



St. John of the Cross



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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

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.-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	† Jason Benavidez by Janie Beltran † Michael Bystry (5th anniv.) by Schneider Family † Bobby K. Hughes by Eva Medrano Hughes Blessings on our Catechists and for a successful Religious Education program
	6:00PM	† Irma G. Ortiz (4th anniv.) por Luis, Adrian, y Jaime Ortiz † Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-22	8:00AM	All those serving in religious orders Special Intention by Anita Bazan
Tues.-23	8:00AM	† David Gaza by Nephews: Ivan, Marcos, and Christian Pena Special Intention for Living Members of Schneider Family by Schneider Family Birthday Blessings for Wyatt Wanoreck (12 yrs)
Thurs.-25	6:00PM 6:30PM	Socorristas ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA
Fri.-26	8:00AM	† Tio Mariano por Anita Bazan That more families will foster religious vocations

Masses for September 27 & 28

Sat.-27	6:00PM	† Mr. & † Mrs. Del Bosque by David & Terrie Silva † Ted Johnson, Jr., by Maria Beltran † Luis Romanos, Sr., (12th anniv.) by Romanos Family
Sun.-28	7:30AM	† Mary Thottankara by St. John of the Cross
	11:00AM	People of the parish
	6:00PM	† Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia



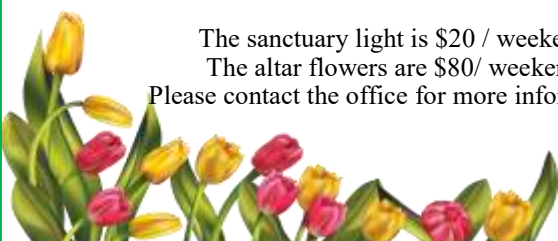
The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Paxesdis Jimenez

by Raquel S. Jimenez

Sanctuary light and altar flowers ~ The sanctuary light and / or the altar flowers may be sponsored in honor of or for the repose of the soul of a loved one, for special intentions, or in celebration of special occasions like birthdays or wedding anniversaries.

The sanctuary light is \$20 / weekend.
The altar flowers are \$80/ weekend.
Please contact the office for more information.



Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

Sept. 27— 6:00PM—Lector: Don Rokohl
EM: Luis and Nora Romanos, Anita Bazan,
Liza Ochoa
Head Ushers: Raquel S. Jimenez, Kim Rokohl

Sept. 28—7:30AM— Lector: Rick Svetlik
EM: Laura Gwosdz, Annette Rivera, Luz Paiz,
Margie Svetlik
Head Ushers: Bart and Maria

11:00AM-Lector: Youth- 10th, 11th, 12th Grades
EM: Jeri Alaniz, Diana DeAnda, Dora Paiz,
Karol Kocurek
Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM —Lector: Mariela Ordenez
EM: Joachin Ordenez, Jesus Perez
Head Usher: Paulin Becerril

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:

**Lisa Beltran, John Michael DeLeon, Juan DeLeon,
Art Forbes, Angelica Frees, Fr. Jose Gutierrez,
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 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

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #11	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
9/14/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (2,587.00)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,653.67	\$ (3,033.33)	\$ 23,100.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 1,236.26	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,674.20	\$ 1,710.46	\$ 13,200.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 4,430.72	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,792.95	\$ 4,823.67	\$ 15,400.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 3,079.98	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,120.82	\$ 3,500.80	\$ 51,700.00	\$ 55,200.80

This weekend begins **Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign!** The interior of our church building has not been renovated since 2005 and is in real need of repair.

Your support of **Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign** is requested for the successful future of our parish building. Please prayerfully consider your role in this campaign as pledge cards will be distributed next weekend, and your help is needed in restoring our parish building for future generations.



Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 3 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 @6PM

Monthly processional ~ Dianna Schneider - October 5

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

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

October 2-4—Paid Professional



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

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



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!

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**.

Diocesan News

IT'S OFFICIAL! PARENTAL CHOICE IS NOW LAW IN TEXAS

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will provide participating families with state funds to help pay for private school tuition and related educational expenses, including textbooks, uniforms, and school meals.

The ESA application portal will open in January 2026. Families who apply and are approved will begin receiving ESA funds in July 2026, allowing them to prepare for expenses in the 2026–2027 school year.

We encourage parents to stay informed by visiting www.diocesecc.org/esa for updates on eligibility, application procedures, and important deadlines. Take the first step toward a Catholic education—where your child will believe, belong, and become!



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/1FAIpQLSfol6gp5tBO4KJLLCbZXHqEmpPqmMERVwwYkmHI4Uh034h2Gg/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

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.



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**

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

In anticipation of using the AED, we are looking for help to mount the AED machine in the church. If you can help with this task, please contact the parish office.



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



JOHN MC ELROY

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to 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**



JULIA M. CAMERON / PEXELS

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