

St. Thomas

By The Sea

CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 1190,
26547 Perdido Beach Blvd.,
Orange Beach, AL 36561
(251) 981-8132

FAX: (251) 981-1981

www.stthomasbythesea.com

Priest Residence: (251) 981-1168
parishoffice@stthomasbythesea.com

frpaul@stthomasbythesea.com

QR CODE for online giving
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Welcome!

On behalf of our church family, we are pleased to welcome you to St. Thomas by the Sea Catholic Church, and to our beautiful gulf beaches. If you are a new parishioner, or a long-term or frequent visitor, please take time to complete a registration form (in the church pamphlet). We hope you will enjoy your time in Orange Beach.

Fr. Paul Iruthayasamy, HGN Deacon Stephen Seymour

Mass Schedule

- Weekends:** Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
- Weekdays:** Monday, 9:00 a.m.
Communion Service
Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. Mass
- First Fridays:** Morning Mass is followed
by Holy Hour.

Our Chapel is open every day for prayer.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 p.m. (and upon request)

- Altar Rosary Society:** Anne Quinn 303-324-3526
- Church Bookkeeper:** Marge Keller..... 251-981-8132
- Church Office Secretary:** 251-981-8132
- Driving Service:** Anyone needing a ride to a doctor's appointment or elsewhere can call the Parish Office..... 251-981-8132
- Hispanic Ministry:** Contact St. Margaret of Scotland..... 251-981-8132
- Knights of Columbus:** Bob Lindley..... 251-978-8147
- Ministry of Care:** (to sick and bereaved) –
Parish Office..... 251-981-8132
- Respect Life Committee:** Suzanne Laurier 251-981-1918
- CCD:** Contact Father Paul
- Choir Director:** Paul Anderson..... 251-377-7923
- Parish Council:** Chairperson, Tina D'Aversa 678-457-0677
- Finance Council:** Steve Kerchner..... 251-981-8132
- Memorials:** Church Office 251-981-8132
- Ministry:** To serve as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, contact Father Paul
- RCIA:** Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. (September through Easter).
Contact Father Paul
- St. Benedict School:** Contact Father Paul..... 251-981-8132
- Winter Visitor Contact:** Ellen Passage..... 517-881-6615
- Sacrament of Baptism:** Contact Church Office at least one month prior
- Sacrament of Marriage:** Contact Church Office at least six months prior
- Wedding Coordinators:** Cheryl Robinson 251-422-1268
Nancy Dickhute..... 402-980-3258

St. Thomas

by-the-Sea
CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS BY THE SEA

SATURDAY, MAY 21

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Intention: Alice Barnett

SUNDAY, MAY 22

8:00 a.m. Mass
Intention: Alice Barnett

10:00 a.m. Mass
Intention: All Parishioners

MONDAY, MAY 23

8:40 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY, MAY 24

8:40 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Mass
Intention: Father James

5:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

7:00 a.m. Men of St. Joseph
8:40 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Mass
Intention: Mark Karazim

THURSDAY, MAY 26

8:40 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Mass
Intention: Nathan Simon

11:00 a.m. Mass
Intention: Bill Chambers

FRIDAY, MAY 27

9:00 a.m. Mass
Intention: Mary Cates

9:30 a.m. Adoration
9:45 a.m. Daughters of Mary Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 28

4:00-4:45 p.m. Confessions
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Intention: Monte Reece

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Dominique DeSanctis, Babe Rohan, Bill Sukman, Sue Pizzitola, Ann Wilson, Chrissie McKillip, Paul Rohan, Mary and Jake Taffaro, Mike Offerle, Patrick Rogers, Thomas Cichoski, Tom Powell, Rey Segovia, Patricia Chambers, Karen Gibson, Elizabeth Von Bergen, Mary Elizabeth Yates, Mark Martz, Mary Brabston, Lori Brabston, Cheryl Strockis, Phyllis Peralta, Edith O'Rear, Bob Karcher.

GIFTS TO GOD

May 15, 2022

Offertory.....	\$ 8,634.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	\$ 8,398.00
Building Fund	\$ 2,219.05
<i>Budgeted</i>	\$ 2,751.00
Memorials	\$ 20.00
Votives.....	\$ 121.95
Online giving	\$ 1,819.42

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR:

The St. Thomas by the Sea Building Fund

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH SECRETARY UPDATE

Many thanks to Vicki Gordziel for all her help over the past few months as interim parish secretary. Have a great summer, Vicki, and hurry back to us in the Fall. Also, WELCOME to our new parish secretary, Geri Guarino, who started on May 18. Geri moved here from Louisiana to take the job, and we are thrilled to have her. By the way, Geri's birthday is Sunday, May 29. Come in and meet Geri when you can.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Information on our **Parish Finance Council**, as well as Annual and Quarterly Financial Reports, are now available online through our parish website. Go to stthomasbythesea.com, click on "Parish Ministries," then "About Us," to find the latest financial information. If you have any questions, contact any member of the Finance Council.

ANOTHER LOOK AT ABORTION

If you are not sure how to answer someone who questions you on the Church's stance on abortion, take a look at the pamphlet from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is available in the pamphlet stand in the Narthex.

PALM TREE MEMORIALS

You may have noticed the new palm tree planted along the west side of the church property. Each of these trees is available as a memorial or honorific at a cost of \$600.00. A plaque will be affixed on or near your tree with your name and the name of your loved one. If interested, fill out a form in the narthex. Brick and flower memorials are also available.

DAUGHTERS OF MARY

Daughters of Mary is a faith-sharing group for women who meet weekly to share their faith and who support and encourage each other to live according to the Gospel. We meet in the Parish Library on Fridays at 9:45 a.m. (except on First Friday, when we meet at 10:30 a.m.). Our last meeting before summer break will be on Friday, May 27. Contact Andree Drouilhet at 610-202-5997 or email a_drouilhet@yahoo.com.

"HOLY ROLLERS" BICYCLE CLUB

Fr. Paul would like to start a bicycle club at our Parish. What a great opportunity to keep physically and spiritually healthy, and to get to know each other better. If you are free on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. and want to join this group, please call the church office at 251-981-8132 to sign up.

ANNUAL PARISH FAMILY PICNIC

Our Annual Parish Picnic is back! All parishioners are invited to attend the picnic on **Sunday, May 22, 2022, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass**, at Waterfront Park on Canal Road in Orange Beach. Parishioner Stacey Certain of Island Epicurean will again cater the picnic, as she has done in the past. Bring your lawn chairs; everything else will be provided.

KNIGHT'S KORNER

The next K of C meeting will be on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Library. All Knights, as well as men interested in learning more about the Knights of Columbus, are welcome. There will be no Parish Breakfast in May. We will resume in June. Any questions? Please contact Bob Lindley at 251-978-8147.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH FESTIVAL

Magnolia Springs
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 28, 2022, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Live music, yard games, great food, 50/50 Raffle

MARY'S SHELTER JOB POSTING

Mary's Shelter seeks to hire a manager for our brand new Thrift Store slated to open this summer in downtown Elberta, Alabama. This start-up position will involve developing a floor plan, implementing a point-of-sale system and getting the store up and operational. Position transitions into General Management of day-to-day operations to include volunteer recruitment and oversight. This is a full-time, paid position with benefits. Contact Kay at kayrattles@maryssheltergulfoast.org or 251-986-6352.

FLOWERS FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION

You can donate the weekend altar flowers for a special occasion, or in honor of a loved one. You can also donate a memorial bouquet in the Virgin Mary or St. Joseph alcove. Contact Cheryl Robinson at 251-422-1268.

MINISTRY NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, May 28, 2022 – 5:00 p.m. Mass

Lector: Tina D'Aversa

Communion: Mary and Patrick Dalton, J.R. Bedel, Tina D'Aversa,

Ushers: Agnes and Jim Johnson, Joe Fierro, Jay Powell

Altar Server: Tim Drouilhet

Sunday, May 29, 2022 – 8:00 a.m. Mass

Lector: Melissa Sibille

Communion: Marian Smith, Sharon Mahne, Vicky Brown,
Bettie McDuffie

Ushers: Kelley Ouzts, Lynn Tampary, Robert Turner,
Jo-Ellen Karazim

Altar Server: Carlos DeSanctis

Sunday, May 29, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. Mass

Lector: Sue Goodman

Communion: Darlene Kerchner, Joanie Pruett, Alice Madere,
Cheryl Robinson

Ushers: Steve Kerchner, Dan Cummings, Rita Essig

Altar Server: Steve Fletcher

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
FOR ALL MASSES**

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, USHERS, LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS. Training is provided. Please call the church office at 251-981-8132.

**A CATHOLIC GUIDE TO
END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS**

This booklet, from The National Catholic Bioethics Center, explains church teaching on advance directives, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide and is available to our parishioners and can be picked up in the church office. It includes a health care proxy which you can fill out and give to your treating physicians.

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

The ladies of the Altar Rosary Society will be volunteering at the Catholic Social Services Thrift Shop in Robertsedale on the last Friday of the month. You can carpool by meeting in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and we will work from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, then go out to lunch. Call Laura Bosarge for more information at 251-209-2187.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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Men of Saint Joseph
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Wednesday, 7:00 a.m., Parish Library
Any Questions?
Call **Bob Barnett** at
251-979-1573



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SUNDAY BRUNCH 10AM-2PM



PLAYA

AT SPORTSMAN MARINA

CARNITA BREAKFAST: braised pork, sweet corn grits, two sunny side up eggs, chimichurri, tortillas

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

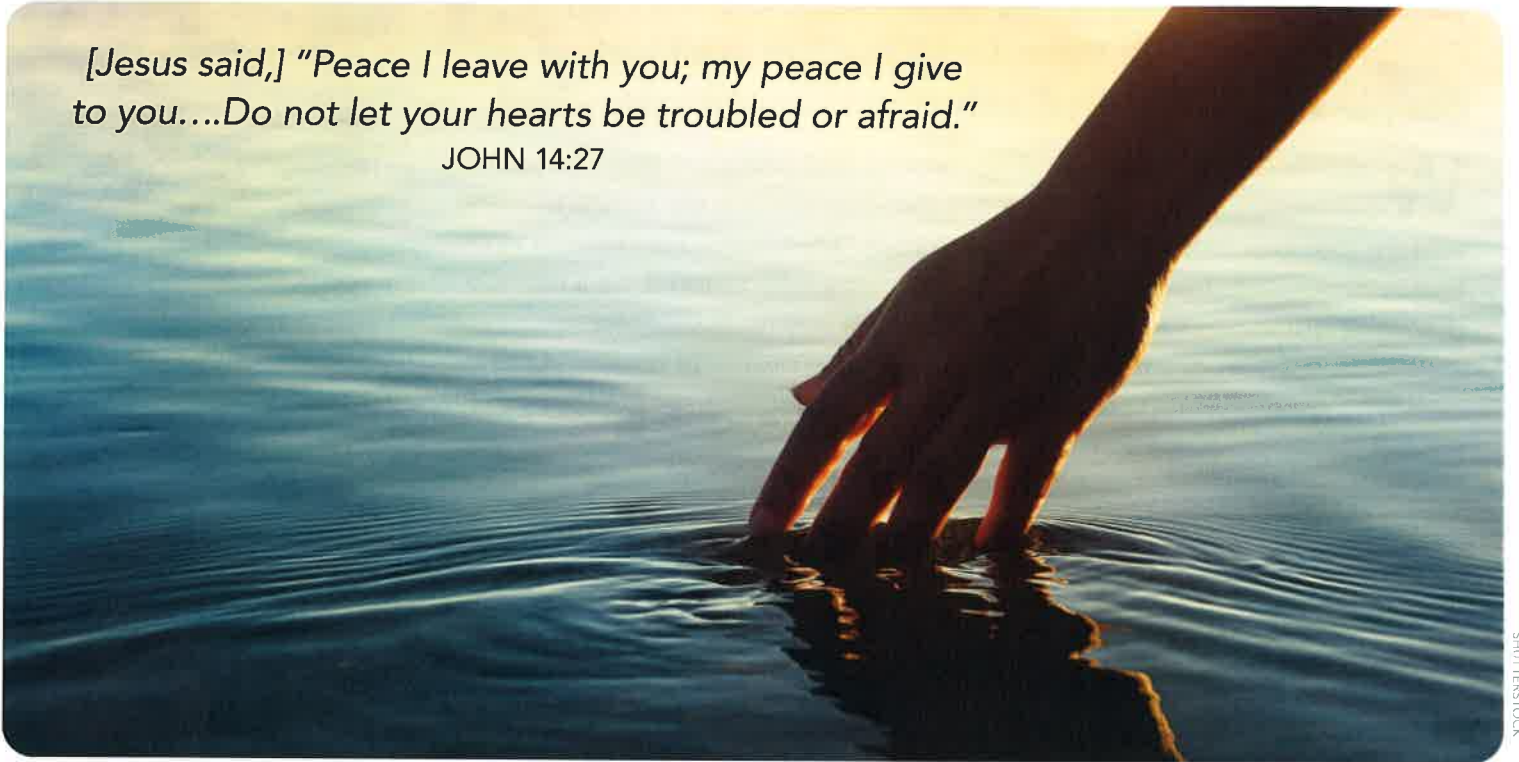
Acts 15:1–2, 22–29

Rev 21:10–14, 22–23

Jn 14:23–29

[Jesus said,] "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you....Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

JOHN 14:27



SHUTTERSTOCK

Times Are a-Changin’

Today’s Gospel expands a theme mentioned on the fourth Sunday of Easter, namely, change in religious practice. Many good people find some Second Vatican Council changes difficult to accept. For example, they may not like the new Mass form or leniency in Church discipline. They prefer Latin chants and the organ rather than folk music with guitars. This dissatisfaction is not necessarily because they are stubborn or unbending. It could be they were taught that the truth of the Church is eternal and unchanging, and want to see that reflected in the liturgy.

Actually, such understanding of the unchanging Church is only partially correct. The fundamentals of our faith as expressed in the Creed have not changed. It is the ways we understand or practice our faith that have gradually developed. For instance, the Mass is still the Mass, with three essential parts. Yet, the wording of some prayers have changed, and at Mass we stand more and kneel less. Most are cultural changes, but

there are some changes in theological understandings too. We now recognize the religious value of other faith traditions; interfaith marriage is allowed with special permission; and we understand the teachings of the Bible in new ways.

Today’s reading from Acts shows that, from its beginning, the Church changed. Paul and Barnabas did not require Gentile believers to conform to circumcision—a Jewish practice, not Christian. Dissent arose. But the Holy Spirit helped the leaders in Jerusalem move beyond long-standing past practices and into a new way of being faithful. We believe the Holy Spirit continues to work through believers to ensure that the gospel is always faithful, yet newly meaningful.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * *In what ways have changes made your faith more meaningful to you?*
- * *As we move toward Pentecost, pray to be open to the working of the Spirit in your parish.*

Dear Padre,

God gave humanity the skills for a child to be born to those suffering from infertility. So why does the Church oppose *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) after a couple has exhausted other options to conceive?

While the Church views having, raising, and educating children as a primary purpose of marriage, it also teaches that the means to achieve that goal must be morally appropriate. The Church considers *in vitro* fertilization (Latin for fertilization “in glass” or a laboratory) to be a morally inappropriate means for attaining that goal for two main reasons:

First, in practice, the IVF process almost always results in the destruction of living human embryos that do not get implanted in the woman, which the Church considers morally equivalent to abortion. Second, just as the Church teaches contraception is wrong because it entails the willful separation of the natural ends of the marital act, it also teaches that IVF is wrong because it replaces the dignity of the marital act with a technical procedure. In other words, IVF supersedes the act God willed to be the genesis of new life.

In addition, IVF demeans the dignity of the spouses and their parental role (and the dignity of a third-party sperm or egg donor, if one is involved).

All of this deprives the resulting child of a true filial relationship with his or her parents, turning the child into a technological commodity rather than a gift from God.

Couples must be careful not to become so obsessed with pregnancy that they lose perspective and fail to see other expressions of marital generativity, such as adoption, that expand marriage and provide a home to children who wouldn't otherwise have one.

From *Sexuality and Morality: Answers for Modern Catholics* © 2014 Liguori Publications



JOEANE AD'SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We are living in a time of experimentation with life. But it is harmful experimentation. Making children, rather than accepting them as a gift, as I said. Playing with life. Be careful, because this is a sin against the Creator: against God the Creator, who created things this way.

ADDRESS TO ITALIAN CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS, NOVEMBER 15, 2014

Calendar

Monday

MAY 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:11–15

Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday

MAY 24

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22–34

Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday

MAY 25

Easter Weekday

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1

Jn 16:12–15

Thursday

MAY 26

St. Philip Neri, Priest

Acts 18:1–8

Jn 16:16–20

Friday

MAY 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:9–18

Jn 16:20–23

Saturday

MAY 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:23–28

Jn 16:23b–28

Sunday

MAY 29

The Ascension
of the Lord

Acts 1:1–11

Eph 1:17–23 or

Heb 9:24–28;

10:19–23

Lk 24:46–53

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a question for
the Padre?**

Go to DearPadre.org
to send your question
and learn more about
Dear Padre.