



St. Thomas Newsletter

December 22, 2023

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!

Starting from 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 sent on February 9, 2024. If you would like to receive the bulletin via email, please contact bulletin@saintthomaslb.org.



Adult Confirmation Classes are Forming

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



Make a Gift for the Christ Child

Children are invited to bring gifts to the Christ Child during the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Come early to the community center where children will make and wrap gifts to bring up to the Baby Jesus during the offertory procession. All ages welcome.

This is great way for our children to adore Jesus on His birthday. Children will pick up their gift after Mass in the east foyer to place it at they Nativity Scene in they home.

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

Parish Community Center

Contact: Dave Gauthier; 228-596-8835

religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org



**SCRIP GIFT CARDS ARE ON SALE
IN THE PARISH OFFICE
MONDAY—FRIDAY, 9AM—4PM
THESE WILL MAKE GREAT
GIFTS**

Aeropostale, Amazon, American Eagle, Applebee's, Barnes & Nobles, Bath & Body Works, Bed Bath & Beyond, Buffalo Wild Wings, Burger King, Cabelas, Chili's, Chuck E. Cheese's, Coastal Car Wash, Cracker Barrel, Dairy Queen, Dick's, Dillard's, Domino's, Gymboree, Hallmark, Home Depot, iTunes, JC Penney, Landsend, Little Caesars, Lowe's, Nike, O'Charley's, Office Max, Outback, Papa John's, PetSmart, Pier 1 Imports, Pizza Hut, Rite Aid, Sears-Kmart, Shaggy's, Shoe Carnival, Sonic, Taco Bell, Talbot's, T.J. Maxx, Winn Dixie

A Journey with the Holy Family **Cancelled**



**CALB '23-'24
TEAM HUSBAND-FRAZER
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

JANUARY

12th - Jeep-a-Greet
Coastal Daiquiri, LB

13th - Jeep-a-Gras parade
Downtown LB

27th - Drawdown/Silent Auction
LB Activity and Senior Center

FEBRUARY

2nd-CALB Royal Coronation Ball

3rd - Long Beach Night Parade





Dear Parish Family,

Christmas is a time of joy and a time of gratitude. We are joyful for the birth of Christ and grateful for all of God's blessings throughout the course of the past year.

I thank you all for your expressions of affection and your warm greetings during this time. It is my first Christmas with my St. Thomas family; and I am very happy to serve you as your pastor.

As Christmas draws closer and a new year will soon be upon us, I want to take the opportunity to express my thanks for all you have done for St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Your generosity, sacrificial offerings, and gifts of time, talent and treasure have made it possible for us to become and continue to be a stable and growing Catholic community. Without families and individuals like you, the people who make up our parish, there would be no St. Thomas the Apostle Church!

As we continue to move forward into the New Year, I ask for your continued support and prayers so that God may truly bless our efforts on His behalf. Everything you do for your parish is very much needed and appreciated. Please let me know how we can do more to grow together in the love of Jesus Christ.

Please know of my prayers for each of you. I will remember you and your loved ones, including your deceased family members, in the holy sacrifice of the Masses at Christmas.

May the Lord grant you and yours a healthy, happy, safe and peaceful Christmas; and may He watch over all of us and bless us, one and all!

Fr. Vincent, Deacon Buddy, Deacon Jerry and all the parish staff join me in wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours In Child Jesus



Fr. Satish adhavi



LAST CHANCE

SAVE ON THE FULL CONGRESS EXPERIENCE

Save 10% now through Christmas on the full, five-day Congress experience with code: **EMMANUEL** (restrictions apply)

O come, O come, Emmanuel! Advent is a season of anticipation. This year, we look forward to two things: Christ's coming at Christmas *and* what God is going to do in our hearts and in our nation at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress next summer.

When day passes become available in January, the stadium will fill up faster than ever before. If you want to come to the National Eucharistic Congress but plan to wait until the new year to make solid plans, we have news: ***Advent is the best time to reserve your pass!*** Now through Christmas, you can save 10% on the full, five-day Congress experience with code:

EMMANUEL

Individuals, families, and small groups will save with this code. Not only that, thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, children 12 and under can now attend completely FREE. Here's a breakdown of how much you'll save during this Advent sale:

Individual Pass: \$360 ~~\$324~~

Parent Pass: \$299 ~~\$270~~

Teens (13–18): \$250 ~~\$225~~

Children (12 & under): *Always Free*

Groups of 2–5 people: \$349 ~~\$315~~

Groups of 6–10 people: \$325 ~~\$293~~

Groups of 11–14 people: \$299 ~~\$270~~

This discount does not apply to bulk pass purchases for groups of 15+.

Remember to use code **EMMANUEL** when you register!

<https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>



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

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

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

Take a moment to view this short video from the Eucharistic Congress promotion team regarding the National Eucharistic Congress (you may get an advertisement at first):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4p1ENUCrrE

Use this link to view the travel packages arranged by Cara Group Travel:

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.eucharisticcongress.org

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Sun, Dec 24: 7:30am, 9am Mass

Sun, Dec 24: NO 11:30am or 5:30pm Mass

Sun, Dec 24: 4pm Christmas Vigil Mass

(Children's Bell Choir & Family Choir)

Sun, Dec 24: 7pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Sun, Dec 24: 11:30pm Christmas Carols

With Christmas Midnight Mass to follow

Mon, Dec 25: 7:30am, 9am Mass

Sun, Dec 31: Feast of the Holy Family

Sun, Dec 31: 7:30am, 9am Mass

Sun, Dec 31: NO 11:30am or 5:30pm Mass

Sun, Dec 31: 6:30pm Vigil Mass

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Mon, Jan 1: 9am Mass Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, Jan 7, Feast of the Epiphany



THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 24, 2023



The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts. but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

MEN'S EMMAUS RETREAT



Put aside the “hustle and bustle” of daily life and attend the Men's Emmaus Retreat on the weekend of Feb 2-4, 2024. Located in Bay St. Louis, MS, the William J. Kelley Retreat Center offers a peaceful, beautiful setting for the retreat. It is an uplifting experience that profoundly affects men's lives based on the passage “The appearance on the road to Emmaus” (Luke 24: 13-35). The retreat begins at 5:30 PM on Friday and ends at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Please don't ignore this opportunity; pray on it instead. Something extraordinary awaits you in Bay St. Louis!

Please contact for additional information:

Norm Madere at 504-481-0411 or
Steve Schulkens at 504-401-6990 or
Colin Taulis at 504-494-4511

Register at <https://stdominicparish.com/emmaus-registration>
or email us for a registration form at sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com

Registration Fee: \$200
checks payable to: **St. Dominic Church Men's Emmaus Retreat.**
(call about Scholarships)

Mail the payment to:
St. Dominic Church Emmaus Retreat Ministry,
775 Harrison Ave,
New Orleans, LA 70124

or text a picture of your Zelle payment to
sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com
include in Zelle memo: your name and Feb 2024 Retreat





Cantare Amantis Est

Singing is for the One Who Loves | Sacred Music Workshop

February 16–17, 2024

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi



Presenter:
Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka
Catholic Institute of Sacred Music

- + Learn more about the musical shape of the liturgy, chant for the congregation, and the ministry of the choir!
- + Get tips for reading and teaching square notes!
- + Fellowship with area musicians!
- + Participate in sung Liturgy!



registration and more information available at
classicalartsfoundation.com