

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (A)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



Good News!

December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (A)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●

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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. 28 9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Thurs.-Jan. 1 9:15 AM <i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i>	Olga and Leonard Llanes and family by David and Terrie Silva
Sun.-Jan. 4 9:15 AM <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	† Phyllis A. 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



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	12/14/2025	CURRENT WEEK	12/21/2025
Collection	\$600.00	Collection	\$1553.00
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 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.**

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 Jesus,



The first celebration after Christmas is the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. First and foremost, we remember that Jesus was born into a family. Mary, His mother, and Joseph, His foster-father, cared for Him from the first moments of His birth. And there are so many beautiful depictions of the baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph that you may have similar photos of your own children or grandchildren. Sweet smiling babies in cute outfits often wrapped in a warm blanket gently snuggled in the arms of an adult.

And while these images bring us joy and happiness, we must try to look beyond them into the innumerable moments and hours of sacrificial love that a baby brings into the family and the world. Because right after that beautiful smiling face, the baby often contracts that face into a grimace of pushing followed by an odiferous smell of a full diaper. And even as an uncle to five nieces and five nephews, I have changed many a diaper for all of them using plenty of baby wipes. One nephew seemed to enjoy the experience so much that after putting on the new diaper, he would immediately soil it again and we would have to start all over. It wasn't the changing of the diaper a second time, it was that smile and giggle as if he knew exactly what he was doing. And many parents learn very early with the baby not to wear any clothes that are new, or with an important significance, as baby spit-up does not wash out but leaves a truly permanent stain. My niece spit up at her Baptism on my sister's new rose-pink suitcoat and to this day, she must wear a brooch to cover that stain on the jacket. And so, there is the most essential and ever-present face cloth to wipe away the drool during teething, the ever snotty and dripping nose, and the frequent and untimed spit-up. And as Jesus is truly human and divine, even if Jesus is the Incarnate Son of God, I have always imagined Mary and Joseph having to deal with those same issues with raising Jesus. Did you ever think of how many of Jesus' diapers Mary had to change? But, the giftedness of the baby's smile, their sound sleeping on your chest, and that warmth and connectedness so often outweigh the sacrifices of feeding, burping, washing, and diaper changing.

Parenthood may be the mere biological generation of a new generation of human beings, but becoming a mother, a father, and a child(ren) in a family is emotional self-giving of one's self for the good and needs of an innocent totally dependent individual. To be truly a family, the individual members of the circle of people willingly lay down themselves for the others in the family. Think of families of adoption who choose to be in a permanent loving relationship with and for each other. And as is a South Texas reality, those who have no blood or marital relationship to the "biological" family, but that have been a present at family meals, birthdays, and other celebrations for so long and so many times, we just accept them as an extra brother, or sister, or "primo" or "tio" or "tia". It reflects the true reality that "family" is not biological, but the emotional bonds of loving and being loved, sacrificing of themselves for the well-being and happiness of another, and the ongoing continuity of the family circle from generation to generation.

So, on the Feast of the Holy Family I always take time to reflect on my grandparents, MJ & "Miss Kitty" (Katherine) and their eight children - my dad and my uncles and aunts, my parents - Louis and Mary, my stepmother Jean and stepsisters, my five siblings and their spouses, my ten nieces and nephews and their spouses, my great-nieces and great-nephews, and a soon to be great-great-niece (or nephew?), and how I am truly connected to them and blessed in them. On this Feast of the Holy Family, I also reflect on my extended families by "love and adoption"! There are my parish families. In every parish most of the women often have become my "extra mother" saying that I am too skinny, or look tired, or asking about my health. And I have become "a brother" to many of the men of the parish sharing a beer and a sports event. Another family is my priest brothers. Being a priest in a diocese I am joined to a "fraternity or brotherhood" of priests, many of whom have become like true brothers to me. Many are older and have passed on, but they were mentors to me when I was a young priest giving me advise and sometimes protection - like a "father or uncle or older brother". And then there are several brother priests for which I have been the "older brother" sharing my experiences, giving advice, and encouraging them when they have been having doubts and difficulties. Sometimes I even reflect on seven men who I have directly helped during their seminary journeys to their ordinations almost like a "very proud father full of joy and love and hope on their son's graduation day". That is a bond of family I didn't know I would experience. But also, like real brothers, someday I like them and some days I fight with them, but at the end of the day we are still brothers who are always connected and loved.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, reflect both up and down on the many generations on your family tree. Reflect on those families that have "adopted" you as one of their own and completely love you despite your faults and failings. And reflect on the many persons you may not even know, where you were that loving family member who showed love and interest in the life of another person and became "family" to them if even only for a short time. Take time to stretch your understanding of family and see how "large" your family grows to be.

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

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



AM STOUT / CATHOLICA

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so

many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

December 29
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

December 30
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

December 31
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:18-21
Jn 1:1-18

Thursday

January 1
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Friday

January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28
Jn 1:19-28

Saturday

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6
Jn 1:29-34

Sunday

January 4
The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12