Ms Bitsy McDonald

New in Third Grade:

Ms Carrie Grantham and

Ms Heidi Zurawka

New in Fourth Grade:

Ms Beth Kenworthy

New This Year for SRE Families

Gospel Weeklies Family Companion

This book is full of simple ways to share and live the Gospel as a Family by connecting your child's SRE lesson with Sunday Mass, Catholic Teaching and Everyday Family Life.



Psalm 150:6 - "Let everything that has breath praise
the LORD! Praise the LORD!"



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI

All Saints FALL FEST November 1st

\$5000 RAFFLE
SPLIT THE POT & SILENT AUCTION

HAYRIDES & BOUNCE HOUSE | GAMES & CRAFTS
FOOD BOOTHS & BAKE SALE | SAINT COSTUME CONTEST



2026

SAINT THOMAS LIFETEEN & EDGE KICK OFF!!!

BRING A FRIEND.
BRING A TOWEL.
BRING CLOTHES THAT
CAN GET MESSY!

9.13.2026
FOLLOWING 5:30PM MASS
CHURCH PAVILLION



SRE, EDGE, & LIFETEEN SIGNUP!!

GRADES PRE K - 12TH
CLASS STARTS SEPT 13TH

PRE K - 5TH SUNDAYS 10:10 AM
6TH - 12TH SUNDAYS 6:45 PM

**SCAN TO
SIGN UP!**



REGISTER NOW!

FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL
YOUTHMINISTRY@SAINTTHOMASLB.ORG OR
RELIGIOUSEDUCATION@SAINTTHOMASLB.ORG

CAN YOU HELP?

**SIGN UP
NOW!**

**LIFETEEN
AND EDGE**
NEED YOUR HELP!

**PROVIDE
A MEAL!**



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
PICK A SUNDAY EVENING
AND PROVIDE A MEAL!**



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.hicbook.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

SRE Classes Begin Sept 13th.

*your
child
belongs*

...in this parish
...in this church
...in this community
...in the body of Christ
...in the Catholic faith
...in the kingdom of God

...in Religious Education

Classes for Pre-K through 5th grade
begin Sunday, Sept 13, at 10:10 in
the Religious Education Center.

Contact Dave Gauthier at (228) 596-8835 or
religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org for more information.

**We Are Ready to
Welcome Your Child**

Your children
belong in religious
education, and we
have spots ready
for them. Children
from Pre-K through
5th grade learn
their faith through
weekly lessons
based on the
Sunday Gospel.
Every lesson goes
home with them,
and parents have
access to digital
resources.

*Train
the young
in the way
they
should go:
even when
old. they
will not
swerve
from it.
Proverbs
22:6*



MOTHER



Son

DANCE

A CELEBRATION OF FAITH, FAMILY & FREEDOM



CELEBRATING

250TH

ANNIVERSARY

★ of the United States of America ★

★ SATURDAY ★
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

— 5:30PM TO 8:00PM —



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
COMMUNITY CENTER

DANCING ★ & ★ GAMES
Galore!

STRICT DEADLINE TO REGISTER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

LET'S DANCE, PLAY & CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM!



PATRIOTIC ATTIRE
ENCOURAGED



AGES K-8



\$20 PER MOM/SON
\$10 EACH ADDITIONAL SON



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER!





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



POPE LEO XIV's
Intention for the
**Month of
September
2026**

**FOR THE
CARE OF WATER**

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

To pray with Pope Leo for his September 2026 Prayer Intention, please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMPPrZdo95Us>



**THE EXALTATION OF THE
HOLY CROSS - 14 SEPTEMBER**

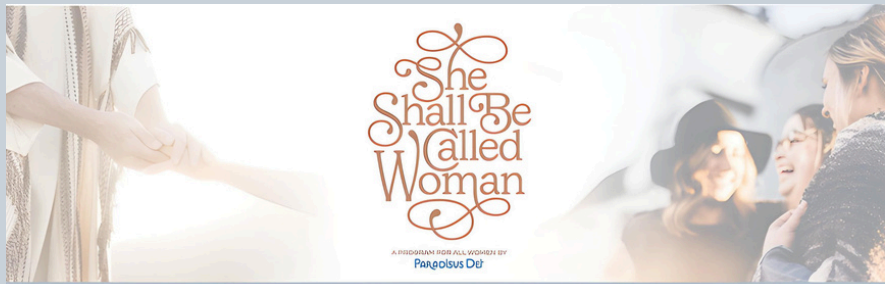
We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,
for by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

September 15



The Prophecy of Simeon
The Flight into Egypt
The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple
Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary
The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus
Mary Receives the Body of Jesus in Her Arms
The Burial of Jesus

**MEMORIAL
OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF
MARY**



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.

*It's not
too
late!
Register
Now!*

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



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
dougat@prodigy.net (Evening Sessions)

Rest in Peace



FATHER MARTIN GILLESPIE
RENEE LEVA
MARY ANNE OBERLIES

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.

St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy Update

The St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy
Is unable to accept prescription
medication donations until further notice.

Unused medications and pills may be
safely deposited in the designated drop
boxes located at:

- Long Beach Police Station
- Walgreens Pharmacy
- The Corner Drugstore
- CVS Pharmacy

Thank you for your understanding
and for helping ensure
the safe disposal of medications.



ACCEPTABLE DONATIONS:

**Non-Medicine items that can be
donated include: Insulin Supplies;
Adult Pull-Ups, Diapers, and Pads; and
Nutritional Drinks (Boost/Ensure)**



BIBLE & BEERS IS BACK ON TAP!

10 week fall series featuring:

Lectio: Eucharist by Dr. Brant Pitre

Bible & Beers is a Catholic Men's gathering for
brotherhood and formation through prayer, scripture,
and honest Catholic conversation – helping men grow
as Catholic husbands, fathers, and friends.

Each week includes a video, guided discussion, and
fellowship all in a relaxed environment. No experts, no
pressure. Just guys gathering over a beer to share,
learn, and grow together.

WHO:

All Catholic Men

WHERE:

St Thomas SRE
Building

WHEN:

Sundays
6:30 – 8:00pm
10 weeks
Sept. 13 – Nov.
15

CONTACT:

Pyke Van Dalsem
(228) 343-0373

BYOB:

Beer is part of the
fellowship, but
faith, prayer, and
discussion come
first. Moderation is
expected and
nonalcoholic
beverages are
welcome.

THE MELCHIZEDEK PROJECT

DIOCESE of BILOXI
VOCATIONS



Is Jesus calling me to the priesthood?

For more info visit:
biloxivocations.org



September 14, 21, 28
October 5, 12, 19, & 26
6:00 pm via Zoom

YOU
ARE
NOT
ALONE



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**

THE THREE RINGS OF HEALING: FELLOWSHIP, FREEDOM, AND FAITH

Recovery isn't only about overcoming alcoholism (or any other addictive substance or behavior) but, rather, is about living with the freedom and joy that God desires for His beloved children. The solution CIR offers integrates three rings: fellowship, freedom, and faith. While these rings are separate and distinct from each other, they overlap to provide a holistic solution. Each one is necessary, and together they support your healing and freedom from addiction.

The solution we are proposing is not a new one—it's one many have followed to find true healing. It relies on the wisdom of 12-step recovery and the grace-led tradition of the Catholic Church.

KC LADIES AUXILIARY

Mahjongg & Mimosas

FALL BRUNCH

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Doors Open
9:00 AM
for Brunch

Play Time
9:30 AM –
12:00 PM

Cost
\$30.00
Includes
Brunch and
1 Drink Ticket

Event Includes

- ✓ Additional Drinks – Cash Bar
- ✓ Door Prizes
- ✓ Ticket for Mahjongg

Contact
Phyllis Seal
228-860-7556

Location
St. Thomas Community Center
Beach Blvd.
Long Beach, MS

SCAN TO PAY WITH VENMO

SCAN TO REGISTER

formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

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

**OUR PARISH
HAS A
FORMED
SUBSCRIPTION!**



FEATURED ADVERTISER

24 HOUR
WRECKER
SERVICE

CHEVRON TOWING
5206-A W. RAILROAD ST.
GULFPORT, MS
228-863-7743

THANK YOU!

DAILY READINGS

SEPTEMBER 13, Sunday

First Reading: Sirach 27: 30 – 28: 7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Second Reading: Romans 14: 7-9

Alleluia: John 13: 34

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

SEPTEMBER 14, Monday

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

First Reading: Numbers 21: 4b-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 78: 1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel: John 3: 13-17

SEPTEMBER 15, Tuesday

Memorial of the Seven Sorrows of Mary

First Reading: First Corinthians 12: 12-14, 27-31a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 100: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5

Gospel: John 19: 25-27 or Luke 2: 33-35

SEPTEMBER 16, Wednesday

First Reading: First Corinthians 12: 31 – 13: 13

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 33: 2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22

Alleluia: John 6: 63c, 68c

Gospel: Luke 7: 31-35

SEPTEMBER 17, Thursday

First Reading: First Corinthians 15: 1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 118: 1b-2, 16ab-17, 28

Alleluia: Matthew 11: 28

Gospel: Luke 7: 36-50

SEPTEMBER 18, Friday

First Reading: First Corinthians 15: 12-20

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 17: 1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15

Alleluia: Matthew 11: 25

Gospel: Luke 8: 1-3

SEPTEMBER 19, Saturday

First Reading: First Corinthians 15: 35-37, 42-49

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 56: 10c-12, 13-14

Alleluia: Luke 8: 15

Gospel: Luke 8: 4-15

SEPTEMBER 20, Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a

Alleluia: Acts 16: 14b

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16a

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

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as “I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks” or “I will accept your apology after you clean up your room.” Do we sometimes “keep count” or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart. Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

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