

# St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 21, 2025

**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)**

Amos 8:4-7 / 1 Timothy 2:1-8 / Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



## Good News!

September 21, 2025

**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)**

Amos 8:4-7 / 1 Timothy 2:1-8 / Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**More than anything, we want to be wanted.** As infants, we reach out, wanting to be wanted. When we begin school and discover others who might be friends, we want to be wanted. As teenagers discovering the stirrings of something new and deep, we want to be wanted. And when we grow old, then still we want to be wanted.

The parables Jesus told were always about how God moves in our lives, how God is powerfully intertwined in all that is. Jesus told parables to give us a hint of where to find God. This Sunday's parable is about a rich man with a steward about to be dismissed. The steward then finds ways to ingratiate himself into others' lives so when he is dismissed, he won't be left out in the cold. It's not the rich man who is the God-person in the parable. The rich got rich by abusing the poor. Rather, it is the steward who is the image of God—a God who, like the steward, is desperate to be accepted, to find a way into our lives. We might say clever...or even sneaky. It is God who finds a way into our lives when we are afraid, when we face the loss of love, when our worlds are falling apart, when we go looking for him. There, then, is God, eagerly wanting to be wanted. ●

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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 INT

<b>Sun.-Sept. 21 9:15 AM</b>	† Louise Kneblick by David & Terrie Silva † Robert Swift by Elizabeth Hackfeld For the healing of Aiden Medrano by David & Terrie Silva People of the Parish
<b>Sun.-Sept. 27 9:15 AM</b>	† Louise Kneblick by David & Terrie Silva † Anna Jane Terrell 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	09/07/2025	CURRENT WEEK	09/14/2025
Collection	\$495.00	Collection	\$1010.00
Diocesan collections	\$737.00	Catholic University	\$115.00

## Parish Organizations

**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**  
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

**AED training** ~ We have purchased an AED machine and are planning our crisis team who will be trained to use the equipment.

If you are interested in being trained to use the AED equipment, please sign up on the form in the church foyer.  
Once we have a list of interested people, the training will be scheduled; therefore, the date and time and any cost  
of the training will be determined at a later time.

We are simply looking for parishioners interested in being trained to use the AED machine.



**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,



Last week I introduced the parish to our Building Fund Capital Campaign which we have named “Our Living Church”. We the parishioners are the living stones of the St. John of the Cross Church, and we gather each Sunday in the white stucco edifice at 200 South Metz in Orange Grove, Texas. In the last one hundred years, the Catholic faithful in this part of Jim Wells County have gathered as a family to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and to watch generations of Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Confirmations and Marriages in our parish community. The very first church building was the vision of about 30 Catholic families back in 1910 that resulted in our first church built in 1915. And with the steady growth of new families, we became the Parish of St. John of the Cross in 1925. When they outgrew the little church, the people of the parish began their first Building Fund Campaign to erect our current building in 1950.

Over the last seventy-five years, we have had several Building Fund Campaigns to enlarge our church complex with classroom buildings for the education of our youth, parish halls to gather in a social setting for events, and rectories/offices for the resident priest and staff. In the last twenty years our parish has had four building fund projects: 2000-2005 -renovation of the church interior; 2008-2013 – construction of a new rectory / office building; 2014-2017 – the construction of the new Religious Education Building; and 2020 – 2025 – over \$350,000.00 various major building maintenance repairs. In these last five years, the building fund donations have been used for the parish hall renovations, the repair of the church bathroom, replacement Church’s HVAC condenser unit, replacement of the Parish Hall’s entire HVAC system, and replacement of the Office’s HVAC system, installation of new lighting for the parking lot, and most recently the new lighting in the church and the repainting of the church sanctuary among other smaller renovations and repairs. In each and every time the parishioners have responded generously to these Building Fund Campaigns in raising the needed funds. And I believe that it is primarily as we the parishioners are ensuring the continued presence and growth of our Catholic Community in our town of Orange Grove for ourselves and for our future generations.

This campaign is the next chapter in our parish’s story. The “Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign” hopes to raise \$675,000.00 over the next few years. Remember that our last Building Fund Campaign raised over \$684,284.00 for the construction of the Religious Education Building. And through the generosity of ourselves, the parishioners of SJOC, we were able to retire the entire debt two years earlier than was anticipated. You should have heard and read in the last few months the major absolutely necessary building projects that must be done to ensure our parish’s continued existence, so I am asking all of our parishioner families to make a pledge for this campaign. This weekend you will receive an “Our Living Church” brochure with an attached pledge card to take home and reflect and pray what donation you could make to the Building Fund for the coming years. Any pledge, large or small, is your commitment to continue the growth of our parish and its buildings. Next weekend, there will be a more formal request for pledges to begin our “Living Church” campaign.

If you are currently making a monthly donation to the Building Fund, those donations have already been forwarded to a restricted account to begin collecting those donations that will be used for “Our Living Church” campaign. This pledge appeal is not an additional pledge to your current Building Fund donation, but it is your marking your current pledge to the new “Our Living Church” fund. Those who have been giving regularly to the Building Fund are asked to just note your current donation amount on the pledge card as their Living Church donation so that it can be properly directed to that fund. And if you can increase it by a few dollars as a response to this appeal, feel free to do so. Since my arrival in 2018, as a parishioner myself of St. John’s, I have been making a monthly donation to our Building Fund, and I will be making a formal pledge to this campaign.

For all of the parishioners who have not been making donations to the Building Fund, you are asked to pray and reflect on this Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign appeal, for the future stability of our parish community. Next week, I will share some ideas on how you might be able to carve out a little from your monthly budget to make a pledge.

Love and Prayers,  
Fr. Patrick



# Dear Padre,

***At a recent gathering, a relative questioned my family's continued participation in the Catholic Church because of the sexual abuse cover-up. What is the best way to address this question?***

Resist the temptation to argue or make any response that is not respectful. Choose to respond with empathy and understanding; perhaps something like this: "I understand and respect your feelings. Some have made the difficult choice to leave the Church. Others find the choice to remain also difficult."

"As a mature and discerning person, I am not making excuses for behaviors that are inexcusable. I cannot and will not defend behavior that should not be defended. I choose to remain in the Church because I choose to remain in a relationship with Jesus, and that relationship includes my reception of the sacraments of the Church. I value the sacraments even as I remain vigilant about the conduct of those who have been entrusted with celebrating those sacraments. I retain my practice of the sacraments and, at the same time, I retain my responsibility to be alert to abusive behavior. This is not acceptance or approval of what most certainly happened. It is continuing to participate in what is beautiful and wise and true so that, in the company of other believers, I may become more like Christ." ●

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



## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world. [We see] too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest.*

**HOMILY, ROME,  
MAY 18, 2025**



### Monday

September 22

Weekday

Ezr 1:1-6

Lk 8:16-18

### Tuesday

September 23

St. Pius of  
Pietrelcina, Priest

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b,  
14-20

Lk 8:19-21

### Wednesday

September 24

Weekday

Ezr 9:5-9

Lk 9:1-6

### Thursday

September 25

Weekday

Hg 1:1-8

Lk 9:7-9

### Friday

September 26

Weekday

Hg 2:1-9

Lk 9:18-22

### Saturday

September 27

St. Vincent de Paul,  
Priest

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a

Lk 9:43b-45

### Sunday

September 28

Twenty-sixth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Am 6:1a, 4-7

1 Tm 6:11-16

Lk 16:19-31