

JOURNEY OF

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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
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 16

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

SUNDAY, December 17

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: St. Thomas Parishioners
 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Marian and Molaschi Families

MONDAY, December 18

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

TUESDAY, December 19

8:40 a.m. Rosary
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Sondra Hanks +
 5:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 20

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

THURSDAY, December 21

8:40 a.m. Rosary
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Laura Reinhardt +

FRIDAY, December 22

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass
Intention: Laura Towey Pritchett +

SATURDAY, December 23

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

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.

WELCOME HOME...to all of our Winter Visitors. We certainly missed you!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 – Carols at 4:30 p.m.,
 Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 – Mass at 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1 – Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Note that the Christmas Eve Mass does not count for your Sunday obligation.

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

ALFRED-WASHBURN DAY CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS: Clients at AWC are always in great need of batteries (AA, AAA, C), reading glasses, small size deodorant, flashlights, sports socks, men's boxer shorts, women's underwear and disposable razors. Anything you can do to help is much appreciated. Bring your donations to the Church, to be taken to the Center. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. God bless you for your generosity!

LIFE QUOTES:

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."
 – USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"



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



**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD
 on December 10, 2023**

Offertory	\$ 8,313.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	\$ 9,000.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,446.67
Votives	\$ 34.60
Flowers	\$ 600.00
Mass Memorials.....	\$ 40.00
Baldwin EMC Refund.....	\$ 520.83
Retirement Fund for Religious.....	\$ 1,368.00
Building Fund	\$ 200.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	\$ 4,000.00

**THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR
 THE ST. THOMAS BY THE SEA BUILDING FUND.**

Thank you for your generosity.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION... All are welcome!

- **Small Christian Communities:** Please join in our next SCC series beginning the week of January 14. As the church continues to focus on the National Eucharistic Revival Mission in 2024, in this 7-week series we will be reading together and discussing "Beautiful Eucharist." "Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist should be like touching Heaven, and that should change the way we live here on earth!" (Matthew Kelly) . To join a SCC group, complete registration card (on back table in Narthex) or contact Melisa Sibille at 850-566-1016. Existing attendees will be contacted by your group facilitator prior to start of series. We welcome our winter visitors to join us.
- **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 rbbrb@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.
- **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, 610-202-5997, a_drouilhet@yahoo.com. No meetings over Christmas season. We will reconvene on the first Friday in January.

The **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY** will begin on January 12, 2024. Plan now to join us for delicious fish and sides. More information to follow shortly.

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 23-25

	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ALTAR SERVER	USHER	SACRISTAN
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Kathleen Shine	Tina D'Aversa Jay Powell Nancy Milton	Patrick Dalton	Joe Fierro, Jim Johnson Jay Powell Van Bielkiewicz Rob Shine	Aracelly Cain Smith
Sunday, 8:00 a.m.	Beverly Mills	Anne Quinn Vicki Brown Melissa Sibille Sharon Mahne	Carlos DeSanctis	Ouida Turner, Art Yaroch Luann Yaroch Robert Turner, Paul Brown John Nese	Mike Shell
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.	Merri Henderson	Mary Mercer Melanie Reece Joanie Pruett Merrie Henderson	Tom Murray	Richard Mercer Sandy Tryles, Mike Pruett Steve Kerchner Darlene Kerchner Lee Barnes	June Murray
Sunday, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve	Al Bedel	Bob Lindley Kathy Lindley Cheryl Robinson Marian Smith	J.R. Bedel	Lynn Tampary Dan Cummings Patty Cummings Joe Fierro Van Bielkiewicz Jim Johnson	Merrie Henderson
Monday, 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day	Jean Marzullo	Betty McDuffie Raquel Coll Eva McDuffie Vicki Brown	John Scheel	Rob Shine Denise Jackson John Neese, Paul Brown Robert Turner Ouida Turner	Aracelly Cain Smith

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

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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

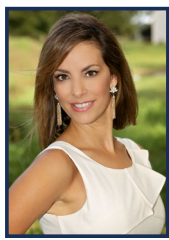
Winter Visitor Contact
Ellen Passage.....517-881-6615

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

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