



St. Thomas FYI

September 8, 2023



Sr. Consilio Buckley was among a group of nuns (Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Ireland) who came to Metairie, Louisiana, about 1968 to establish St. Clement of Rome School and was the school's third principal. She has also served at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Gulfport and in Orange, California, as well as for many years at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Long Beach. While at St. Thomas, she was the Director of Religious Education, along with serving in many other capacities including Life Teen, homebound ministry, ministry to nursing homes, RCIA, and CCD. Several years ago, she retired to a convent in Ireland. She was an integral part of our parish for many years and will be greatly missed.

**MAY SHE REST IN PEACE
IN THE HANDS OF OUR LORD.**



Lunchkins
Please Join us Lunch and Fellowship
September 13, 2023, 11:30 am
Bring your favorite dish



Knights of Columbus Breakfast

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

ST. THOMAS HOMESCHOOL NETWORK.



We have around seven known homeschooling families at St. Thomas, but think there may be more! If you are homeschooling and would like to network with other homeschooling families in our parish, please contact Lauren Hymel (our Liturgical Music Director) at music@saintthomaslb.org, or reach out to her after the 4pm, 9am or 11:30am Masses. We are planning a little get together and would like to meet you!

Healing Mass
Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
Friday, September 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM
Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church,
216 Saucier Ave.
Pass Christian, MS. 39571

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

St. Vincent de Paul Society open
offering to help.

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 10th, 10:30
SRE parent meeting

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

Wednesday, September 13, 11:30am
Lunchkins

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

Friday, September 15, 2023 at 5pm
Healing Mass

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

Sunday, September 17, 8am –11am
KC Breakfast

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, [Online Registration](#). It includes getting them registered for confirmation! Contact Kaitlynn Claret at 228 236-4899 or 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.



Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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

Your Child Belongs in Religious Education

SRE Parent Meeting on the First Day of Class.

Religious Classes for PreK through 5th Grade begin next Sunday, Sept 10th, 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

religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org



September 8, 2023

**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Facilities Update Letter**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish:

As you are aware our buildings and grounds have been undergoing a great deal of work over the last two years. I want this letter, along with those to follow, to offer you an update on the progress that has been made and that which remains. The scope of work has been grouped into three phases, as follows:

	Phase 1 <i>(Hurricane Repairs)</i>	Phase 1.5 <i>(Construction Defects)</i>	Phase 2 <i>(Misc. & Chiller)</i>
Project(s) Costs/Estimate	\$1,688,058	\$1,119,080	Approx. \$612,500
% Completed	100%	55.6%	0%
Target Completion Date	August 2023	January 2024	To Be Determined

Phase 1: Repair damage caused by Hurricanes Zeta (Oct. 28, 2020) and Ida (Aug. 26, 2021).

Scope:

Contractor: Thames Construction, LLC

Repairs to roofing, soffit, fascia, flashing, waterproofing, cupola. Remove and reseal all angular windows and related stucco repairs. New radius windows and curtain wall system purchased. Replace EIFS/Concrete board-based stucco at cupola. Interior partial paint work in all three buildings. Repair wood slat ceiling in Church where needed. HVAC repair work. Building and roof washing. Stained glass removed and replaced after glass repairs completed. Repair Church low roof areas.

Funding Source: 100% covered by the Diocese of Biloxi self-insurance fund and its reinsurance company.

Phase 1.5: Repairs for water intrusion issues, some from original construction in 2010, discovered during Phase 1 assessments and repairs.

Scope:

Contractor: Thames Construction, LLC

Stucco repairs and waterproofing various areas of buildings- bell tower, Church, Community Center. The cupola interior- remove and replace damaged gypsum, finishes, prime and paint. Complete replacement of defective exterior windows and window framing. Remove and replace radius windows with a new containment wall system. Replacement window installation work to be completed after the current hurricane season. Coat stucco with STO lotusan coating. HVAC repairs to ductwork, air handler units and chiller, as needed.

Funding Source: St Thomas' total portion for this phase of the work is \$508,625, funded from parish's replacement reserve investment account. \$191,344 of the parish portion remains unpaid currently. The parish amount remaining to be paid will be paid as work is completed. The Diocese of Biloxi has matched parish funding with a total of \$610,455, with \$305,808 unpaid currently, toward this phase of repair work.

Phase 2: The scope of these items needs to be addressed sooner vs. later to avoid further damage or facilities deterioration, especially regarding the chiller system.

Scope:

Contractor: No contractor or subcontractors have been hired at this point. The plan is for a parish lay leadership team to coordinate any/all contractors and subcontractors to be more efficient with the construction budget.

1. Interior gypsum repairs on all windows replaced, finish, prime and paint all new gypsum.
2. Replace water damaged ceiling tiles.
3. Landscaping and replacing exterior lighting.
4. Courtyard fountain leak and paver repairs.
5. Replace spotlights on the altar area with a system that functions more effectively and efficiently.
6. Replace flooring in Church and office area, as needed.
7. Replace acoustic panels in Community Center, as needed.
8. Pew repairs, as necessary, and other maintenance areas as they become evident.

The biggest item in this phase is to replace the chiller with a newer technology system. The chiller system is located just east of the Community Center. The chiller is the mechanical equipment that controls air conditioning, heat and most importantly humidity inside the buildings, but especially in the Church due to its ceiling height. The estimated cost of this replacement system is approximately \$250,000. There is a long lead time to order a replacement chiller (approximately one year). The replacement chiller needs to be ordered as soon as possible to avoid a short-term rental (approximately \$20k a month) of a chiller if the current chiller completely fails.

Funding Source: The parish will have to completely fund this phase of the work. The tentative plan is to seek a loan from a local commercial bank in an amount up to \$612,500 for this phase, with plans to draw down on the loan only as funds are needed. We will then conduct a campaign to fund the retirement of this loan as quickly as possible.

I am so grateful for the generosity that our parishioners show through financial giving, through volunteering selflessly, and through advancing the mission of our parish to bring the love of Jesus Christ into our community. I encourage you to continue to be as generous as you can in support of this wonderful parish family that is St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. I would also like to thank you for your patience over the last three months as I have sought a better understanding of our parish's financial situation and facility needs.

I would like to thank the committee of parishioners who are assisting me with this process, both building related and finance related, along with Diocese building officials.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as I pursue my ministry at St. Thomas.

Sincerely Yours in Christ



Fr. Satish Adhav



YOUTH NEWS



FORMED®

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Fun with Exalting the Holy Cross | Catholic All Year w/ Kendra Tierney

In honor of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, let's talk about . . . talking to kids about Jesus' suffering. Plus a family-friendly at-home Veneration of the Cross, and our favorite feast day foods.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press



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 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 for more information.



The St. Thomas Children's Bell choir will begin rehearsals soon!

All children ages 7 – 12 are invited to participate –

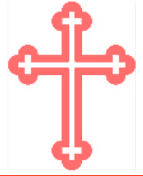
no experience necessary! The bell choir will rehearse on

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.



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS



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 or call the parish office at 228-863-1610.



**Praise
God
with
Music**

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 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

Email Paula Spears

eucharisticcongress2024@gmail.com

Individuals or families who want to attend apart from the Cara Group Travel package can register at 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.

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. 9th 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



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

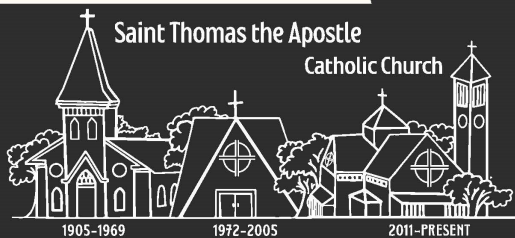
HOLY MASS- Fr. Godfrey
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts
Final Blessing, Investiture of the Brown Scapular

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

AHF1@holymfamily333 YouTube AHFI Fatima 100years Alliance of the Holy Family International email: fatima100yearsusa@aol.com

SAINT THOMAS PARISH SHIRT



GENERATIONS OF FAITH AND FAMILY

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 23rd to church office
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

