



St. John of the Cross



Parish Office Phone:
361-384-2795

Pastor:
Rev. Patrick K. Donohoe

Parish Office Fax:
361-384-0056

Parish Office Email:
saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Bulletin Email
saintjohn0006@gmail.com

Church Website:
www.st-johnog.org

Mailing Address — P.O. Box 329, Orange Grove, TX 78372

Physical Address — 200 S. Metz, Orange Grove, TX 78372

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 / Matthew 5:1-12a



Good News!

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 / Matthew 5:1-12a

MIGUEL DULICK

This season of the Church we call "Ordinary Time" is full of Jesus' teaching about how to live our Christian lives. Today's readings are especially rich. When Jesus takes his place as the New Moses to deliver his Sermon on the Mount, he begins, fittingly, with a new version of the commandments, but instead of "Thou shalt not," they are blessings! And they are paradoxical; always a sign of the divine touch. The "poor in spirit" get the kingdom of heaven; mourners are blessed, for they shall be comforted.

Now, who is supposed to do the comforting? *We* are. If the beatitudes are new commandments, we disciples are to obey them, even rejoicing in the blessing of persecution. What kind of people sign up for this? Saint Paul describes to the Christians in Corinth what kind of people God chooses: the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised, the nothings of this world, to shame and confuse those who seem to run things. The wisdom of God seems like nonsense in a world where power reigns supreme. That sweet soul Zephaniah, author of today's first reading, saw the shift coming, from "don'ts" to "dos," from bossy to beatitude: "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land" (Zephaniah 2:3). You will be "a people humble and lowly" who will pasture your flocks (and do the work God intends you to do) with "none to disturb" you (Zephaniah 3:12, 13). Sign me up for that! ●

© 2026 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Petens: Fr. Kevin Zabel, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

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.-31	6:00PM	† Joe Gonzales (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family † Martina 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 † Julio Bazan (15 yrs.) by Anita Bazan † David Urrea (19 anniv.) by Urrea Family 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 Ordonez y familia Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-2 <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	8:00AM	Liza Ochoa/ Janet Graham celebrate the consecration to Jesus through Mary by Liza Ochoa Souls in Purgatory
Tues.-3	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
Thurs.-5 <i>St. Agatha</i>	6:00PM (SPA)	<i>La misa está abierta y disponible.</i>
	6:30PM	Adoracion
Fri.-6 <i>St. Paul Miki and companions</i>	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>

Masses for Feb. 7 & 8

Sat.-7	8:00AM	Michael Schneider & Ann Hollas blessings on their wedding day by Mom & Dad
	6:00PM	† James & Jeffrey Gwosdz by their Family † Jonathan Mankin (1 yr.) by Ellie Mankin † Juanita Ochoa (birthday) by Family † Donna Reynolds Morin (1st anniv.) by Anna Winterbottom
Sun.-8	7:30AM	Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association
	11:00AM	† David Gaza by His nieces † Joe Gonzales (Birthday) by His wife
	6:00PM	Familias de la parroquia

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.
The sanctuary light is \$20 / weekend.
The altar flowers are \$80/ weekend.
Please contact the office for more information.



Mark your calendars now ~ **Lent begins on February 18.**

Ash Wednesday Masses with ashes distribution will be at 8:00AM, 4:30PM, and 6:00PM.



Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

February 7—6:00PM—Lector: Anita Bazan

EM: Sharry Stipp, Mary Villarreal, Anita Bazan

Head Ushers: Pablo and Graciela Alanis

February 8—7:30AM—Lector: Rick Svetlik

EM: Laura Gwosdz, Jose Isais, Margie Svetlik

Head Ushers: Gerald Murray, Emmanuel Alejandro

11:00AM—Lector: Karol Kocurek

EM: Ernest Henderson, Maria Galvan-Gordon,
Diana DeAnda, Volunteer

Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Jose Ordonez

EM: Paulin Becerril, Joachin Ordonez

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:

**J.D. Beeson, 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**
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,



Last week Bishop Mario Avilés was formally installed as the Ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi, and he became our Ordinary – our bishop and successor to the Apostles for this Local Church the Diocese of Corpus Christi. These two ceremonies, Vespers on Tuesday evening and Mass of installation on Wednesday afternoon, were moving moments of the continuity of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith and brought me personal joy and a great feeling of unity and contentment.

During the Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Church said every day by Priests, Deacons, and Religious Communities, Archbishop Vasquez from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston received and witnessed the Solemn Profession of the Catholic Faith and the Oath of Fidelity from Bishop Avilés. In the presence of Bishop Vasquez, the gathering of other Bishops, the priests and the deacons of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Bishop Mario proclaimed the same Nicene Creed that we proclaim every Sunday during Mass and his solemn acceptance of the Church's Magisterial Tradition on all matters of the Catholic Faith as proclaimed by the Holy Father and the Councils of the Church. This was his proclamation that the Faith that he holds in his heart is the same One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith that we the Church have proclaimed for the last two millennia. This same Profession of Faith is proclaimed by every Priest before his ordination and again proclaimed before every Priest is installed as a Pastor of a Parish, as I did when Bishop Mulvey installed me as Pastor of St. John of the Cross Church here in Orange Grove, Texas. While simple, it is a profound moment that this new Shepherd of this Diocese of Corpus Christi is in direct continuation of the Catholic Faith and Teachings of Jesus as first held and proclaimed by the Apostles. What the Apostles and the Christians of the first Century proclaimed, and what we proclaim each Sunday, Bishop Mario Avilés also proclaimed in unity with the entire Catholic Church around the world. It is this unity as a community of faith that unites us in our One Holy Communion at every Mass. By this Solemn Profession of Faith, Bishop Avilés has proclaimed to be Our Good Shepherd and to lead us in that same Catholic Faith on our Journey to Heaven. It is that assurance that the Catholic Faith given to us by the Apostles that I have lived for these seventy years, and the Catholic Faith for which I have devoted my life as a Priest of the Catholic Church, will continue in unbroken succession from Jesus until now. Bishop Mario solemnly professed the same Catholic Faith that I profess and that I try to live out each day. Bishop Mario then made his Oath of Fidelity to the Holy Father, recognizing the fact that our Pope has appointed him as the Bishop of Corpus Christi, and that he is in unity with the worldwide College of Bishops and he has promised to be faithful to our Holy Father as the Vicar of Christ in the World and as the Head of the College of Bishops.

In the Mass of Installation, the actual "Papal Bull", the letter of appointment is called a "Bull" because of its lead seal, is read aloud to all those gathered in the Church. The Bull is then actually shown to the attending Bishops, to the Diocesan Consultors, and to the people in the Church so it can be verified as authentic and valid and having been issued by Pope Leo. Then Archbishop Vasquez questions Bishop Mario's willingness to accept the Mandate of the Holy Father. After Bishop Mario accepted the Mandate, he was led by two bishops, Archbishop Vasquez and Bishop Daniel Flores, to the "Cathedra", the Bishop's Chair of Authority as the head of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, and he is seated. By that action of sitting in the cathedra, he formally takes possession of the diocese and can be called the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. It is this being "installed in the chair" by the Mandate of the Holy Father that our Local Church (diocese) continues in unity with our Pope Leo, and the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith of the Church. And it is that simple action of sitting in the cathedra that my Profession of the Catholic Faith and by Oath of Fidelity and Obedience to my Ordinary, the Bishop of Corpus Christi, is reconfirmed. It felt to me as a day of renewal and recommitment to my Catholic Faith and to my Catholic Priesthood. What a wonderful feeling!

As Bishop Mario said repeatedly during his homily, "Pray for me your Bishop, that I may lead you to Christ and to Heaven". Let us pray for our new Bishop Avilés. Pray also for me, your Pastor!

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick

Deacon's Corner

Today's reading from Matthew starts the Sermon on the Mount, which is contained in chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the Gospel. This is the main message of Jesus for the New Testament. Study it, and meditate on it. Today's reading is about the Beatitudes, which talk to us about submission. You will notice from the first reading from Zephaniah, the very start of the 3rd verse: "Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth...seek justice, seek humility...." Then if you read the Psalm you will see what the Lord intends to do with the poor. This is the good news that was to be announced to the poor, *the crippled will walk, the blind will see*, etc. They are set free from the "curse" that the Scribes and Pharisees thought and taught, made them that way. *You're that way because you sinned*. Jesus comes to destroy that myth. Jesus shows us that submission and humility are attractive to God, and that those who are not "poor" (spiritually and materially) need to know submission. St. Paul picks that up on that in today's second readings where he says: "Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something...." Pretty strong language. So let's look at each verse of the Beatitudes closely and meditate on each one of them: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Poor in spirit" means submission. Notice that spirit is not capitalized. Spirit here means your soul your inner being, your attitudes, your values. Whatever gets in the way of a meaningful relationship with God and humanity must yield. "Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted." This means that we have crosses

to bear, and if we bear them courageously we will win salvation—known as salvific suffering. This means we don't complain, we don't condemn others, we don't blame others for our misfortunes. We put up with our suffering, our condition. Most of the time those who suffer the most are those who can't do anything about it—no resources, no cultural values, no means to remove themselves from their current situation, which usually means no financial ability or standing, no education or skill—in a word, the very poor. Guess what? That's the majority of the world! "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land." The "land" here, I think, means the promised land. For Matthew it means heaven. For the Jews and the Muslims, it means territory. For Americans and those of the First World it means real estate. What does it mean for you? Superiority is vulgar, inferiority is self-demeaning. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." I think vocations are what I think about with this beatitude. It means wanting to serve God and neighbor, a big theme for Matthew. No material thing can truly satisfy us. We are satisfied when we see people helping people; when we see people struggling and succeeding in spite of their short comings; when we see reconciliation with the Church and with each other. People who don't give up the fight, succeed. Satisfaction comes from not giving up the fight. Brothers and sisters in Christ, let's not ever give up the fight to be submissive to the Word of God in our lives. If we need to learn how to listen to God, then let's develop a habit of meditation on the Word. Everything we need to know is there. I'll cover the other Beatitudes next time.

God bless you.

Deacon Cavada



Stewardship of Treasure

Week #30	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
1/25/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (6,429.78)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,027.00	\$ (7,502.78)	\$ 63,000.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 12,603.30	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,344.81	\$ 12,748.11	\$ 36,000.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 9,989.19	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,271.66	\$ 10,860.85	\$ 42,000.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 16,162.71	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,643.47	\$ 16,106.18	\$ 141,000.00	\$ 157,106.18

Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign

Today's **SECOND** collection supports **the Our Living Church Building Fund**. Our capital campaign involves numerous necessary repairs to our parish buildings, including replacing the stucco on the church building, repairing the stained-glass windows in the church, replacing the electrical box outside our Religious Education Building, repaving the parking lot, replacing the roof on the parish hall, among others. One-half of any project must be raised before the project can be scheduled. Father stated in last week's letter that we have raised \$117,000 of our \$685,000 goal! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Your continued support is truly appreciated!

Parish Organizations



St. John of the Cross Lenten Fish Fry—Friday, February 20, 4:00PM—6:30PM
 \$12/plate—fish, fries, hush puppies, green beans, coleslaw, tartar sauce, and ketchup

DRIVE THRU ONLY WITH DELIVERY TO VEHICLE ONLY.

Tickets are on sale now! Find any member of a parish organization or contact the parish office.



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

Feb. 5-7— Paid Professional

Feb. 12-14—Ms. Belinda Ortiz, Mrs. Anna Perez, Mrs. Isabel Alanis, Mrs. Jennifer Hinojosa, Ms. San Juanita Mendoza

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

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

CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM

 Casa de Lucy Helping Hand Quilting Ministry sews Prayer Quilts for the terminally / critically ill persons needing prayers. Please contact the office if you know anyone in need of a quilt.

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.



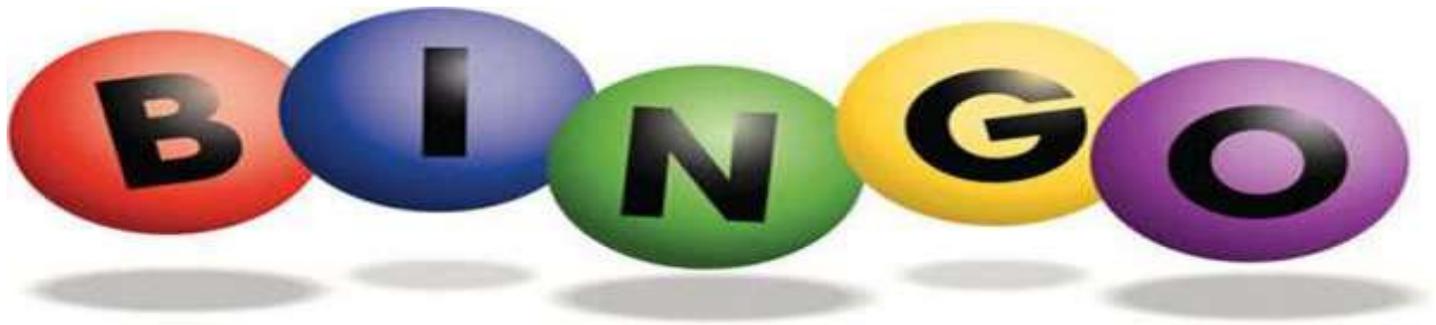
The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on on **Wednesday, February 11** and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, February 14.**



The HEB distribution scheduled for January 31 has been cancelled.



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 31.**



St. John of the Cross Catholic Church
200 S. Metz, Orange Grove, TX

ANNUAL GUADALUPANA SOCIETY
BINGO FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 15, 2026
Parish Hall

Doors open at 11:45am for Concession Stand.
BINGO starts at 12:45pm

Participate in our Sweets Auction & 50/50 Raffle

6 On Bingo Book: \$35.00 for 20 games
Plus FREE door prize ticket with book purchase

“Cash and Credit Cards accepted.”

Religious Education

Students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion: 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.



First Reconciliation: February 14 at 9AM in the church **FHC Masses:** Sunday, May 3 at 9AM and 2PM.



Students preparing for Confirmation: There will be a **MANDATORY** parent meeting on Saturday, February 21, at 9AM, in the church for parents and all students preparing to receive Confirmation. This includes those in the tenth grade class as well as all those in the sacramental prep classes.

Confirmation Mass: Wednesday, May 13, 6:00PM, at SJoC.

Community

St. Francis of Assisi Altar Society's Valentine's Day Dance, Saturday, February 14, 534 Mesquite Inn, 495 FM 534, Sandia, @ 8PM.



Music provided by Timothy Noel & the Smokin Guns. The live auction and 50/50 raffle will benefit St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Lagarto, Texas.

GIVE BLOOD, GET COOKIES! ~ The Coastal Bend Blood Mobile will be at St. John of the Cross on Sunday, February 22, from 8AM—1PM.



Appointments are recommend, but walk-ins are welcome. Call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 or visit their website or scan the QR code to sign up. Donors will receive a t-shirt and an Applebee's coupon and a box of Girl Scout cookies! While supplies last. Photo ID required.



Are you looking for a way to prepare for Easter Sunday? Are you searching for understanding of Jesus's love for us as he accepted his Passion and crucifixion? Would like to grow closer to Jesus this Lent?

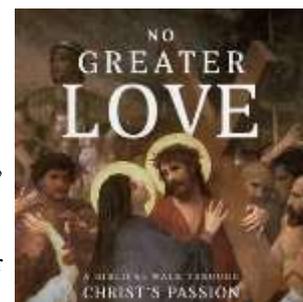
You are invited to participate in a walk through the last hours of Jesus Christ's life here on Earth. We will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historic context will shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

No Greater Love, a bible study from Ascension, offers a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

We will meet Tuesdays, from 6:15PM-7:30PM, in the parish hall starting the first Tuesday of Lent, February 24, through March 31.

Soft-back book and workbook—\$26.95 + tax (*not required to participate*)

Please let the parish office know if you plan to attend and if you'd like to have a book and workbook ordered for you.



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.



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.

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 coder to register.



Corpus Christi Catholic Network—Experience our new Local Catholic App! Take faith you wherever you go with the Corpus Christi Catholic Network (CCCN) app. This free app will feature original local Catholic programming, live events when they happen, and Mass every Sunday in English and Spanish for those who cannot attend in person. Available for download in your app store.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO

Registration is open until February 18, 2026! Sign up for this incredible experience of Our Lady and the Cristero Martyrs!

For more information, contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesecc.org.



Dear Padre,

I am struggling with our new pastor. He has been in our parish for less than six months, and nothing seems to please him. Everything has to change, and the parishioners have no input. I thought the days of “pray, pay, and obey” were over.

The *Code of Canon Law* identifies the pastor as the shepherd of the parish. His duties require him to teach, sanctify, and govern the people entrusted to his care. However, canon law also envisions that the pastor will engage in pastoral care “with the assistance of lay members of Christ’s faithful” (CCL 519).

The intention of the law is to encourage the building up of a community using the “knowledge, prudence, and integrity” of every member (CCL 228, §2). Many issues, feelings, and even theologies make up the personalities of a parish. The one constant that needs to be present is the presumption of goodwill. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2478). If that is missing, then conflict, hard feelings, and many misunderstandings will result.

Without taking sides, I suggest that everyone take a deep breath. Then each of you—the pastor included—ask yourself, “Have I attempted to interpret this person or situation favorably? Have I made any rash judgments?” If honest and prayerful reflection reveals less-than-good intentions, now is the time for an attitude change and to acknowledge that a new start is needed. ●

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



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8
<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Mal 3:1–4	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a,	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17	1 Kgs 2:1–4,	1 Kgs 2:1–4,	1 Kgs 3:4–13	Is 58:7–10
Heb 2:14–18	30–19:3	Mk 6:1–6	10–12	Sir 47:2–11	Mk 6:30–34	1 Cor 2:1–5
Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32	Mk 5:21–43		Mk 6:7–13	Mk 6:14–29		Mt 5:13–16



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The desire to work together for a common purpose reflects an essential reality: no one is Christian alone! We are part of a people, a body established by the Lord.... The Christian life is not lived in isolation.... It is lived with others, in a group and in community, because the risen Christ is present wherever disciples gather in his name.

ADDRESS, ROME, JUNE 6, 2025