



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 2:1-5 / Romans 13:11-14 / Matthew 24:37-44



Good News!

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 2:1-5 / Romans 13:11-14 / Matthew 24:37-44

MIGUEL DULICK

This is the first Sunday of Advent, and the excitement is palpable. Writing 800 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah sounds like breaking news: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” The psalmist announces we are already there: “And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.” Saint Paul tickles our fancy with another whole round of “revelation” yet to come “on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Only Jesus himself seems a little cautious: “Be watchful! Be alert!” The Lord “is coming,” but he’s not here yet. Leave it to Jesus to force the paradox for which Advent seems to have been created: Jesus is present, but we dare not “sleep,” lest we miss him!

How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the “Merry Christmas!” / “Happy Holidays!” debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there’s no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries to slow us down and encourage a little reflecting to prepare the way, led by John the Baptist. So let’s keep waiting; let’s hold on to our peace. Christmas Eve will be here soon enough. But let’s not be too austere. A full menu of holiday parties and concerts and family feasts can legitimately “anticipate” Christmas. Let’s cheer each other: Merry Advent! ●

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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.-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 Alanis and family
	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	† Jose Rosario Becerril por Maria Ordonez † Luis Jimenez (13 aniversario) por Beatriz y Diego Diaz y familia Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-1	8:00AM	Veterans and those serving in the military Birthday blessings for Father Patrick Donohoe on his 70th birthday
Tues.-2	8:00AM	Strong marriages
Thurs.-4	6:00PM	La misa está abierta y disponible.
	6:30PM	ADORACIÓN / HORA SANTA
Fri.-5	8:00AM	Heavenly birthday blessings for † Raymond Bartosch by Michael and Sharon Bartosch Special intention for Kiggans Family by Schneider Family

Masses for December 6 & 7

Sat.-6	8:00AM	† Gary Graham (Birthday) by Graham Family More vocations to the priesthood
	6:00PM	† Dominga Alaniz & † Rocky Alaniz by Graciela & Pablo Alaniz † Wallace Burgeson (Birthday) by Michael & Sharon Bartosch † Maria Godines by Anna & Eric Winterbottom † Praxesdis Jimenez by Dolores Borrego & Family
Sun.-7	7:30AM	† Allen Migura by Migura Family † Marvin Gwosdz by Family † Tommie Jean Winstead & † Robert Clemons by Bob & Dianna Winstead Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Altar Society
	11:00AM	† Pura B. Cantu by Aurora B. Garcia † Fabian and † Maria L. Garcia by Aurora B. Garcia † Camila & † Pedro Porras by Janie Beltran
	6:00PM	Las familias de la parroquia

The altar flowers are offered in memory of

Luis Jimenez

by Beatriz Y Diego Diaz

The sanctuary light is offered for birthday blessings for

Joshua N. Ochoa
on his 26th birthday

by Liza Ochoa

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

Dec. 6— 6:00PM—Lector: San Juanita Gaza
EM: Anita Bazan, Luis and Nora Romanos
Head Ushers: Carlos Alanis, Mike Schroedter

Dec. 7—7:30AM— Lector: Lucille Klaevemann
EM: Laura Gwosdz, Luz Paiz, Margie Svetlik
Head Ushers: Bart and Maria Miller

11:00AM—Lector: Jeri Alaniz
EM: Don and Kim Rokohl, Janie Flores,
Diana DeAnda
Head Usher: Tinker Villarreal

6:00PM —Lector: Gabriela Becerril
EM: Maria Graciella, Esmeralda Castro
Head Usher: Jose Isais



PRAYER LIST

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

Art Forbes, Angelica Frees, Cindy Lopez,
James Matheny, 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:

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, Alayah Moore,
Deborah Thomas

Army: Father Jim Craig, Madeleena Delaney,
Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald,
Jacob Madrid, Fernando Ramos III,
Anthony Rios, and 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



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!

Help us celebrate Father Patrick!

There are 4 panoramic photographs of the St. John of the Cross parish families from the Centennial Celebration left. Please contact the parish office by December 19 if you would like one. They are \$35 each.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Happy Thanksgiving again! Is your refrigerator still filled with turkey, ham, tamales, stuffing and all the foods and fixings from your Thanksgiving feast? And what about all those pumpkin, cherry, and pecan pies? Any extra tamales or pecan pie can freely make its way to my house – if you have any left! I prayed for everyone at Mass on Thanksgiving Day to take a moment and look at your blessings and to give thanks. Hoping your gatherings of family and friends around your tables were joy filled and delicious. And I hope that your favorite team was winning as you surrounded your televisions on that day as well. Celebrating family is most often a day of smiles and moments of thankful prayer. I hope that yours was one like that.



We are still looking for interested persons to join with me to be on our leadership teams – Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, Master Plan Committee, and Capital Campaign Committee. I cannot “fly this parish plane” all by myself, but need to surround myself with interested people with a desire that we keep moving forward. The office will be accepting names for the ballot until Wednesday December 3 at 4:30 PM. Please call the office to submit your name. And as a side thought, if you see someone in the parish community that you think might have the qualities and desire to be one of my helper/advisors, suggest it to them to consider submitting their name. Or you can suggest their name to me, and I will ask them to consider coming onboard in parish leadership.

Good news – Christmas is only twenty-five days away! Bad news – Christmas is only twenty-five days away!

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light our first of the four candles of the Advent Wreath. These four candles are lit progressively during the four weeks of Advent, leading up to Christmas and are placed in an Advent wreath. The four candles of Advent in the Catholic Tradition represent the following themes: First Candle - Hope: Often called the Prophecy Candle symbolizes hope and expectation for the coming of Christ. Second Candle - Faith: Known as the Bethlehem Candle symbolizes faith and preparation for the Birth of Jesus. Third Candle - Joy: This Pink Candle is called the Shepherd's Candle and signifies Joy and is lit on the “Gaudete” or “Rejoicing” Sunday marking the halfway point of Advent. Fourth Candle - Peace: The final purple candle is known as the Angel's Candle and symbolizes the message of peace brought by the angels. The candle lighting reminds us that as the days are shorter and there is more darkness Jesus the Light of the World is coming, and we need to prepare!

Over these next twenty-five days we will decorate our houses inside and out, put up a Christmas tree, and begin to purchase presents for everyone in the family. Don't forget our Angel Tree in the sanctuary. Take a “paper angel” from the tree to purchase a gift for a child at Christmas and become a “Real Angel” for a family in need. And if you think about it, isn't that the whole underlying spirit and meaning of Christmas. God saw our need for release from the darkness and sin of the world and sends the Angel Gabriel to announce that the Light of Christ is coming into the world. And we should prepare for His coming into our own hearts this very Christmas. Christmas remembers a past event, but it should also be seen as an event in the present and in our own homes and hearts. And like the shepherds who were told of that great event that Christmas morning, they went out and told others that the Child had been born. We so often look inward during this season on ourselves and our celebrations when it is really a time to look outward and how we can bring the Light of Christ to others. This might be through a simple smile or saying “Merry Christmas” to a passing person. It could be through the anonymous gifting of an Angel Tree Gift or donating to any of the numerous charities at Christmas. Or even sharing a pie or baked good with that neighbor that you see all of the time, but have never stopped by to say a “Hello”. Christ came to bring us His Light; may we see that Light of Christ in our hearts and take it to others during this Advent Season. How does that lyric go – “making spirits bright”. Be the Light! Be the Christmas Light to others!

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Deacon's Corner

Today starts the readings on the *Parousia*. It has at least two meanings—Advent, and the Second Advent or coming. The term is also associated with the end of the world, also called the *Eschaton*, which is the re-appearance of Jesus for the final judgment. The season lasts four weeks in which we also learn that Jesus is the *Alpha* and the *Omega*—the beginning and the end, also called eschatological time or *Kairos* time. This is a mystery of the church that must be believed. Like all other mysteries, impossible to understand. We can't understand how there can be three persons who each is God, and only have one God. How could God become a human being in Jesus? How can Mary be assumed into heaven? Why will the world come to an end? Another theme that is very interesting is Pope Benedict the XVI's idea on *Kairos*. Think about this: "For Ratzinger, *Kairos*, is the opportune, divine moment of God's intervention in history, centered on Christ, which transcends ordinary, measurable flow of time (*chronos*, which is chronological time that can be measured). He viewed the liturgy as the primary way Christians encounter this *Kairos*, experiencing an eternal moment where past, present, and future are unified through Christ's presence. This is a moment of grace that is a pivotal, transformative encounter with God, and the Christian life is in a struggle to live in this state of *Kairos* time." Ratzinger, *Eschatology*, (Catholic University of America Press, 1977, 1988). We get glimpses of *Kairos* time in this life or experiences of the Holy Spirit, for example, when we forgive someone, and we know that the impulse came from the Lord! And, of course, the Liturgy of the Mass, is celebrated in *Kairos* time, according to Ratzinger. In

several places in the Mass, Jesus himself is present, most notably in the Liturgy of the Word and in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Ratzinger argues that the same Jesus who is the Second Person of the Trinity, the Christ who came into the world, who died and was raised. All those moments are re-lived in the Mass. That is the meaning of Advent, when we think of Jesus' coming into the world once, and coming again in judgement. All his actions to achieve our salvation happen in *Kairos* time. The angels and the saints are present at the Mass, and of course, the most important one of all, next to Jesus is Mary. I got off on this very interesting topic; I almost forgot the readings. Let me do that next. First reading is from Isaiah 2:1-5; [Psalm 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#); Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44. The first readings tell us that there will be peace at the end. The Psalm is a praise of the victories and the greatness of King David. In Romans, St. Paul calls us a personal conversion, to leave sin behind in all forms, and notice how he concentrates on the sins of the flesh. The Gospel reading from Chapter 24 of Matthew is the place that "the end of the world" fanatics like to quote to the point of it getting ridiculous. But the most important phrase in the reading is at the end: "(Y)ou ... must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Think about it. If Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega (the beginning and the end), we should know that his coming into the world is sufficient for us to have salvation, and that our actions after we reach that realization must be to make ourselves worthy. That is the message of both Testaments, and certainly the message of Jesus and the Apostles. Have a good, productive, introspective Advent season. Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #21	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
11/23/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (7,620.33)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 901.55	\$ (8,818.78)	\$ 44,100.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 7,045.18	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,173.90	\$ 9,019.08	\$ 25,200.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 7,219.45	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ 5,819.45	\$ 29,400.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 6,644.30	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4075.45	\$ 1,944.30	\$ 98,700.00	\$ 100,644.30

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

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

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

Dec. 11-13 — Mrs. Zulema González, Mrs. Brenda Chavez, Mrs. Bea Garcia, Mrs. Annette Rivera, Mrs. Stacey Botello

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 held a Fall and Christmas baskets raffle fundraiser, and the winners are Ronin Vega and Christina Knolle.

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all who supported the ministry's fundraiser.

Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on **Wednesday, December 10**, 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 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 premieres 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,

Is Advent a penitential season?

Strictly speaking, the penitential times in the Church are “every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent” (*Code of Canon Law*, 1250). Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s First Coming is remembered, and this remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. (See *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 39.) While Advent is more anticipatory than penitential, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.” Although, historically, Advent was similar to Lent as a forty-day period of prayer and fasting, it was less severe than the season preceding Easter, and it lacked uniformity in the Western Church. The Eastern Church still begins the Nativity Fast on November 15, while in the Western Church, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.

Regardless, the significant focus of Advent is our Lord’s coming (*adventus* in Latin). The Church reflects this anticipation of Advent through such practices as limiting floral arrangements in the sanctuary, simpler liturgical music, and omitting the Gloria at Mass until Christmas. We can also reflect the anticipation of Advent through such spiritual practices as participation in works of charity, moderation in shopping, celebration of the sacrament of penance, fasting on Fridays, and prayerful contemplation on our Savior’s Incarnation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7
Advent	Advent	St. Francis	Advent	Advent	Advent	Second Sunday
Weekday	Weekday	Xavier, Priest	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	of Advent
Is 4:2–6	Is 11:1–10	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Is 29:17–24	Is 30:19–21,	Is 11:1–10
Mt 8:5–11	Lk 10:21–24	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Mt 9:27–31	23–26	Rom 15:4–9
					Mt 9:35–10:1,	Mt 3:1–12
					5a, 6–8	



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We are called to offer God’s love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people. Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025