



# St. Thomas FYI

## September 1, 2023



Good Shepherd Showcase is open before and after  
all Masses September 2 & 3.  
Come and see our new items that just arrived.



## OUR YOUTH MINISTRY NEEDS YOU

Become a part of this opportunity to make a positive impact! Lifeteen is back, and it's time to organize our Lifeteen dinners. With around 70 people to feed every Sunday, our nights conclude with fellowship over a meal, a crucial aspect of our ministry. This is an excellent chance for you to serve our teens for just one night. Get together with a friend, bible study group, quad, or family and prepare a meal for our teens.

[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BABA928A1FEC43-lifeteen1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BABA928A1FEC43-lifeteen1)



O Heavenly Father,  
all the elements of nature obey your Command.  
Calm the storms that threaten us  
and turn our fear into praise for your goodness.  
Protect us from hurricanes and disasters of nature.  
We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday & Thursday**  
**9:30am - 12:30pm**

St. Vincent de Paul Society open  
offering to help.

**Monday, September 4**  
Parish office is closed

**Saturday, September 9, 9:00am**  
Altar server training

**September 9, 8:00am-3:00pm**  
Catholic Moms' Back to School Retreat

**Sunday, September 10, 10:10 am**  
SRE classes begin

**Sunday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30**  
SRE parent meeting

**Sunday, September 10, 6:30pm**  
Lifeteen & Edge messy games

**Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 pm**  
RCIA inquiry sessions begin

**September 16, 9:00am-11:00am**  
Catechist Commissioning and  
Breakfast

**September 16, 11:00 am-12:00pm**  
Holy Hour of Exposition and Adoration

**Saturday, September 16, 9am-3pm**  
Dr. Alan Schreck

**Saturday, September 23**  
T-shirt orders due

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS

## ANNUAL MESSY GAMES KICK-OFF



We will be kicking off our year for Lifeteen and Edge on September 10th and we cannot wait! We will have our annual messy games kick-off so make sure your teen comes dressed to get dirty and brings a towel! We will meet at the pavilion after 5:30 Mass!

Before we meet again, please register your teen for the year by filling out our google form on our web page at [saintthomaslb.org/sre-ccd](http://saintthomaslb.org/sre-ccd), [Online Registration](#). It includes getting them registered for confirmation!

Contact Kaitlynn Claret at 228 236-4899 or

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

We are looking forward to another exciting year ahead!

## To all parents of children 3 yrs to 5th grade

### SRE STARTS SEPTEMBER 10.



First of all, thank you for bringing your children to class every Sunday. There are plenty of other ways to spend a Sunday morning, but all our catechists pray that the time spent in SRE will lay the foundation for a long term relationship with Christ for your child.

Your children are God's creatures, and have an innate longing to know their Creator. We were meant to worship God. "Our hearts are restless," St Augustine wrote, "until they rest in Jesus." If they are not taught how to worship God, your children will eventually find something else to worship instead, and their hearts will never find the rest that Christ calls them to.

Your children want to worship God. They are aching for the chance. Still young and unscathed by the world, they can recognize the truth when it's set in front of them. They want to learn about Him. They want to love Him. They want to worship Him.

It is a delight to have your children with us on Sundays. It is a delight to see them go home happy and excited. It is a delight to help them in their relationship with Christ.

God Bless you and your family.

From the Catechists at St Thomas Parish.



### Men's Bible Study Update

The group has completed their dive into the Book of Acts. Reading about the struggles of the early Church provided a lot of insights and discussions about the struggles of the Church today.

Next week we begin a study of 2 Maccabees, one of the least read but theologically important Old Testament books, with stories of angelic beatdowns, heroic martyrs, brave patriots and the mystery of what happened to the Ark of the Covenant.

The Men's Study Group meets every Thursday evening from 6pm to 7pm in the Religious Education Center. No need to register. Just come in and find an empty seat.



## CATECHIST COMMISSIONING AND BREAKFAST

All parish catechists are invited to breakfast with Father Satish and Commissioning for the 2023-2024 year as a Catechist in St Thomas Parish. Commissioning will be followed by Holy Hour with the Eucharist.

Families are invited.

Saturday, Sept 16, 9am – 11am

Religious Education Center followed by

Holy Hour in the Church

Please RSVP with a count of attendees no later than

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> to Dave Gauthier at

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

## Your Child Belongs in Religious Education

SRE Parent Meeting on the First Day of Class.

Religious Classes for PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade begin next Sunday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:10.

**On the first day of class there will be a mandatory parent meeting at 10:30 to review plans for the coming year.** Bring your best ideas and suggestions for improving our program. Parents will have an opportunity after the meeting to visit the classrooms and meet the teachers. We are blessed to have all returning teachers this year.

If you have not already done so, please complete the registration so that the catechists will be ready to welcome your child by name on the first day of class.

If you have any questions, contact Dave Gauthier at 228-596-8835 or [religioueducation@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:religioueducation@saintthomaslb.org)

## WHEN IT'S TIME FOR YOUR CHILD TO MAKE HIS FIRST COMMUNION, WILL HE BE READY?



If your child or grandchild is in first grade, and wants to make First Communion during the second grade year, he or she needs to be enrolled in a religious education program now.

**YES, NOW.**

If your child or grandchild is beyond second grade, and still has not been baptized, or has not received First Communion, he or she needs to be enrolled in a religious education program now.

**YES, NOW.**

The School of Religious Education (SRE) meets on Sunday mornings for children in PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Your child belongs in religious education.

Register at [saintthomaslb.org/sre-ccd](http://saintthomaslb.org/sre-ccd)



### **Lunchkins** *Please bring your favorite dish*

September 13, 2023, 11:30 am



### **Knights of Columbus Breakfast**

Join your St. Thomas family  
for breakfast and fellowship.  
Sunday September 17, 2023  
8am – 11am  
\$8.00 a plate



## **YOUTH NEWS**



We are so grateful for our altar servers and would like to recruit more! On Saturday, September 9 at 9am, all current altar servers and prospective altar servers in 4th grade and up should plan to attend our fall altar server training, which will begin with breakfast in the community center, compliments of the Knights of Columbus. This is important, because we have some new things to teach you! Please email [altarserver@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:altarserver@saintthomaslb.org) to confirm your participation or for more information.



### **ATTENTION TALENTED TEENS!**

We are looking for talented teens in 7th grade and up to serve in our music ministry youth praise ensemble!! Are you a singer, piano/keyboardist, guitarist, percussionist, or other instrumentalist? Would you like to be? Being a part of the music ministry youth praise ensemble is a great way to develop and share your talent in service to God! Rehearsals will be once a week in accordance with the schedule of the majority of those participating. The group will prepare to sing for Masses and youth events as needed. Please contact Lauren Hymel at [music@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:music@saintthomaslb.org) for more information.

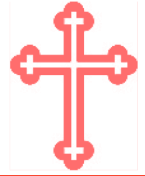


The St. Thomas Children's Bell choir will begin rehearsals soon!  
All children ages 7 – 12 are invited to participate –  
no experience necessary! The bell choir will rehearse on  
Mondays from 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm in the church – we will perform at Christmas Eve Mass.  
If you are interested, contact Tyler Brandon by email at [music2@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:music2@saintthomaslb.org).





# MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS



## Praise God with Music

God delights in us when we find joy in the gifts he gives. Do you have a gift of singing or playing an instrument? We NEED YOU! Please consider sharing your gift of music by serving in the St. Thomas Music Ministry. You are cordially invited to join us! Contact Lauren Hymel at [music@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:music@saintthomaslb.org) or call the parish office at [228-863-1610](tel:228-863-1610). The music ministry is a loving, friendly group of people of varying musical ability, who love to make music for God and are dedicated to giving the best of themselves. We have an empty chair just waiting to be filled by you!

### Benefits:

Joy in making music  
Joy in serving God  
A great group of friends



**LITURGICAL CHOIR**  
Liturgical Choir ensembles sing at the 4pm Saturday and 9 and 11:30am Sunday Masses, as well as for special liturgical events and feast days. Liturgical Choir rehearsals are generally Thursdays at 5:45pm. Folks of all ages and all levels of musicianship are welcome to participate! Please contact Lauren Hymel if you would like to join!



### INSTRUMENTALISTS

Do you play an instrument? WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US!

Guitar, fiddle, saxophone, flute, trumpet, drums, bass, keyboard, and all other flavors of melodious and harmonious sound are welcome!



### THE LIFE TEEN MUSIC MINISTRY

We are looking for experienced musicians and singers for the Sunday evening Life Teen Mass. We are currently in need of a guitarist, bassist, and male vocalists (other instruments such as, but not limited to flute, saxophone, cello, etc will also be considered). We rehearse at 4:15pm each week prior to the 5:30pm Mass. We are also in need of a soundboard operator for the Life Teen Mass. Training for the soundboard will be provided. Please contact Tim Raborn at [Tim@Raborn.org](mailto:Tim@Raborn.org) or 228-255-6428 for more information.

### ST. THOMAS FAMILY SINGERS



This is an opportunity for you and your child or grandchild to sing together at Mass in the choir! Currently we have seven families participating, and we would love to have more! What's involved? One or two rehearsals before the Mass we sing (which will be about every five weeks). This is a great way for your child to learn the liturgy and gain confidence as a song leader, while spending time with you serving the Lord! Please contact Lauren Hymel if you are interested!



### GUITAR "GET-TOGETHERS"

Every month we try to host a GUITAR GET-TOGETHER! This is a great chance to learn some new things about your six string, 12 string or 4 string instrument, level up in your playing or just jam with other guitarin' friends. At our previous strumming & picking circles, we've worked on things like 12-bar blues, improv, scales, fret board facts and more and had a really good time at it! Even if you don't want to learn any new tricks, you might have fun helping others! You are welcome to invite friends who may be interested! Cody Roth is our guide! We meet in the Music Room or in the community center downstairs. Light refreshments are served, too! Our NEXT GUITAR GET TOGETHER IS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15th at 6:30pm!

### WHAT ELSE?

There are other ways to be involved! Here are some additional opportunities to serve in music ministry:

**SEASONAL/SPECIAL CHOIRS FOR LITURGICAL/SPECIAL EVENTS**

**CANTOR / SONGLEADER MINISTRY**

**SOUNDBOARD MINISTRY**

**MUSIC REHEARSAL ROOM/LIBRARY ASSISTANTS**

**YOUTH MUSIC ASSISTANTS**





## Holy Hour of Exposition and Adoration

In observance of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, meant to rededicate the entire nation to the Eucharistic Jesus, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Thomas the Apostle Conference invites all our parishioners to spend a Holy Hour with Jesus. September 16, 2023 11:00 am until 12:00 noon. Refreshments to follow in the Community Center.

*"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth. ~St. Teresa of Calcutta*



# National Eucharistic Congress

PRESENTED BY THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BILOXI



JULY 17TH - 21ST 2024

View our available packages below:

\*Only 225 tickets on a first-come, first-serve basis!

### CONGRESS PACKAGE BY BUS 6 NIGHT:

JULY 16 - 22

JULY 16 -1 NIGHT - NASHVILLE, TN

JULY 17-21 INDIANAPOLIS - SHERATON HOTEL

JULY 22 - 1 NIGHT - NASHVILLE, TN

### TRANSPORTATION & OTHER:

Luxury Coach

### FEATURES INCLUDED:

CONVENTION EVENT PASS

Double Sharing (2 people): \$1,900 Per Person

Triple Sharing (3 people): \$1,700 Per Person

Single Occupancy: \$2,600

### CONGRESS PACKAGE BY AIR 4 NIGHT:

JULY 17 - 21

4 NIGHTS INDIANAPOLIS - SHERATON HOTEL - 4 STAR

### TRANSPORTATION & OTHER:

Roundtrip Airfare from Gulfport, MS\*

Roundtrip transfers in Indianapolis

### FEATURES INCLUDE:

CONVENTION EVENT PASS

Double Sharing (2 people): \$1,800 Per Person

Triple Sharing (3 people): \$1,600 Per Person

Single Occupancy: \$2,300

## To Register:

Visit our website:

[caragrouptourtravel.com/nec-2024-tour](http://caragrouptourtravel.com/nec-2024-tour)

Email Paula Spears

[eucharisticcongress2024@gmail.com](mailto:eucharisticcongress2024@gmail.com)

Individuals or families who want to attend apart from the Cara Group Travel package can register at [eucharisticcongress.org/register-standard](http://eucharisticcongress.org/register-standard) Standard passes are **\$299-\$375** for Adults and **\$99** for Children (Ages 2-18) traveling with their family. General registration includes entry to Lucas Oil Stadium for all five days of the Congress, access to general sessions, breakouts, liturgies, vendor hall, Catholic makers market, and unique tracks. but do not include travel, lodging and meals.



**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church**  
**Financial Report (July 2021-June 2023)**

	July 2022-June 2023	July 2021-June 2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Ordinary income</b>		
Weekly offertory collection (envelopes, loose, online)	\$789,369	\$805,669
Utilities & maintenance	21,774	18,748
<b>Total ordinary income</b>	<b>811,143</b>	<b>824,417</b>
<b>Extraordinary income</b>		
Lease of property	17,680	13,500
Votive candles	5,495	7,517
Interest earned on funds and investments	9,639	9,862
<b>Total extraordinary income</b>	<b>32,814</b>	<b>30,879</b>
<b>Other income</b>		
SRE, Life Teen, memorials, flowers, music, misc	30,310	38,987
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$874,268</b>	<b>\$894,282</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel costs (salary, payroll tax, benefits for priest & staff)	250,456	241,653
Parish ministries and religious education	276,510	273,666
Church, parish office & rectory expenses	40,178	47,548
Operations & maintenance	70,787	55,868
Insurance	181,913	151,526
Utilities (electricity, water & phone)	151,262	144,945
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$971,107</b>	<b>\$915,206</b>
<b>OPERATING (DEFECIT)</b>	<b>(\$96,839)</b>	<b>(\$20,924)</b>
<b>OTHER NON-OPERATING ITEMS:</b>		
RENOVATIONS, REPAIRS & OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	(\$281,261)	(\$195,230)
UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON MARKETABLE SECURITIES	\$23,448	(\$125,902)
GROSS PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF RECTORY-NICHOLSON AVE	-	\$108,800
INSURANCE CLAIM PROCEEDS	-	\$71,330
<b>NET (DEFECIT)</b>	<b>(\$354,651)</b>	<b>(\$161,926)</b>

*You are all Invited*

to a  
special presentation by

**Dr. Alan Schreck,**

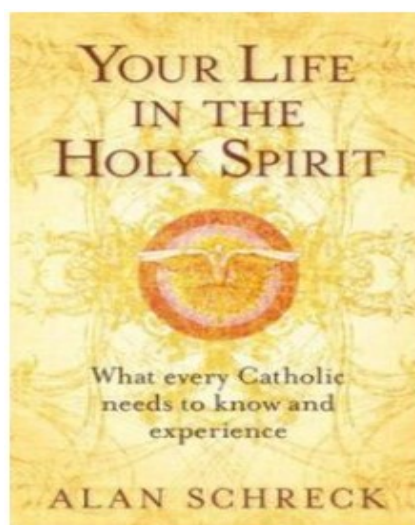
Professor of Theology at  
Franciscan University of Steubenville  
and author of many books, including

*Your Life in the Holy Spirit*

Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

St. Vincent de Paul Gym



***Please R.S.V.P. at 228-452-4686 or click [Your Life in the Holy Spirit tickets](#) by September 11<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.***

## Catholic Moms' Back to School Retreat

### "SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE"



Embrace a day filled with blessings, reflection, and inspiration. See how small things done with great love create an environment that nurtures not only the academic growth of your students but also their spiritual and personal development.

Speakers include Fr. Mike O'Connor, Pastor of OLG  
Sr Charista Maria & Sr Mary Clare (Canon 603 Hermits)  
Mrs. Alysia Ladner, Music Director of OLG  
Mrs. Gabby Pazdersky, mother of 6 boys  
Mrs. Cecilia Escobedo, Trinity Wellness Center

**September. 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00am - 3:00pm**

Confession, Mass, Talks, Breakfast & Lunch, Vendors, Used Books Sales, Door Prizes and more...

OUR LADY OF THE GULF CATHOLIC CHURCH  
228 SOUTH BEACH BLVD., BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

**\$15 includes**  
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DOOR PRIZES, AND MORE  
**MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND:**  
SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT  
[HEARTOFMARYONTHECOAST.COM](http://HEARTOFMARYONTHECOAST.COM)



TO BE A VENDOR, SELL USED BOOKS, OR ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT  
M. CECILIA ESCOBEDO @ 228-212-6870



HOSTED BY HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLING GROUP

ALLIANCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY INTERNATIONAL

## The International Centennial Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima

Theme: "The Urgent Call for Prayer and Reparation: The Appeal of Our Lady of Fatima"

**CATHEDRAL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

870 Howard Ave. Biloxi, MS 39530

**SEPTEMBER 30- OCTOBER 1, 2023 (SATURDAY- SUNDAY)**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

Welcoming Procession  
Imposition of the Scapular, Rosary,  
Coronation of Our Lady  
St. John Paul II Consecration

**4:00 PM**

**HOLY MASS- Fr. Godfrey**  
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular  
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts  
Final Blessing, Investiture of the Brown Scapular

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

**7:00 AM**

**HOLY MASS- Fr. Bart**  
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular  
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts  
Final Blessing, Investiture of the Brown Scapular

**9:00 AM**

**HOLY MASS- Fr. Godfrey**  
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular  
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts  
Final Blessing, Investiture of the Brown Scapular

**11:00 AM**

**HOLY MASS- Fr. Godfrey**  
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular  
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts  
Final Blessing, Investiture of the Brown Scapular

**5:30 PM**

**HOLY MASS- Fr. Bart**  
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular  
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts  
Final Blessing, Investiture of the Brown Scapular

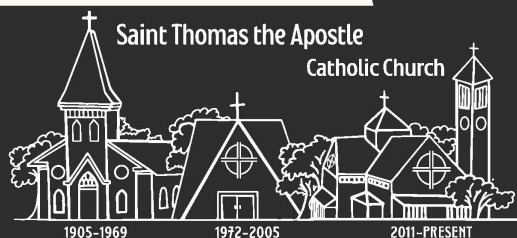
[AHF100holymfamily333](https://twitter.com/AHF100holymfamily333)

[YouTube AHFI Fatima 100years](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvHh100holymfamily333)

[Alliance of the Holy Family International](https://www.facebook.com/AHF100holymfamily333)

email: fatima100yearsusa@aol.com

## SAINT THOMAS PARISH SHIRT



1905-1969 1972-2005 2011-PRESENT

DESIGN OF THE BACK OF THE SHIRT



COMFORT COLOR: CUMIN COMFORT COLOR: PEPPER COMFORT COLOR: LIGHT GREEN

## SWEATSHIRT

GILDAN CHARCOAL



## ST. THOMAS TSHIRT ORDER FORM

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TSHIRT COST: \$20**

**SWEATSHIRT COST: \$30**

**Additional \$4 cost for 2X - 5X Sizes**

Adult Tshirts	Adult Small	Adult Medium	Adult Large	Adult XL	Adult 2X	Adult 3x
Cumin Tshirt						
Pepper Tshirt						
Light Green Tshirt						

Youth Tshirts	Youth Small	Youth Medium	Youth Large	Youth XL
Pepper Tshirt				

	Adult Small	Adult Medium	Large	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X
Gildan Charcoal Sweatshirt								

**ORDER TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PAID WITH CASH OR CHECK**

**CHECKS MADE OUT TO ST. THOMAS LIFETEEN**  
**ORDERS DUE SEPTEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> to church office**  
[youthministry@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:youthministry@saintthomaslb.org) with questions



Is  
**GOD CALLING YOU**  
 to serve  
**HIS CHURCH**  
 as a  
**PERMANENT  
 DEACON**  
 in  
**The Diocese of  
 Biloxi?**



God doesn't call  
 the qualified. He  
 qualifies the called!

Contact your  
 Pastor or Deacon  
 for more information  
 or call  
**Deacon Mike Harris**  
 director of the  
 Office of the  
 Permanent Diaconate  
 at the  
 Diocese of Biloxi at  
**228-342-1536**

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**



**SERVICE OF THE LITURGY**



- Mass
- Baptism
- Matrimony
- Funerals



**SERVICE OF THE CHURCH**

- Prison Ministry
- Home Visits
- Hospital Visits
- R.C.I.A.
- Retreats
- Youth

