

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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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

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. 21	9:15 AM	† Jerry Cross by Mar Cross † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Wed.-Dec. 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	8:00 PM	Merry Christmas from Charles & † Phyllis Toler by Charles Toler
Sun.-Dec. 28	9:15 AM	† 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	12/07/2025	CURRENT WEEK	12/14/2025
Collection	\$615.00	Collection	\$600.00
		Religious Retirement Fund	\$581.00

Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY
NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 12 @ 2PM

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



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

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 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 **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.



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!

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 made Christmas magical!



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

Diocesan News

Upcoming Diocesan events

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

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.

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!”