

St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

Good News!

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34

ANN M. GARRIDO

Of the many names Scripture provides to help us ponder the mystery of Jesus, one of the most intriguing is the name that John the Baptist offers at the opening of today's gospel: "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29).

Scripture scholars debate what John means here. Is he alluding to the Passover lamb—that unblemished lamb whose blood the enslaved Israelites were to post over their doorways? The angel of death knew to "pass over" these homes. Perhaps John was saying that by Jesus' blood, the people would be freed from death.

Or was John thinking about the guilt offerings mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures when priests offered animal sacrifices to God as a way of seeking the removal of their sins? Leviticus mentions use of a scapegoat who would carry the sins of the people away into the desert. (See Leviticus 20-28.) Could John have understood that Jesus would bear the sins of the world?

Or did John have in mind the great constellation Aries, the ram, considered the prince of the stars of the sky, the center from whom all the other constellations were mapped in ancient times? Perhaps John was pointing out that Jesus was the center around whom heaven and earth revolve, like the ruling lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Today at Mass, when the host is elevated and you hear John's words again—"Behold the Lamb of God!"—take a moment to savor these words anew. ●

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- January 18, 2026
- **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**
- Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34



January 18, 2026
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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.-17	6:00PM	† Pablo Alaniz, Sr., (92nd birthday) by Lupe & Angie Alejandro † Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Armando Borrego † Norma Rodriguez (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family
Sun.-18	7:30AM	† Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Jose A. Gonzalez, Jr., (22nd anniv.) by Anna Winterbottom Healing for Maria Blas from a fall by Ellie Mankin
	6:00PM	† Martin Becerril, † Elena Centeno, y † Teodoro Garcia, Jr., por Paulin Becerril y Familia † Salvador Lopez (17 yrs.) by Anita Bazan Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-19	8:00AM	† Jason Ortiz by Anita Bazan Birthday blessings for Nathan Bartosch by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
Tues.-20	8:00AM	† Juan Guerrero (anniv.) by Bazan, Leal, and Hinojosa Families
Thurs.-22	6:00PM (SPA)	† Mark Swisher & † Bill Mego (6 yrs.) by Anita Bazan
	6:30PM	Adoracion
Fri.-23	8:00AM	† David Gaza by A. Garcia

Masses for January 24 & 25

Sat.-24	6:00PM St. Francis de Sales	† Harry Davis by Anita Bazan † James & † Jeffrey Gwosdz by Their Families † Nelson Schroedter and † Kay Schroedter by Family
Sun.-25	7:30AM	Families of our parish

11:00AM	† Mr. and † Mrs. Cleofas Hinojosa by Janie Beltran Daniel and Marjorie Stehling on their 71st Wedding Anniversary by their kids Thanksgiving for the life and health of Victor M. Gordon by M. Galván and J. Gordon
6:00PM	† Salvador Lopez (17 yrs.) by Anita Bazan



The sanctuary light is in memory of
† Cristela Solano & † Vivian Solano
by Graciela & Pablo Alaniz

Sanctuary light and altar flowers ~ The sanctuary light and / or the altar flowers may be sponsored in honor of or for the repose of the soul of a loved one, for special intentions, or in celebration of special occasions like birthdays or wedding anniversaries.

The sanctuary light is \$20 / weekend.
The altar flowers are \$80/ weekend.

Please contact the office for more information.

The parish office will be closed Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day and will reopen on Tuesday, January 20, at 8:30AM.



Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

January 24 —6:00PM— Lector: Don Rokohl EM: Mary Villarreal, Kim Rokohl, Sharry Stipp Head Ushers: Pablo and Graciela Alaniz
January 25 —7:30AM— Lector: Kimberly Tessanne EM: Maria Miller, Luz Paiz, Annette Rivera Head Ushers: Gerald Murray, Lucille Klaevemann
11:00AM—Lector: 7th Grade EM: Diana Aguilar, Maria Galvan-Gordon, Ernest Henderson, Volunteer Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez
6:00PM—Lector: Maria Albina Ordonez EM: Alvina Resendez, Paulin Becerril Head Usher: Angel Isais

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:

Gloria Contreras, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes, Angelica Frees, Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, and Johnny Soliz



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, Ricki Rodriguez Choat, 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

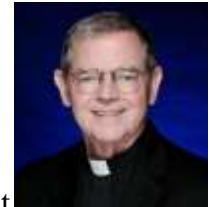
Please pray for our **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!**

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'

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



Welcome back to “Ordinary Time” in the Church’s liturgical calendar! It has been a fast and furious eight weeks since we celebrated Thanksgiving last November. We had a momentous series of an almost weekly celebration in the church and here is the quick list of ten of those for reference: Feast of Christ the King, Thanksgiving, First Sunday of Advent, my birthday, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Solemnity of Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family, Solemnity of Mary-Mother of God (January 1st), Epiphany, and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord! And this Sunday we take a breath and return to “ordinary” time. Breathe in! Breathe out!

Last Sunday all of the Christmas decorations in the church were taken down and stored for next year, and the sanctuary looks a bit bare without the evergreen trees and the Nativity display. The same is true for each of your houses as well with the Christmas tree and decorations being put away for another year. And our lives begin to return to a regular schedule of weekly events. But we are still living and celebrating our family life – in your houses and in the Church. It is the ongoing daily routine of our lives that continues to propel us slowly forward in time and space. While this time of the year is not as exciting as the Christmas Season, it is just as important and necessary to our life and growth. Our daily prayers and weekly attendance at Sunday Mass being the first on the list of ongoing ordinary family life. Then there are those weekly household projects and duties (cleaning, laundry, food shopping, paying the bills, etc.) and the major repair tasks that we put off during Christmas (HVAC maintenance, toilet & plumbing repairs, painting the house, cleaning out the garage/storage/attic, taking care of the lawn, etc.) which have once again risen to the top of the weekly “to do” list of our daily home life.

We need to approach this change of “season” not as a time to “slow down or relax,” but as a time to refocus our energies and priorities for the coming months. What are the next series of events and activities that our families and our church will be celebrating and for which we need to begin some long-term preparation? For many families there are the upcoming graduations from school and college in May, as well as Mothers’ Day, Fathers’ Day, and the summer vacation planning. For the Church there is the season of Lent, Holy Week, the Solemn Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, and the Easter Season. We will be celebrating many sacramental moments in our Church as well. There are Baptisms and Full Initiation into the Catholic Church on Easter Vigil, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, and the Sacramental Blessings of civil marriages, all in the upcoming months. It looks like a busy Sacramental Springtime!

Last September we began the “Our Living Church Capital Campaign Building Fund” to raise \$685,000.00 for necessary repairs and renovations to our parish campus. I am incredibly happy to report that through the great generosity of you, the parishioners of our church in these four short months, we have raised \$117,603.16 of that goal! The first renovation/repair projects of this campaign are for our church building, namely the exterior stucco of the church and the stained-glass windows. When we reach the first milestone donation level of \$185,000.00 of cash received on our pledges, we will be able to execute signed contracts for these church projects to begin.

“Thank you” to everyone who has made a pledge and is making their ongoing payments to fulfill their pledge. Please continue to support this important long-term building campaign. If you have made a pledge, please renew your commitment for the coming year 2026 and keep your donations coming. When I ask you the members of our parish to pledge and support an endeavor for our church, please remember I also have made a monthly pledge to “Our Living Church Campaign” which is auto deducted from my checkbook each month. If you have not made a 2026 pledge toward the “Our Living Church Capital Campaign” there are brochures available in the foyer (and hopefully in the end of your pews). As soon as we reach that milestone donation level of \$185,000.00 cash on hand, we will be able to start the renewal and beautification of our church building. Any donation in any amount (one-time donation or an ongoing pledge) moves us ever closer to our goals. Over the last twenty years we have had three major construction projects ranging from \$368,000.00 to \$611,000.00. The loan amounts for these large projects were: \$305,864.53 loan with the interior renovations of our church in 2005 (twenty years ago), \$184,351.00 loan with the Rectory/Office Construction in 2013, and the \$284,343.94 loan with the 2017 construction of the new Religious Education Building just 8 years ago. We did it before, and we can do it again! Let’s Do It!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Deacon's Corner

Welcome to Ordinary Time! This is the start of the second week. The first week started with the Baptism of the Lord from Matthew's Gospel. This week the Baptism of the Lord comes from John's Gospel. The Baptism of the Lord is all four gospels—Mt. 3:17; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22 and today's Gospel, John 1:29. I want to suggest that you look at all four renditions, and see if you can spot differences and similarities. In today's version, according to John, it is a little different. For those of you have the readings that I attach for everyone, except the parish bulletin, you will notice a slight difference: John has it: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' The footnote to the New American Bible has an explanation that examines the differences of the Matthew, Mark and Luke versions with the John version. You can meditate about that if you want, but I think that John had the benefit of the other three gospels (called Synoptic, meaning similarity) because he wrote his Gospel about 20 to 30 years after the Synoptics; so, he had the benefit of understanding that was based on *practice* by the community. I think that means John the Baptist's baptism was symbolic, and the Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son

and the Holy Spirit had become the practice of the Church by the time John the Evangelist wrote his version. It was to become the first sacrament, the most important sacrament, the most necessary sacrament. It signifies commitment, repentance, liberation from the slavery of sin and death, and the first participation in the Paschal Mystery (the death and Resurrection and Jesus). The Church of St. Paul found it to be so special, that he said that we can only receive it one time. Of course, we renew our commitment every time we overcome temptation, or we sin, and when we do we reconcile ourselves to the Church because of the Sacrament. The second reading today is to the Corinthian Church: "...to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." I think this Second Sunday in Ordinary Time is setting the stage for us to live the entire liturgical year in terms of our commitment to the Sacrament of Baptism by which we become children of God, and by which we can learn how to behave like good human beings, which is the main purpose of the Incarnation.

Good luck on the journey.

Deacon Cavada

Bishop Mario Alberto Avilés Installation Invitation

Everyone is invited to attend Solemn Vespers and Mass of Installation of Bishop Mario Avilés.

Solemn Vespers: Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:30PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral, 3502 Saratoga Blvd.

The Diocese of Corpus Christi invites you to the solemn installation of

His Excellency Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O. as the Ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi

by His Excellency **Most Reverend Joe. S. Vásquez** Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

in the presence of His Eminence **Christophe Cardinal Pierre** Apostolic Nuncio to the United States

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 2:00PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral,

3502 Saratoga Boulevard, Corpus Christi.

Reception immediately following at Maria Goretti Youth Center



Stewardship of Treasure

Week #28	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
1/4/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (5,566.78)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,061.00	\$ (5,605.78)	\$ 56,700.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 10,230.08	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,682.00	\$ 11,712.08	\$ 32,400.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 10,482.15	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (751.47)	\$ 8,330.68	\$ 37,800.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 15,145.45	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 3,991.53	\$ 14,436.98	\$ 126,900.00	\$ 141,336.98

Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 2, 2026 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 23 @ 6PM

Meeting Hostesses: Laura Adams, Terrie Silva, and Kathy Mussman
Monthly processional—February 1, 2026 — Shirley Syamken

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

Jan. 22-24—Mrs. Bethany Wanoreck, Mrs. Manuel Chávez (Angelica Ibarra), Mrs. Katy Springs, Mrs. Susan Umphres, Mrs. Sue Shelton, Ms. Maria del Carmen Conchas
January 29-31—Mrs. Maria Gabriela Becerril, Ms. Lizbeth Chavez, Ms. Maria Esmeralda Castro, Ms. Maria Ordonez

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 20 @ 6PM



Hostess grp # 3: Nora Romanos

Corporate Mass—February 15 @ 7:30AM

Rosary at 7:00AM

Leader: Anita Bazan

Offertory: Gracie Alaniz, Angie Alejandro, & Bea Garcia

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by Belinda Sanchez and Gracie Alaniz

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 3, 2026



CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM

Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on [Wednesday, January 28](#) and at **St. Francis** on [Saturday, February 14](#).



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on [Thursday, February 5](#), and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on [Saturday, January 24](#).

Diocesan News

All are invited to gather as a Diocese and travel to Austin for the **Texas Rally for Life** on Saturday, January 25. Contact Sr. Caritas with questions—361-631-4386.

DCYC ~ You were **MADE FOR MORE** than all the riches and treasures in this world! God has called you to Himself, and He will fulfill the desires of your heart. Come to DCYC Corpus Christi (Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference) Sunday, March 1st at Delmar Richardson Amphitheater in Corpus Christi. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$15, scholarships available. Event is 10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. Scan the QR code to register.



The Office of Young Adult Ministry and the Vocations Office present a 3-part Retreat Series coming in 2026! Young adults ages 18-39 are invited to learn more about personal prayer, the discernment of spirits and Ignatian principles of Christian discernment. Here are the dates and locations: **Saturday, February 7**: Our Lady of Corpus Christi Retreat Center, Corpus Christi, **Saturday, March 7**: Schoenstatt Lamar Retreat Center, Rockport, **Saturday, April 11**: Pax Christi Retreat Center, Calallen. These retreats will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per retreat. Contact Siobhan O'Connor at soconnor@diocesecc.org or Fr. James Vasquez at jvasquez@diocesecc.org.

Community

The Orange Grove Area will hold their Mid-Winter Bash to raise funds for the museum's Fire Recovery Account on Saturday evening, January 24, 2026 at the Orange Grove Rifle Club. The community is invited to attend. There will be a dinner beginning at 6:00 PM and dance beginning at 8:00 PM. There will also be a live and silent auction. Tickets admit two people 21 years of age and older and each ticket is for a donation of \$100.00. Tickets can be purchased from members of the Orange Grove Area Museum Board including Ernest Henderson by calling 361-207-0383. We are still accepting sponsorships for the event as well.

Dear Padre,

I thought only priests and bishops should distribute Holy Communion at Mass. In my parish, the priest allows laypeople to help him, and I thought laypeople couldn't because our hands are not consecrated.

You're not the only person with this concern, so thank you for taking the time to write. The distribution of holy Communion has nothing to do with "consecrated hands." Ordinary ministers of Communion include bishops and priests, as you rightly identify, but also deacons and installed acolytes. Of the four ordinary ministers, only the hands of bishops and priests are consecrated. Laypeople are extraordinary ministers and are installed to help the priest so that everyone can receive holy Communion without long lines or wearying the (sometimes elderly) priest. Most extraordinary ministers of Communion approach this ministry very prayerfully.

Your question brings up the subject of the full participation of the laity in the Mass, which is part of a highly contentious theological discussion on social media. There is an unfortunate conflict between so-called "traditional Catholics" and "Vatican II Catholics" or, as they are often misrepresented, "Novus Ordo" Catholics. Some Catholics are led to believe that the "new Mass" is not authentic, even though it has been the ordinary form of the Mass for well over fifty years—that is, since the authoritative Second Vatican Council. Many good and faithful people suffer with doubt and anxiety as a result of this confusion. ●



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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 19	January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25
Weekday	Weekday	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	Weekday	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 15:16-23	1 Sm 16:1-13	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51	1 Sm 3:1-6	1 Sm 24:3-21	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27	Is 8:23-9:3
Mk 2:18-22	Mk 2:23-28	Mk 3:1-6	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7	Mk 3:13-19	Mk 3:20-21	1 Cor 1:10-13, 17



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today's world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.

MESSAGE TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MAY 28, 2025