

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11



Good News!

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

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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.-Dec. 14 9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler (Heavenly birthday) by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Sun.-Dec. 21 9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by Mar Cross † Phyllis A. Toler 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	11/30/2025	CURRENT WEEK	12/07/2025
Collection	\$1185.00	Collection	\$615.00
November Online Giving	\$250.00		

The second collection this weekend **the Retirement Fund for Religious**. They gave their lives in service- now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, and now many religious face retirement without sufficient savings. Your generosity today is not just a donation; it is a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement fund for Religious.

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 **Monday, December 29** and at
St. Francis on **Saturday, January 10.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on **Tuesday, January 6,** and
at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Friday, December 19.**

Diocesan News



Mass of Installation

Most Reverend

Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O.

As the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi on
Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Location details for the Mass of Installation will be available soon.



Upcoming Diocesan events

Let's Brighten our Community ~ January 10—11, 2026—Stay tuned for more information.

Texas Rally for Life ~ Saturday, January 24, 2026—register at
<https://diocesecc.org/texasrallyforlife>

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage—May 31, 2026—June 5, 2026.
For more information contact Director of Young Adult Ministry:
soconnor@diocesecc.org.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Thank you to everyone who made my 70th Birthday celebration such a success. The “traveler” theme was so appropriate, and it brought a big smile to my face. The cruise ships, the flags of the different companies, and the globes of the earth were very ingenious. The cruise bed with towel animals was great. Enchiladas, tamales, rice, and beans are my favorite Mexican dish. But the four tables worth of sweet desserts, cookies, and cakes was a beautiful sight to behold. Pan de Polvo, Mexican wedding cookies, macaroons, Tres leches cake, German chocolate cake, and so many more! And since it was my birthday, I tried a little bit of almost all of them. (And took a shot of insulin to counteract the sugar rush!) Thank you to all you gave me a card or gift for my birthday – some of which I am still opening. Of special moments were the faces of close friends and former parishioners, from some of my prior parishes in Beeville, Taft, and Corpus Christi. Having my brother Michael and his wife Marion there to celebrate with me was so great. “Thank You” to all of those who had worked on this momentous birthday celebration.



Our Christmas Angel Tree was the biggest response we have ever had with over 172 angels taken and returned. The response to this appeal was so welcome to see and almost overwhelming with large bags of clothes, gifts, and toys being returned for almost every angel. Several people gave some cash donations to cover any extra expenses or needs to make this project a success. There will be many happy faces come Christmas morning. On behalf of the many children, “Thank you”!

Children’s needs at Christmas often soften our hearts as we remember our own childhood and the joy of getting presents and toys. But at Christmas there are two other groups of people who are in great need as well – those retired religious sisters who have served our church for many years and those in nursing homes.

A very important group that needs to be remembered at Christmas is the many elderly Religious Sisters and Brothers who have retired from active ministry and are in great need in their “senior or golden years”. Many of these women and men had devoted their entire lives to service in the Church as teachers, nurses, and in parish ministry – some of them for over sixty and seventy years. With regular aging and other medical issues, they retire from public ministry in the Church but not from their religious life in community. And as they no longer have any income from their “employment”, and many are not eligible for receiving Social Security, their need for help with basic needs of food, medicine, and medical care is growing every year. Think of your grandparents, great aunts & uncles, and beloved elderly members of your families who are no longer working but still part of the family and who often need a little help from family members to cover their food expenses and bills. Now imagine those many more Religious Sisters in the same situations, but they do not have the family members to step in to help them. These Religious women and men gave so much of themselves in service to God and to us – the Church, and now they are in need. And they are members of our Church family. Each year on the Second Sunday in December, the entire Catholic Church in the United States takes up a Special Second Collection for these senior members of our Church family. I see this as the most important second collection each year, and I strongly encourage everyone to make a truly sacrificial gift toward our Collection for the Retired Religious. If we made a donation equal to the amount we spent on our Angel Tree gifts, or for our own children or grandchildren, it would be a significant response to their need. You can make that donation in this weekend’s second collection, or bring it (send it) to the parish office this coming week. We remember our children at Christmas, then let us remember also our senior family members. Thank you for supporting our Retired Religious in their need.

Nursing homes are often kept at a very cool temperature, and the residents frequently remark that their feet are cold. As most of us know, whenever we wash our socks one or two of those little guys seems to run away to “sock heaven” never to be found again. How many unmatched socks do you have in your sock drawer? The St. John of the Cross Altar Society has for the last several years collected new socks to distribute to the residents at the local nursing homes. This is a very simple need of nursing home residents that our parish, under the Altar Society’s direction, has been supplying the residents with socks to help keep their feet warm. The deadline for donations of these new socks is December 15. Socks can be delivered to the bin in the church foyer or to the parish office.

Love and prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Advent

Children's Christmas Pageant: Parishioners are invited to enjoy the Christmas story performed by our religious education students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade on **Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 PM.**

Children in grades K - 5 MUST meet in their classroom at 5 PM.

Grades 3, 4, & 5 MUST stay after the performance to return all costumes/props.

Parishioners are invited to stay for the Advent Penance service after the performance.

Note that all junior high and high schools students must meet in the parish hall at 6:30 for attendance and will be dismissed after celebrating the sacrament of confession.



Advent Penance Service ~ Wednesday, December 17—6:30 PM—8:00PM at SJoC

Visiting priests will be available to hear confessions.

Christmas & New Year's Schedule



Solemnity of Christmas

Christmas Eve ~ Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025

6:00 PM Mass

8:00 PM @ St. Francis of Assisi

10:00 PM Mass

Christmas Day ~ Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025

9:00 AM Mass (Spanish)

11:00 AM Mass



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass— Wednesday, December 31, 2025

6:00 PM Mass

Solemnity of Mary ~Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026

7:30 AM Mass

9:15 AM Mass @ St Francis of Assisi

11:00 AM Mass

6:00 PM (Spanish)

Feast of Epiphany

January 4, 2026 ~ Regular Mass times

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026 ~ Regular Mass times

Liturgy & Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request – please call the office. Any person who is sick (either homebound or in the hospital) or about to have surgery, is encouraged to receive Anointing of the Sick. As current Federal Law prohibits hospitals from the release of any patient's name. Father will not know you are in the hospital unless you call the office.

Baptisms of Infants: (0 to 5 yrs.): Please bring the child's civil birth certificate to the parish office to register the child, their parents & the Godparents for the one-hour Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class. Godparents must be able to provide Certificates for Catholic Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation, & if married, Marriage Certificate in the Catholic Church. Donation for the class and Baptism is \$30.00, for the class only is \$15.00. Date & time for the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Baptismal Class.

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confessions) is available on Thursday from 5:30 PM—6:00 PM and on Saturdays from 5:00 PM—5:30 PM and at any time by appointment with the Priest.

Quinceañeras: The honoree and their family must be registered and participating in the parish for two years prior to the year of the Quinceañera (or Quinceañero). The young person must have Baptism & Communion in the Catholic Church, & be attending the parish Religious Education Program. The family is strongly encouraged to contact the Church for **2 years** before the intended date.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made with the priest or deacon, preferably one year before the intended date, (minimum of six months in advance) to complete the necessary requirements. At least one person must be an active and registered member of this parish. No wedding date is guaranteed until ALL diocesan requirements have been fulfilled.

Blessing of Civil Marriages – If you were married before a judge, or a non-Catholic minister, and wish to be readmitted to Holy Communion, there needs to be a Blessing of your Civil Marriage. Please call the parish office and set up an appointment with Father Patrick so he can hear your particular situation and can guide you through the process. Father Patrick is always saying “Don’t wait! Start the process NOW!”