

# 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](http://www.stthomasbythesea.com)  
 Priest Residence: (251) 981-1168  
[parishoffice@stthomasbythesea.com](mailto:parishoffice@stthomasbythesea.com)  
[frpaul@stthomasbythesea.com](mailto:frpaul@stthomasbythesea.com)  
 QR CODE for online giving  
 via cell phone



## 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 28

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass  
*Intention: Monte Reece*

### SUNDAY, MAY 29

8:00 a.m. Mass  
*Intention: Mavis Adams,  
Bob Karcher*

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

### MONDAY, MAY 30

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

### TUESDAY, MAY 31

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

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

7:00 a.m. Men of St. Joseph  
8:40 a.m. Rosary  
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

### THURSDAY, JUNE 2

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

### FRIDAY, JUNE 3

9:00 a.m. Communion Service  
9:30 a.m. Adoration

### SATURDAY, JUNE 4

4:00-4:45 p.m. Confessions  
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass  
*Intention: Mark Karazim*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Dominique DeSanctis, Sue Pizzitola, Ann Wilson, Chrissie McKillip, 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 and Sarah Tino.

*To add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office.*

## GIFTS TO GOD

May 22, 2022

Offertory.....	\$ 5,788.00
<i>Budgeted</i> .....	\$ 8,634.00
Building Fund .....	\$ 3,356.72
<i>Budgeted</i> .....	\$ 2,751.00
Memorials .....	\$ 665.00
Votives.....	\$ 52.75
Online giving .....	\$ 1,052.83

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR:  
*The St. Thomas by the Sea Building Fund*

Thank you for your generosity!

## CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Next week, our special collection supports the **Catholic Communication Campaign** which engages and builds Catholic communities in the U.S. and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of money collected remains here in the Mobile Diocese to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message. To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).

Father Paul will be on Retreat May 30-June 2, 2022. There will be Communion Service every weekday at 9:00 a.m., led by Deacon Steve Seymour.

St. Margaret of Scotland Parish presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Saturday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m. Father Carlos Martins, a Vatican-appointed expert on relics, will be here with an extraordinary Vatican collection of over 150 relics,

SACRED RELICS OF THE SAINTS



some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. Throughout history, many healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and thousands have occurred through this ministry. Do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please spread the word.



### ABORTION CLINIC CLOSED

Praise God, we have some excellent news to report. **The American Family Planning Abortion Clinic in Pensacola is temporarily closed** under an emergency order which was issued due to the injuries suffered by three women who endured botched abortions last year. Please pray that this clinic will stay closed permanently, and that these women will recover with God's healing Grace. (You can read more about this in the Pensacola News Journal issue of May 21, 2022.)

### "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 so we can let you know where and when to meet.

### 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.

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

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

### 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](http://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.

### MARY'S SHELTER GULF COAST

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@maryssheltergulfcoast.org](mailto:kayrattles@maryssheltergulfcoast.org) or 251-986-6352.

### MINISTRY NEXT WEEKEND

**Saturday, June 4, 2022 – 5:00 p.m. Mass**

*Lector:* Patrick Dalton

*Communion:* Andree Drouilhet, Tina D'Aversa, Mary Dalton, Jay Powell

*Ushers:* Agnes and Jim Johnson, Joe Fierro, Jay Powell, Andree Drouilhet

*Altar Server:* Tim Drouilhet

**Sunday, June 5, 2022 – 8:00 a.m. Mass**

*Lector:* Bob Barnett

*Communion:* Eva McDuffie, Vicky Brown, Kathy and Bob Lindley

*Ushers:* Lynn Tampay, LuAnn and Art Yaroch, JoEllen Karazim

*Altar Server:* Larry Mickwee

**Sunday, June 5, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. Mass**

*Lector:* Merrie Henderson

*Communion:* Darlene Kerchner, Alice Madere, Melanie Reece, Cheryl Robinson

*Ushers:* Steve Kerchner, Darlene Kerchner, Dan Cummings, Patty 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.

### 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.

### ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Benedict Catholic School is now looking to hire for the following part-time positions: Spanish teacher and Counselor. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who are ready to work with a variety of ages to teach music and Spanish and to conduct school counseling.

Certification is not required for these part-time positions. For more information, please call the school at 251-986-8143, or email Dr. McCool at [kmcool@saintbenedict.net](mailto:kmcool@saintbenedict.net).

### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK



*Be sure to support the businesses on the back of our bulletin; their advertising dollars support our parish!*

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**Men of Saint Joseph**  
**Meetings**  
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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## How Far Is Up?

**I**t depends upon your understanding of **cosmology**, the religious explanation of the nature and structure of the universe. If Jesus ascended into heaven, how far up did he go? This also depends upon your understanding of cosmology. These are not foolish questions. We might not be experts in the field of cosmology, but many of us know a bit about galaxies, spacetime, and black holes, if only from *Star Trek*. So with this minimal cosmological knowledge, how should we understand Acts 1:9 when “a cloud took [Jesus] from their sight”? Did he just keep going up?


In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul refers to Jesus’ ascension, but he does not describe a mystifying event, as the Gospel reading does. Instead, he speaks of Jesus’ exaltation at God’s right hand. Perhaps it was fitting that Jesus ascended into the sky a little way, emphasizing that what occurred was more than mere physical exaltation. Rather, it is a way of stating that Jesus has now achieved honor and glory far beyond anything that is human, earthly, or created. He now enjoys divine glorification.

Still, even Paul uses metaphorical language when he says that Jesus sits at God’s right hand in heaven. We know that heaven is more than a place but is also a state of total fulfillment. We also know that to be seated at the host’s right hand means to be awarded the place of honor at the banquet. So, Paul is saying that Jesus enjoys total fulfillment in the place of honor next to his Father, where he is now praised as the beginning and end of all that is. This is reason to rejoice.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Pray the responsorial psalm today.*
- ★ *At his ascension, Jesus said his followers would be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. Are you one?*



As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

LUKE 24:51–52

# Dear Padre,

## Why should I believe Jesus is God, the Messiah?

**J**esus was a historical figure whose miracles and wise teachings were witnessed by other reliable historical figures—the apostles and other disciples. He demonstrated miraculous powers through physical healings, dislodging demons, and command over nature, such as walking on water and instantly calming a storm. Most importantly, reliable witnesses saw the risen Jesus in a glorified body after his death on the cross. Rather than deny the truth of what they saw and learned, they submitted to gruesome martyrdoms.

Our world needs a Messiah. Despite the philosophies humans have adopted throughout history, we find we are our own worst enemy. Our egoism and pride have led to conflict and inequalities, negligence and hurt. We try following worldly leaders who promise us more, but they can't rid us of the inner defect of our selfishness. Neither economic success nor military conquest bring lasting happiness. We long for more. We long to know the purpose of life, to live without dying. We long to know God.

Jesus is the Messiah we need. His teaching centers on God's love for us and the love among people as the binding force for human hearts. Jesus taught that God loves his creations so much that he forgives people even for the ultimate sin: crucifying Jesus. His plans for eternity are that we, too, shall have a resurrection in a perfected body.

The truths Jesus exemplified and taught resonate perfectly with the deepest desires of the human heart.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*What is the secret of a happy life? Recognizing Jesus, but Jesus as the living God, not as a statue. Because it is not important to know that Jesus was great in history...what matters is the place I give him in my life, the place I give to Jesus in my heart.*

ANGELUS, JUNE 29, 2020

## Calendar

### Monday

MAY 30

Easter Weekday

Acts 19:1–8

Jn 16:29–33

### Tuesday

MAY 31

*The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Zep 3:14–18a or

Rom 12:9–16

Lk 1:39–56

### Wednesday

JUNE 1

*St. Justin, Martyr*

Acts 20:28–38

Jn 17:11b–19

### Thursday

JUNE 2

Easter Weekday

Acts 22:30; 23:6–11

Jn 17:20–26

### Friday

JUNE 3

*St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs*

Acts 25:13b–21

Jn 21:15–19

### Saturday

JUNE 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 28:16–20,

30–31

Jn 21:20–25

### Sunday

JUNE 5

Pentecost

Acts 2:1–11

1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13

or Rom 8:8–17

Jn 20:19–23 or

Jn 14:15–16, 23b–26