

# St. John of the Cross



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

- January 25, 2026
- **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**
- Isaiah 8:23–9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17 / Matthew 4:12–23 or 4:12–17



## Good News!

January 25, 2026  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 8:23–9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17 / Matthew 4:12–23 or 4:12–17

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”** (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus’ words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on “repent,” or is the emphasis on the announcement, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees” (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: “for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●

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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.-24	6:00PM	† Harry Davis by Anita Bazan † James & † Jeffrey Gwosdz by Their Families † Nelson Schroedter and † Kay Schroedter by Family
Sun.-25	7:30AM	† Isabel Ortiz by Mage & Sue Alejandro Families of our parish
	11:00AM	† Mr. and † Mrs. Cleofas Hinojosa by Janie Beltran † Jesus Sauceda, Sr., (Heavenly birthday) by Gonzalez Family 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
Mon.-26	8:00AM <i>St. Timothy and St. Titus</i>	† Jason Ortiz by Anita Bazan
Tues.-27	8:00AM	Birthday blessings for Cash Michael Bartosch by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
Thurs.-29	6:00PM (SPA) 6:30PM	<i>La misa está abierta y disponible.</i> Adoracion
Fri.-30	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>

## Masses for Jan. 31 & Feb. 1

Sat.-31	6:00PM <i>St. John Bosco</i>	† Joe Gonzales (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family † Matina Granados (birthday) by Bazan, Leal, and Hinojosa Families † Uvaldo Pena III (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family
Sun.-1	7:30AM	† Kiddo, † Mae, † Mary, and † Loretta by Janna Robinson Healing hand for Oscar Ortiz, Jr., by Mage & Sue Alejandro
	11:00AM	† Elva Bazan (20 yrs.) and † Juilio Bazan by Anita Bazan Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Altar Society
	6:00PM	† Estela Resendiz (Primer aniversario) y † Jose Rosario Becerril por Maria Ordóñez y familia Las familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is in memory of  
**† Cyndi Garcia**  
by the Forbes Family

**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, or in celebration of special occasions like birthdays or wedding anniversaries. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Thank you for your donation to the altar flowers,

Grace Castaneda, Liliana Loera Diaz, Rhonda Ortiz,  
Nora Romanos Mary Villarreal, and Stephanie Wright.



## Ministry Schedule for Mass

### Ministry Schedule

**January 31**—6:00PM—**Lector:** Norma Cornejo

**EM:** Anita Bazan, Luis and Nora Romanos  
**Head Ushers:** Carlos Alanis, Mike Schroedter

**February 1**—7:30AM—**Lector:** Annette Rivera

**EM:** Laura Gwosdz, Luz Paiz, Margie Svetlik  
**Head Ushers:** Bart and Maria Miller

**11:00AM—Lector:** Jeri Alaniz

**EM:** Don and Kim Rokohl, Janie Flores,  
Diana DeAnda

**Head Usher:** Tinker Villarreal

**6:00PM—Lector:** Elva Cavada

**EM:** Maria Graciella, Esmeralda Castro

**Head Usher:** Jose 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,  
Oscar Ortiz, Jr., 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, Christopher Lauer II,  
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!**

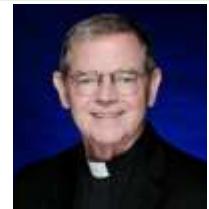
Please call the parish office or use the online form to submit names & branch of service.

1. Go to [www.st-johnog.org](http://www.st-johnog.org)
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab
3. click on 'Active Military Prayer Request'

# A Note From Our Pastor

Father Patrick was called away and was unable to complete his letter for this week's bulletin.

So, instead, Father wanted to share that Bishop Mulvey is asking each parish in the Diocese of Corpus Christi to request financial help with the renovations of the Corpus Christi Cathedral and that envelopes are available in the church foyer.



*Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD  
Bishop of Corpus Christi*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, I come to you with a message of hope, of renewal, and of the enduring unity of our faith. Since 1940, our Cathedral has stood as the spiritual heart for our diocesan family. It is a place where we have gathered to celebrate the sacraments, to pray for one another, and to strengthen our bond as the Body of Christ. It has witnessed our joys and carried our sorrows. It has welcomed generations of believers, and it will continue to welcome generations yet to come.

After years of faithful service, our Cathedral now stands in need of significant renovation and restoration. This is more than a project of repair—it is an opportunity for renewal; one that mirrors the renewal that Christ continually works within each of us. As we strengthen the flooring of our Cathedral, we also strengthen the foundation of our shared faith. As we renew the walls, we renew the bonds of our faithful community. As we restore its beauty, we give witness to the beauty of the Gospel living in our midst.

This endeavor is not the work of a few. It is a calling for our entire diocese: Every parish, every family, and every person of faith who calls the Diocese of Corpus Christi home. Our Cathedral does not belong only to those who worship there regularly. It belongs to all of us, because it stands as a symbol of our unity, our history, and our mission as one Church.

I ask each of you to prayerfully consider joining me in supporting this important work. Your partnership will help ensure that our Cathedral remains a beacon of faith, hope, and love for many years to come. Together, we can build something that reflects the strength of our communion and the depth of our commitment to one another and our mission in Christ to serve.

Let this season of restoration be a sign of our trust in God's providence and our belief in the future of our Church. Let it remind us that when we stand together as one body, united in purpose and in love, we can accomplish far more than we ever could alone.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us and guide us in this work of renewal. And may Almighty God bless you and your families for the love and generosity you continue to show His Church.

Sincerely grateful in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD".

*Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD  
Apostolic Administrator of Corpus Christi*

## Deacon's Corner

Welcome to the Third Sunday of the year. We will have 6 Sundays, and then on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February begins the First Sunday of Lent. We'll have 5 Sundays of Lent until March 22<sup>nd</sup>, then Palm Sunday. We will then celebrate 7 Sundays of Easter until May 17<sup>th</sup> and then we'll celebrate Pentecost on May 24 of this year. Then we'll go back to Ordinary time until the First Sunday of Advent, which will be November 29<sup>th</sup> this year. The most important and inspiring time to deepen our faith is from now until Pentecost, in my opinion. This will be the main message of Jesus according to Matthew. Today's readings are from Isaiah 8:23-9:3; [Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17](#); and Matthew 4:12-23. The shortened version ends at verse 17. The main message today is conversion or repentance. The Lord will continue to call us to conversion throughout the year, in different forms. He will require of us an accounting, toward the end of the year in Matthew 25. He will call our attention to the need to love neighbor, especially those most in need of God's mercy (the message that the Blessed Mother gave us at Fátima, by the way). And we will understand what "the good news announced to the poor" means. Matthew and Luke are about equal in their emphasis on this theme, but I think Matthew is stronger because he makes our salvation depend on our concern for the poor. Matthew is more adamant about God's requirement that we love the least in the kingdom. You will recall the words in Chapter 25—"depart from me, you accursed because I was hungry and you gave me no

food..." And Matthew is most severe with the Scribes and Pharisees (See Chapter 23, especially verse 33, where he calls them serpents and "brood of vipers. How can you flee from the judgment of Gehenna?"). I have formed the opinion in the last few years, that Jesus' baptism was not a sign of submission to the Will of God, but a sign of collaboration or sympathy for the proposition that *repentance* is the necessary ingredient for submission, and that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, which Jesus will provide, is recognized by John the Baptist as the *real* Baptism. Jesus' submission to the baptism of John is a sign of solidarity with the requirement of repentance. After John's death, he makes that theme his main program for his disciples and for us to become "fishers of men." What is attractive about this program of Jesus? Repentance makes us recognize our limitations, our faults and weaknesses and our unworthiness to be the recipients of God's blessings. When we repent we see the misery we were in, and we see the satisfaction that submission brings. It's kind of a freedom that we've never known before, a spiritual freedom that takes away fears and uncertainties, a freedom that drives us to know Jesus better, and to develop a relationship with him that is personal and which gives us security in enduring life's obstacles. We learn to forgive and we learn to endure the crosses of life, like sickness, tragedy and even death. I think the readings today express these topics. See if you can spot them as you read. Godspeed 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 #29	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
1/18/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (5,819.78)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,490.00	\$ (6,429.78)	\$ 60,900.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 11,715.30	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,088.00	\$ 12,603.30	\$ 34,800.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 9,833.53	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,555.66	\$ 9,989.19	\$ 40,600.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 15,729.05	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,133.66	\$ 16,162.71	\$ 136,300.00	\$ 152,462.71

Today's SECOND collection supports the **Church in Latin America**. Years of economic and political hardship in Venezuela have created poverty that prevents young people from learning their Catholic faith. To counter this phenomenon, this collection provides training of three priests and 73 catechists in parish ministries that help adolescents encounter Christ in prayer, read Scripture and use digital media as tools of evangelization. This fund helps Catholics in the United States share their faith with their brothers and sisters in Central and South America and the Caribbean.



## 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

January 29-31—Mrs. Maria Gabriela Becerril, Ms. Lizbeth Chavez, Ms. Maria Esmeralda Castro, Ms. Maria Ordonez  
 Feb. 5-7—Paid Professional

### 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

## Religious Education

There will be a **MANDATORY** parent meeting on Wednesday, February 4, at 5:30PM in the church for parents and all students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. This includes those in the second grade class as well as all those in the sacramental prep classes.

## Works of Mercy

**Loom Knitting** ~ Starting Monday, January 26, parishioners are invited to meet in the parish hall at 9AM to knit hats for patients at Driscoll Children's Hospital Oncology Department. Contact the parish office or Bertha Forbes for more information.



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, February 28**.  
*Help will be needed at the SFoA food distribution on Saturday, January 31.*

## Diocesan News

**SILVER & GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS CELEBRATION** ~ Those blessed by celebrating 25 or 50 years of Sacramental Marriage are invited to attend a special Silver & Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Mario Avilés, C.O. on **February 8, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church (3502 Saratoga Blvd in Corpus Christi)**. **Couples that register before January 30 will receive a certificate recognizing their Silver or Golden Anniversary.** Scan the QR code to register.



**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.



# Dear Padre,

## Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOLIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops	Weekday	St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Weekday	Weekday	St. John Bosco, Priest	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19	2 Sm 7:4-17	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13
Mk 3:22-30	Mk 3:31-35	Mk 4:1-20	Mk 4:21-25	Mk 4:26-34	Mk 4:35-41	1 Cor 1:26-31
						Mt 5:1-12a

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



CATHOLIC

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.*

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025