

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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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

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 INTENTIONS

Sun.-Nov. 30 9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Sun.-Dec. 7 9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler Happy birthday Charles D. Toler by Charles D. Toler Altar and Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday 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, Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Phillip Torres, Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver



Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:

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, Alayah Moore, Deborah Thomas, 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.



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	11/16/2025	CURRENT WEEK	11/23/2025
Collection	\$774.00	Collection	\$524.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Develop	\$92.00	OLC Building Fund	\$250.00

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 St. John parish hall for a catered meal, music, photo backdrop, exciting decorations, and best of all camaraderie!



All the cool
people are born
in December!

Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 5, 2026 @ 2PM

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



Casa de Lucy Helping Hands 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 distributions 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 **Saturday, December 19.**

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

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