



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 28, 2025

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 / 1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Luke 16:19-31



Good News!

September 28, 2025

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 / 1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Luke 16:19-31

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge found himself confronted by the person he had become: someone forced to accept the reality painted by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. Scrooge hadn't realized how he had slowly drifted into becoming an uncaring and greedy person, unable to show compassion because he never really saw someone else's pain. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge is the story of the rich man in this Sunday's gospel who was unmoved by poor Lazarus, sitting at the gate of the rich man's sumptuous life. They are both stories of human beings drifting into emptiness.

St. Thomas Aquinas suggested that our motivations in life can ultimately be reduced to eight different categories. If we're interested in understanding what sort of people we are becoming, we might ask ourselves which of these questions best describes our motivation: Am I making my decisions and choices about life based on wealth? Or am I looking to be admired by others and be praised? Is it lasting glory that I seek? Or power so that I can be noted for "making a difference?" Is what I seek a life of ultimate pleasure and comfort? Is it health that I look for? Or perhaps something related to my inner life—some intangible good, like virtue or knowledge? Or is it to see God already in this life what I truly want? It is always a challenge to know our true selves because all too often we may be adrift, unaware of who we are becoming. ●

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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.-27	6:00PM	† Mr. & † Mrs. E. Del Bosque by David & Terrie Silva † Ted Johnson, Jr., by Maria Beltran † Luis Romanos, Sr., (12th anniv.) by Romanos Family Tia Maria Blas (Birthday) by Ellie Mankin
Sun.-28	7:30AM	† Mary Thottankara by St. John of the Cross
	11:00AM	† Fernando Vargas by Janie Beltran † Maria G. Vasquez (12th anniv.) by Janie Flores People of the Parish
	6:00PM	† Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-29	8:00AM	Nurses and all first responders
Tues.-30	8:00AM	Unwed mothers
Thurs.-2	6:00PM	matrimonios fuertes
	6:30PM	ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA
Fri.-3	8:00AM	Veterans and all those serving in the military

Masses for October 4 & 5

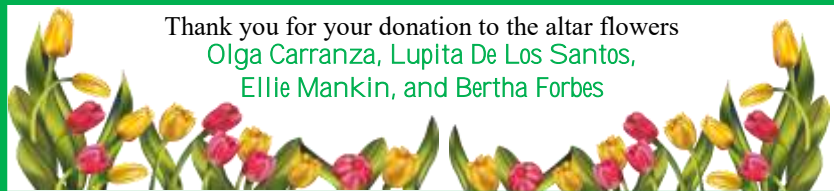
Sat.-4	8:00AM	† Gary Graham by Janet Graham
	6:00PM	† Pablo Alaniz, Sr., by Lupe & Angie Alejandro † Lalo Orta (14th anniv.) by Anna & Eric Winterbottom † Pilar Sciaraffa (5th anniv.) by Romanos Family † Gogo, † Meme, † Alicia by Maria Beltran
Sun.-5	7:30AM	† Allen Migura by Migura Family
	11:00AM	† Michael Rivera, Sr., Heavenly birthday (9th anniv.) by Lillie Rivera & family Living and Deceased Members of the Altar Society
	6:00PM	† Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

† **Maria G. Vasquez**
(12th anniv.)

by Janie Flores



Thank you for your donation to the altar flowers

**Olga Carranza, Lupita De Los Santos,
Ellie Mankin, and Bertha Forbes**

Help needed!

1.) Father is looking for a civil engineer or survey person to do a basic survey mapping of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery. Our current cemetery map is about 50 years old and needs to be updated. If you know of anyone who can do the job for a reasonable price, please have him/her contact Father Patrick in the parish office.



2.) Many tree branches around the parish office, rectory, and Religious Ed Building are hanging low. Some are rubbing the roof and rain gutters on the buildings. If you are able to help trim them, please contact the parish office.

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



Oct. 4— 6:00PM—Lector: Kim Rokohl

EM: Luis Romanos, Don Rokohl,

San Juanita Gaza, Sharry Stipp

Head Ushers: Pablo & Graciela Alaniz

Oct. 5— 7:30AM— Lector: Quinton Smithwick

EM: Annette Rivera, Margie Svetlik, Luz Paiz,

Maria Miller

Head Ushers: Gerald Murray, Lucille Klaevemann

11:00AM-Lector: Kathleen Garza

EM: Rose Puente Polk, Dee DeLeon,

Maria Galvan-Gordon, Karol Kocurek

Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM —Lector: Jose Isaais

EM: Alvina Resendez, Paulin Becerril

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:

John Michael DeLeon, Juan DeLeon, Fr. Jose Gutierrez, Janie Flores, Art Forbes, Angelica Frees, Tristan Hopkins, Cindy Lopez, Aiden Medrano, Antonio Medrano, Ruben A. Puente, and Eva Soliz

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 weekend our parish formally began “Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign” for the long-term good of our parish. It is my hope and prayer that every family open their hearts to support this building fund campaign as best they can.



When someone asks you what church you go to, I hope that you say, “I belong to St. John of the Cross Church. That is my parish church.” And then comes, a very touchy and sensitive question from me as your pastor. “When the offertory basket is passed in the pews, what do you put in the collection to support the care and upkeep of ‘your’ church”? With cash, offertory envelopes, or even on-line giving, your contribution, large or small, says, “This is MY church. And I want to support it to keep its walls up, windows clean, keep the lights on, and in the South Texas heat to keep the air-conditioning working.” Whether it is a weekly offering or follows a bi-weekly or monthly payroll period, my contribution says, “This is my Church, and I want to keep it in good condition for me and for the future.”

You might ask, “With rising inflation and higher prices for most everything how can I make a pledge towards the building fund?” You must prioritize to meet your essential necessities for your home life – food, light, gas, rent or mortgage etc. But then there are those wonderful things that we do for ourselves that really are not essential necessities: movies, a daily Starbucks coffee, the daily run to the taqueria, new pairs of shoes or some new fashion clothes. All of these are nice, but you could do without them and still have a cheerful home life. Everyone is being asked to make a small sacrifice of some non-essential item or activity, and to donate that money toward the building fund. Your family of four might go out every week for dinner at a restaurant spending \$120.00 each time. Sacrifice one of the dinners in a month and make a pledge toward the Living Church Campaign. Or at that weekly dinner, giving up the cocktails or the desserts would also be a good sacrifice of non-essentials. Or not going to the movies once a month – tickets, drinks, and popcorn for four runs about \$50.00 - \$75.00 – and making that your pledge. New clothes and new shoes always bring smiles to one’s face, but only two new clothing items in a month rather than the usual four or five. That savings would make a nice regular monthly donation to Our Living Church Building Fund. Everyone has to make their financial budget meet your essential basic living needs, but there are some nice but non-essential things in each budget. Take some time to reflect “Do I really need this or that item? And could I do without it and make a pledge to support my church’s building fund?”

Please be aware that your current regular ongoing donations to the church need to be maintained to keep the regular work of our church going. And if you have been giving regularly to the Building Fund over the years, just complete your “Living Church Pledge Card” with that same amount and turn it in so your former Building Fund pledge will become your “Our Living Church Building Fund” pledge. If you have not made your pledge yet, please be sure to take a pledge card and support your parish church. And like the Jesus’ parable of the widow with her two small coins, trust that the Lord will watch over you for your generosity to your church. Whether your pledge is small or large, make it from your heart and God will bless “Our Living Church.” Thank you for your regular weekly support of our church and for considering this special “Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign” building fund appeal.

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

We recently learned of a correction to our pledge card. Please make any checks payable to: St. John of the Cross Our Living Church Capital Building Campaign” or “St. John of the Cross Church” with the memo line – Capital Building Fund. Ever evolving banking regulations need to be observed to protect your church donations.

Thank You,
Fr. Patrick

Deacon's Corner

The meditation is for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. The readings are from Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; and, Luke 16: 19-31. The emphasis of Luke's Gospel on the plight of the poor, and the distinctions between the rich and the poor continue this Sunday. The readings seem to be getting harsher in terms of tending to the needs of the poor. The first reading from Amos lists a "woe" to the people of Israel, that they not be complacent in their wealth and leisure: "...they shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with." The Psalm continues this emphasis on the needs of the poor in the entire reading. Here is the first stanza, verse 4: "Blessed is he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free." The other stanzas are the same. The point of serving the poor is that faith comes from our detachment from the lures of the world, and that service to those most in need of mercy leads to salvation. I think that is what the letter to Timothy in today's readings is trying to teach us. Faith comes from service to (or prayer for) those most in need of God's mercy! The Gospel is about the poor man Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man ignored Lazarus' poverty and his basic needs. Lazarus is placed by Luke outside the rich man's door, to give us the impression that the rich man encountered Lazarus on a daily basis and simply ignored him. St. Theresa of Calcutta described that scene before she began her ministry to the sick and dying in India. When she decided to leave her teaching job and tend to the needs of the dying in the streets of India,

that changed her life completely. There is a story about a rich donor who was watching her clean toilets where the poor would relieve themselves, and he said to her, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars!" She said, "I wouldn't either," meaning that she would only do it for the love of God. Faith like that is demanding, but ultimately rewarding. That is the meaning of the Resurrection. The rest of the parable is about those attitudes that lead us away from the important aspects of everlasting life. People who lose themselves in slavery to sin, addiction, pride, anger, hatred can never live in the Resurrection. Resurrection begins in this life. I think that is what Luke is saying about the law and the prophets. "... (B)etween us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours." The rich man then asks the Lord (through the voice of Abraham) to send someone "from the dead" to his brothers and warn them, but the evangelist says: "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." In other words, the Resurrection means nothing unless we recognize the Will of God for us as the Letter to Timothy tells us: "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses." This noble confession is to love God and neighbor.

God bless you.

Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #11	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
9/21/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (3,008.33)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,795.00	\$ (3,313.33)	\$ 25,200.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 1,705.46	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,990.08	\$ 2,495.54	\$ 14,400.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 4,823.67	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,228.95	\$ 5,652.62	\$ 16,800.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 3,520.80	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 6,014.03	\$ 4,834.83	\$ 56,400.00	\$ 61,234.83

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.

Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign will restore the stucco, stained-glass, floors, and paint the church interior and exterior; replace the roof, flooring, and windows of the parish hall; and resurface the parking lot. Our goal is \$675,000 by 2032. This six-year time frame allows all of us— regardless of income— to plan a gift that is sacrificial, meaningful, and manageable. This a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our church home, not just for what it has meant to us, but for what it will mean to those who come after.

Please use a pledge card to make your gift today! Or visit st-johnog.org or scan the QR code. Envelopes are available in the church foyer. **Please make all checks payable to “St. John of the Cross—Our Living Church Capital Campaign”.**



Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 3 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 @6PM

Meeting hostesses: Anita Bazan, Maria Miller, Dora Paiz, Liza Ochoa

Monthly processional ~ Dianna Schneider - October 5

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

October 2-4—Paid Professional

October 9-11— Maria Galvan-Gordon, Valeria Pousson, Kendra Cawyer, Vanesa Almeida, Blanca Nieto



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 17 6PM

Corporate Mass—October 19 @ 7:30AM

Rosary @ 7:00AM

Leader: Anita Bazan

Offertory: Gloria Contreras & Mary Ortiz

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe by Angie Alejandro & Elaine Lopez



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

Mandatory parent meetings for **First Holy Communion, Confirmation and the Sacramental Preparation classes** Wednesday, October 1, in the church.

The FHC meeting will be at 5:30PM for students and parents.

Confirmation students, their parents, and sponsors will meet at 6:30PM.

Prayer partner weekend will take place NEXT weekend. Our parishioners will be invited to select a student to pray for as he/she prepares to receive his/ her sacrament(s) in the spring.

Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on **Wednesday, October 8, 22, 29**, and at **SFOA** on **Saturday, October 11**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, October 2**, and **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, October 25**.

Dear Padre,

Why does my parish priest preach about love practically every Sunday?

"Through the course of the liturgical year, the homily sets forth the mysteries of faith and the standards of the Christian life on the basis of the sacred text" (*Lectionary*, 24). A translation of the English word "love" appears in the Bible more than 500 times; by comparison, "sin" appears approximately 400 times. Thus, insofar as the homily "should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from sacred Scripture" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 65), God's word on "love" is far too prevalent to overlook.

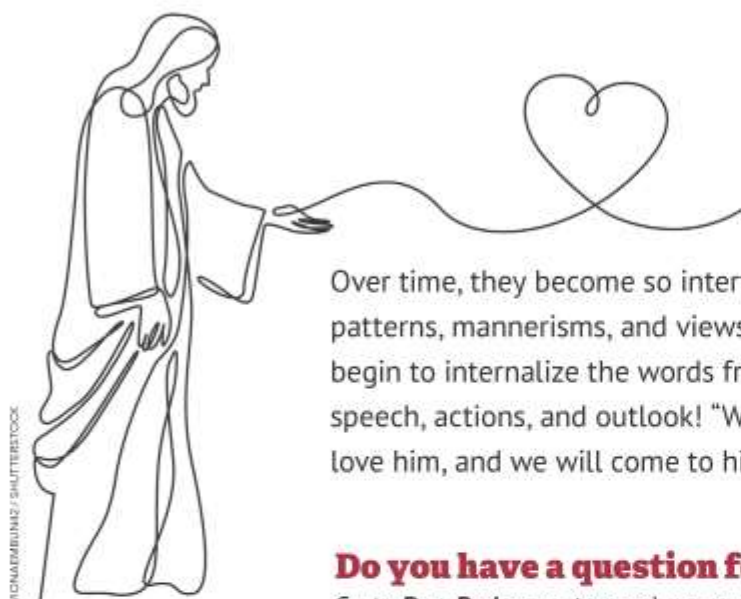
Pope Francis called God's word "a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best." In the Bible, this God who desires to bestow his love on us (See 1 John 3:1), is essentially telling us, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." How we love God in return may be likened to two partners in a committed relationship.

Over time, they become so intertwined that they can even assume each other's speech patterns, mannerisms, and views. Likewise, for those who love God, over the years we can begin to internalize the words from God's "love letter" and reflect them in our Christian speech, actions, and outlook! "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him" (John 14:23). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



VOMARBUK / SHUTTERSTOCK



LEONARD ZHUKOVSKY / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In our day, there is a widespread thirst for justice, a desire for authentic fatherhood and motherhood, a profound longing for spirituality, especially among young people and the marginalized, who do not always find effective means of making their needs known. There is a growing demand for the Church's social doctrine, to which we need to respond.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025

Monday

September 29
Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or
Rv 12:7-12ab
Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday

September 30
St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Zec 8:20-23
Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday

October 1
St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Neh 2:1-8
Lk 9:57-62

Thursday

October 2
The Holy Guardian Angels
Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12
Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday

October 3
Weekday
Bar 1:15-22
Lk 10:13-16

Saturday

October 4
St. Francis of Assisi
Bar 4:5-12, 27-29
Lk 10:17-24

Sunday

October 5
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4
2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14
Lk 17:5-10