

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 / Hebrews 12:1-4 / Luke 12:49-53



Good News!

August 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 / Hebrews 12:1-4 / Luke 12:49-53

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

One day, as I was walking in a local nature preserve, I came across what someone had written in the sand: "It's time to take a stand." Though the person never suggested what we should take a stand on, all of us take stands in life. In many ways, those stands define our lives: Republican or Democrat, pro-life or pro-choice, NRA and guns, save the whales, vax or anti-vax, ecology. As we all know so well, where we stand on any given issue can become divisive among friends and even family.

The Scriptures this weekend tell of the prophet Jeremiah, who took a stand of faith against the king who trusted in military arms rather than in God. The Letter to the Hebrews mentions an Old Testament "cloud of witnesses" who placed faith in God without knowing where that would take them. And, Jesus himself recognizes that those who place their faith in him and the vision of life he proclaimed would find themselves in conflict with others. For every person who professes faith in Jesus Christ, the question becomes how this faith affects all the other stands we take. To "keep our eyes fixed on Jesus" influences the lifestyle we choose, how we spend our time and our money, who our friends are, and even who we vote for. At some point, faith insists we take a stand. ●

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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.) - 6:30 PM

1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 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

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.-Aug 17	9:15 AM	† Doug Macek by Elizabeth Hackfeld † Aldo Robles, † Melba Robles, and † Irma Martinez (Heavenly birthday) by Pam Cardona † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Sun.-Aug 24	9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by Mar Cross † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish

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, Eduardo Enrique Perales,
Robert Ponce, Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios,
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



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: **MaryRuth Hart, Theresa Laurienti, and Laura Perez**



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	08/03/2025	CURRENT WEEK	08/10/2025
Collection	\$366.00	Collection	\$369.00
		Diocesan Retired Priests' fund	\$200.00
		Summer Electric Fund	\$156.00

Parish Organizations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Registration ~ **Sun., August 24**, after 11AM Mass, and **Wed., August 27**, at 6:00PM.

Junior high - high school students and their parent(s) MUST attend registration and orientation in the parish hall. Student expectations and policies will be reviewed. Parent and student attendance at an orientation is **MANDATORY** to register or participate in our faith formation program.

Parents with ONLY elementary-aged children (grades kinder - fifth grade) will complete registration in the faith formation building and do not need to attend an orientation session.

Registration fees = \$40/student with a maximum of \$120/family
(Registration scholarships are available.)



Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will occur at
at **SJoC** on **August 27 and 30** at 9AM and
at **SFOA** on **Saturday, September 13** at 9AM.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. Francis of Assisi on **Saturday, August 23**, and
St. John of the Cross on **Thursday, September 4**.

Community

Patrice Adams Foundation—Benefit Dinner and Dance * Live & Silent Auction
Saturday, September 27, 2025 at Orange Grove Rifle Club

Doors open at 6:00PM. Drawing begins at 6:30PM. Dancing from 8:00PM—12:00 midnight.
Donation: \$100 for two people Website: patriceadamsfoundation.org



Live music featuring
Nashville artist:
J.R. Castillo &
Unwound

COASTAL BEND BLOOD CENTER BLOOD DRIVE ~ Sunday, August 24 at St. John of the Cross from 8:00AM—1:00PM.

Appointments are recommended and walk-ins are welcome! Scan the QR code or visit our website at coasalbendbloodcenter.org.
Donors will receive a t-shirt. *While supplies last.* **Photo ID needed.**



A Note from our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christi Jesus,

This weekend a substitute priest will be celebrating the Masses. Please welcome him and be gracious to him.

In October 2019, my eldest brother Louis, Jr., passed away after a short illness. He was the second of my siblings to pass away as my older sister Kathy had passed away in 2012. That loss of my brother sent me into a very reflective mood thinking how many more years there would be before the next of us siblings might pass away. I suggested to my remaining three siblings that we needed to get together to share time, memories, and family before the next one of us joined Mom, Dad, Louis, and Kathy in heaven. The entire world shut down in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so our first “Sibling Trip” occurred in October 2021. Since it was my idea, I got to coordinate the first trip and, of course, we went to Disney World! It was a marvelous time to catch up as brothers and sister. And there were some really great meals shared. The second sibling trip occurred in 2024. My brother Mike and his wife Marion, brother Dennis and his wife Margaret, little sister Theresa and her husband Roger and I went on a seven-day cruise out of New York to Nova Scotia in Canada. It was a truly relaxing time and lots of laughs! My current portrait photo in the corner of this letter was taken on that trip – don’t I look svelte after that previous photo!



My sister-in-law Marion coordinated this year’s trip, and we are doing a train trip through Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec! I will fly out on Thursday (a day earlier) to be able to catch the 9:00 AM train on the 15th. This will be the first time I get to visit these historic cities of Canada. We are also taking a side trip to see Niagara Falls!

I am excited about this trip as there is a famous church in Montreal that has been on my “bucket list” to visit – The Saint Joseph Oratory of Mount Royal. This Catholic Shrine built on the side of a mountain was the vision and life’s work for a recently canonized saint – Saint Brother Andre. Saint Andre’s devotion to Saint Joseph began early in his life as a brother. He served simply as the porter to open and close the door of the building and then later became the guardian of the place of prayer that became the Oratory of Saint Joseph. Over the years as the “doorkeeper”, he welcomed hundreds of thousands of suffering and hopeful people who came to pray. He patiently listened to them and their pleas for help and consolation, recommending that they pray to Saint Joseph, in whom he placed all his trust. His greeting and his concern for the person in front of him was so consoling and peaceful that people began to come, not to see the church, but to visit Brother Andre. When I was young, I learned of Saint Brother Andre’s devotion to St. Joseph. His story and devotion to St. Joseph inspired me to take St. Joseph as My Confirmation Saint Name. And later at the time of my ordination, I placed my vocation to the priesthood under St. Joseph’s protection and at that time under the protection of “blessed” Brother Andre.’ Visiting the oratory and praying at his grave will be the fulfillment of a childhood dream. And yes, I will be praying for all of you at the shrine as well. If time allows, I hope to celebrate a Mass at the shrine.

To get back to the start of this letter, we began to have these sibling trips to be sure to reconnect each year with my remaining two brothers and younger sister. When was the last time you took time to visit your siblings, parents, or grandparents? One of my regrets in life was not to visit with my sister Kathy and my brother Louis before they died. Is it time for you to organize a family reunion or at least a sibling reunion? I will see you in a couple of weeks. Stay cool as it is August!

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

Is “co-redemptrix” a title for the Blessed Virgin Mary?

The Church does not officially regard Mary as a co-redemptrix with Christ. Her “unique holiness”...‘from the first instant of her conception’ comes wholly from Christ: she is ‘redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son’ (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 492).

According to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the title “co-redemptrix” would “obscure” the origin that “everything comes through Christ,” as written in Ephesians and Colossians. “Mary, too, is everything she is through Him,” stated the future Pope Benedict XVI, adding that “co-redemptrix” is a departure “from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers, and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings.”

Likewise, in 2019, Pope Francis quoted St. Bernard, who said that no praise is sufficient to talk about Mary, but, ultimately, her title as a humble “disciple” best represents Mary’s faithfulness to “her Son, the only Redeemer.” “She never wanted for herself something that was of her Son,” explained the pontiff. “She never introduced herself as co-redemptrix. No. Disciple.”

Pope Francis reiterated the Church’s position on this matter in 2021, saying that Jesus entrusted the universal Church and all the faithful to Mary, “Not as a goddess. Not as a co-redemptrix. As a mother.” Incidentally, “Mother of God” (Greek: *Theotokos*, “God-bearer”) is Mary’s oldest title, established in 431 by the Council of Ephesus. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, 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*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23	August 24
Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard,	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship	Weekday	Twenty-first
Jgs 2:11-19	Jgs 6:11-24a	Abbot and	Jgs 11:29-39a	of the Blessed	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11;	Sunday in
Mt 19:16-22	Mt 19:23-30	Doctor of the	Mt 22:1-14	Virgin Mary	4:13-17	Ordinary Time
		Church		Ru 1:1, 3-6,	Mt 23:1-12	Is 66:18-21
		Jgs 9:6-15		14b-16, 22		Heb 12:5-7,
		Mt 20:1-16		Mt 22:34-40		11-13
						Lk 13:22-30



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Gospel does not leave things as they are; when the Gospel... is listened to and received, things do not stay as they are. The Gospel provokes change and invites to conversion. It does not dispense a false intimist peace, but sparks a restlessness that sets us in motion and drives us to open ourselves up to God and to our brothers and sisters.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 14, 2022