

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 5, 2025

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 / 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 / Luke 17:5-10



Good News!

October 5, 2025

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 / 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 / Luke 17:5-10

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Childhood daydreams come peppered with visions of heroes and heroines, movie stars and rock stars, fame and notoriety. Eventually, however, we adjust our visions of what we can become as we are confronted by the reality of who we are. Seldom, however, are our daydreams and visions big enough. They tend to be only about ourselves, barely including others.

The same may be said about becoming people of faith. Too readily we think of faith simply as our personal decision to believe in God. Faith then becomes one-sided—the prayers we say, the Masses we attend, the Church's rules we obey. Like the people of the prophet Habakkuk's day, we may bemoan, "I cry for help and you do not listen.... [I] cry out to you, 'Violence!' and you do not intervene" (Habakkuk 1:2).

Then, too, our faith and its vision for life are not big enough, for we do not allow room for God to slip into our lives and do what God does. Then, faith is only about ourselves—our needs and struggles and pains. Faith needs to be a surrender to God's vision, not simply for ourselves, but for all of life. [The LORD said,] "The vision is a witness for the appointed time...it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late" (Habakkuk 2:3). The difficulty is that we want God to make life perfect for us the way we want it and when we want it. Then, it becomes our vision for life and not God's. ●

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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

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sun.-Oct. 5 9:15 AM | † Ismael Robles (Heavenly birthday) by Palmira Robles Cardona Altar and Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday People of the Parish |
| Sun.-Oct. 12 9:15 AM | † Jerry Cross (1st anniv. & heavenly birthday) by Mar Cross 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, Aiden Medrano, Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Phillip Torres, Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver

Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:

MaryRuth Hart, Theresa Laurienti, 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 | 09/21/2025 | CURRENT WEEK | 09/28/2025 |
|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Collection | \$736.00 | Collection | \$494.00 |

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



CASA DE LUCY

Case de Lucy Helping Hands Quilting Ministry sews Prayer Quilts for the terminally / critically ill persons needing prayers.

Works of Mercy

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



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on Thursday, November 6, and
at **St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, October 25.**

Community

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!

It's **Respect Life Month!** Every October, the Church in the U.S. celebrates **Respect Life Month**. We reflect on the gift of every human life and how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.

Join thousands of Catholics praying a **Respect Life Month** novena Wednesday, October 22 – Thursday, October 30. Get daily prayers, reflections, and more. Sign up at respectlife.org/celebrate.

In honor of **Respect Life Month**, we are hosting a diaper drive. Please leave infant diapers in the church entrance.



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 opens their hearts and support this building fund campaign as best they can.



In Luke’s Gospel we read about the Widow’s gift. “And Jesus [He] looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all *of them*; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.” (Luke 21:1-4) One of the first things to notice is that she felt herself as part of the Temple. She might be poor and with little resources, but she wanted to participate in keeping “her” Temple in the best shape possible. And from her poverty she gave “two” small coins. If she is that poor, would it not be more common sense to give only one coin, and her to keep the other coin for herself? But she gives two coins – “all that she had to live on” – to the Temple as she felt the need to support, even if it were just a few pennies, to her faith community. And she gave her “small” gift trusting that the Lord would continue to watch over her and protect her. Widows were without any rights to own property or houses or to work, and they had to depend on the generosity and donations of others to just survive. If the widow had a son, he would bring her into his house to live and protect her. There are some 30+ passages in the Bible that refer to the desperate state of the “widows and orphans” that must call on God for protection and safety. And the sign of loving God was in one’s sign of caring for the widows and orphans. Her two small coins are her act of trust that the Lord will look after her and protect her. And Jesus’ statement that “this poor widow put in more than all of them” is the Son of God’s recognition of her sacrifice and dedication, and don’t you think that Jesus would have rewarded her generosity?

Everyone has a place that they call “their home”. You might own it (or own it with the bank mortgage), rent it, or live with someone who provides that “home” space to you. But it is that space where you enter, close the door, and take the deep breath, “I’m home”. And each of us must care for that home, keeping it clean and livable. Whether it be a large home with many rooms or just a small place of only four walls, it is “my” home that I must care for. And from your payroll or resources, you dedicate a portion for those mundane living expenses – laundry soap for the clothes, money for the water bill and the light bill, and some funds to keep the walls and floors clean and in good condition, etc. And we do this because this is “my home”.

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, 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”. And you in the truest sense, like the widow, can say, “this is my Church (my Temple)”.

If you have been giving to the Building Fund over the years, just complete your “Living Church Pledge Card” with that amount and turn it in so your former Building Fund pledge will become your “Our Living Church Building Fund” pledge. If you haven’t made your pledge yet, please be sure to take a pledge card and support your parish church. And like 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”.

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

Is envy a sin? I find myself becoming very envious of people who have more than I do. I find it difficult to be content with what my family and I have now.

We live in a climate that encourages discontent with what we have. Advertising plays on our feelings of envy and our desire for possessions. In this almost universal rush to possess more and better material objects, Christians are called to a counter-witness. We are called to embrace a freedom and a poverty of spirit that actually rejoices in the blessings of others.

The Tenth Commandment alerts us to the danger of undisciplined envy: "You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Exodus 20:17). In the New Testament, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there also will be our heart. (See Matthew 6:21.) The real antidote to envy, then, is prayers of thanks for all God has given to us and others. To feel envious, to desire or covet someone else's possessions, is not in itself a mortal sin. But to let that feeling invade your mind, to indulge it and rationalize it, is to let that feeling harden into an envious frame of mind. Then you are flirting with real sin. The grave sin is to allow these envious thoughts to drive you to any injustice or evil. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums it up well: "Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother's [and sister's] progress, and you will immediately give glory to God" (2540). ●

Fr. Paul J. Coury, 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*.

Monday

October 6

Weekday

Jon 1:1–2:2, 11

Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday

October 7

Our Lady of the

Rosary

Jon 3:1–10

Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday

October 8

Weekday

Jon 4:1–11

Lk 11:1–4

Thursday

October 9

Weekday

Mal 3:13–20b

Lk 11:5–13

Friday

October 10

Weekday

Jl 1:13–15; 2:1–2

Lk 11:15–26

Saturday

October 11

Weekday

Jl 4:12–21

Lk 11:27–28

Sunday

October 12

Twenty-eighth

Sunday in

Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 5:14–17

2 Tm 2:8–13

Lk 17:11–19



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is so little dialogue around us; shouting often replaces it, not infrequently in the form of fake news and irrational arguments proposed by a few loud voices. Deeper reflection and study are essential, as well as a commitment to encounter and listen to the poor.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025