



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 23, 2025

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C)

2 Samuel 5:1-3 / Colossians 1:12-20 / Luke 23:35-43



Good News!

November 23, 2025

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C)

2 Samuel 5:1-3 / Colossians 1:12-20 / Luke 23:35-43

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some think of a myth as something once presumed to be true but discovered to be false. For example, we say it's a myth that Christopher Columbus discovered America. There is, however, another quite different meaning to "myth," as in a story that helps us understand life and how to negotiate it. Such myths are often centered around heroes who overcome great odds for the sake of the greater good. *Star Wars* and Luke Skywalker is one such myth. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Frodo Baggins is another. These are myths capturing the need for courage and commitment to the good at the hero's own expense. We often find ourselves wishing we could be like these heroes.

The biblical story of the Hebrew people can be thought of as such a myth, culminating in the story of Jesus. It differs from those other myths in that this story is not fiction. It is a saga that helps us understand and negotiate life as we live it. It culminates with the sacrificial death of the one we call King of the Universe. This King is a servant-king, one who gives his life for us so that we might live. Despite being urged by religious leaders and soldiers and the thief on the cross to save himself, he resists. Saving himself is not what he is about. Jesus is the King whose true myth we tell whenever we come together. ●

Editor's note: This is Fr. Joseph Juknialis' final reflection for *Our Parish Community* bulletins. The new liturgical cycle begins next Sunday, November 30, 2025, and we will welcome three new reflection authors: Miguel Dulick, Ann M. Garrido, and Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR, the president and publisher of Liguori Publications. We thank Fr. Joe for his three years of insightful reflections and wish him well.

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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.-22 <i>St. Cecilia</i>	6:00PM	† Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Nephews & Nieces † Thomas Medellin by Alyssa Pena † Erasmo Pena (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family
Sun.-23 <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe</i>	7:30AM	† Allen Migura by Migura Family † Maria Guadalupe Orona de Galván by M. Galván-Gordon † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family † Michael & † Dian Winstead and † Pat Winstead by Bob & Dianna Winstead
	11:00AM	† Jerry Cross by Mar Cross † David Gaza by Family & Friends of † David and San Juanita Gaza † Israel Rivera, Jr., (Heavenly birthday) by Mary Sylvia Gonzales and Rivera Family
	6:00PM	† Javier Diaz Arreola y † Manuel Diaz Enriquez por la Familia Diaz † Luis Jimenez y † David Diaz por Beatriz y Diego Diaz y familia Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-24 <i>St. Andrew Dũng-Lac</i>	8:00AM	† Martin Hinojosa (birthday) by Bazan, Leal & Hinojosa Families Strength and comfort of widows and widowers
Tues.-25	8:00AM	† Maria Corina Bazan (anniversary) by Bazan Family Birthday blessings for Joshua Ochoa (26 years old) by Liza Ochoa
Thurs.-27 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	8:00AM	† David Gaza and his brothers Gaza by San Juanita Gaza † Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family
	6:30PM	NO ADORACIÓN / NO HORA SANTA
Fri.-28	8:00AM	Unwed mothers

Masses for November 29 & 30

Sat.-29	6:00PM	† Demetrio Benavidez, Sr. by Family † Joyce Brune (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family
Sun.-30	7:30AM	† Juan Manuel Alejandro (64th birthday) and † Rudy and † Cynthia Perez by Carlos and Isabel Alanis
	11:00AM	† Guadalupe Garza (1st anniv.) by Anita Bazan In memory of † Don and Martha McCloskey's 61st Wedding anniversary by McCloskey Family In thanksgiving for the life and health of José R. Galván by M. Galván-Gordon
	6:00PM	† Luis Jimenez (13 aniversario) por Beatriz y Diego Diaz y familia Las familias de la parroquia

The altar flowers are offered in celebration
of the birthday of

Raquel S. Jimenez

by Raquel S. Jimenez and Family

The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

† Felix Sanchez, Sr., and

† Lupe Sanchez (1st anniversary)

by Sanchez Family

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

Nov. 29 — 6:00PM—Lector: Don Rokohl
EM: San Juanita Gaza, Kim Rokohl, Sharry Stipp
Head Ushers: Pablo and Graciela Alaniz

Nov. 30 — 7:30AM— Lector: Quinton Smithwick
EM: Maria Miller, Luz Paiz, Annette Rivera
Head Ushers: Gerald Murray, Lucille Klaevemann

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

6:00PM —Lector: Manuel Rodriguez
EM: Alvina Resendez, Paulin Becerril
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.

PRAYER LIST

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

**Art Forbes, Angelica Frees, Cindy Lopez,
Antonio Medrano, and Annie Pruski**

*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

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 the suggestion of changing
Mass times.

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

SAVE THE DATE ~ SUNDAY, December 7, 2025

Join us in celebrating

Father Patrick Donohoe's 70th birthday

from 12:00PM until 3:00PM in the parish hall for a
catered meal, special dessert, music, photo backdrop,
exciting decorations, and best of all, camaraderie!

Parishioners are asked to sign up to bring dessert
for this festive occasion.

Sign-up sheets are in the church foyer.

Help us celebrate Father Patrick!

The parish office will be closed
Wednesday and Thursday,
November 26 and 27, for the
Thanksgiving holiday and will
reopen Monday, December 1.



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This Thursday we as a country celebrate Thanksgiving, a national day to reflect on our blessings as families, as a nation and communities, and also as a parish of faith. Sometimes on such a day we might think ourselves insignificant and small in the grander scheme of things, but you are not. So, as you surround your table for your feast, I encourage you to just sit quietly for a few minutes and look at the faces around that table to see that you are part of something greater – a member of a family and group of friends, then even further a school, a community, and most especially a member of a faith community – St. John of the Cross Parish. Take a deep breath and give Thanks to God. I do each day!



The pilot of a plane, the captain of a ship, and the president of a company often have the prestige and honor of “being in charge”. This gives them authority to command and make decisions. But the most important aspect of their position is that they are the Team Leaders of a whole group of other leaders and advisors. The pilot may fly the plane, but the navigator helps to keep the plane flying in the correct direction, the engineer attends to the instruments and mechanical engines that keeps the plane flying in the air, and the head flight attendant makes sure that the galley has food and drink and supervises the passengers’ safety and comfort during the flight. Each has the responsibility of a division or area during the flight, and they are effective when they each contribute to the pilot the needs and conditions of their area. A good pilot, a respected captain of a ship, and an effective president of a company all have this one important quality of being the leader surrounding themselves with others who help them keep their focus on the true goal and destination. This is also true of a pastor and the parish entrusted to him. While I am the pastor of the parish and I am responsible for the effective leadership of this community of faith to our bishop, I must also recognize that I am the Team Leader of the parish community. Like the pilot I also must surround myself with advisors and people of talent in many other areas. In a parish, those who make up the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, the Master Plan Committee, and the Capital Campaign Committee are my advisors. Each brings to the meeting table their concerns and observations from their own perspectives so that I can be a better Team Leader for our parish community. And I am truly grateful for all these parishioners who give of their time and energy to help me lead, and especially all of the liturgical ministers, religious education teachers and staff, and parish society/council members. We are all important to keeping the parish moving forward toward heaven. After several years of service on the Parish Pastoral Council, Mary Villarreal, Karol Kocurek, Kathleen Garza, and Shirley Syamken, are stepping down to allow others to step up to help. There are four openings on the Parish Council to be filled and the only requirement is a desire to help the pastor to keep the parish “flying”. I am asking everyone to consider and pray if God might be calling you to step up and be an advisor on any of those four councils/committees. As your Team Leader aka Pastor, I need others so I can reflect and see other ways to be an effective pilot on our journey. If you are interested and or inspired, please let the office know so I can put your name on the ballot for elections in December. Please come forward and help me.

I thought it interesting that this call for inspiration to encourage some of you to consider being on our parish councils, on this Solemnity of Christ the King. This is the day we as a Church celebrate and focus on our truest goal and end of life – going to Heaven to be with Jesus our King and Savior and all of the faithful who have followed Jesus. It is hope and prayer that all of us one day will be Saints forever with God in Heaven. While we live each day in toil and duties, we must always keep our eyes on Christ our King and Heaven!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

P.S. – As we celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, this weekend we begin our Christmas Angel Project to help families with children to have a Merry Christmas. Having reflected on giving thanks for your blessings, take an Angel from the tree and share a little bit of your blessings to bring a smile to the face of a child.

Deacon's Corner

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King Sunday. It is the 34th week of ordinary time for the year 2025. The Church has now been in existence 2,025 years, and his kingdom will have no end. See Luke 1:32-33. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Next year, 2026, Christ the King Sunday will be on November 22, and the Gospel reading will be the familiar "final judgment" passage from Matthew chapter 25; 31-46. This year the readings are from 2 Samuel 5:1-3; [Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5](#); [Colossians 1:12-20](#); and Luke 23:35-43. And then in 2027 the Gospel reading will go back again to Matthew 25. There is no final judgment in Mark nor in John. I think there is no better description of the Kingdom than Paul's rendition in today's second reading to the Colossians, where he says: "(H)e is the image of the invisible God," and he describes the kingdom in these beautiful words: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven." That is the best description of the Kingdom that can be found in the Scripture, in my opinion. Meditate on what these words mean. Jesus is God. He became a human being to reconcile humanity to God after the fall of man--fully God and fully human. He reconciled us to his Father by his crucifixion. Jesus came to serve and not be served and gave his life as a "ransom for

many." (From Mark 10:45 and Matthew 20:28). All these descriptions of the "kingdom" are described by St. Paul in Chapter 1 of Colossians. Read it carefully, slowly and meditate on each phrase. For example, "making peace by the blood of his cross" might mean that Jesus *heals* the enmity between God and man caused by the Fall. We separated from God by disobedience, and his obedience, as a human being, reconciled us back to God, *in his person!* And he did it by submitting to death. We can say that these thoughts by St. Paul are a prelude to his understanding of the Paschal Mystery, which is celebrated by the Church in the sacraments, and which calls us to die to self and rise to new life in Jesus. Today's reading from the Gospel is an account of the "conversation" of Jesus with the two thieves that hung beside him (according to Luke only). The purpose of the account is to inform us of Jesus' power to save. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." "He replied to him," "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Think about the "kingdom" as being both here and now and the hereafter—both-and, not either-or—which means that if you live in the kingdom here, you will have a better chance to live in the kingdom there. This is the idea of John's Gospel. Jesus says in John that he is the resurrection, and if we believe in him in this life we will live forever. Think about what that means! Eternal life begins in this life, although imperfectly, and it ends in the next, perfectly. Hope you had a good year reading about and contemplating Jesus' sayings, his miracles and his parables. My favorite chapter for the year was Luke 15. My favorite second reading was today's reading from Colossians. Next week is the beginning of the 2026 liturgical year.

God bless you.

Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #20	COLLECTION	Totals Prior	Goal	Actual	Total Annual	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
11/16/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (6,738.33)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,118.00	\$ (7,720.33)	\$ 42,000.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 7,079.18	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,166.00	\$ 7,045.18	\$ 24,000.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 5,944.50	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,237.95	\$ 6,782.45	\$ 28,000.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 6,285.35	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,521.95	\$ 6,107.30	\$ 94,000.00	\$ 100,107.30

Parish Organizations

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. 27-29—Paid professional

Dec. 4-6 — Sociedad Guadalupana (Isabel Alanis)

The Saint John of the Cross Altar Society would like to thank everyone who helped make our BBQ a success: A huge THANK YOU to our Knights of Columbus for all the assistance. The Knights barbecued the meat, did all the heavy lifting, and were generally very helpful. Thank you to all the parishioners who brought cookies, sold tickets, and helped cook and serve the food. And a very special thank you to everyone who bought plates and left overs.

The Altar Society will host its **annual sock drive** beginning this weekend. The socks will be delivered to nursing homes in the Alice and Mathis areas. Please leave your socks in the baskets in the foyer of the church. Deadline to donate is December 15. Your generosity of supporting this ministry project is appreciated!



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA



Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe—Friday, December 12

Rosary and songs @ 5:30PM Mass at 6PM

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by the Sociedad Guadalupana

Reception to follow in the parish hall

Any ladies interested in joining the Sociedad Guadalupana should contact the parish office for more information and to RSVP for the consecration ceremony to be held during the Feast Day Mass on Friday, December 12.

The Sociedad Guadalupana will have an angel ornament fundraiser. The name of a loved one may be written on the back of each ornament and then hung on the assigned Christmas tree in the church. Angel ornaments may be purchased for \$10 after each Mass starting the weekend of December 6-7.



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



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.

Casa de Lucy is having a Fall and Christmas baskets raffle fundraiser. Tickets are \$2 each and will be sold after all Masses this weekend. Drawing will take place November 25, 2025.



Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC on Saturday, November 29 and at St. Francis on Saturday, December 13.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross on Thursday, December 4,** and at **St. Francis of Assisi on Friday, December 19.**



God's not Dead

Candy, chips,
popcorn,
drinks,
cookies, and
pickles will be
available for
purchase.

MOVIE NIGHT

All proceeds
will go toward
Our Living
Church
Building Fund.

FREE MOVIE SCREENING

Sunday, November 30th at 12:30pm

St. John of the Cross Parish Hall
200 S. Metz, Orange Grove



All are welcome!
Bring a friend!

Hosted by
SJoC Confirmation
class

Community

Christmas Tree Angel Project ~ Our parishioners are invited to share their blessings with children of our community who might not have a magical Christmas. Those interested may select an angel from our angel tree, review the child's wants and needs, and then purchase appropriate gifts.

All gifts AND the numbered angel tags need to be delivered to the parish office or left under the Christmas tree by Monday, December 8.



Diocesan News



Take faith with you wherever you go with the Corpus Christi Catholic Network (CCCN) app. This free app features original local Catholic programming, live events when they happen, and Mass every Sunday in English and Spanish for those who cannot attend in person. New video content will premiere every Tuesday at 6:00 pm, and will continue weekly on the same day and time. Scan the QR code to download the CCCN app.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DIOCESAN CELEBRATION 2025

This is a two-day event celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On Friday, December 12, everyone is invited to join a diocesan procession followed by Mass celebrated by Bishop Mulvey at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Corpus Christi.

Then on Saturday, December 13th, everyone is invited to a mini conference about our Blessed Mother. This will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Alice. It is all FREE. RSVP: Jaime Reyna 361-882-6191 ext. 637 or jreyna@diocesecc.org



PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE IN MEXICO CITY



Registration is now open for the Young Adult Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City May 31st-June 5, 2026. Open to young adults of our diocese ages 18-39 only.

Questions can be directed to the Office of Young Adult Ministry (soconnor@diocesecc.org)



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

All young men and women are invited to Bible Studies each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM. Both sessions follow the Lectio Divina format and use the Sunday Gospel for prayer and reflection.



Young women meet at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in the St. Maria Goretti Hall.

Young men are meeting at Coffee Waves on Alameda.

For more details and to RSVP, contact ycacctx@gmail.com. We welcome all young adults ages 18-39 who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith, spend time in prayer, and experience Christian fellowship.

TOGETHER / JUNOTS/ INSIEME



EXPLORE THE KEY TOPICS OF THE SYNOD'S FINAL DOCUMENT ~ This free course is a living part of the Church's synodal journey: a process of listening, discernment, and shared construction. Throughout eight thematic modules, you will find short videos (8-10 minutes) prepared by international experts, which will introduce you in a clear and dynamic way to the main themes of the Final Document of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. More than a course of content, it is an experience of formation and commitment. Here the Word, the memory of the journey, and the voice of the People of God meet in living dialogue. The course is now open.



YOUTH MINISTERS ADVENT RETREAT ~ Youth Ministers Advent Retreat will take place on December 2 and December 6. Come begin Advent in a spirit of prayer and meditation. Choose which date works best for you and be spiritually fed. More details are coming soon.

SILVER & GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS CELEBRATION ~ Those blessed with celebrating 25 or 50 years of Sacramental Marriage are invited to attend a special Silver & Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Mulvey. It will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at the Corpus Christi Cathedral.

Deadline for registering is January 30, 2026. Those who register before the deadline will receive a certificate from Bishop Mulvey recognizing their Silver or Golden Anniversary. Scan the QR code for registration details.



Second Chance Initiative in conjunction with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid ~ Our diocese has launched the Second Chance Initiative for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. This effort is in partnership with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid which will be offering is an opportunity to seal past criminal records in Nueces County through one of two legal processes: Expunction or Nondisclosure. Eligibility for these processes depends on the type of offense and the nature of community supervision. Scan the QR code for more details.



Dear Padre,

Why is a US secular holiday like Thanksgiving on the Church's liturgical calendar?

Since November 1969, the Proper Calendar offers a Thanksgiving Day Mass for US dioceses. While it also includes Independence Day, no suggestion is made for other civic holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.). Instead, the *Roman Missal* provides "Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions" that are suited to these observances (*Ordo* #5, *GIRM* 368–378).

In the United States, November is associated with giving thanks to God. In 1623—three years after the Pilgrims sailed to this land on the *Mayflower*—a severe drought threatened their crops. Consequently, a day of prayer was observed, an abundant rain saved the harvest, and a Day of Thanksgiving was established. In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation for "Thanksgiving and Praise to Our Beneficent Father" on the last Thursday of November (later moved to the fourth Thursday).

However, thanking God isn't just a one-day event; it's meant to be a perennial practice. Recall the lesson of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one of whom returned to thank him. (See Luke 17:11–19.) People who don't take their blessings for granted return thanks to God in prayer. Therefore, offer brief prayers of gratitude to God throughout the day, every day, for such gifts as your health and faith, the freedoms allowed in this country, "thy daily bread," and the Eucharist—a word that means "thanksgiving."

"Become what you pray"—a grateful disciple of our Lord! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 24	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday	Weekday	Thanksgiving Day (US)	Weekday	Weekday	First Sunday of Advent
Dn 1:1–6, 8–20	Dn 2:31–45	Dn 5:1–6, 13–14, 16–17, 23–28	Sir 50:22–24	Dn 7:2–14	Dn 7:15–27	Is 2:1–5
Lk 21:1–4	Lk 21:5–11	Lk 21:12–19	1 Cor 1:3–9	Lk 21:29–33	Lk 21:34–36	Rom 13:11–14
			Lk 17:11–19			Mt 24:37–44

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Listen to [Christ's] offer of love and become his one family: in the One Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

HOMILY, MAY 18, 2025

