

St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24



Good News!

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●

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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.-20	6:00PM	† Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Dolores Borrego & Family † Enemencia Molina and † Susana Salazar by Maria Beltran † Marvin Mussman (Heavenly birthday) by Mussman Family † Russ Winterbottom (9th anniv.) by Anna & Eric Winterbottom
Sun.-21	7:30AM	† Allen Migura by Migura Family † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family † Adolph & † Olive Skrobarczyk by Skrobarczyk Family † Tommie Jean Winstead and † Robert Clemons by Bob & Dianna Winstead Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Yolanda Ochoa by Her Loving Husband Congratulations & Welcome home Anthony Rios by Jesus Rios Congratulations on the marriage of Steven and Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk by Silva Family
	6:00PM	† Abel Arias Angeles y † Natividad Angeles por Connie Trejo y hermanos Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-22	8:00AM	For the sanctity of family life
Tues.-23	8:00AM	All teachers and school personnel
Wed.—24 6:00PM Christmas Eve		† David Gaza by San Juanita Gaza † Vivian Solano and † Cristela Solano by Graciela and Pablo Alaniz, Jr. † Tony Medrano III & grandparents by David and Terrie Silva
10:00PM		
Thurs.-25 9:00AM The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)	11:00AM	† Abel Arias Angeles y † Natividad Angeles por Connie Trejo y hermanos † Jerry Cross by Mar Cross † John Robinson (21 anniv.) by Jana Robinson Birthday blessings for Christian Ochoa Jones (30 yrs) by Liza Ochoa
Fri.-26	8:00AM	Strength and comfort of widows and widowers
<i>Masses for December 27 & 28</i>		
Sat.-27 St. John, the Apostle	6:00PM	† Durwood Hatch (Heavenly birthday) by the Hatch Family In remembrance of † David & San Juanita Gaza's 45th wedding anniversary by the Gaza Family In thanksgiving to Jesus and the Virgen de Guadalupe for my life, blessings, family and the rain by Raquel S. Jimenez Birthday blessings for Michael Bartosch by Sharon Bartosch
Sun.-28	7:30AM	† Larry Bruns by His Family
	11:00AM	† Patricia Hanger & † David Stout by Karol Kocurek
	6:00PM	† Jose Rosario Bocanill por Maria Ordonez Las familias de la parroquia The sanctuary light is in memory of + Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

Dec. 27—**6:00PM**—**Lector:** Anita Bazan
EM: San Juanita Gaza, Sharry Stipp, Liza Ochoa
Head Ushers: Carlos Alanis, Raquel S. Jimenez

Dec. 28—**7:30AM**—**Lector:** Kimberly Tessanne
EM: Margie Svetlik, Maria Miller, Luz Paiz
Head Ushers: Gerald Murray, Lucille Klaevemann

11:00AM—**Lector:** Kathleen Garza
EM: Maria Galvan-Gordon, Jeri Alaniz, Don and Kim Rokohl
Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—**Lector:** Lizbeth Chavez
EM: Mariela Ordonez, Esmeralda Castro
Head Usher: Jose Isaia



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:

Maria Bernal, Elias Bernal, Jr., Art Forbes, Angelica Frees, Cindy Lopez, James Matheny, Antonio Medrano, Oscar Ortiz, Jr., and Christina Tipton



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, Eduardo Perales, Robert Ponce, 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

Thank you for your donation to the altar flowers

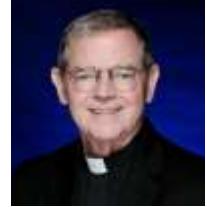
Angie Alanis	Graciela Alaniz
Priscilla Alaniz	Valerie Alaniz
Angie Alejandro	Carla Berry
Crystal Gonzalez	Laura Gwosdz,
Janey Henderson	JoAnn Rodriguez
Kim Rokohl	Belinda Sanchez
Amanda Smithwick	



A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear how the angel of the Lord appeared to a sleeping St. Joseph in a dream to “not be afraid to take Mary into his home” for it was by the Holy Spirit that the child had been conceived in her. And “when Joseph awoke, he did as the angel had commanded him and took his wife into his home”.



This small part of the Nativity story has always fascinated me even from an early age. I always imagine what Joseph must have thought and felt when Mary related the story of the annunciation by the angel Gabriel. Was she being truthful? Or crazy? Or just fabricating this to cover some infidelity? His decision to divorce Mary quietly tells us of his faithfulness to the Law, but to do it quietly showed his love and devotion for his betrothed – fiancé Mary. Can you imagine the inner turmoil he must have been going through? Yes? No? Now what should I do? I see Joseph saying his nightly prayers before going to bed and asking the Lord God for help and understanding. How many of us have, like Joseph, taken such a serious question in our life to God in our nightly prayers? And while we may not have had an angel of the Lord appear to give us an answer, how many have awakened with a calmness and better understanding on how we might proceed. Yet even with a better clarity on the various options, we still must make a decision from our own free will. And that is what I most admire about Joseph’s actions. He knows that someone will be calculating the number of weeks for Mary’s pregnancy and that he will be given suspicious glances. But his love of God and his devotion to his betrothed far outweighs those thoughts. Joseph chooses to be true to his heart and his faith before God and is willing to endure the pain of the community and society around him. Though it will be difficult, Joseph chooses to do what is right and honorable for Mary his betrothed, and he chooses what is right for him and his heart. Joseph goes contrary to what “society” might dictate as is proper, but he does what he knows is right in his heart. How many times have you had the strength to make such a momentous decision for yourself? To be true to your true inside self is always a time of nerves, but also a time of self-actualization.

So, while “everybody else is doing ...”, what has been your response to the most lonely or forgotten person around you? It could be that family relative that the rest of the family has abandoned or forgotten about. You could just give them a call or send them a Christmas card. Or what about that old friend of yours from years before that you have fallen out of contact with? Rather than give into the “is it worth it to do anything”, be courageous and step out of your comfort zone and make a contact with them. Most likely they are just waiting for you or someone to turn and just see them! While the Christmas season is so full of family gatherings, Christmas parties, and fun celebrations, it is also the loneliest time for those who feel isolated and forgotten.

God loved us so much that He sent us His Son, so in this Christmas season can you give just a little bit of yourself to someone around you? Several of my most precious moments occurred in the Decembers following the deaths of my mother and father, when friends sent me Christmas greetings and included ongoing words and prayers of support in this “first” Christmas after their passings. They chose to step up and chose in an awkward moment to be true to themselves and to what I needed, rather than to be “safe”. Be courageous like St. Joseph and be better expressions of yourself this Christmas season!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

P.S. – Have you ever heard about the “Prayer to the Sleeping St. Joseph”? Google it!

Deacon's Corner

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The Christmas celebration begins a few days from today, on Wednesday and Thursday (24th and 25th), and the season extends through the Baptism of the Lord in January. May you have a meaningful and holy Christmas season, where we contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation—God becomes a human being in Jesus! Think about the implications of that great event! Jesus comes into the world and humanity is blessed—all of humanity, not just the chosen people. If the law of Moses favored some and created outcasts of others, the Incarnation does away with those distinctions because the love of God is for the many, not the few. The quote from Isaiah: “the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and (the Lord) shall name him Emmanuel (God with us).” This is how Paul greets the Christians in Rome: “Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” I want to meditate on St. Joseph today. Not much is said of him in the scriptures. He speaks no words. He listens to the Lord in dreams and acts according to what he considers best for the family. First he has to decide whether to accept Mary, and because he loves her, he fears that people may believe that the child she is carrying might not be his, and that would subject her to scandal and possibly death. His strength lies in his faith and trust

that the Lord has communicated with him and lessened his fears. Next, he must accept that he must raise Jesus and treat him as his own. St. Joseph is the patron saint of parents. St. Joseph is probably one of the most popular saints in the history of the Church. In the whole world there are probably more churches named after St. Joseph than any other saint, except maybe the Blessed Mother Mary under her many titles, like “Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.” For example, I was baptized and confirmed (at the same time) at St. Joseph Church in Oakland, California, in 1943. I made First Communion at St. Joseph Church, 19th Street, Corpus Christi, in 1951; and, I was married at St. Joseph Church Brownsville, Texas, in 1969. He is the patron saint of fathers (and step-fathers), workers and families. St. Joseph teaches by his example, by his patience, by his discipline, by working with his hands, by being an exemplary father to Jesus, by being a faithful and loving husband, and by being submissive to God, and by seeing to Mary’s and the Christ child’s every need! I had a sheet painted by some inmates many years ago about Joseph and Mary while Mary was still pregnant. One man painted them together on a little wagon being pulled by a horse. The wagon was going fast; one could see it in the hair of the two figures being pulled back by the wind. Mary was laughing and holding on to Joseph’s arm, and he was urging the horse or horses to go faster, and he had a playful look on his face—a perfect picture for Advent. God bless you. I hope your trust in God has grown over the last few weeks, and that you make a good confession before Christmas.

Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #24	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
12/14/2025	Envelope Collection	\$ (7,944.78)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 3,556.00	\$ (6,488.78)	\$ 50,400.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 8,729.08	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,223.00	\$ 8,752.08	\$ 28,800.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 8,482.30	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,822.95	\$ 8,905.25	\$ 33,600.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 9,266.60	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 6,601.95	\$ 11,168.55	\$ 112,800.00	\$ 123,968.55

Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 5, 2026 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

Monthly processional—January 4, 2026 — Liza Ochoa

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

Dec. 25-27—Mrs. Nora Romanos, Ms. Mary Villarreal, Mrs. Mary G. Becerril, Ms. Janie Beltran
Jan. 1-3—Paid Professional

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Celebration—Seven new members were consecrated at the Feast Day Mass:

Gabriela Becerril, Esmeralda Castro, Maria del Rosario Conchas, Kathleen Garza, Janet Graham, Jolene Hackfeld, and Kim Rokohl.



Sociedad Guadalupanas will meet on December 22 at 10AM in the parish hall for a Christmas pot luck luncheon and to organize and deliver Christmas baskets to the senior citizens apartments residents.

The 2025 Honorary members are Jennifer Alejandro, Maria Beltran, and Jessica Alejandro.

Religious Education

Religious education classes are suspended for the Christmas holidays. There will be no class on Wednesday, December 24 or December 31. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.



Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution 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 [Saturday, January 24, 2026](#).

Community



The Coastal Bend Blood Center Mobile will be at St. John on Sunday, December 28, from 8:00AM—1:00PM. Donors will receive a Hunting for Donors long sleeve t-shirt and a FREE McAlister's deli cookie voucher—while supplies last. Scan the QR code or call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 to schedule your life-saving appointment.



Diocesan News

Mass of Installation Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O. as the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi on January 28, at 2PM at Most Precious Blood ProCathedral, Corpus Christi, Texas

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>

DCYC ~ Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference—March 1, 2026, at Richardson Event Center on the Heritage Campus of Del Mar College

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

Advent

The parish office will close at 3:30PM on Monday, December 22, for the holidays and will reopen Monday, January 5, 2026.



Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas angel project. Your generosity provided Christmas gifts for 173 children. And we need to thank one young parishioner who received \$25 as a Christmas gift and gave the money to our Christmas angel project. Thank you all for blessing children in our community! **Christmas is the MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!**

Christmas Ministry Schedule

December 24, 2025

6:00PM

Lector: San Juanita Gaza
EM: Liza Ochoa, Sharry Stipp, Anita Bazan

10:00PM

Lector: Kim Rokohl
EM: Don Rokohl, Jose Isais, Quinton Smithwick

December 25, 2025

9:00AM (Spanish Mass)

Lector: Joachin Ordóñez Maldonado
EM: Mariela Ordóñez, Albina Resendiz

11:00AM

Lector: Karol Kocurek
EM: Maria Galvan-Gordon, Dee DeLeon, Janie Flores, Vol.

Solemnity of Mary Schedule

December 31, 2025

6:00PM

Lector: Pablo Alaniz
EM: Sharry Stipp, Luis and Nora Romanos

January 1, 2026

7:30AM

Lector: Rick Svetlik
EM: Margie Svetlik, Maria Miller, Luz Paiz

11:00AM

Lector: Jeri Alaniz
EM: Diana DeAnda, Don and Kim Rokohl, Volunteer

6:00PM (Spanish)

Lector: Maria Esmeralda Castro
EM: Paulin Becerril, Joachin Ordóñez

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

Feast of Epiphany

January 4, 2026 ~ Regular Mass times

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 @ SJOC
9:15 AM Mass @ St Francis of Assisi
11:00 AM Mass @ SJOC
6:00 PM (Spanish)



Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026 ~ Regular Mass times

Flocknote

Keep in touch with us via email & text!

Text SJCOG to 84576

Or Connect with us online at:
www.stjohnog.flocknote.com

Social Media



Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
Stjohnogtx](http://www.facebook.com/Stjohnogtx)

Live Streaming

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHEDRAL:

**Sunday 9:30AM (ENG)
and 11:00 AM (SPA)**

Available at: KDF-TV Ch 47 (9:30AM only),
KLUX 89.5HD, or Diocese of CC Website