



St. John of the Cross



Parish Office Phone:
361-384-2795

Pastor:
Rev. Patrick K. Donohoe

Parish Office Fax:
361-384-0056

Parish Office Email:
saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Bulletin Email
saintjohn0006@gmail.com

Church Website:
www.st-johnog.org

Mailing Address — P.O. Box 329, Orange Grove, TX 78372

Physical Address — 200 S. Metz, Orange Grove, TX 78372

Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 19, 2025

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Exodus 17:8-13 / 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 / Luke 18:1-8



Good News!

October 19, 2025

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Exodus 17:8-13 / 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 / Luke 18:1-8

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I have a friend who likes to say that God always answers prayers; it's just that sometimes God says "no." He'll say that not always getting what we pray for seems to fit the way life is. My difficulty with that piece of religious folk wisdom is that God then comes off as someone who sits around sorting out answers to prayers from the billions of daily requests sent God's way. When I object to my friend's saying, he's quick to remind me that God wants us to pray. Doesn't this week's parable about the widow who plagues the dishonest judge say just that? Don't give up praying. Yet God isn't like a dishonest judge who cares not for any human being. It also presumes that the sheer multiplication of words sent God's way increases the chances that we'll get a positive hearing, and that God needs to be convinced to do good for us, or at least what we presume is good. But then that presumes that we know better than God.

So perhaps God is not like the judge but like the widow, continually pleading that we might give him a hearing. The purpose of our prayer, then, is not to get God to do what we want, but rather to open ourselves to what God wants for us. That does take some trust, but don't we believe that God knows us better than we know ourselves? That's why the parable ends with the question, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" ●

© 2025 Liguori Publications, Imprimi Petest: Fr. Kevin Zubei, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

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.-18	6:00PM	† Jovita Alejandro by Lupe & Angie Alejandro † Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Petra Perez & Yvonne Arces † Vivian Solano & † Cristela Solano by Graciela & Pablo Alaniz, Jr. Birthday Blessings for Taryn Wanoreck (6 yrs.)
Sun.-19	7:30AM	† Vergie Clemons, † David Clemons, and † H.J. Winstead by Bob & Dianna Winstead † Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Norma Flores (2nd anniv.) by the Family † Teodoro Garcia, Jr., by Forbes Family † Bobby K. Hughes by Eva Medrano Hughes
	6:00PM	† Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-20 <i>St. Paul</i>	8:00AM	† Juan Guerrero (Birthday) by Bazan, Leal & Hinojosa Family
Tues.-21	8:00AM	† Chip Adams (4th anniv.) by His Loving Family
Thurs.-23 <i>St. John of Capistrano</i>	6:00PM	<i>La misa está abierta y disponible.</i>
	6:30PM	ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA
Fri.-24 <i>St. Anthony Mary Claret</i>	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
	6:00PM	Rosary by Sociedad Guadalupana

Masses for October 25 & 26

Sat.-25	6 :00PM	† Chip Adams (4th anniv.) by His Loving Family † Diana R. Aguilar by Mary Sylvia Gonzales † Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Josephie Borrego † Oralia Sanchez by Romanos Family
Sun.-26	7:30AM	† Vergie Clemons, † David Clemons, and † H. J. Winstead by Bob and Dianna Winstead † Allen Migura by Migura Family
	11:00AM	† Clemencia Martinez by Janie Beltran In thanksgiving to St. Jude by Mary Urrea
	6:00PM	† Maria Luisa Apolonio Rojas por Connie Trejo Las familias de la parroquia

The altar flowers are in memory of

† Praxedis (Pepe) Jimenez

By Raquel S. Jimenez & Family

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

Oct. 25— 6:00PM—Lector: Norma Cornejo
EM: San Juanita Gaza, Anita Bazan
Luis and Nora Romanos,
Head Ushers: Raquel S. Jimenez, Mike Schroedter

Oct. 26—7:30AM— Lector: Lucille Klaevemann
EM: Maria Miller, Quinton Smithwick,
Laura Gwosdz, Margie Svetlik
Head Ushers: Bart Miller

11:00AM-Lector: Youth- 9th Grade
EM: Karol Kocurek, Dee DeLeon, Jeri Alaniz,
Volunteer

Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM —Lector: Joachin Ordenez Maldonado
EM: Mariela Ordenez, Albina Resendez
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:

Nikki Bunch, Israel Cavazos, Jr.,
Karen Elyasevich, Paul Elyasevich,
Fr. Jose Gutierrez, Janie Flores, Art Forbes,
Angelica Frees, Margaret Hippensteal,
Cindy Lopez, and Antonio Medrano

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,
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!
Please call the parish office or use the online form to
submit names & branch of service.

Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign



OUR LIVING CHURCH

A CAMPAIGN FOR RESTORING OUR CHURCH

OUR GOAL:
\$675,000 BY 2032

We introduced Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign at all Masses September 20-21. In the past month, we've had 74 parish families pledge to this campaign; that's out of the 600+ registered families. In addition, each month approximately 38 families donate to the Building Fund, online and in envelope contributions.

From these figures it can be projected that we will fall short of the six-year goal by \$100,000.

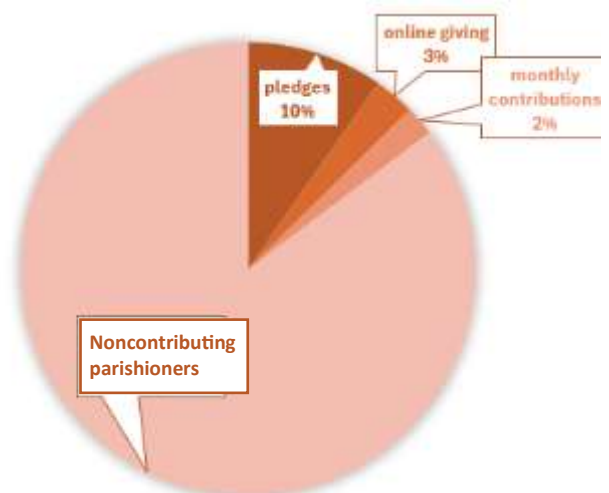
With that, we are so grateful to those who have pledged and continue to contribute to our Campaign. In fact, several former parishioners who grew up at St John have even contributed to this campaign by making generous one-time gifts.

Each parish family is asked to prayerfully consider their role in Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign. The success of this project depends of each of us!

Our Living Church Bldg Fund Update



Our Living Church Bldg Fund Donation Status



Deacon's Corner

Today, we celebrate the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings are from Exodus 17:8-13; Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 and the Gospel is from Luke 18:1-8. The first reading, from Exodus is the famous passage of the war against the Amalekites. As long as Moses held up his arms, even if it was Aaron and Hur who held them up for him, the Israelites would win the battle. Think of that image as a war against evil and injustice that we confront each day and see what “battles” we win on a daily basis when we make right decisions and avoid wrong ones, that is, when we “hold up the love of God” as our guiding principle. God is not on the side of those who do evil **or worse do nothing to combat evil**. Try to put out of your mind the image that God destroys enemies—men, women and children, and animals—especially those who are against the “chosen people.” Replace those thoughts with the fact that Jesus teaches us about the mercy of God. Here is what Pope Leo says in paragraph 97 of his new letter, *Dilexi te*: “It must never be forgotten that the Gospel message has to do not only with an individual’s personal relationship with the Lord, but also with something greater: ‘the Kingdom of God (cf. Lk 4:43); it is about loving God who reigns in our world. To the extent that he reigns within us, the life of society will be a setting for universal fraternity, justice, peace and dignity. Both Christian preaching and life, then, are meant to have an impact on society. We are seeking God’s Kingdom.’” The Holy Father is quoting Pope Francis, paragraph 180, “The Joy of the Gospel,” 2013. In the time of the Israelites, the kingdom of God was the promised land, and so they believed that God was on their side, and they were being aided by God to destroy anyone and anything that interfered with their lives and the promise of God for a land for his chosen people. But God does

not kill anyone! He loves all of us the same. He’s immutable (unchanged over time or unable to be changed). Jesus reveals a merciful God. Therefore, the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament are the same. The demands of the Lord are the same—**REPENTANCE**. The result is the same—**FORGIVENESS**. Here is the Covenant (Old and New Testament): “You repent, and I’ll be God.” Read and re-read the Psalm for today, and you will see how this “covenant” works. The Gospel reading today is about the widow and the unjust judge. The parable (“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?”) is about persistence in prayer, to be sure, but think about who God is in this parable—the unjust judge or the widow? I want to submit that it is the widow. She keeps insisting. And I think God is always insisting that we turn and recognize his call. It’s his “chosen ones who call out” that are called by God to respond to his call, and when we do we’re participating in the Covenant. Now Luke the evangelist is thinking that the Lord will come soon. Try to remember that the Gospels are written between 70 and 100 years after Jesus has risen from the dead. So, the expectation that he would return within the lifetimes of his Apostles faded after they were all killed, and so the thinking of end time theology (the return of the Lord Jesus in his glory) became more and more extended, until we realized that the Second Coming was not going to be soon. That meant that we had to readjust our expectation by living a life worthy of the presence of the Lord at all times. In other words, be prepared for his second coming at all times because “no one knows the day or the hour.” Matthew 24:36. By the time St. Luke wrote his Gospel things must have been pretty bad. Kind of like today, isn’t it?

God love you.

Deacon Cavada



Stewardship of Treasure

Week #15	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
10/12/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (4,798.33)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,815.00	\$ (5,083.33)	\$ 31,500.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 3,655.77	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,691.37	\$ 4,147.14	\$ 18,000.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 5,829.52	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,871.18	\$ 6,300.70	\$ 21,000.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 4,686.96	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,377.55	\$ 5,364.51	\$ 70,500.00	\$ 75,864.51

There is a second collection for World Mission Sunday. The Church will celebrate World Mission Sunday 2025, on October 19, Pope Francis has given us a powerful theme that resonates deeply in this Jubilee Year: “**Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples.**” In his message, the Holy Father reminds us that hope is at the heart of the Christian mission, calling every baptized person to be “**messengers and builders of hope**” in a world that often finds itself overshadowed by uncertainty and despair.

Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 3 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 24 @6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

October 23-25—Carla Berry, Janey Henderson, JoAnn Rodriguez, Cassandra Bunton, Patricia Barrera

October 30—Nov. 1—Paid professional

Altar Society BBQ brisket and sausage fundraiser ~ November 16, 11AM—1PM – drive thru only. \$12 / plate
All ladies of the parish are asked to bring 2 dozen **cookies** to be served as dessert.

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: NOVEMBER 4

Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building *Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome*

Thank you to all who helped ensure that the Knights of Columbus BBQ chicken dinner fundraiser was a success— to those who sold tickets, those who cooked, those who served and especially those who bought tickets to support our organization!



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.

Works of Mercy

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



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

Diocesan News

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 October 22 – 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 wicker baskets in the church foyer.



STATE OF THE DIOCESE ~
Thursday, October 30, 6:00PM—8:00PM at Richard M. Borchard Fairgrounds
\$15/ \$7 for children (Meal included).
Buy your tickets now at diocesecc.org/stateof.



Dear Padre,

What is the Church's view on having crystal stones or sage in the home to bring in positive energy?

The Church does not have an official position on every possible human action or activity. The Church believes in the discerning principle of maturity and fully expects that the people of God will use the ability that has been entrusted to them by the Creator in a positive manner. The Church understands the power of mystery and the power of symbols but rightfully assigns any "energy" that mystery and symbols may generate to the power of the Holy Spirit. Inanimate objects, by the very definition of "inanimate," do not generate energy. They may be symbols of energy, but they do not have energy in and of themselves.

If you enjoy crystals because of their beauty or because of the way they diffuse light, then there is no harm in having them in your house. If you like the smell of sage, then use it and enjoy it. All symbols have different meanings, depending on how they are understood and used by the people who gathered, collect, and store them for use. These symbols have no power in and of themselves for good or for evil. However, if you live in a culture that has identified the meaning of a symbol, and that assigned meaning contradicts Christian belief and practice, it would be best to avoid that symbol. ●



EMERSON BOLOVSKA / PEXELS

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Peace is first and foremost a gift. It is the first gift of Christ: "My peace I give to you" (John 14:27).... It engages and challenges each of us...demanding that first of all we work on ourselves. Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by

eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words. For words, too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill.

**AUDIENCE OF THE
HOLY FATHER, ROME,
MAY 16, 2025**



Monday

October 20
Weekday
Rom 4:20-25
Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday

October 21
Weekday
Rom 5:12, 15b,
17-19, 20b-21
Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday

October 22
Weekday
Rom 6:12-18
Lk 12:39-48

Thursday

October 23
Weekday
Rom 6:19-23
Lk 12:49-53

Friday

October 24
Weekday
Rom 7:18-25a
Lk 12:54-59

Saturday

October 24
Weekday
Rom 8:1-11
Lk 13:1-9

Sunday

October 25
Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sir 35:12-14, 16-18
2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18
Lk 18:9-14