



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isaiah 66:18-21 / Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 / Luke 13:22-30



Good News!

August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isaiah 66:18-21 / Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 / Luke 13:22-30

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one's own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God's presence, to life with God. You've heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn't a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It's pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. ●

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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.-23 | 6:00PM | † Chip Adams by His Loving Family † David Gaza by San Juanita Gaza † Elizabeth Ortiz Ramon (Heavenly birthday) by Liza Ochoa † Laura Taplin by Jana Robinson Happy Heavenly birthday † Allen Wiechring by Michael and Sharon Bartosch |
| Sun.-24 | 7:30AM | † Allen Migura by Migura Family † Adolph & † Olive Skrobarczyk by Joe & Mary Ortiz |
| | 11:00AM | † Irene T. Castaneda by Diane McBride and family † Jerry Cross by Mar Cross Healing of Lisa Ann Beltran Harris by Janie Beltran |
| | 6:00PM | † Angelita Quintanilla por Familia Franco Las familias de la parroquia |
| Mon.-25 | 8:00AM | COMMUNION SERVICE |
| Tues.-26 | 8:00AM | COMMUNION SERVICE |
| Thurs.-28 | 6:00PM | COMMUNION SERVICE |
| | 6:30PM | ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA |
| Fri.- 29 | 8:00AM | COMMUNION SERVICE |

Masses for August 30 & 31

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Sat.- 30 | 6 :00PM | † Margarita O. Guerrero by Bazan, Leal, and Hinojosa Family † Peter Jay by Maria Beltran † Praxesdis and Raquel S. Jimenez Wedding Anniv. by Raquel S. Jimenez and Family † Frank Gene Schumacher, † Harold Frank Schumacher, and † John Christopher Schumacher by Elizabeth, John, and Ethan Acosta |
| Sun.—31 | 7:30AM | † Larry Bruns (1st anniv.) by His Mother and Brothers † Gary Graham by Joe and Mary Ortiz † Joe Pena, Sr., by Family |
| | 11:00AM | † Jerry Cross by Mar Cross |
| | 6:00PM | † José Rosario Becerril por Maria Ordoñez Las familias de la parroquia |



The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Elizabeth Ortiz Ramon
(Heavenly birthday)

by Liza Ochoa

Fifth Annual SJC Altar Server Ministry Recognition and Fund Drive

Our Parish will celebrate the youth volunteers who
make up the Altar Server Ministry at each Mass

September 6th & 7th.

We will also hold our annual Fund Drive that weekend.

Envelopes will be available next weekend; every donation helps!

Our ministry greatly appreciates your continued support!

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



Aug. 30— 6:00PM—Lector: Norma Cornejo

EM: Liza Ochoa, Anita Bazan,
Luis and Nora Romanos

Aug. 31—7:30AM— Lector: Lucille Klaevemann

EM: Margie Svetlik, Laura Gwosdz, Maria Miller,
Quinton Smithwick

11:00AM-Lector: Ernest Henderson

EM: Karol Kocurek, Jeri Alaniz,
Don and Kim Rokohl

6:00PM —Lector: Jose Ordonez

EM— Mariela Ordonez, Alvina Resendez

PRAYER LIST

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

**John Delaney, Art Forbes, Angelica Frees,
Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, Charlotte Pridgen,
Ruben A. Puente, Sissy Thomas, and George Vela**

*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:

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



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

LEGAL COUNSELING ~ Dcn. Armando Cavada will
offer legal guidance on the following topics:

- Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders
- Power of attorney
- Wills
- Life estate deeds
- Guardianship

in the parish hall on **Saturday,
September 27, at 9AM.**

All interested parties are
welcome to attend this
informative session.



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Last week I was in Canada with my two brothers and their spouses. My sister and her husband had to cancel at the last moment due to some medical issues. We live so far apart (Washington, DC; Foley, AL; Belton, Tx, and Orange Grove, TX) that we don't have time to actually visit with each other. For the last few years, we have started having a "Sibling Trip" so we can keep in touch and visit each other face to face! Talking over the phone is okay, but seeing each other's face and feeling their presence in front of you is so much more wonderful. If you haven't visited your siblings (parents or grandparents) recently, I strongly encourage you to do so. It is not only good for yourself, but it can be very uplifting for them. We shared six days of visiting the sites and having some really great meals. I like going on these trips as I am a "foodie" and really like trying new foods! Since, my sister-in-law Margaret had never seen Niagara Falls, we made a special side trip to see the Falls. It was great to see the awe and wonder in her eyes. We siblings had been there before during a family vacation years ago, but it was so impressive to see them again now as an adult. We decided during the first sibling trip, that six days together was more than enough time together.



For the next week of my time away from the parish, I choose to go to Puerto Vallarta on the Mexican west coast. I have been there several times before, so it was more of an "old home week". Sometimes we go on a vacation and just "go, go, go!" But every so often I go on a vacation that is more of a "retreat" and a time to "relax and unwind". No work, no sites to visit, and no things to do. Days to sleep in until you naturally wake up, spend time in your PJ's until you get hungry enough to go have your first meal of the day. Sometimes, that might be a late lunch rather than a breakfast. That is my time in Puerto Vallarta. This time I went with a great friend of mine – Keith. One good thing about Puerto Vallarta is all of the very great restaurants. Any if you like seafood, it is one of the great places to visit.

There are two types of vacation, one is to go and see and to do new things, and the other is to step back from the world and to recharge. I found this quote years ago and I have it where every few months I see it and read it again. I share it as it speaks to me and these types of vacation. I hope that you enjoy it.

"A vacation or retreat is a "reset button". Always remember that you a duty before God that is unique and only yours. When we are overburdened by all of the noise of the world around us, how can I take time for silence to listen to God. How can we be present to God and one another when we are overburdened. We need to take time for silence and to be present to God during that silence. "Trust in the slow work of God". It is the time to let the Holy Spirit do his work in you and on you. God works on us in His time and in His way. To take a vacation is to reflect, "What is God's plan for me and for my purpose in the world".

Next weekend I should be back, rested and possibly tanned (or red like a lobster).

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick



Donohoe Family Vacation ~ Margaret, Dennis, Fr. Patrick, Michael, and Marion

Stewardship of Treasure

| Week #7 | COLLECTION | Totals Prior Week - | Goal | Actual | Total Annual Over / (under) | YTD Goal | TOTAL OFFERTORY |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 8/17/2025 | Envelope Collection | \$ (803.00) | \$ 2,100.00 | \$ 2,130.00 | \$ (773.00) | \$ 14,700.00 | |
| | Loose Collection | \$ (281.00) | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,885.00 | \$ 404.00 | \$ 8,400.00 | |
| | On-Line Collection | \$ 3,527.92 | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 1,363.95 | \$ 3,491.87 | \$ 9,800.00 | |
| | TOTAL Collection | \$ 2,443.92 | \$ 4,700.00 | \$ 5,378.95 | \$ 3,122.87 | \$ 32,900.00 | \$ 36,022.87 |

Parish Organizations

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 25 @6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

August 28-30—Anna Winterbottom, Margie Franco, Jill Ortiz, Janey Flores, Delilah DeLaPaz
September 4-6—Paid Professional



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 22 @6PM

Hostesses: Grp #3 Nora Romanos

Corporate Mass—September 21 @ 7:30AM

Rosary @ 7:00AM

Leader: Isabel Alanis

Offertory: Beatriz Diaz & Bea Garcia

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe by Annette Rivera

Carne Guisada Fundraiser ~ Sunday, September 7 - \$12 / plate: carne guisada, rice, beans, and dessert

Drive-thru ONLY—11:00AM –1:00PM

Tickets are on sale now! Find a Guadalupe member or get yours from the parish office.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2

Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building
Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

CASA DE LUCY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9AM



Casa de Lucy Helping Hand Quilting Ministry sews Prayer Quilts for the terminally / critically ill persons needing prayers.
 Please contact the office if you know anyone in need of a quilt.

Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be
 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. John of the Cross on **Thursday, September 4**, and
St. Francis of Assisi on **Saturday, September 27**.

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 younger children (grades kinder - fifth) 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.)

First day of class is Wednesday, September 3.



Diocesan News

KLUX 89.5 PLEDGEFEST 2025

Join the excitement of PLEDGEFEST 2025 August 25—29

Volunteers are needed.

For more information call Irene Menchaca at 361-289-6437 or email iMenchaca@GoCCN.org

CLIMBING TO HOLINESS ~ Join us in the celebration of the canonization of two new saints:

CARLO ACUTIS & PIER GIORGIO GRASSATI

Sunday, September 7, @ 6PM

Bluntzer Spirit Center, 5528 FM 30388, Robstown

Use the QR code to register

Free event: adoration, reflection, music, food trucks, ground tours, and much more!!



Mother—Daughter Tea with the Sisters

For girls in the 4th—6th grades and their mothers

September 13, 2025, 2PM—4PM at the Incarnate Word Convent

Register for the event by email—mhynes@iwbscc.org or call 361-882-5413 ext. 513



JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS MEN'S RETREAT ~ Corpus Christi, September 18—21 at Our Lady of Corpus Christi Retreat Center, 1200 Lantana, Corpus Christi needs pilgrims.



The mission of the **Journey to Damascus** is to inspire, challenge and equip the Christian Laity to witness for Christ on a daily basis. This will be accomplished in ecumenical fashion through the Journey to Damascus Weekend.

Please contact the parish office if you need more information or would like to register to attend this faith-filled weekend retreat.



Please join us for **Radiate**, a mini youth conference that will be held on Sunday, September 21st at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Premont, TX. All teens are invited. It will be a great day of activities and opportunities to grow together in our Catholic faith.

Please register at <https://form.jotform.com/communicationsdofcc/radiate> or by scanning the QR code by September 14 for this free event.



STATE OF THE DIOCESE - NEW DATE ~ Thursday, October 30, 2025, 6:00PM—8:00PM

at Richard M. Borchard Fairgrounds

\$15/ \$7 for children (Meal included)

Buy your tickets now at diocesecc.org/stateof



Community

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.



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**

Dear Padre,

My wife mentioned that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible mentions purgatory. Please comment.

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of “waiting” in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time. ●



SOULS IN PURGATORY BY LORENZO PRETTI / SPADAT, FERNANDEZ / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



LOSSERVATORE ROMANO / CNA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The narrow door is an image that could scare us, as if salvation is destined for only a select few, or for perfect people. But...a little further ahead, [Jesus] confirms, “Men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.”

Therefore, this door is narrow, but is open to everyone!

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 21, 2022

Monday

August 25

Weekday

1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10

Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday

August 26

Weekday

1 Thes 2:1–8

Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 2:9–13

Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 28

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 3:7–13

Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thes 4:1–8

Mk 6:17–29

Saturday

August 30

Weekday

1 Thes 4:9–11

Mt 25:14–30

Sunday

August 31

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

Heb 12:18–19, 22–24a

Lk 14:1, 7–14