

JOURNEY OF

# Hope

A VOICE PROCLAIMS: IN THE WILDERNESS

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!  
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND  
A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!

ISAIAH 40:3

ADVENT 2023

## ST. THOMAS

By The Sea

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 1190, 26547 Perdido Beach Boulevard  
Orange Beach, Alabama 36561



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(251) 981-8132  
FAX: (251) 981-1981  
Priest Residence: (251) 981-1168  
[parishoffice@stthomasbythesea.com](mailto:parishoffice@stthomasbythesea.com)  
[frpaul@stthomasbythesea.com](mailto:frpaul@stthomasbythesea.com)

### 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 or on our website). 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)

[www.stthomasbythesea.com](http://www.stthomasbythesea.com)

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS BY THE SEA

**SATURDAY, December 2**

4:00-4:45 p.m. Confessions  
 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass  
*Intention: Bielkiewicz & Dausat Families*  
*Joe Grimes+*

**SUNDAY, December 3**

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
*Intention: Eric Mills+*  
 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
*Intention: Jo Armstrong+*

**MONDAY, December 4**

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

**TUESDAY, December 5**

8:40 a.m. Rosary  
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
*Intention: Margaret Henry+*

**WEDNESDAY, December 6**

7:00 a.m. Men of St. Joseph  
 8:40 a.m. Rosary  
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
*Intention: Hank Mitchell+*  
 6:30 p.m. Walking With Purpose

**THURSDAY, December 7**

8:40 a.m. Rosary  
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
*Intention: Jane Roesemeier+*  
 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass,  
 Immaculate Conception  
*Intention: Steve Quinn+*

**FRIDAY, December 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)**

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
*Intention: Marian & Molaschi Families*  
 9:45 a.m. Daughters of Mary

**SATURDAY, December 9**

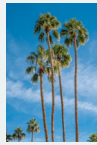
4:00-4:45 p.m. Confessions  
 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass  
*Intention: Bielkiewicz & Dausat Families*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Milton & Rita Essig, Dominique DeSanctis, Patrick Rogers, Bill & Mary Brabston, Lori Brabston, Elliott Trahan, Phyllis Peralta, Pam Rohan, Babe Rohan, Bob Osterholt, Brenda Lomax, Tony Cate, Becky Cate, Mark Cate, Dina Bazor, Thomas Potts, Michael Fleshman, Michael Dalton, Brian Coco, Lorrie Larew, Rebecca London, Jordan Dupre', Joe Mullen, Pat Hutton, Patty Tucker and Jerry Tucker.

*Some names have been removed. Please notify the Church Office if they need to be reinstated, or if you need to add a name to this list.*

**PARISH SECRETARY POSITION:** St. Thomas by the Sea is in need of a Parish Secretary. Please let us know if you are interested. Contact Marge Keller at stthomasbk@gmail.com for more information or call the Church Office at 251-981-8132.

**CATHOLIC GUIDE TO END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS:** You can ensure that your health care proxy (living will) is in accord with Catholic teaching by getting this document, which explains Church teaching on advance medical directives, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. It is issued by the National Catholic Bioethics Center, and includes a healthcare proxy form. Available on request in the church office.



**PALM TREE MEMORIALS ARE STILL AVAILABLE** as a memorial or honorific at a cost of \$600.00. A plaque will be affixed on your tree with your name and the name of your loved one. If interested, fill out the form in the Narthex and return it to the Church Office. Brick and flower memorials are also available.

**EWTN WILL BE BROADCASTING LIVE** Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC. Watch or listen to EWTN TV or EWTN Radio on your local channel or download the free EWTN app on your cell phone.

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD on November 26, 2023**

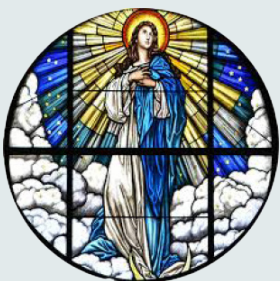
Offertory .....	\$ 4,522.00
<i>Budgeted</i> .....	\$ 9,000.00
Online Giving .....	\$ 1,758.67
Votives .....	\$ 48.41
Building Fund .....	\$ 1,402.53
<i>Budgeted</i> .....	\$ 4,000.00
Human Development .....	\$ 200.00
Knights of Columbus .....	\$ 980.00
Archdiocese Priest Fund .....	\$ 60.00

**THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR:**

**ST. THOMAS BY THE SEA BUILDING FUND**

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Next weekend,** our Second Collection will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others.



**Friday, December 8, 2023 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Celebrate Mass with us either at the Vigil Mass, 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th, or on Friday, December 8th at 9:00 a.m.**

**THE ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY** will have a short meeting following Mass on Tuesday, December 12, and then join together for lunch at GT's on the Bay in Orange Beach at 11:00 am. All ladies of the parish are welcome. Please contact Anne Quinn at 303-324-3526 or [anne@aspengroup.org](mailto:anne@aspengroup.org) no later than Sunday, December 10th, if you are planning on attending.

**THE ANGELS OF JOY GIFT SHOP**, operated by the Altar Rosary Society, is open after all weekend Masses. We appreciate your patronage as we support many charities through your purchases. We currently have for sale books of coupons for Baldwin and Escambia County local restaurants and businesses, to benefit St. Benedict Catholic School, available for \$20.00 each.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION... All are welcome!**

- **Small Christian Communities:** There are presently four groups meeting on a regular weekly basis at different times to view and discuss videos available to the parish through FORMED. Contact: Melissa Sibille at 850-566-1016, [mldsibille@gmail.com](mailto:mldsibille@gmail.com).
- **Men of St. Joseph:** Men join in reading and discussing readings for the following Sunday Masses, along with the Wednesday reflections from Magnificat. Contact Bob Barnett at 251-979-1573 or [rbbtrb@gmail.com](mailto:rbbtrb@gmail.com).
- **Walking With Purpose:** This bible study group for women meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Contact Diana d'Angelo at 440-487-4373 or [ddangelo17@icloud.com](mailto:ddangelo17@icloud.com).
- **Daughters of Mary:** These women meet on Friday mornings after Mass to read and reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings, growing in faith and community with one another. Contact Andree Drouilhet at 610-202-5997 or [a\\_drouilhet@yahoo.com](mailto:a_drouilhet@yahoo.com).

**MARY'S SHELTER BINGO** will start on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. This year will be our 20th, and we hope to be back to full capacity! But WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to be callers, floor attendants, kitchen helpers and cooks to provide soups and sweets. Please consider giving us a hand – you can work anywhere from once a month to every Thursday. Call Suzanne at 251-213-3035 ([stthomasvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasvolunteers@gmail.com)) to volunteer or for more information.

**Mary's Shelter BE MY VALENTINE IV** – Tickets are on sale for the 2024 **Be My Valentine IV for \$10,000.00 Drawdown Extravaganza** event which is scheduled for February 18, 2024 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Gulf Parish Hall, 308 East 22 Avenue, Gulf Shores. In addition to the drawdown, it will include lunch and a live "Elvis" performance. Tickets are \$100.00 each and go fast, so purchase yours by calling Shannon at 251-986-6351. Mary's Shelter is our local home for pregnant, homeless women, and this is its major fundraising event every year.

**LIFE QUOTES:**

"The Gospel of Life" recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

– USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, [respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life](http://respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life)

**MINISTRY NEXT WEEKEND – DECEMBER 9-10**

	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ALTAR SERVER	USHER	SACRISTAN
<b>Saturday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	Jean Marzullo	Tina D'Aversa Jay Powell Andree Drouilhet Nancy Milton	Al Bedel	Joe Fierro, Jim Johnson Jay Powell Van Bielkiewicz J.R. Bedel Rob Shine	J.R. Bedel
<b>Sunday, 8:00 a.m.</b>	Bob Barnett	Anne Quinn Betty McDuffie Vicki Brown Sharon Mahne	Carlos DeSanctis	Ouida Turner, Art Yaroch Luann Yaroch Robert Turner, Paul Brown Lynn Tampary	Mike Shell
<b>Sunday, 10:00 a.m.</b>	Annette Mitchell	Mary Mercer Joannie Pruett June Murray Cheryl Robinson	John Scheel	Richard Mercer Mike Pruett, Sandy Tryles Lee Barnes Dan Cummings Patty Cummings	Deacon Steve

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES – EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS AND USHERS. Training is provided. Please call the church office at 251-981-8132.**

**SAINT THOMAS BY THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH**

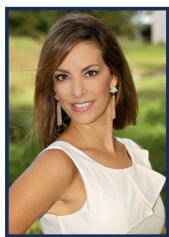
P.O. Box 1190  
26547 Perdido Beach Boulevard  
Orange Beach, Alabama 36561  
Parish Office 251-981-8132  
FAX 251-981-1981  
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**PARISH DIRECTORY**

- Altar Rosary Society**  
Anne Quinn .....303-324-3526
- Church Bookkeeper**  
Marge Keller .....251-981-8132
- Church Secretary (Interim)**  
Vicki Gordziel.....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 & Bereaved**  
Parish Office .....251-981-8132
- Respect Life Committee**  
Suzanne Laurier .....251-981-1918
- CCD**  
Contact Father Paul...251-981-8132
- Choir Director/Organist**  
Paul Anderson .....251-377-7923
- Parish Council**  
Chairperson  
Tina D'Aversa .....678-457-0677
- Finance Council**  
Steve Kerchner .....251-981-8132
- Memorials**  
Parish Office .....251-981-8132
- Ministry**  
To serve as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister,  
Contact Father Paul...251-981-8132
- RCIA**  
Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.,  
September-Easter  
Contact Father Paul...251-981-8132
- St. Benedict School**  
Contact Father Paul...251-981-8132
- Winter Visitor Contact**  
Ellen Passage.....517-881-6615
- Sacrament of Baptism**  
Contact Parish Office at least one month prior .....251-981-8132
- Sacrament of Marriage**  
Contact Parish Office at least six months prior .....251-981-8132
- Wedding Coordinators**  
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- Gift Shop**  
Merrie Henderson .....850-982-5213





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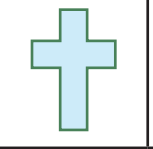
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