

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



Give online
via cell phone
with our
QR code



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

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS BY THE SEA

SATURDAY, December 9

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

SUNDAY, December 10

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Essie & LeRoy Lafleur+
 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Laura Pritchett+

MONDAY, December 11

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

TUESDAY, December 12

8:40 a.m. Rosary
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: All Living and Deceased Members of the Altar Rosary Society

WEDNESDAY, December 13

7:00 a.m. Men of St. Joseph
 8:40 a.m. Rosary
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: David Cranston
 6:30 p.m. Walking With Purpose

THURSDAY, December 14

8:40 a.m. Rosary
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Bill Chambers+

FRIDAY, December 15

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Elaine & Kirk Kerchner+
 9:45 a.m. Daughters of Mary

SATURDAY, December 16

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



FRIENDLY REMINDER:
 The St. Thomas by the Sea Chapel is open weekdays for prayer, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



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.

OPEN POSITION

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.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATION is underway! **The Rosary Altar Society Ladies** are busy planning to decorate our Church, but we will need your help on Sunday, December 17th immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Hope to see you there!

WE ALL NEED PRAYER. Our priest needs prayer, too! We are starting a group to offer prayers for Fr. Paul. It is a simple structure designed by Seven Sisters Apostolate; all we need are seven women who commit to praying a Holy Hour one day a week to get this started. For more information, contact Beverly Mills at 231-590-7115 or bmills48@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE! Very Rev. Fr. Paul Zogby will be here on Tuesday, December 19th, at 6:00 p.m. to bless our new Pieta statue. He will also celebrate a Reconciliation Service, following which several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

YOUR 2024 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR is available for you to pick up in the Narthex.

LIFE QUOTES:

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother."

Learn how to at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD on December 3, 2023

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Offertory | \$ 10,604.00 |
| <i>Budgeted</i> | \$ 9,000.00 |
| Online Giving | \$ 2,396.67 |
| Votives | \$ 69.10 |
| Flowers | \$ 40.00 |
| Nativity | \$ 50.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 3,442.00 |
| <i>Budgeted</i> | \$ 4,000.00 |

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS.

Thank you for your generosity.

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.

The **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will be selling religious Christmas Cards in the Narthex immediately after every Mass for the next two weekends. Thank you for your support.

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.

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 a.m. All ladies of the parish are welcome. Please contact Anne Quinn at 303-324-3526 or anne@aspengroup.org no later than Sunday, December 10th, if you are planning on attending.

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.
- **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.
- **Walking With Purpose:** This bible study group for women meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact Diana d'Angelo at 440-487-4373 or 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, 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) to volunteer or for more information.

Mary's Shelter BE MY VALENTINE IV — Tickets are on sale for the 2024 **Be My Valentine IV \$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; this is its major fundraising event every year.

MINISTRY NEXT WEEKEND – DECEMBER 16-17

| | LECTOR | EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER | ALTAR SERVER | USHER | SACRISTAN |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|------------------|--|------------------------|
| Saturday, 5:00 p.m. | Tina D'Aversa | Sharon Mahne Nancy Milton J.R. Bedel | Patrick Dalton | Joe Fierro, Jim Johnson Jay Powell Van Bielkiewicz Denise Jackson | Aracelly Cain Smith |
| Sunday, 8:00 a.m. | Melissa Sibille | Anne Quinn Raquel Coll Eva McDuffie Beverly Mills | Carlos DeSanctis | Ouida Turner, Art Yaroch Luann Yaroch Robert Turner, Paul Brown John Nese | Mike Shell |
| Sunday, 10:00 a.m. | Alice Madere | Bob Lindley Kathy Lindley Melanie Reece Mary Mercer | June Murray | Darlene Kerchner Steve Kerchner 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.

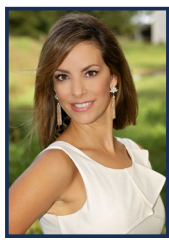
SAINT THOMAS BY THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 1190
26547 Perdido Beach Boulevard
Orange Beach, Alabama 36561
Parish Office 251-981-8132
FAX 251-981-1981
www.stthomasbythesea.com



PARISH DIRECTORY

- Altar Rosary Society**
Anne Quinn303-324-3526
- Church Bookkeeper**
Marge Keller251-981-8132
- 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 Office251-981-8132
- Hispanic Ministry**
Contact St. Margaret of Scotland251-981-8132
- Knights of Columbus**
Bob Lindley251-978-8147
- Ministry of Care to Sick & Bereaved**
Parish Office251-981-8132
- Respect Life Committee**
Suzanne Laurier251-981-1918
- CCD**
Contact Father Paul...251-981-8132
- Choir Director/Organist**
Paul Anderson251-377-7923
- Parish Council**
Chairperson
Tina D'Aversa678-457-0677
- Finance Council**
Steve Kerchner251-981-8132
- Memorials**
Parish Office251-981-8132
- 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 prior251-981-8132
- Sacrament of Marriage**
Contact Parish Office at least six months prior251-981-8132
- Wedding Coordinators**
Cheryl Robinson251-422-1268
- Gift Shop**
Merrie Henderson850-982-5213



Vacation Rental & Sales

Mary Cain Fowler, Owner/Broker & Parishioner
251.752.7015 bellabeachproperties.com



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CLEANING
251-654-8831 • Brittany Perez
LARTIGUE SEAFOOD
Fresh & Steamed To Go
23043 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL
948-2644 parishioner
15% OFF w/bulletin

Going the Extra Mile for YOU!

OF ORANGE BEACH

NANCY LEONARD
REALTOR® Licensed in AL/FL - Parishioner
Nancy@NanSeaSells.com
www.NanSeaSells.com

251-223-2462

ORANGE BEACH FAMILY MEDICINE
Caring for patients of all ages, pediatric to geriatric
251-424-1600
27121 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL
www.obfamilymedicine.com

RYAN A. FORBESS, MD

Located at the Gulf State Park Recreation Center
Segway PT Tour of the Backcountry Trails in the Gulf State Park.

251-509-8687
Bike Rentals also Available
<http://coastalsegwayadventures.com>

Best Lunch and Seafood Winner

Join our Wait List Online at
www.desotosseafoodkitchen.com
251-948-7294

PIER HOUSE RESTAURANT - BAR

251-256-0009 • www.PierHouseOB.com
22703 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL
After Mass Try Our Sunday Brunch
Right next to Ron Jon Surf Shop

www.melissasmattress.com
662-871-8746
High Quality, Affordable Memory Foam Mattresses in a Box Delivered to Your Door
Made in the USA

HOODS HOME CENTER

Cabinets, Flooring, Doors, Countertops & Home Decor
Foley, AL | Mobile, AL | Gulfport, MS

251-510-7226
www.gulfcoastrentalco.com
Orange Beach, AL

SLINGSHOTS, JEEPS, LSV'S AND MORE!

JERRY MORRISON PROPERTY SERVICES
251-504-5333
Locally family owned and operated. Licensed and insured.

- palm tree trimming
- new pinestraw/mulch installed
- hedge trimming
- irrigation install/repair
- lawn maintenance

REMODELING, FRAMING, PAINTING, DRYWALL, DECKS & DOCKS
251.200.3796
www.mdpeliteservicesllc.com

FISHER'S AT ORANGE BEACH MARINA

DOCKSIDE

FISHER'S AT ORANGE BEACH MARINA



PLAYA RESTAURANT
PLAYA AT SPORTSMAN MARINA

Carpet, TILE & Upholstery
Emerald Coast Carpet Cleaning
Water Damage Restoration
251-948-2161 (John Haber)

IKE'S BEACH SERVICE
Rentals@IkesBeachService.com
251-948-3757
Chairs & Umbrellas, Kayaks, Paddle Boards, Beach Wheelchairs, Parasailing, and Banana Rides
800 West Beach Blvd
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Jane Loves Shoes
27267 Perdido Beach Blvd.
C-107 SanRoc Cay
251.980.5263 (w)

Kitty's Kafe
Restaurant & Catering
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Country Cooking
Mon-Sat, 7-2; Sun, Closed
251-948-KAFE (5233)
Pelican Place
3800 Gulf Shores Parkway,
Suite 100 • next to Target

Stan Szapiel
General Manager/Licensed Real Estate Agent
251-980-9020 (O) • 251-747-1232 (C)
sszapiel@cariberesort.com • www.cariberesort.com
www.turquoiseplacerentals.com

251-931-3172
SPECIALIZING IN CAJUN FOOD
25908 Canal Rd. Ste H

251-597-5094
IT Services, Computer Support & Repair
Training • Custom Computers

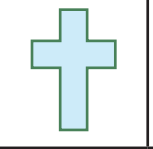
Lat 30 Property Maintenance & Repair
251-597-0589
Handyman, painting, remodeling

ALL BALDWIN CLEANERS
FOLEY - GULF SHORES ORANGE BEACH
Bring church bulletin in with cleaning and receive a 10% discount.
251-947-1901

MEETING ALL OF YOUR NEEDS
Pine Rest Memorial Park & Funeral Home
Serving All Cemeteries - All Cremation Types - Traditional Funerals
Family Owned & Operated Office: 251-943-5667
Baldwin Memorial Cemetery 16541 US HWY 98, Foley, AL 36536
Monuments*Headstones*Mausoleum*Perpetual Care*Prearrangements

A PLACE FOR SEAFOOD GULF SHORES - AL.
Family Owned and Operated - SINCE 1987 -
Shrimpy's GRILL & GOLF

ASSISTED AND INDEPENDENT LIVING
2022 AND 2023 VOTED BEST OF BALDWIN RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
Live Oak VILLAGE
FOLEY, ALABAMA
251.943.6733
WWW.LIVEDAKAL.COM



ROOF DOCTOR'S
251-943-8682
All roofing needs
Commercial and residential
Locally Owned and Operated.

BEHIND SOUVENIR CITY

GULF SHORES, ALABAMA
251.923-2800
WWW.HAVENMEMORYCARE.ORG

Please Patronize Our Advertisers... To Place An Ad, Call 1-800-292-9020.

Thomas by the Sea, Gulf Shores, AL-#1712-LB-10/30/23