

Dear Padre,

In the Creed, we say we believe in the resurrection of the body. So, why is it all right to be cremated?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* clearly states what many find confusing: “It is very commonly accepted that the life of the human person continues in a spiritual fashion after death. But how can we believe that this body, so clearly mortal, could rise to everlasting life?” (CCC 996). The *Catechism* goes on to address several questions: “What is rising? Who will rise? How? When?” (CCC 997–1001). In essence, “Christ ‘will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body,’ into a ‘spiritual body’” (CCC 999). The disposition or condition of the physical body at death will not affect the spiritual body that is raised. Cremation, decomposition, mutilation or dismemberment by violence, or the donation of one’s body to science—deemed “a noble and meritorious act...to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity” (CCC 2296)—does not prevent the resurrection of our glorified body. It is only when the act of cremation appears to be a public denial of faith in the resurrection or the sacredness of the body that the practice is forbidden. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV
In the face of...the tragic situations of injustice, violence, and suffering that mark our time, it is essential that our faith be alert, attentive, and prophetic. It should likewise open our eyes to the darkness of the world and bring to others the light of the gospel through our commitment to peace, justice, and solidarity.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 15, 2026

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 11, 2026
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 25:6–10a / Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20 / Matthew 22:1–14 or 22:1–10



Good News!

October 11, 2026
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 25:6–10a / Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20 / Matthew 22:1–14 or 22:1–10

MIGUEL DULICK

The closer Jesus gets to his death, the more targeted are his parables, specifically to the “chief priests and elders.” He has no patience with their hypocrisy.

The wedding feast has a long history in the prophets and the psalms, always a glorious celebration of love and delight—God marrying the chosen people. But in today’s gospel, Jesus speaks of the feast as a massacre. When the guests refuse to attend his son’s wedding, and they even kill the messengers sent to invite them, the enraged king amasses his troops to destroy “those murderers” and burn their city to the ground. So, the chosen people are un-chosen. Then, the king tries again, this time sending the servants to “whomever [they] find.” And then comes a beautiful moment: the servants invite the “bad (literally, “evil”) and good alike,” and they fill up the hall! This echoes Jesus’ own promise of the cross: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself” (John 12:32).

There is one more twist to the story that keeps Jesus in his own uncompromising space. When the king spots a guest without a “wedding garment,” he binds him hand and foot and throws him out into the darkness. Pretty scary—but do stay with Jesus. Accept the invitation to the banquet. And let Jesus dress you in his own garment of grace. ●

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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. James 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.– 10 6:00PM In loving memory of † Jerry Cross
by Mar Cross & Family
† Jeffrey & † James Gwosdz by their family
† Jim Van Blarcum by Estella Cortinas
† James Jake Wostal by Barbara E. Burnett

Sun. - 11 7:30AM † Amanda Tamez by Anita Bazan
Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of
the Cross Cemetery Association

11:00AM † Noe Alaniz by Anita Bazan
In loving memory of † Jerry Cross
by Mar Cross & Family
† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Patricia Kelso
Those with cancer or any serious illness
by St. John Saturday Morning Prayer Grp

6:00PM Los feligreses de la parroquia

Mon.– 12 8:00AM † Patricia Barnes by Anita Bazan
† Martina Granados (anniv.)
by Bazan, Leal, & Hinojosa families

Tues.- 13 8:00AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
Liza Ochoa’s family / Souls in purgatory
by Liza Ochoa
Secretaries and office workers

Thurs.- 15 8:00AM **servicio de comunión**
La santidad de la vida familiar

Fri.- 16 8:00AM **NO SERVICE**
Taryn Wanoreck

Sat.–17 6:00PM † Jovita Alejandro
by Lupe & Angie Alejandro
† Patricia Barnes
by Saturday Morning Prayer Group
† Ed & † Myrtle Houlihan
by Jana Robinson
Those on the Saturday Morning Prayer
Group prayer list by Saturday Morning
Prayer Group

Sun. - 18 7:30AM † Danny Trevino by Anita Bazan
Living and Deceased Members of the
Sociedad Guadalupanas

11:00AM † Marrian Baldeschwiler by Patricia Kelso
† Martha McCloskey
by Scotty & Pam Herschap

6:00PM Primer año de vida Hanna Montes Ordoñez
por Guadalupe Ordonez
Los feligreses de la parroquia

Father Stembler will take the weekday
Mass intentions with him while he is away.



Thank you, **Mr. and Mrs. Lassos**, for repairing the shower drain in the rectory and the cabinet door in the parish office. Your generosity in giving of your time and your talent is truly appreciated!

PRAYER LIST

We continue to pray for the needs of those in our parish:



Diana Deanda, Art Forbes,
Tyler Forbes, Isabela Fuentes,
Roel Galván, Antonio Medrano,
Edward Medrano, Daniel Pena,
Hilda Rodriguez, and Sissy Thomas

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:

Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk

PRAYER LIST

We remember these service personnel in each ‘Mass for the Families of the Parish’

Air Force: Juan Luis Alonzo, Jr., Vincent Gordon, Preston Holliday, Christopher Lauer II, Alayah Moore, Deborah Thomas, and Audry Winstead

Army: Rev. 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 Bundton and Joshua Salinas
Marines: Aurora Alarcon, Hunter Frees, and Andre Rodriguez

Navy: Cory Elyasevich, Diane Martinez, Aubrey McCown, Andrew Saenz, Robert Silva, 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’



Thank you,
Sammy & Shirley Syamken,
for donating
the peace lily plant for the altar
during ordinary time.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 23 @ 6PM



ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE
October 8-10—Mrs. Maria Galvan-Gordon, Jana Robinson, Nora Romanos
October 15--17--Ms. Dora Paiz, Mrs. Pedro Castro (Maria)

The Altar Society is having a fall raffle fundraiser. The top two prizes are each \$1,000 in Visa gift cards. Each ticket is \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will take place on November 15, at 2PM, in the parish hall. You do not need to be present to win!



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 19 @ 6PM

Hostess grp # 2: Jennifer Alejandro
Corporate Mass—October 18—7:30AM Mass Rosary at 7:00Am / Leader: Anita Bazan
Offertory: Nora Romanos, Mary Villarreal, & Sabrina Lopez



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 3



Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

October is **Respect Life Month**.
Each October the Church in the United States celebrates **Respect Life Month**.
As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.
Our Knights of Columbus are hosting a diaper drive in honor of **Respect Life Month**. Please donate newborn/ infant to toddler-size diapers to be donated to the Corpus Christi Hope House.



CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS AT 9 AM.

This ministry makes quilts for people with terminal or serious illnesses.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Students will not be allowed to walk to the front of the church to be picked up after their Religious Education class. Parents must pick their children up from the designated areas.

Thank you, Katherine Gomez and Teresa Martinez for assisting with the meal for our jr. high—high school religious education students last week.
Thank you, **Jeri Alaniz and Cade family**, for providing the meal for our jr. high—high school religious education students this week. Pizza always a hit!

WORKS OF MERCY

Looming Ladies meet each Monday at 9AM in the parish hall to loom beanies and scarves for patients in the Driscoll Oncology Department. All are welcome to join this ministry.



The next **HEB bread and pastries distribution** will be at 9AM at SJoC on Wednesday, October 14, and at St. Francis on Saturday, November 14.

Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at St. John of the Cross on Thursday, November 3, and at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, October 24.



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Good morning,

Marriage blessings at the end of Mass:



Why are only anniversaries of sacramental marriages (marriages blessed in the Church) being blessed at the end of Masses at the weekend?

As I stated, there has been some confusion over the years I have been a priest concerning this. When I was a young priest, a couple, after Mass, once asked me to bless their wedding rings. I went ahead and did that seeing no problem with it. However, after I had done so they thanked me because now their marriage was blessed in the Church, in other words, a sacramental marriage. No, that is not correct. I discovered that somehow among some people this was understood that a civil marriage, or non-sacramental marriage - a marriage not done in the Church - became a sacrament with just a blessing over the couple, or a blessing of their wedding rings. **THAT IS NOT CORRECT!**

In the Roman Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament, as it is in the Eastern Orthodox Church. In other non-Catholic Christian traditions, marriage is not a sacrament. But somehow, incorrect understanding surrounding this has become accepted by some people, so in order to not keep the confusion going on, the public blessing of marriages at the end of Mass - a custom in this church and mission - is only given to couples who had their marriage in the Church, or have had their marriage blessed, or “sacramentalized” within the Church. If your marriage does not fit into either of those two categories, I am very happy to bless your marriage at another time, either before or after Mass, or in the office. Be assured that I will speak to you about getting your marriage “sacramentalized” within the Church which is not a difficult process. I will be happy to work with you. Because in the Roman Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament. And, a couple living in a sacramental marriage is able to receive Holy Communion. A Catholic couple not in a sacramental marriage is not able to receive Holy Communion.

So, there’s the explanation that I owed you from Mass last week.

Again, I am off to the Priests’ Convocation on Monday afternoon, then off to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Southwestern Lieutenancy Annual Meeting of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and then early Monday morning, October 19th, for Thailand to help with ministry to the villages above Chiang Mai. I will see you on Saturday, October 31st, beginning with Confessions and Mass that Saturday afternoon.

God bless!

Fr. Stembler

DEACON'S CORNER

The Deacon's Corner will not continue in the parish bulletin. I created it when I came here to St. John of the Cross, but it was intended for deacons, jail ministers, and members of the Cursillo movement. I will continue to write it, and if you want to be individually included, please send me your email address to armandocavada@yahoo.com.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Current week's collection

Envelopes \$ 1,809.00 Loose \$ 1,963.00
September online giving \$6,240.39
Our Living Church Bldg Fund \$ 2,368.00
September OLC Bldg Fund online giving \$ 2,490.00
Respect Life \$ 434.00

Online giving

Have you considered giving online?
It's quick and easy.
Just Scan the QR code and you'll be linked to the St. John online giving webpage.



2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal

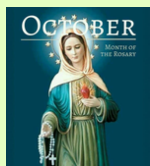
The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$13,080 has been pledged. With a projected \$1,235 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$14,515 expected pledge & recurring gifts.

That is 64% of the diocesan goal with 12% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA.

Your continued support of the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal is truly appreciated



PARISH HAPPENINGS



October is the month of the Rosary.

Each Friday a parish organization will the lead rosary in the church at 6PM:

October 16 - Sociedad Guadalupanas

October 23 - Knights of Columbus

October 30 - Casa de Lucy

Coastal Bend Blood Drive

Sunday, October 11, from 8:00AM to 1:00PM

All donors will receive a donor T- Shirt and a P.F. Chang's coupon.



All Souls' Day Novena

All Souls' Day Memorial Candles are personalized candles that have a space for the name of the deceased who will be remembered in a special way during the Prayer of the Faithful.

These All Souls' Day Candles are an opportunity to commemorate your faithfully departed.

The candles are available to purchase in the parish office for \$5.00.

They will burn for nine Masses—a novena.

A picture may be set beside your loved one's candle for the duration of the novena.

A Rosary will be prayed 30 minutes before every All Soul's Novena Mass.



Starting , **Friday, October 16**, Dcn. Cavada will be hosting an **Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA)** via ZOOM at 7PM. Any adult (18 +) interested in receiving Sacraments (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Marriage) is invited to contact the parish office for more information about this opportunity to fully participate in the Catholic Mass.

