

# St. John of the Cross



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**Mailing Address —P. O. Box 329, Orange Grove, TX 78372**

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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

## Good News!

- **January 11, 2026**
- **The Baptism of the Lord (A)**
- **Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Matthew 3:13-17**



**January 11, 2026**  
*The Baptism of the Lord (A)*

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Matthew 3:13-17**

MIGUEL DULICK

**John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus and known as “the Baptist,” offers a “baptism of repentance.”** Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the standards of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today’s beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father’s Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove, and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, “This is my beloved Son!” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he is offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St. Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi, “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:5–6). ●

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### Mass Schedule

**Saturday:** 6:00 PM  
**Sunday:**  
7:30 AM & 11:00 AM ~ English  
6:00 PM ~ Spanish  
**Daily Mass:**  
Mon., Tues., & Fri. ~ 8:00 AM  
Thurs.(Sp.) ~ 6:00 PM  
**1st Saturday Mass:** 8:00 AM  
  
**Adoration**  
**Thurs.~ Spanish—6:30PM**

### Reconciliation

**Thursday:** 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
**Saturday:** 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
**Sunday:** 5:30 PM  
  
Please contact Fr. Patrick by phone or email if you need to make an appointment for **Confession** or **Anointing of the Sick**.

### Parish Office Hours

**Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs:**  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
  
**CLOSED FOR LUNCH**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
  
**OFFICE IS CLOSED**  
**Fri, Sat, & Sun.**

# Worship, Prayer, & Ministries

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat.-10	6:00PM	† Manuel Alejandro by Graciela & Pablo Alaniz, Jr. † Harry Davis by Anita Bazan Birthday blessings for Carol Burgeson by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Birthday blessings for Rosalie Marie Silva by Grandpa and Grandma
Sun.-11	7:30AM <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	† Lorryne Robinson by Jana Robinson Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Altar Cemetery Association
	11:00AM	† Vicky Leon-Guerrero (Heavenly birthday) and † David Shirley by Ellie Mankin & Leon-Guerrero Family † Mr. & † Mrs. Pablo Padron by Janie Beltran For health, strength, and guidance on the path forward for Vincent Refugio Gordon by Maria Galván & Jeff Gordon
	6:00PM	† Ignacio Gonzalez (29 anos) por Familia Conchas Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-12	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
Tues.-13	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
Thurs.-15	6:00PM (SPA)	<i>La misa está abierta y disponible.</i>
	6:30PM	Adoracion
Fri.-16	8:00AM	† Elsie Buschelmann (23rd anniv.) by Nell Gwosdz & Family

## Masses for January 17 & 18

Sat.-17	6:00PM	† Pablo Alaniz, Sr. (92nd birthday) by Lupe & Angie Alejandro † Feliciano Borrego, Jr. by Armando Borrego † Norma Rodriguez (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family
Sun.-18	7:30AM	† Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Jose A. Gonzalez, Jr. (22nd anniv.) by Anna Winterbottom In thanksgiving for the life and health of Victor M. Gordon by M. Galván & J. Gordon
	6:00PM	Las familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is in memory of

*+ Cristela Solano & + Vivian Solano*

by Graciela & Pablo Alaniz

Please be aware of a scam using Father Patrick's name on an email.

This latest scam involves an email that appears to be from Father Patrick asking for your "assistance with a staff project".

DO NOT REPLY. This is a SCAM.



## Ministry Schedule for Mass

### Ministry Schedule

**January 17—6:00PM—Lector:** Raquel S. Jimenez  
**EM:** Luis and Nora Romanos, Anita Bazan  
**Head Ushers:** San Juanita Gaza, Carlos Alanis

**January 18—7:30AM—Lector:** Ed Ortiz  
**EM:** Laura Gwosdz, Jose Isais, Margie Svetlik  
**Head Ushers:** Bart and Maria Miller

**11:00AM—Lector:** Dee DeLeon  
**EM:** Jeri Alaniz, Diana DeAnda, Janie Flores, Karol Kocurek  
**Head Usher:** Tinker Villarreal

**6:00PM—Lector:** Maria Esmeralda Castro  
**EM:** Joachin Ordonez, Jesus Perez  
**Head Usher:** Paulin Becerril

We are in need of more lectors, eucharistic ministers, and ushers for all Masses.  
Please let the parish office know if you can help.



## PRAYER LIST

We continue to pray for the needs of those in our parish:

**Gloria Contreras, Art Forbes, Angelica Fries, Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, Johnny Soliz, and Christina Tipton**



*The names of newly added persons will remain for three weeks. Contact the Parish Office if names need to be added to the prayer list.*

Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:

**Theresa Laurienti, Ricki Rodriguez Choat, and Amanda Smithwick**



## Praying for our Military

We remember these service personnel in each 'Mass for the Families of the Parish'

**Air Force:** Preston Holliday, Alayah Moore, Deborah Thomas



**Army:** Father Jim Craig, Madeleena Delaney, Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald, Jacob Madrid, Eduardo Perales, Robert Ponce, Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios, and Tyree Winstead

**Coast Guard:** Corey Bunton and Joshua Salinas

**Marines:** Aurora Alarcon, Hunter Frees, and Andre Rodriguez

**Navy:** Cory Elyasevich, Diane Martinez, and Noah Vasquez

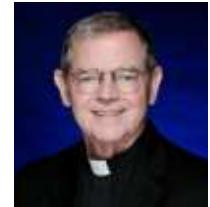
Please pray for our **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!**

Please call the parish office or use the online form to submit names & branch of service.

1. Go to [www.st-johnog.org](http://www.st-johnog.org)
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab
3. click on 'Active Military Prayer Request'

# A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ends the Church's Christmas Season, and I will be returning to wearing the green vestments. Sunday afternoon all of the Christmas decorations will be taken down and stored for next December 25<sup>th</sup>. I hope that many will be there to help, especially with the large or heavy boxes. Setting up the decorations takes far more work than taking them down! Thank you for your help.

The great majority of people will view the Baptism of their child, or an adult, as the end of a process of instructions for the parents and the godparents, or for those children and adults and their godparents. They have finally gotten their Baptism and they are finished. Now they just have to go to Mass on Sundays and celebrate Confession and the other Sacraments as those might be needed in their lives. But if we take a good look at today's Gospel reading, the Baptism of the Lord is not the end but the beginning of his public ministry. It is our Catholic traditional understanding that for the first thirty years of His life, Jesus quietly grew up in Nazareth in the home of Mary and Joseph. He had, like all humans, to learn to walk and to talk and to eat just like any baby and child. Jesus had to go to school to learn to read and write so that he could participate in the synagogue services each Sabbath. Jesus learned the carpentry trade from his father Joseph and learned to help Mary with the household tasks. It was during this "silent" time in the Scriptures from the age of twelve to age thirty that Joseph died. At the age of twelve, He went up with them to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Jesus remained in Jerusalem, while Joseph and Mary were returning to Nazareth. *They "lost" the Son of God?* They found Him in the temple conversing with the priests. Jesus "then went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.<sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (LK 2:51-52) And a few verses later in Luke's Gospel that after His baptism by John the Baptist we read, "Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry" (LK 3:23).

For Jesus, His baptism by St. John the Baptist was the beginning of His preaching and teaching. Jesus performs His first miracle of the Water turned into Wine at the wedding in Cana very soon thereafter. Jesus then begins His Galilean ministry when he would go to the synagogue and read from the scroll, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." And then He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing". After the thirty years in Nazareth, Jesus begins the work that God had sent him to do.

That is the same for us when we receive any of the seven Sacraments! It is not the final culmination of a process, but the very beginning of a new work and ability before God. At the end of the Mass and at the end of most of the sacraments, the phrase "Go and proclaim the Word of the Lord" is proclaimed. It is part of the Great Commissioning in the Gospels. The last words of the Gospel of Matthew are: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." This three-fold instruction was given to the Apostles and to all of us! In that ONE sentence Jesus tells us, "to teach, to baptize, and to make disciples". It is not just to baptize, but to make disciples by teaching them the faith. When we are Baptized or Confirmed or Married, we are again "commissioned" to go forth and show others our faith in Jesus and in Salvation by living a life of goodness and holiness. So, on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, take a minute and recommit yourselves to those promises you made to God on those days you received your Sacraments.

Love and Prayers.  
Fr. Patrick

P.S. For all those who gave me gifts either for my Birthday celebration or for Christmas, a most sincere "Thank You for your love, kindness, and support". This year with the days on which Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary occurred, it has been a marathon of seventeen days and more than thirty-six Masses, I have fallen behind on my Thank You cards. Please be patient with me as I will get them written. Fr. Pat

## Deacon's Corner

Today, the Baptism of the Lord, ends the Christmas season. It is the last day that we wear white vestments. We begin the First Week in Ordinary Time and wear green. We'll have Lent and Easter, then we'll go back to Ordinary Time until next Advent. The readings for today are from [Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7](#); [Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10](#); [Acts 10:34-38](#); and [Matthew 3:13-17](#). Welcome to the 2026 liturgical. We will be reading the Gospel of Matthew this year, Year A of the Liturgical rotation. Today, we'll read from chapter 3 of Matthew about the Baptism of the Lord. The *event* is important but not for obvious reasons. Obviously, Jesus does not need to be baptized with the baptism of repentance, which is John's program, sort of. For me, this scripture has always been puzzling, and over the years I have come to understand that the theme of the reading, and one of the major themes of the New Testament is repentance. What other themes of the New Testament are important? Forgiveness? Love of neighbor? Unity? Universality? The Real Presence of Jesus in Word and Sacrament? Submission? The Cross? Reconciliation? As we go through Matthew this year, try to find these themes and others. I think this Gospel is the most comprehensive of the first three. The main feature is Matthew's structure or scheme to verify that Jesus is the Messiah, and he constantly uses Old Testament scriptures to verify that Jesus is the Son of God; that he became a human being; that he came to die for us; and that he rose from the dead to give us a chance at eternal life. He is very hard on the Scribes and Pharisees, and the Sadducees. He seems to de-emphasize the importance of the Sabbath by having Jesus constantly heal people on the Sabbath, leaving us with the impression that he wants the Jewish authority to understand that Jesus is more important than observance of the law; that the love of

the law can be extreme when it is used to judge people; and, that the Lord is the only just judge of our violations of the law, especially the law of love. See Matthew 25: 31-46, the judgment of the nations, which will be the last reading of the year, on Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2026. I got a little off-track here, so let's go back to the meditation on the Baptism of the Lord. Baptism as we know it, a submission to the Blessed Trinity, (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), was *not* the baptism of John. And the "washing" in the river was symbolic of a new beginning. Jesus' answer to John's protestations about who should be baptizing whom was: "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." That leads me to believe that Jesus submitted to John's baptism as a sign of solidarity with the idea of repentance, which would become Jesus' main message. The extreme of repentance is acceptance of the Cross for us made possible by submission to the Cross by Jesus. I think that's about the closest I can come to understanding the phrase that Matthew uses to justify Jesus' baptism. I think it is also a literary device to reveal the Blessed Trinity. Thus, "the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" I want to recommend that you read the entire Gospel of Matthew. It should take about three hours. It can be done in 15 or 30 minute segments over several days. Keep in mind these themes, and see how the Gospel of Matthew affects you. God bless you, and welcome to the new year. May your resolutions be Christ-centered, and your growth in the Holy Spirit lead you to a renewed appreciation for the Church and increase your love for the Lord and for all humanity.

Deacon Cavada

# Stewardship of Treasure

Week #27	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
1/4/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (5,566.78)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,061.00	\$ (5,605.78)	\$ 56,700.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 10,230.08	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,682.00	\$ 11,712.08	\$ 32,400.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 10,482.15	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (751.47)	\$ 8,330.68	\$ 37,800.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 15,145.45	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 3,991.53	\$ 14,436.98	\$ 126,900.00	\$ 141,336.98

The **SECOND** collection this weekend supports our **Religious Education Program**.  
Your continued support of growing the faith of our youth is truly appreciated!

## Parish Organizations

### ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 23 @ 6PM

**Meeting Hostesses:** Laura Adams, Terrie Silva, and Kathy Mussman

**Project:** Silent auction and Craft Fair

**Monthly processional**—February 1, 2026 — Shirley Syamken

### ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

**Jan. 15-17**—Mrs. Gracie Castaneda, Mrs. Stephanie Wright, Mrs. Blanca Gonzalez, Ms. Liliana Loera

**Jan. 22-24**—Mrs. Bethany Wanoreck, Mrs. Manuel Chávez (Angelica Ibarra), Mrs. Katy Springs, Mrs. Susan Umphres, Mrs. Sue Shelton, Ms. Maria del Carmen Conchas

### SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 19



**Hostess Group:** Jennifer Alejandro

**Corporate Mass—January 18 @ 7:30AM**

**Rosary at 7:00AM**

**Leader:** Jana Robinson

**Offertory:** Maria Miller, Belinda Ortiz, and Frances Matheny

**Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe**—by Isabel Alanis and Mary Villarreal

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 3, 2026



CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM

### Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on Wednesday, January 14 and at **St. Francis** on Saturday, February 14.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on Thursday, February 5, and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on Saturday, January 24.

### Diocesan News

Everyone is invited to attend Solemn Vespers and Mass of Installation of Bishop Mario Avilés.

**Solemn Vespers:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:30PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral, 3502 Saratoga Blvd.

The Diocese of Corpus Christi invites you to the solemn installation of

His Excellency **Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O.** as the Ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi

by His Excellency **Most Reverend Joe. S. Vásquez** Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

in the presence of His Eminence **Christophe Cardinal Pierre** Apostolic Nuncio to the United States

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 2:00PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral, 3502 Saratoga Boulevard, Corpus Christi.

*Reception immediately following at Maria Goretti Youth Center*

### Community

The Orange Grove Area will hold their Mid-Winter Bash to raise funds for the museum's Fire Recovery Account on Saturday evening, January 24, 2026 at the Orange Grove Rifle Club. The community is invited to attend. There will be a dinner beginning at 6:00 PM and dance beginning at 8:00 PM. There will also be a live and silent auction. Tickets admit two people 21 years of age and older and each ticket is for a donation of \$100.00. Tickets can be purchased from members of the Orange Grove Area Museum Board including Ernest Henderson by calling 361-207-0383. We are still accepting sponsorships for the event as well.

# Dear Padre,

*Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.*

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.

In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Anthony,</i> <i>Second Sunday</i>	
1 Sm 1:1-8	1 Sm 1:9-20	1 Sm 3:1-10,	1 Sm 4:1-11	1 Sm 8:4-7,	<i>Abbot</i>	<i>in Ordinary Time</i>
Mk 1:14-20	Mk 1:21-28	19-20	Mk 1:40-45	10-22a	1 Sm 9:1-4,	Is 49:3, 5-6
		Mk 1:29-39		Mk 2:1-12	17-19; 10:1a	1 Cor 1:1-3
					Mk 2:13-17	Jn 1:29-34

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025