

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 29, 2025

Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11 / 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 / Matthew 16:13-19



Good News!

June 29, 2025

Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11 / 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 / Matthew 16:13-19

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There are two things we should give our children: one is roots and the other is wings.” So goes the adage. It is in knowing our roots that we know who we are. It is with wings that we then shape the future—a future sprouting from those roots but also blossoming into something new. If there were only the roots, we would never know life’s richness. Without wings, never would we come to beauty.

The solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul honors both of these dynamics in the Church. It was Peter who was the Rock, who was able to recognize God’s presence made flesh among us, who would say to Jesus, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

It was Paul who pushed the envelope, who proclaimed that God’s saving love was for Jews and Gentiles—both members of the household of God—without distinction. It was Paul who argued that circumcision was not necessary for a believer. It was Paul who recognized that the Law was indeed a blessing, yet also that obeying the Law does not save us—it is the love of Christ Jesus that saves us.

Many are rooted through faith in Christ Jesus. Some live out that faith as Catholics, others as Lutherans or Methodists, still others as Orthodox or Anglicans. All of us rooted in Christ, all of us living out faith, each blossoming in our own fruitfulness as guided by the Spirit, for the purpose of tradition is to pass on the flame and not to preserve the ashes. ●

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Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9:15 AM
St. John of the Cross

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 ~

Adoration ~

Thurs. (Sp.) - 6:30PM

1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 PM

Saturday: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 5:30PM

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

St. John of the Cross

Mon., Tues., Wed., and 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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun.-June 29 9:15 AM Solemnity of Saints Peter	† Jim Bednorz by Steve and Connie Swetlick People of the Parish
Sun.-July 6 9:15 AM	Altar and Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday People of the Parish

PRAYER LIST

May He bless all who are in need of His strength, especially:

Ana Culpepper, Henry Garrett, Kenton Heider, Paula Heider, Gerald Lindsey, Melba Malik, Cheryl Marshall, Kyle Metz, Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Phillip Torres, Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver

Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:
Grace Hill, Theresa Laurienti, and Laura Perez

Please contact the parish office for any additions or deletions.



Praying for our Military

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

Air Force: Preston Holliday,
Christopher, Randall Lauer II, Alayah Moore,
Audrey Winstead

Army: Father Jim Craig, Magdeleena Delaney,
Celine De Los Santos,
Allen McDonald, Jacob Madrid,
Fernando Ramos III, Tyree Winstead

Coast Guard: Corey Bunton and Joshua Salinas

Marines: Aurora Alarcon, Hunter Frees, and
Andre Rodriguez

Navy: Cory Elyasevich and Noah Vasquez

Please pray for our
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	06/15/2025	CURRENT WEEK	06/22/2025
Collection	\$385.00	Collection	\$813.00
Vacation Bible School	\$145.00	Priests' Retirement Fund	\$250.00

The SECOND collection supports Peter's Pence. This collection is a gesture of solidarity through which every member of the faithful can participate in the activity of the Pope as Pastor of the universal Church. The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father through the Peter's Pence Collection are destined to Church needs, to humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See.



Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15 @ 2PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: JULY 1

Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building

Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

CASA DE LUCY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9AM

Works of Mercy

The Food Pantry currently needs spaghetti pasta. Please bring your donations for the food pantry to the parish office.

Our **Works of Mercy** ministry is starting a crocheting group. Anyone interested in joining or learning to crochet is welcome to join. Their first project is to create beanies for teenage cancer patients at the Driscoll's Children's Oncology Department.

Contact Bertha Forbes for more information.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions:

St. John of the Cross on **Tuesday, July 1**, at 9AM

St. Francis of Assisi on **Saturday, July 26**, at 9AM



The next bread and pastries distribution will occur
at **SJoC** on **July 9** at 9AM and
at **SFoA** on **Saturday, July 12**.

Vacation Bible School

Ages kinder thru fifth grade are invited to join us on a Northern excursion filled with fun and faith.

VBS 2025

July 14—18

5:30PM—8:00PM

Registration forms are available at st-johnog.org, in the church foyer, and the parish office.



A Note from our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



Happy Fourth of July! At the end of this week, we celebrate our Independence Day. Most Americans can recite only a couple of lines from the Declaration of Independence, namely the first two lines - “When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another...”, and “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all [men] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, ...”. And of course, the last line of the Declaration – “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

Statements such as these are often called “true life statements” - when an individual reflects on their current life situation and makes a life altering decision to take a totally new and courageous direction where they assume that personal control of their future. All of us have those true-life moments in our lives if we take a moment to ponder our personal reality.

Each July 4th, we as a country celebrate a national holiday of hotdogs, hamburgers, and fireworks, in remembrance of the day when the then British Colonies declared one of the greatest “True Life Moments” in the founding of our United States of America. But we need to look beyond the fireworks and backyard BBQs to see what we are really celebrating in our country’s history – the right of personal self-determination. The signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged their “lives, fortunes, and sacred honor” in support of this document, unsure if the world and their own fellow colonists would accept these ideas. They found within themselves the need and right to make a foundational shift in their lives for the betterment of themselves and their own future. With, or without, support from others, we often declare a new direction in our lives. Let me share some possible moments in your own lives, when you also made a “true life statement” for yourself. Then, this 4th of July, might take on a deeper personal understanding of your “declarations of independence” in your lives.

One of the most frequent of these moments occurs when one decides to declare their love for another and to propose marriage. It is not the moment of the proposal, but the moment that you decide “to propose” marriage. What a foundational shift in my life as I am pledging “my life, my fortunes, and my sacred honor” for the betterment of myself and my future, unsure if that person might say ‘yes’ or ‘no’. You are taking a totally new and courageous direction in your life where you assume a new possible and personal control of your future. Another moment can occur in our lives when we make radical changes in our careers or work from what our family sees as our future. From a generational family of farmers to become a scientist, a lawyer, or even a professional skateboarder. Or it could be from the family living in the same county (for a century or two) and moving to a new country and a new culture. From the outside, “we” all think that person is “crazy”, but from the inside we can often see the “self-realization of being my true self” and taking control of my happiness and my life. For most of us Americans, we can find in our genealogy that person who immigrated from another country to the United States for a better life. For my family it was in 1853, when another Patrick Donohoe left Ireland to immigrate to the United States. Who was that in your family history?

Also on every 4th of July, I often reflect on that true-life moment when I declared to myself my personal belief in God and my Catholic Faith, and following the teachings of Jesus, and His call to be His priest, when many around me were saying I was “crazy” and I should just be “going with the flow of the society’s vision and morals”. And I am so very happy that I, over fifty years ago, made that declaration for myself. For others that might have occurred on a retreat, when you saw and accepted the Catholic Faith as “My Faith” and made those foundational changes to follow Jesus rather than the world for the betterment of yourself and your ultimate future with God in heaven.

So, on this 4th of July, as we celebrate the bravery of those signers of that Declaration of Independence, take a moment and reflect on the many “declarations of independence” where you made a choice to be a better you! And make a prayer to continue growing into that better “you” that God is calling you to be.

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

What does the Church say about free will and predestination? I am confused and wonder if there is any fundamental difference?

The Church can be viewed as the champion of free will, for it is descriptive of God's grace at work in his creation. On the other hand, the Church does not champion predestination. The Church understands that this concept is in direct opposition and contradicts the creative act of God. It is understandable how someone might confuse these two different perspectives. In fact, some Christian belief systems have historically confused them; for example, those who follow the thought of John Calvin (1509–1564), including various Congregational, Reformed, and Presbyterian churches. But, regardless of the confusion, the two positions are not complementary, and someone cannot hold both positions because they are incompatible with each other. Catholics believe that we have been created by God with free will. In response to this wonderful gift, we are invited to form our consciences and live our lives lovingly and deliberately as people who choose to respond, in total freedom, to the Way, the Truth, and the Life that is found in Jesus. ●

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



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What can I do for the Church? Not complaining about the Church, but committing myself to the Church. Participating with passion and humility.... That is what a synodal Church means: everyone has a part to play, no individual in the place of others or above others. There are no first- or second-class Christians; everyone has been called.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 29, 2022

Monday

June 30
Weekday
Gn 18:16–33
Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday

July 1
Weekday
Gn 19:15–29
Mt 8:23–27

Wednesday

July 2
Weekday
Gn 21:5, 8–20a
Mt 8:28–34

Thursday

July 3
St. Thomas, Apostle
Eph 2:19–22
Jn 20:24–29

Friday

July 4
Weekday
Gn 23:1–4, 19;
24:1–8, 62–67
Mt 9:9–13

Saturday

July 5
Weekday
Gn 27:1–5, 15–29
Mt 9:14–17

Sunday

July 6
Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Is 66:10–14c
Gal 6:14–18
Lk 10:1–12, 17–20
or 10:1–9

Diocesan News



PROTECT YOURSELF ~ Deacon Lee Alvarado, Director of the Office of Information Technology, reminds us that there are three types of social engineering: digital, in-person, and phone attacks. An informative document has been posted on the church bulletin board and is a valuable resource to help avoid these types of attacks. Remember to always STOP, LOOK, AND THINK.

2025 Catechetical Convocation ~ Registration is now open for the 2025 Catechetical Convocation, formerly known as the Faith Educators' Workshop. It will be held on Saturday, August 23, at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church.

This annual convocation welcomes all priests, deacons, directors of religious education (DREs), catechists, youth ministers, young adult ministers, OCIA team members, marriage preparation team members, and Catholic school theology teachers.

The event offers a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal, professional development, and communal worship. The registration fee is \$20 per participant, and the deadline to register is Friday, August 8, 2025. Scan the QR code to register.



The participants in the Ministry and Life Enrichment for Persons with Special Abilities program invite everyone to join them for Holy Mass on Sunday, June 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Most Precious Blood Church at 3502 Saratoga Boulevard in Corpus Christi.

The Mass will be ASL interpreted. We look forward to seeing you!

The latest Young Adult Book Study will focus on *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love in the Family) by Pope Francis, every Thursday through July 31st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Helena of the True Cross Parish on Wooldridge Rd. Each participant is responsible for their own copy of the book. Come ready to learn, discuss and meet new friends in faith!

To RSVP or for inquiries, contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesecc.org or Sofia at ycacctx@gmail.com.

Community



SAVE THE DATE

St. John of the Cross BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, June 29 8:00AM—1:00PM

All donors will receive a t-shirt and a blue bell ice cream voucher— while supplies last.

Appointments are highly recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.

Scan the QR code or call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 to book your lifesaving appointment.



Vacation Bible School



Ages kinder thru fifth grade are invited to join us on a Northern excursion filled with fun and faith.

VBS 2025 July 14—18 5:30PM—8:00PM

Registration forms are available at st-johnog.org, in the church foyer, and the parish office.



Liturgy & Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request – please call the office. Any person who is sick (either homebound or in the hospital) or about to have surgery, is encouraged to receive Anointing of the Sick. As current Federal Law prohibits hospitals from the release of any patient's name. Father will not know you are in the hospital unless you call the office.

Baptisms of Infants: (0 to 5 yrs.): Please bring the child's civil birth certificate to the parish office to register the child, their parents & the Godparents for the one-hour Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class. Godparents must be able to provide Certificates for Catholic Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation, & if married, Marriage Certificate in the Catholic Church. Donation for the class and Baptism is \$30.00, for the class only is \$15.00. Date & time for the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Baptismal Class.

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confessions) is available on Thursday from 5:30 PM—6:00 PM and on Saturdays from 5:00 PM—5:30 PM and at any time by appointment with the Priest.

Quinceañeras: The honoree and their family must be registered and participating in the parish for two years prior to the year of the Quinceañera (or Quinceañero). The young person must have Baptism & Communion in the Catholic Church, & be attending the parish Religious Education Program. The family is strongly encouraged to contact the Church for **2 years** before the intended date.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made with the priest or deacon, preferably one year before the intended date, (minimum of six months in advance) to complete the necessary requirements. At least one person must be an active and registered member of this parish. No wedding date is guaranteed until ALL diocesan requirements have been fulfilled.

Blessing of Civil Marriages – If you were married before a judge, or a non-Catholic minister, and wish to be readmitted to Holy Communion, there needs to be a Blessing of your Civil Marriage. Please call the parish office and set up an appointment with Father Patrick so he can hear your particular situation and can guide you through the process. Father Patrick is always saying “Don’t wait! Start the process NOW!”



St. John of the Cross Catholic Church

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANAS
BINGO IN JULY FUNDRAISER

Sunday, July 20, 2025
Parish Hall

Doors open at 12:00pm for Food and Drinks
Sweets Auction and Raffle Drawings at Intermission

BINGO starts at 1:00pm

\$20.00 for BINGO book for 10 Games (4 to a page)

**"Please come and support us for a couple of
hours of fun and fellowship!"**

