

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4b-9 / Philippians 2:6-11 / John 3:13-17



Good News!

September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4b-9 / Philippians 2:6-11 / John 3:13-17

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As he stood in line in front of me, the back of his T-shirt read, “Pain is weakness leaving the body.” Though unsaid, it implied that the parting pain would be replaced by newfound strength. Yet, the more I thought about it, I wondered if that is always the case. Some pain simply leaves one empty, like the grief that comes with the death of one’s child. That emptiness never leaves, it is never replaced. So too, the pain of living with mental illness, as it seems to isolate one from many of life’s joys and satisfactions. Or, eventually, the aging process in all of us, as it slips in and steals the treasures of life, one by one. Pain is not always weakness leaving the body. Sometimes, it is the pain of an alien spirit settling in for the long haul.

If St. Paul’s assertion that Jesus came and “emptied himself...coming in human likeness... even [to] death on a cross,” then those times that seem to empty us of all we would hold dear are the times when we slowly take on the image of Jesus in our own lives. It is at such times when we are most powerless but also when God’s spirit shines through our broken and wounded lives, if only because we become totally dependent upon God. It is Saint Teresa of Kolkata who is said to have once remarked that even God cannot fill what is already full. ●

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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.-Sept. 14 9:15 AM	† Darrell Hackfeld by Elizabeth Hackfeld † Louise Knebllick by David & Terrie Silva Ethan Stubblefield by Elizabeth Hackfeld People of the Parish
Sun.-Sept. 21 9:15 AM	† Louise Knebllick by David & Terrie Silva † Robert Swift 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, 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	08/31/2025	CURRENT WEEK	09/07/2025
Collection	\$535.00	Collection	\$495.00
		Diocesan collections	\$737.00

Parish Organizations

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335 NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 7



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

BBQ 1/2 Chicken fundraiser ~ Sunday, October 12—\$12/plate
1/2 chicken, potato salad, and beans
11AM—1PM ~ Carry out only



Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN!

Elementary grades (kinder - fifth) meet at 5:30PM in the RE building.

Junior high - high school students meet at 6:30PM in the parish hall and should be picked up at the RE building at 8PM.



Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM
at **SJoC** on **Wednesday, September 24**, and
at **SFOA** on **Saturday, October 11**.



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,

Has this story, or something like it, ever happened to you? The auto repair shop, or the dealership, does the inspection on your car or truck and reports that the threads on the tires are getting too thin for safe driving and you will need to buy new tires. And the price for a set of four new tires is often very expensive. You can continue to drive on them for a while, but you have to adjust your spending habits to save up for that necessary car repair. There are people who have anticipated such expenses and have their emergency funds for such a purchase. But most of us, including myself, are often surprised by such a large expense and have to sit down and do some serious budget adjustments to pay for the new tires so that my vehicle is safe to drive for myself and for my family. It is this same sort of story when you detect a water spot on the ceiling and you are faced with a replacement of your roof. Or is it that spot on the wall (or floor) that you inspect and find there is termite damage and the wall (or floor) needs to be replaced. Then there is the spot on the exterior of the house that has over the years been good enough, but the cracked and peeling paint in that small area prompts you to inspect it more closely. And then it grows into a total repaint of the house's exterior.



Over the last couple of months, I have been sharing with you the work of our church's Master Plan Committee. This Committee was given the job to create a list of the major repair and renovation projects for the parish's buildings and grounds. As they continued their work over the last few years, the list got longer and larger. The members took the time and effort, not only to make a list of these major projects, but sought out estimates and bids to get them done. A short review of the list is to remove the deteriorating 75-year-old outside walls of the church and apply new stucco to the entire exterior of the church, to repair the rusting framework of the stained-glass windows of the church, to install a new roof for the parish hall, to replace the aging parking lot, and several other items. The committee's work is still ongoing as we actually start to make these projects a reality. The current list and estimates were turned over to the Parish Financial Council to include these absolutely necessary projects in the budget for the coming years.

Our parish's Finance Council determined that to continue the regular work of the parish and to include these projects for the overall long term needs of the buildings that a Capital Campaign Appeal to the parish should be presented to the parish. Taking a few people from the Master Plan Committee, a couple of people from the Finance Council, and adding a few others, the "Our Living Church Capital Building Fund Campaign" Committee was created to prepare for this special appeal. The "Living Church" was adopted as the title of the campaign as it reflects that these buildings and repairs are merely the physical stones and materials of the buildings we call our church, in which we the "living stones" of the spiritual church gather to celebrate the Eucharist, to pray, to socialize, and to educate and to grow in our Catholic Faith. The "Our" of the title is the strongest truth of the title as it is the commitment of all of "us" as parishioners to the call that "our" church's needed repairs and projects are for the good of all the parish. This appeal is not only for ourselves in the current time, but is "our" vision for the future generations of our parish and its continued existence for years to come. We cannot gather as "Our Spiritual Living Church" if our church buildings don't exist. One hundred years ago, a small group of Catholic faithful gathered and envisioned a building that could be used as their "church". We are the result of those one hundred years of great efforts and sacrifices in the current parish community and church building that we have. The "Our Living Church" Building Campaign is to honor the one hundred years of living stones that came before us and to ensure a suitable space for ourselves today and for the living stones of our church in the years to come. Over the next few weeks, you will hear more on the ongoing work of the "Our Living Church" campaign committee and how all of us are being called to be "living" stones for "OUR Living Church" – the parish community of St. John of the Cross Church in Orange Grove, Texas. Please be open to their words and please pray for the success of our Building Fund's Capital Campaign.

In Christ Jesus,
Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

A Protestant friend tells me that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. That doesn't seem accurate to me. What does the Church teach about the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross?

Jesus understood his mission to be sacrificing his own life "as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was even at the cost of death. However, saying Jesus' death was payment for our sins doesn't mean that a vengeful God was appeased by the slaughter of his own innocent son. Rather, we are redeemed because of the mutual love between Father and Son, as well as the love Christ had for us all when he offered his life. "It is love 'to the end' (see John 13:1) that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus' death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice "that completes and surpasses all other sacrifices," when "the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself," and the Son of God freely and lovingly offered his human life to his Father "in reparation for our disobedience" (CCC 614). Christ "bore our sins in his body upon the cross.... By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Viewed in light of the resurrection, Christ's death has meaning in eternal life's triumph over sin. ●



NANCY WIECH/CONA

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 15	September 16	September 17	September 18	September 19	September 20	September 21
<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	<i>Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
1 Tm 2:1-8 Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35	1 Tm 3:1-13 Lk 7:11-17	1 Tm 3:14-16 Lk 7:31-35	1 Tm 4:12-16 Lk 7:36-50	1 Tm 6:2c-12 Lk 8:1-3	1 Tm 6:13-16 Lk 8:4-15	Am 8:4-7 1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I chose to take the name Leo XIV...mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic encyclical Rerum Novarum addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers...the treasury of [its] social teaching in response to...new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice, and labor.

**ADDRESS TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS,
ROME, MAY 10, 2025**