

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



Parish Office:
361-384-2795

Pastor:
Rev. Patrick K. Donohoe

Bulletin Email
saintjohn0006@gmail.com

Parish Office Fax:
361-384-0056

Mission Office Email:
Saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Mission Website:
www.st-johnog.org/sfoa



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

Physical Address—303 County Road 185, Sandia, TX 78373

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12



Good News!

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet **Isaiah** offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

© 2025 Liguori Publications. Anglican Priest: Fr. Kevin Zabel, C&S, Proctor, 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

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.-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
Sun.-Dec. 14 9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler (Heavenly birthday) by Charles D. Toler 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.

1. Go to www.st-johnog.org
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab
3. click on 'Active Military Prayer Request'



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	11/23/2025	CURRENT WEEK	11/30/2025
Collection	\$524.00	Collection	\$1185.00
OLC Building Fund	\$250.00	November Online Giving	\$927.00

The second collection this weekend supports the St. John of the Cross **Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign**. Your continued support of repairing and beautifying our parish buildings is truly appreciated!



Next weekend's second collection is for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Donations to this fund provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please prayerfully consider giving next week.



Join us in celebrating

Father Patrick Donohoe's 70th birthday

SUNDAY, December 7, 2025

from 12:00PM until 3:00PM in the St. John parish hall for a catered meal, music, photo backdrop, exciting decorations, and camaraderie!

The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, the Most Reverend Bishop Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O.



Parish Organizations

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335
NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 6, 2026



CASA DE LUCY WILL RESUME MEETING ON JANUARY 6, 2026.

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 **Tuesday, January 6**, and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, December 19**.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



Last Monday at 5:15 AM my phone began ringing. Thinking it was one of my siblings calling early to wish me a Happy Birthday, I answered the phone in a somewhat sleepy and groggy voice – “Hello”. The voice said, “Happy Birthday, I got you a bishop for your birthday!” From a slow and sleepy morning wake-up, I went to full attention saying, “what the (expletive deleted) are you talking about!”. It was Fr. Richard Gutierrez calling me with the news of the naming of our new bishop, The Most Reverend Mario A. Alivés, from Brownsville, Texas. It wasn’t what I was expecting as a birthday present, but it was a great and pleasant surprise to receive on my birthday. It has been since August 2024 (sixteen months) since Bishop Mulvey had submitted his letter of retirement to the Holy Father. So, we as a diocese have been waiting for the announcement since then. (The Most Reverend Mario A. Alivés’s biography is available on the diocesan website.) The installation of our new bishop as the Ordinary of the Diocese of Corpus Christi is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The location and the time are still not finalized but I will share them as soon as that information is confirmed.

My actual birthday is December 1st, and the parish celebration for my birthday is this Sunday, December 7th, following the 11:00 AM Mass. I will be celebrating my 70th birthday! Wow! I never really think about my age, but that December 1st morning it struck me with a bit more emotion than I was anticipating. At seventy years old, a priest of this diocese can petition for retirement from active ministry in a parish as a pastor/administrator and can “retire” to the St. John Vianney Residence for Priests in Corpus Christi. It is from that residence that most of the “retired” priests become even more active in priestly ministry as they are constantly being called on to help out in parishes when the pastor goes on vacation or is ill. Msgr. White, Fr. Matthew, and Fr. Jose are some of those retired priests who constantly have helped me here in this parish when I have been away. So, priestly retirement is from administration and not from priestly ministry. Once a priest, you are always a priest! So, whenever I get there, I will continue to celebrate the Mass and the Sacraments.

Those statements may cause the parish some concern – Fr. Patrick is retiring! I am not at this time retiring. There are several factors in motion that are crucial to this parish – namely the “Our Living Church Capital Campaign Building Fund” that we just launched in September, and the naming of the new bishop, and those Master Plan projects that the Capital Campaign is to bring to reality. The first phase is our parish church! The stucco renovation on the exterior of the church building and the stained-glass repairs to the church windows are the largest and most critical projects. We have just started the bidding and contracting process with the Diocesan Building Commission. That process requires the “Ordinary’s (Bishop’s)” approval and signature to go forward, and since we currently do not have a Bishop, all of that is on hold until the beginning of February. And there is no idea on how the new bishop will be dealing with major construction and renovation projects. These projects of the Capital Campaign have been a long journey to bring to this stage, and it is my intention to see them through to their completion.

So, while I have turned 70, and can petition for retirement, I am not at this time intending to be going anywhere. If that is okay with the parishioners? As always there are so many other details and items in flux, we can never know exactly what will happen, but I am currently looking to staying till these projects are complete.

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●



PASCAL HUOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday

December 8
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

December 9
Advent Weekday
Is 40:1–11
Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday

December 10
Advent Weekday
Is 40:25–31
Mt 11:28–30

Thursday

December 11
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday

December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14–17
or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26–38 or
Lk 1:39–47

Saturday

December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday

December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1–6a, 10
Jas 5:7–10
Mt 11:2–11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



NICOLÁS NUÑEZ LC / CATHOLICA

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025