



St. John of the Cross

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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)

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

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

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.-6	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
	6:00PM	† Berta Garcia Chapa by Maria Beltran † Maria Jimenez (Heavenly birthday) by Dolores Borrego & Family
Sun. -7	7:30AM	† Larry Bruns (Heavenly birthday) by Family † Allen Migura by Migura Family † Olive Skrobarczyk (Birthday) by Graham Family
	11:00AM	† Arturo Acuna, Jr., (9th anniv.) by Arturo Acuna, Sr., and Family † Regino Flores (Heavenly birthday) by Janie Flores † Yolanda Ochoa by Her Loving Husband Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Altar Society
	6:00PM	† Edna Noemi y † Arnoldo Almaraz por Johnny Soliz † Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-8	8:00AM	† Lorenza (Cha-Cha) Hatch by Hatch Family
Tues.-9	8:00AM	† David Gaza by Andres & Rosemary Perez For the safety of those serving in the military
Thurs.-11	6:00PM	Unwed mothers
	6:30PM	ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA
Fri.- 12	8:00AM	Strength & comfort of widows & widowers

Masses for September 13 & 14

Sat.- 13	6 :00PM	† Padilla Family by Maria Beltran † Cristela Solano & † Vivian Solano by Graciela & Pablo Alaniz, Jr. Special intention for Liza Ochoa & Family by Liza Ochoa
Sun.—14	7:30AM	† Mae Gwosdz by Her Family † Adan & † Olivia Ortiz by Joe & Mary Ortiz † Lisa Stewart by Jana Robinson Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association
	11:00AM	† Roger Villarreal (14 anniv.) by † Diana Villarreal
	6:00PM	† Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Regino Flores
(Heavenly birthday)

by Janie Flores

Thank you for your donation to the altar flowers,
Natalie David, Jill Ortiz, Nicole Raska,
and Anna Winterbottom



LEGAL COUNSELING ~ Dcn. Armando Cavada will offer legal guidance in the parish hall on
Saturday, September 27, at 9AM on the following topics:

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

All interested parties are welcome to attend this informative session.

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



Sep. 13— 6:00PM—Lector: Sharon Bartosch
EM: Luis and Nora Romanos, Sharry Stipp,
Anita Bazan
Lead Ushers— Carlos Alanis, San Juanita Gaza

Sept. 14—7:30AM— Lector: Ed Ortiz
EM: Jose Isais, Laura Gwosdz, Quinton Smithwick,
Margie Svetlik
Lead Ushers:— Bart and Maria Miller

11:00AM-Lector: Diana Aguilar
EM: Jeri Alaniz, Diana DeAnda, Karol Kocurek,
Janie Flores
Lead Usher— Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM —Lector: Gabriela Becerril
EM— Joachin Ordenez, Jesus Perez
Lead Usher— Paulin Becerril

PRAYER LIST

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

John Delaney, Art Forbes, Angelica Frees, Tristan Hopkins,
Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, Charlotte Pridgen,
Ruben A. Puente, Eva Soliz, Sissy Thomas, George Vela,
and James Wostal

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,
Laura Perez, and Amanda Smithwick



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



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



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

longer time away from work duties and 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 our 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

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #9	COLLECTION	Totals Prior	Goal	Actual	Total Annual	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
8/31/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (1,653.00)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,223.00	\$ (2,530.00)	\$ 18,900.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 322.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,544.05	\$ 666.05	\$ 10,800.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 4,412.82	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,422.95	\$ 5,435.77	\$ 12,600.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 3,081.82	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,190.00	\$ 3,571.82	\$ 42,300.00	\$ 45,871.82

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.

This weekend we will be taking up a collection to support our Altar Server Ministry. Through your continued generosity, we are able to provide the proper vestments for our youth when they serve at the Altar. Envelopes are available in the pews. Your generosity in supporting our youth who serve at Mass is truly appreciated!

Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 8 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 @6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

September 11-13— Dee Deleon, Gloria Contreras, Anna Marie Saenz, Angela Facundo, Beatriz Jimenez
September 19-20—Bertha Forbes, Olga Carranza, Jessie Hernandez, Lupita De Los Santos



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 22 6PM

Hostesses: Grp #4 Isabel Alanis

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 and Angie Alejandro

Carne Guisada Fundraiser—Sunday, September 7, 11AM - 1PM – drive thru only



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 7

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.

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 be
at **SFOA on Saturday, September 13, at 9AM** and
at **SJoC on September 10 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.**

Diocesan News



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@iwbsec.org or call 361-882-5413 ext. 513



Ark Gala 2025 will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first child admitted to the shelter. The Ark Assessment Center and Emergency Shelter for Youth's fundraiser begins at 6PM on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairground.

The gala will feature Co-Masters of Ceremonies Rudy Trevino and Barbi Leo, silent / live auctions, dinner/ dessert, and Guest Speaker Shaleasha S. Mcneal, who will share her experiences as a shelter resident during 2004—2005.

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.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING THOSE IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY FIELD

Most Reverend Michael Mulvey, STL, DD, Bishop of the diocese of Corpus Christi, cordially invites you to the 24th Annual Diocesan Blue Mass on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church. Mass will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by an awards ceremony and banquet in the parish hall. Keynote speaker will be SK Ruben "Radar" Rodriguez, retired Nueces County Sheriff. The Knights of Columbus Council #2987 will host this event.



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.



CELEBRATION OF CHARITY ~ The Celebration of Charity will take place on **Thursday, September 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Omni Corpus Christi, 900 North Shoreline Blvd.** Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating six decades of compassion, hope, and faith in action. Our 60th Diamond Anniversary will shine brightly with inspiring stories, moving music, and a shared vision to be light for those in need.

Honorary Speaker will be Rev. Larry Snyder, a nationally respected leader in Catholic charitable work and former President of Catholic Charities USA. The event will also include a special presentation of the Legacy Medal of Honor award.

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to sponsor online, scan the QR code or visit catholiccharities-cc.org/celebration-of-charity or call (361) 884-0651.



MAGNIFICAT NIGHT WITH THE SOLT SISTERS ~ The SOLT Sisters are having a "Magnificat Night," at our SOLT Sisters Mother House on **Friday, October 3rd.** This is open to young ladies who want to learn more about the life of a SOLT sister. This special gathering is for women ages 16-30 and includes Vespers, dinner and reflection.



Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6lp6p5tBO4KJLLCbZXHQEmpPqmMERVwwYkmHI4Uh034h2Gg/viewform>

GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE ~ The Diocesan Offices of Youth Ministry and Young Adult ministry is hosting the upcoming Global Celebration of Young People. This is an international event in which each respective Diocese plans a celebration with the Church to highlight young people. This year, the event will be on October 12th (The Feast Day of soon to be Saint Carlos Acutis) at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, 3502 Saratoga Boulevard in Corpus Christi.

The event takes place from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Contact Sr. Caritas at srcaritas@diocesecc.org with questions. Registration link is coming soon.



STATE OF THE DIOCESE -

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

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,

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 WIECHESLOWS



ANNA NASE / 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

Mt 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