

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Wisdom 9:13-18b / Philemon 9-10, 12-17 / Luke 14:25-33



Good News!

September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

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FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There is so often a cost to being a follower of Jesus, to doing the right thing. During our country's Civil War, southern plantation owners came face to face with the gospel's imperative to accept slaves as human beings who have the right to be free, though that would then bring about the collapse of the cotton economy. For them, it was live the gospel or save the economy. Sometimes, the gospel seems to put us in a lose-lose situation.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was confronted by the Vietnam War. By continuing a war he knew was unwinnable, it would cost human lives. If he ended the war, he would be labeled as the president who lost a war. For him, it was lose-lose. Do the right thing or save face. A person may be confronted by a job that demands unjust and immoral decisions when the refusal to make such decisions would cost that person the job necessary to support his or her family. A student may be faced with the prospect of either cheating or receiving a poor grade. Living the gospel is fraught with costs.

Today, our nation faces the difficulties of immigration. On the one hand, there is the gospel's command to love the poor and so to accept immigrants seeking to escape violence and terror and drought, conditions that make it impossible to live. On the other hand, there is the need for our nation to deal with uncontrolled migration. The question of "What would Jesus do?" is never without consequences. ●

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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.-Sept. 7 9:15 AM	Altar & Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday † Desi Terrell by Elizabeth Hackfeld People of the Parish
Sun.-Sept. 14 9:15 AM	† Darrell Hackfeld by Elizabeth Hackfeld Ethan Stubblefield by Elizabeth Hackfeld 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: **MaryRuth Hart, Theresa Laurienti, Laura Perez, and Amanda Smithwick**

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, 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

Please pray for our
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	08/24/2025	CURRENT WEEK	08/31/2025
Collection	\$888.00	Collection	\$535.00

Bishop Michael Mulvey has called for a **SPECIAL** collection **THIS weekend** to contribute to the efforts of the Church to offer humanitarian relief and pastoral support to the people in Gaza. All funds will be forwarded to both the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Catholic Relief Services, which have been and remain on the ground offering assistance as they can.

Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15 @ 2PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 7

Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN!

The FINAL opportunity to register for Religious Education classes will be on Wednesday, September 10.

Registration for elementary-aged children (grades kinder - fifth grade) will take place in the church at 5:30PM.

Junior high - high school students and their parent(s) MUST attend registration and orientation in the church at 6:30PM.

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 September 10 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, September 27, and
at **St. John of the Cross on Thursday, October 2.**

Community

LEGAL COUNSELING ~ Dcn. Armando Cavada will offer legal guidance in the SJoC parish hall on **Saturday, September 27, at 9AM** on the following topics: Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, Power of attorney, Wills, Life estate deeds, and guardianship. All interested parties are welcome to attend this informative session.

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

A Note from our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Welcome Back! Happy Labor Day! A few days late, but still sincere.

Our modern culture mostly follows a “five days on duty working, and two days off for our family and for our house”. The variations of this for the individual worker depends on their specific type of work and the needs of the job – “on 24 hours, off 48”; “two weeks/14 days on, two weeks off”, etc. Most of our parishioners and our world have a Monday to Friday job, with Saturday and Sunday days for family, friends, and household activities. Despite what your personal and actual work schedule is, you can adjust it to fit these statements. I work these many “weekday” hours at my job – during my work time, and then I have these many “weekend” hours away from my job – during my home time with family or friends. In those “weekend days”, we take a breath and might even have a sigh of “off from work” for a little break. Then comes that “Monday back to work” mode and a sigh as we look at the stack of work on the desk or the long list of “holdover” jobs and projects from last week that I need to accomplish this week. And from the moment we resume our work on that “Monday”, there comes a list of new jobs and new projects that get added to our work load. That first day back from the weekend time off becomes our “Monday”, no matter which day of the week it actually is. When we are able to take a longer time away from work duties and



Father Patrick enjoyed his time in Puerto Vallarta, especially the food, like fresh guacamole!

extend our home time, we often call it a vacation – whether it is three days or two weeks. But then comes the first day back from vacation to work and that Monday stack of holdover projects and new work items seems even larger than usual. And despite the size of that stack of work we come back to, we should say, “Thank you, Lord, that I have work to provide for my family, especially in the sight of all those around the world without jobs, without homes, and those who live in war-torn places of the world. Amen”.

Last Thursday night St. John of the Cross Church was vandalized, and the bench in front of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was broken. All vandalism is a sin as it destroys or damages the property of others. And for those who vandalize Church Property, add on another sin against the first commandment – “Honor the Lord your God”. And while this hurts us as a parish church and me as your Pastor, it is small in relation to the churches destroyed and severely damaged in Ukraine and in the Holy Land. And so many in Gaza and the Holy Land, especially Catholics, are without work and are struggling greatly during this time of war to provide for their families. They turn to their local Church to help them. Though thousands of miles away, they are our family in Christ Jesus and members of Our Catholic Church. This weekend, the entire Catholic Church in the United States is taking up a special collection for the Catholic Church community of Gaza, whose church was struck by a missile and greatly damaged. While our broken bench is heartbreaking, the destruction of our Catholic Churches in Gaza and the Holy Land is so much more important. Please be generous to this very worthy collection.



Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

Why is RCIA now called OCIA? And why do people have to go through that process anyway? Can't they just talk to the priest if they want to be Catholic?

The reason why Christian Initiation for Adults is now identified as the "Order" rather than the "Rite" is that the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) changed the name in November 2021. The name change more accurately reflects the English translations of the Latin texts and emphasizes the ongoing development of participants in the faith. Within the Order are different rites, such as the Rite of Entrance to the Catechumenate, the Rite of Sending, the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, and the Rites of Initiation.

Although it is still possible to become a baptized Catholic or a confirmed Catholic after a simple conversation with a priest or a catechist, the preferred way is the communal encounter. The Christian community plays an important role in calling us to faith, enabling our practice of the faith, and helping us persevere in our baptismal call to faith. We are not alone; we are part of the people of God. We are the community that is called into life by the Spirit of God and that is nourished by the Eucharist we share and the sacraments we celebrate. ●

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



NANCY WIECH / ONS



ANNA NASS / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In Gaza...children, families, and elderly are reduced to starvation. In Myanmar, new hostilities have cut short innocent young lives. Finally, war-torn Ukraine awaits negotiations for a just and lasting peace.... We implore [Our Lady's] intercession for the gift of peace, for support and comfort for those who suffer.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 18, 2025

Monday

September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or
1:18-23

Tuesday

September 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest

Col 2:6-15

Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday

September 10

Weekday

Col 3:1-11

Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

September 11

Weekday

Col 3:12-17

Lk 6:27-38

Friday

September 12

Weekday

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14

Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

September 13

*St. John Chrysostom,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church*

1 Tm 1:15-17

Lk 6:43-49

Sunday

September 14

*The Exaltation
of the Holy Cross*

Nm 21:4b-9

Phil 2:6-11

Jn 3:13-17