



St. John of the Cross

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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

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.-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	† Mr. and † Mrs. Miguel Ganceras by Janie Beltran † Roger Villarreal (14 anniv.) by † Diana Villarreal
	6:00PM	† Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-15	8:00AM	More strong marriages
Tues.-16	8:00AM	Veterans
Thurs.-18	6:00PM	More vocations to the priesthood
	6:30PM	ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA
Fri.- 19	8:00AM	† Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family

Masses for September 20 & 21

Sat.- 20	6 :00PM	† Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Rosie Cano & Family † Francisco & † Celestina Garcia and Nick Garcia by Maria Beltran Birthday blessings for Matthew Silva & Mason Bishop by David & Terrie Silva
Sun.—21	7:30AM	† Marvin & † Mae Gwosdz by Their Family † Allen Migura by Migura Family † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Michael Bystry (5th anniv.) by Schneider Family † Bobby K. Hughes by Eva Medrano Hughes Blessings for our Catechists and a successful Religious Education program
	6:00PM	† Irma G. Ortiz por Luis, Adrian, and Jaime Ortiz † Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Enriqueta Puente
(Heavenly birthday)

by Her Loving Family

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

Sept. 20— 6:00PM—Lector: Pablo Alaniz
EM: Liza Ochoa, Laura Adams, San Juanita Gaza, Sharry Stipp
Head Ushers— Don and Kim Rokohl

Sept. 21—7:30AM— Lector: Kimberly Tessanne
EM: Maria Miller, Annette Rivera, Luz Paiz, Volunteer
Head Ushers: Gerald Murray, Quinton Smithwick

11:00AM-Lector: Philip Polk
EM: Janie Flores, Rose Puente Polk, Maria Galvan-Gordon, Dee DeLeon
Head Ushers: Lonnie Rodriguez, Kathleen Garza

6:00PM —Lector: Jesus Perez
EM— Mariela Ordonez, Esmeralda Castro
Head Usher: Angel Isais

If you feel you are being called to serve, please contact the parish office. We are in need of more lectors, eucharistic ministers, and ushers for all Masses.



PRAYER LIST

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

John Michael DeLeon, Juan DeLeon, Art Forbes, Angelica Frees, Tristan Hopkins, Cindy Lopez, Aiden Medrano, Antonio Medrano, Charlotte Pridgen, Ruben A. Puente, Eva Soliz, 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, 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



Please pray for our
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!

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

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #10	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
9/7/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (2,515.00)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,028.00	\$ (2,587.00)	\$ 21,000.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 666.05	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,770.21	\$ 1,236.26	\$ 12,000.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 3,028.55	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,802.17	\$ 4,430.72	\$ 14,000.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 1,179.60	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 6,600.38	\$ 3,079.98	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 50,079.98

There will be a **SECOND** collection to support the **Catholic University of America**.
The Collection for the Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA in over 50 disciplines.

Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 3 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 @6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

September 19-20—Bertha Forbes, Olga Carranza, Jessie Hernandez, Lupita De Los Santos

September 25-26—Ms. Jana Robinson, Mrs. Anna Garza, Ms. LeAnna Rodriguez, Mrs. Clarita Almeida



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

Thank you to all who helped make the carne guisada fundraiser a success! - especially to all the Guadalupanas who showed up and worked hard, and to the men/ husbands who helped: Luis Romanos, Carlos Alanis, Pablo Alanis, Ricky Alanis, Lupe Alejandro, Bart Miller, and Jim Mathey! We sold 415 plates!



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



CASA DE LUCY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9AM

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**.

Altar Servers

Last weekend we celebrated the **Annual Recognition and Advancement** of our altar servers to the next level of responsibility, and then they celebrated their success.



Diocesan News

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.



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

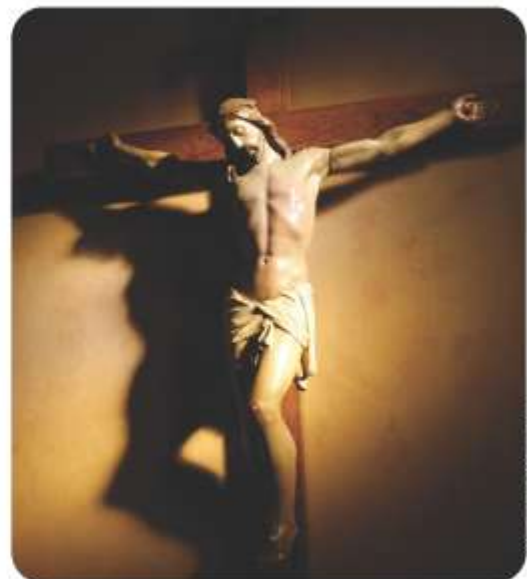


**Live music featuring
Nashville artist:
J.R. Castillo &
Unwound**

Dear Padre,

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 WIECHEC / CNS

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