



# St. John of the Cross

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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

• November 9, 2025

• *The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

• Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 / 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17 / John 2:13-22



## Good News!

**November 9, 2025**

*The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 / 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17 / John 2:13-22

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**Singing together during the distribution of holy Communion** is one way of expressing the reality that we are one in the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. I once was taught to pray quietly during this time. If I'm honest, however, what I find myself doing after I return to my pew is watching others process past as they return from receiving Communion. They are a parade of holiness on the way. They are the longtime parishioners who have been making their way back to their pews in this way for decades—some now using walkers or canes, others with a bit of a slow hobble. There are teenagers, too. Some, from the expressions on their faces, look like their parents made them come, while others look impressively prayerful. Young parents, too, caring for a new baby in their arms, and another couple holding a two-year-old's hand as he tugs to escape and be free. And middle-aged single people, now halfway through this life's journey. Young couples, as well, those just married or engaged and so obviously in love, but also widows and widowers longing for the love they once knew. All of these are the body of Christ, the very temple of God built upon the foundation that is Christ Jesus, as Paul notes so well. This is why I watch them processing back to their pews. This, too, is prayer. ●

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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

<b>Sat.-8</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Oscar Borrego, Sr. † David Gaza by Nephews: Jose, Feliciano, and Armando Borrego & Family † Emma Rivera (Heavenly birthday) by Mary Sylvia Gonzales & Rivera Family In memory of the ordination of † Dcn. Jim Culpepper by Family
	<b>7:00PM—3:00AM</b>	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>
<b>Sun.-9</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	† Allen Migura by Migura Family In memory of the ordination of † Dcn. Jim Culpepper by Family Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association
	<b>11:00AM</b>	† Jasmine Gonzales (first anniv) by Gonzales Family † John Mankin (Heavenly birthday) by Ellie Mankin In memory of the ordination of † Dcn. Jim Culpepper by Family St. Jude for thanksgiving by Mary Urrea
	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Javier Diaz Arreola y † Manuel Diaz Enriquez por la Familia Diaz En memoria de la ordenación del † Diácono Jim Culpepper por la Familia Pedro y Agustina Castro (29 anos de boda) por Maria Castro Las familias de la parroquia
<b>Mon.-10</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	† Rev. Venantius Preske (10th anniv. of death) by Schneider Family In thanksgiving for my friends & family by Anita Bazan
<b>Tues.-11</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	More religious vocations In thanksgiving for our godchildren and their families by Anita Bazan All veterans, especially combat veterans suffering with PTSD by Maria Galván-Gordon
<b>Thurs.-13</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	Veteranos y los que sirven en el ejército
<b>St. Frances Xavier</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA</b>
<b>Fri.-14</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	Special intention for Herr Family by Schneider Family In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Anita Bazan

## Masses for November 15 & 16

<b>Sat.-15</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	For the sanctity of life
<b>St. Albert the Great</b>		
<b>Sun.-16</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	† Juan & † Ofelia Alanis by Carlos Alanis & Family † Michael & † Dian Winstead, and † Pat Winstead by Bob & Dianna Winstead Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	<b>11:00AM</b>	In thanksgiving for the life of María Galván-Gordon by Her Sons In thanksgiving for life, family & health by María Galván-Gordon St. Jude for thanksgiving by Mary Urrea
	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Javier Diaz Arreola y † Manuel Diaz Enriquez por la Familia Diaz Las familias de la parroquia

## Ministry Schedule for Mass

### Ministry Schedule

**Nov. 15 — 6:00PM—Lector:** Pablo Alaniz  
**EM:** Liza Ochoa, San Juanita Gaza, Sharry Stipp  
**Head Ushers:** Raquel S. Jimenez, Mike Schroedter

**Nov. 16 — 7:30AM—Lector:** Kimberly Tessanne  
**EM:** Annette Rivera, Luz Paiz, Quinton Smithwick  
**Head Ushers:** Gerald Murray, Emmanuel Alejandro

**11:00AM-Lector:** Ernest Henderson  
**EM:** Janie Flores, Diana Aguilar,  
Maria Galvan-Gordon, Dee DeLeon  
**Head Usher:** Lonnie Rodriguez

**6:00PM —Lector:** Elva Cavada  
**EM:** Mariela Ordenez, Esmeralda Castro  
**Head Usher:** Angel Isais

We are in need of more lectors, eucharistic ministers,  
and ushers for all Masses. Please let the parish office  
know if you can help.



We are also in need of Monday money  
counters and bookkeepers. If you are  
interested in serving your parish in this  
ministry, please let the parish office know so  
we can add you to the money counter rotations.

## PRAYER LIST

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



**Nikki Bunch, Karen Elyasevich,  
Paul Elyasevich, Art Forbes, Angelica Frees,  
Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, Annie Pruski, and  
Cambree Rose Pugh**

*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



## All Souls' Day Novena

All Souls' Day Memorial Candles  
should be taken home after the All Souls'  
Novena ends on Sunday, November 9,  
after the 6:00 PM Mass.



**Change to Mass times** ~ It has been suggested that  
the 6PM Mass on Saturday and Sunday be moved to 5PM.



Please let the parish staff know your  
opinion on this suggestion.

Father wants to take all opinions into  
consideration before making any change.



The altar flowers are offered  
in memory of

**† Jasmine Gonzales**  
by Gonzales Family



## A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



As announced last weekend, I had a medical outpatient procedure done on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Since I did not know how I would be feeling, I asked Fr. Richard Gutierrez to cover the weekend Masses. The procedure went well, and today (Thursday) I had my first post operative follow-up exam. Everything is healing nicely, and I have another follow-up exam in two weeks.

Doing the regular guy thing (“macho man who can push his way through things”) I was walking around with small baby steps for the first couple of days. I even celebrated Mass on Monday and Tuesday staying next to the altar and using a high backed (bar) stool as I “sat” and celebrated Mass. Monday evening, I pushed myself too much and even went to the monthly Parish Council meeting. It was just a one-hour meeting, but at the end, I slowly baby-stepped myself back to the rectory and immediately went to bed. It has been a few days of pushing myself a bit too hard, and I very quickly realized that I am not bouncing back from a surgery or illness as I did when I was younger. So, the rest of this week and next week, I will be reducing my presence in the office and resting and healing a bit more. It is sad to realize that you are getting old! Just pray that the healing goes well and I am able to return to full steam!

In September of 2016, I was at my highest weight of 270 pounds. When I got to St. John of the Cross, I had lost about 50 lbs. but was still very overweight. In May of 2023, my Primary Doctor, put me on Mounjaro for my diabetes and to help with weight loss. So, over the last two years, I lost a consistent one or two pounds a week, until I hit my maintenance weight of 155 pounds. Based on my height, bone structure, and age (hate that word) I am right where my weight should be. With the total weight loss of 110 pounds, there was a lot of excess skin on my stomach. So, based on my doctor’s recommendation, I had abdominoplasty. (As was translated on Monday by one of the parish council members – “I had a tummy tuck!”) It has been a lot harder than I thought it would be to recover from. And today, I was told that it is a six-to-eight-week time period for full healing or recuperation. The good news is that I am now in a much more healthy body shape. Bad news is that I will be having to get a whole new wardrobe of clothes as my current pants and shorts no longer fit me. I have gone from an XXL to size a small.

This coming week we celebrate as a nation Veteran’s Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please say, “Thank You,” to any of our current military personnel, and in a special way to any of our Veterans. As the son of a career military officer, I have always held our military in the highest regard. And as we have been doing through our All Souls Novena of Masses, pray for our deceased veterans and their families for the great sacrifices that they have made for our nation.

Love and Prayers,  
Fr. Patrick



## Deacon's Corner

### Deacon's Corner

Today is the celebration of the Lateran Cathedral in Rome, as a symbol of the universal church. The title of the Sunday is "Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica." It is the site of councils of the Church that took place in Rome at various times over the span of close to a thousand years! It was a Papal Cathedral until St. Peter's was constructed. The Lateran was the site of at least 5 ecumenical councils: (1) The First Council of the Lateran (1123); (2) Second Council (1139); (3) The Third Lateran Council (1179); (4) the Fourth Lateran Council 1215, and (5) the Fifth Lateran Council 1512-1517. A number of non-ecumenical councils included those dealing with heresy, mainly occurred throughout the centuries. One such council was the Lateran Council against Monothelitism, the Lateran Council of 769 against iconoclasm, and the Lateran Council of 964 for the purpose of deposing Pope Benedict V. The first ecumenical council was about the Concordat (Treaty) of Worms, which was an agreement between the Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire regulating the procedure for the appointment of bishops and abbots. That function no longer belonged to the emperors. This council also forbade the marriage of priests, deacons, sub-deacons, monks and abbots. The second council was to quell or put down a schism (division in the church) caused by an anti-pope, Anacletus II. The Third Council dealt with church discipline, the start of the Canon Law, limitation of papal elections to the college of cardinals and the condemnation of simony (selling blessed articles because of their blessing). The Fourth Council "addressed a number of issues, including the sacraments, the role of the laity, the treatment of Jews and heretics (those persons who misstate the truths of the Catholic faith), and

the organization of the church." Source Wikipedia, and the Catholicpedia (online Catholic Encyclopedia). Why do I state these boring facts in this meditation? The only reading I want to quote for this column is the following from Ezekiel: "Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh. Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine." The reading comes from [Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12](#). The quote is from verses 9 and 12. It is beautiful, if you think about it! It means that the Church is like a river of living water. Wherever the water flows, everything thrives and grows and produces. The water is the Holy Spirit which inspires the Church to constantly produce good fruits, in spite of all the hurdles. When mistakes are made, they are corrected, and the Church enforces the precepts (laws) that govern our spiritual lives. For example, the Church is responsible for dispensing the sacraments, making rules about marriage, codes of conduct, enforcing discipline, excommunicating heretics, leading the world in spiritual matters, right reason, truth, charity and justice. Everywhere that the "river" flows is teeming with life, which is translated "Resurrection." The Lord came to establish his Church in the World for a purpose—that all might come to know, love and serve him. Without the Church we would be lost. When we have ignored the Church, we *have* been lost! If you have lost your way, find your way back.

God bless you.

Deacon Cavada

# Stewardship of Treasure

Week #18	COLLECTION	Totals Prior	Goal	Actual	Total Annual	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
11/2/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (6,205.33)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,692.00	\$ (6,613.33)	\$ 37,800.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 5,804.90	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,875.28	\$ 6,480.18	\$ 21,600.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 8,899.27	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 3,052.85	\$ 10,552.12	\$ 25,200.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 8,498.84	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 6,620.13	\$ 10,418.97	\$ 84,600.00	\$ 95,018.97

The **SECOND** collection is for the **Archdiocese for the Military services, USA**. This collection is approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and provides pastoral care to Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled at a U. S. Military Academy, or being treated as a patient at any of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. The AMS does not receive any funding from the government or military. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to this special collection to support active military men, women, and their families.

## Parish Organizations

PARISH MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 14 @ 2:30PM

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 1 @ 6PM



**Parish Council** ~ Are you interested in serving your parish more fully? St. John of the Cross is actively seeking parishioners to serve on the Parish Council. Four positions of the current board are up for re-election. If you have a desire to serve on the board and would like to nominate yourself or if you know someone you would like to nominate, please contact the office so that we can create a list of names for a ballot. Our new council will be elected the first weekend in December.

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 24 @6PM

### ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

**Nov. 13-15**— Laura Gwosdz, Angie Alanis, Margarita Rodríguez, Amanda Smithwick, Heather Batey

**Nov. 20-22**—Mrs. Belinda Sanchez, Mrs. Crystal Gonzalez, Mrs. Kim Rokohl, Ms. Criselda Solis, Mrs. Angelina Betz



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.

Please place two cookies in each sandwich bag and bring to the parish hall on the morning of the fundraiser.

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 17 6PM



**Hostess Group #1:** Mary Villarreal

**Corporate Mass**—November 16 @ 7:30AM

**Rosary @ 7AM Leader:** Norma Cornejo

**Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe**—Jennifer & Jessica Alejandro

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 2



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

The Knight of Columbus's Potluck Christmas party will be celebrated on December 2 at 6PM in the parish hall. KC's will provide brisket. Knights are asked to bring sides and/or desserts to share.



CASA DE LUCY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9AM

## Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on **Wednesday, November 12, and Saturday, November 29.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, November 22, and St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, December 4.**

## Community



**Christmas Tree Angel Project** ~ Through the generosity of our parishioners, Christmas gifts will be provided to children of our families that are in need that live within the Orange Grove Independent School District Boundaries. If you would like your child(ren) to receive gifts or know of a family in need, please complete the Family Participation Application which may be found in the church foyer and in the Parish Office. Deadline to submit a Family Participation Applications is **November 25.**



# Night of Worship to the Blessed Sacrament



\* Eucharist \* Rosary \* Praise \* Personal worship \* Reflection

## November 8, 2025

6:00PM - Mass in English

7:00PM – 8:00 PM – Rosary in English lead by Anita Bazán

8:00PM – 9:00PM – Praise

9:00PM – 10:00PM - Rosary in Spanish lead by Maria Ordoñez

10:00PM – 11:00PM - Silent contemplation

11:00PM – 12:00AM - Rosary in English lead by Jose Isais

12:00AM – 1:00AM - Silent contemplation

1:00AM – 2:00AM – Praise

2:00AM – 3:00AM - Chaplet of Mercy lead by Maria Ordoñez



# Dear Padre,

## *Should the pope get involved in American politics?*

No, the pope should not get involved in the politics of any country. However, politics often intersects with religious concerns and particularly gospel values. When this occurs, the Holy Father has a responsibility to preach the gospel and defend the values the gospel teaches, even when it might sound political. He pronounces and teaches the values of the gospel, regardless of what nation or politician might feel confronted or challenged by what he teaches.

What often happens is, when politicians find themselves in conflict with the gospel values the pope is teaching, they choose to say, "The pope has no business in our politics," instead of listening. Completely understandable, at least from one perspective, but probably also disingenuous from another perspective. Politicians are fully aware of what is being proclaimed and why it is being proclaimed but choose not to listen. That, too, is completely understandable, if regrettable. One has to think only of the scribes and the Pharisees, and more particularly the high priest, who said, "Consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish" (John 11:50). ●



MARCO LOCURIO / EPH / SHUTTERSTOCK

**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*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 10	November 11	November 12	November 13	November 14	November 15	November 16
St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop	St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin	Weekday	Weekday	Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 1:1-7	Wis 2:23-3:9	Wis 6:1-11	Wis 7:22b-8:1	Wis 13:1-9	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9	Mal 3:19-20a
Lk 17:1-6	Lk 17:7-10	Lk 17:11-19	Lk 17:20-25	Lk 17:26-37	Lk 18:1-8	2 Thes 3:7-12
						Lk 21:5-19

## **A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**

*Because of the Jewish roots of Christianity, all Christians have a special relationship with Judaism.... The theological dialogue between Christians and Jews remains ever important and close to my heart. Even in these difficult times, marked by conflicts and misunderstandings, it is necessary to continue the momentum of this precious dialogue of ours.*

**ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025**



COTTONBRO / PEXELS