



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 15:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 /

Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37



Good News!

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 15:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 / Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, "And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be" (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple "Yes" or "No"? Do you want to say, "Yes, but... I can't do it now." Or "I can't forgive this particular person." Or "I can't welcome this particular stranger." Or "I can't love him or her or them."

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●

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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.

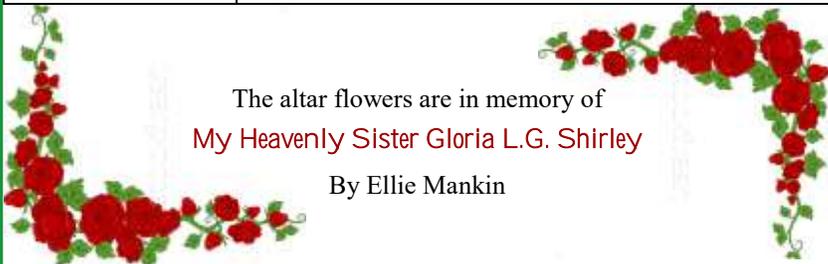
Worship, Prayer, & Ministries

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat.-14 <i>Sts. Cyril and Methodius</i>	6:00PM	† Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Dolores Borrego † Juan Molina (Birthday) / Souls in Purgatory by Liza Ochoa † Gloria L.G. Shirley (Heavenly birthday) by Ellie Mankin † Allen Wiechring by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
Sun.-15	7:30AM	† Marvin Gwosdz by His Family † Jack Robinson by Jana Robinson Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Leo Cueva by Danny & Gay Gonzalez
	6:00PM	† Jose Rosario Becerril, † Rafael Ordoñez, y Domingo Ordoñez por Maria Ordoñez Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-16	8:00AM	In Memory of † Gary and Janet Graham's 52nd Wedding Anniversary by Graham Family
Tues.-17	8:00AM	† Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family
Wed.-18 Ash Wednesday	8:00AM	For all those who have lost their faith
	4:30PM	† Baby Cassian Ronquillo and Riley DeArmas and the consolation of their Family by Silva Family
	6:00PM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
Thurs.-19	6:00PM	† Juanita Bazan (anniv.) by Bazan Family Liza Ochoa's Family and vocations by Liza Ochoa
	6:30PM	Adoracion
Fri.-20	8:00AM	<i>Mass is open and available.</i>
	6:00PM	Stations of the Cross—Spanish community

Masses for Feb. 21 & 22

Sat.-21	6:00PM	† Manuel Alejandro, † Ben Knolle, & † Jeffery Gwosdz by Saturday Morning Prayer Group † Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Jose F. Borrego † Alberto Hinojosa (birthday) by Bazan Family † Willie & † Doris Wilson by Jana Robinson
Sun.-22	7:30AM	† Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family
First Sunday of Lent	11:00AM	† Jose A. Gonzalez, Jr., (Heavenly birthday) by Anna Winterbottom † Elia Mendoza (1st anniv.) by Anna Winterbottom † George C. Rios by Jesus Rios
	6:00PM	Familias de la parroquia



2025 Tax statements Church Donation Records ~

If you would like a statement of your church donations during 2025 for tax filing, please call the Parish Office.

To save paper and postage, statements will only be provided upon request.



Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule

February 21—6:00PM—Lector: Anita Bazan
EM: San Juanita Gaza, Sharry Stipp, Liza Ochoa
Head Ushers: Carlos Alanis, Raquel S. Jimenez

February 22—7:30AM—Lector: Lucille Klaevemann
EM: Margie Svetlik, Maria Miller, Luz Paiz
Head Usher: Gerald Murray

6:00PM—Lector: 6th grade
EM: Maria Galvan-Gordon, Jeri Alaniz,
Don and Kim Rokohl
Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Gabriela Becerrill
EM: Mariela Ordonez, 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:

Baby Emelia, Brooke Aleman del Cristo, J.D. Beeson, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes, Angelica Frees, Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, Oscar Ortiz, Jr., Oscar Ortiz Sr., 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



Caseworkers and cook needed at the Ark Assessment Center and Emergency Shelter for Youth.

The Ark, a 24-hour facility, has full-time job opening for caseworkers (daytime and graveyard shifts) and a cook.



To apply, take your driver's license and Social Security card to The Ark, 12960 Leopard Street in Calallen or call (361) 241-6566. Equal Opportunity Employer.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This last week was very refreshing, and I was able to relax a little before the busy season of Lent begins on this Wednesday! I hope that you used this last week to reflect on what your Lenten Promises are going to be – what you are going to sacrifice or give up during Lent AND what you are going to add to deepen your spiritual life as you prepare for Easter Sunday. If you have not made that decision, you have four more days to reflect and make that promise to renew your spiritual relationship with Jesus. Our decision to follow Christ is not a one-time moment in our lives, but a daily renewal. Think of a marriage relationship. After the one-day celebration of the wedding, there is the daily renewal of love and commitment between the spouses. The same should be happening in your relationship with God and Jesus. Lent should not be a time of pain or endurance, but a time of joyful preparation for Holy Week and the Easter Resurrection of Jesus.



One of the most common “complaints or concerns” by parishioners over the last century is “the pastor is always asking for money.” I have tried hard to restrict those direct appeals to the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal each February and the occasional ask for increased support to the parish. Over the last few months, there has been an extensive list of requests for help for parish organization fundraisers, thanksgiving baskets, socks for the nursing homes, and the Christmas Angel Tree for the children, among others. The response to each of these requests for the needy and poor of our community has exceeded the expectations for which I want to say, “THANK YOU!” The following is an update on the Capital Campaign.

The “Our Living Church Capital Campaign Building Fund” is going well. Since our kickoff in September, we have collected \$131,000.00 in funds toward the renovations for the parish. The total for the whole campaign is \$665,000.00. The first part of the construction/repair projects of the campaign are the exterior stucco of the Parish church and the repair to the stained-glass windows of the church. Because of the physical interaction between the window framing and the stucco walls, these two projects need to be simultaneously finished at the same time. The estimated cost for these two projects is \$365,000.00. To execute contracts and begin the actual repairs to the parish must have a minimum of one-half of the total cost in cash in the restricted fund account. Therefore, we must receive and have deposited to the diocesan D&L Capital Campaign account the first threshold amount goal of at least \$185,000.00. All the profits from the Fish Fry this Friday goes to support the Living Church Campaign. If the donations stay constant, we will have the required funds by MAY/JUNE. Thank you to all who have made a pledge and have been fulfilling their pledges. Please continue your support for your parish church. For those that might have not yet made a pledge to the “Our Living Church Capital Campaign” there are commitment / pledge forms in the foyer and in the end of the pews. Remember this campaign is for the restoration and future stability of our building and the future of our parish community. Any additional pledges and donations will get us to that threshold amount sooner. If you are aware of anyone, parishioner or former parishioner or friend of St. John of the Cross Parish, please let me or a member of the Campaign Committee know and we will try to approach them for a donation or commitment. This is a parish wide project for all parishioners to participate and to fulfill as part of their parish commitment. Let us keep the momentum going and reach that threshold amount.

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Deacon's Corner

This is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time we wear green vestments. Green is a sign of Hope. We have 33 weeks of Ordinary Time, 4 weeks of Advent, 2 weeks of Christmas, 4 weeks of Lent, except for Palm Sunday and Good Friday (Red vestments), 8 weeks of Easter, and then Pentecost. That's 34 plus 18, for 52 weeks. In Advent and Lent we wear Purple vestments and in Christmas and Easter, White. White means life, Resurrection, purity. Red is for martyrdom. Purple is for lamentation. There is much about liturgy that has been written. If you're interested look up on the internet the meaning of the vestments for Catholics. Today's readings are from Sirach 15:15-20; the response is from Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, and the Gospel is from the first chapter of the Sermon on the Mount, Chapter 5 of Matthew, verses 17-37. There are only 11 more verses in Chapter Five where the Lord talks about retaliation and love of enemies. So chapter 5 is the most important of the messages in the New Testament because in it Jesus talks about adultery and divorce, the two scourges of our Rome. The reading from Sirach talks about the voluntary adhesion or submission to the presence of the Lord Jesus in our lives. The Lord does not force himself upon us, and our rejection of him, and we must understand that "(n)o one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin." The Responsorial is Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible. It has 176 verses! I invite you to read it slowly, and see how many variations of the

wonders of the Law the psalmist wrote about. In the Second Reading St. Paul writes about the revelation of the Holy Spirit in a beautiful way. It is submission to the presence of the Spirit in us that reveals to us the essence of God, which are love and goodness and mercy. Submission requires an invitation, both from God to us, and from us to God. Finally in Chapter 5 of Matthew, the Lord talks about the most important aspects of the law, the Spirit of the Law, rather than the Letter of the Law. I think I only have space to write about one aspect of the Law. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna." The Fifth Commandment forbids killing the body, the Lord includes the killing of the Spirit in that commandment. This can be shown in anger, oppression (*raqa*), insults, and the killing of the Spirit by belittling, constant criticism, hatred and intolerance. The insinuation is that the *Law* permitted all that, but the concept of love did not. So Jesus proposes that we should love our neighbor and even our enemies, don't get angry, don't judge anyone, don't create division, don't insult anyone, don't belittle anyone. This is the main message of the Sermon on the Mount, and of the New Testament my dear brothers and sister. God loves us, and we should return his love by demonstrating that we love everyone. No one is excluded.
Deacon Cavada



Stewardship of Treasure

Week #32	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
2/8/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (7,582.78)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,922.00	\$ (6,760.78)	\$ 67,200.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 13,753.11	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,059.00	\$ 14,612.11	\$ 38,400.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 8,978.51	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,526.66	\$ 10,105.17	\$ 44,800.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 15,148.84	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 7,507.66	\$ 17,956.50	\$ 150,400.00	\$ 168,356.50



To access the St. John of the Cross online giving portal, scan the QR code.
As always, feel free to contact the parish office if you need any assistance with setting up your online giving.



Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 2, 2026 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 23 @ 6PM

Monthly processional - March 1 - Kathleen Garza



ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

Feb. 19-21— Ms. Diane McBride, Mrs. Jolene Hackfeld, Mrs. Kate Klatt, Mrs. Dianna Winstead

Feb. 26-28—Mrs. Pam Herschap, Mrs. Dolly Grimes, Mrs. Mary Lou Jackson, Mrs. Melissa Acosta, Mrs. Christina Chapa

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: MARCH 3, 2026

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

CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS @ 9AM



Case 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.

They recently completed 3 quilts in January.

Their current project is 35—40 36X36 square quilts for patients at Driscoll Children's Hospital.

Religious Education

Students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion: 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 II class. **Confirmation Mass:** Wednesday, May 13, 6:00PM, at SJoC.



Works of Mercy

Loom Knitting ~ Parishioners are invited to meet in the parish hall on Mondays 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 25 and at St. Francis on Saturday, March 14.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at St. John of the Cross on Thursday, March 5, and at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, February 28.



Upcoming Parish Events

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.

All proceeds raised will go to Our Living Church Building Fund Capital Campaign.



**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”



**SJoC Altar Society's
Silent Auction &
Vendors' Arts/Crafts Fair**

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

There will be unique gifts and crafts.

If you have items to donate to the Silent Auction
or are interested in selling your crafts, candles,
jewelry, snacks, pastries, snow cones, roasted corn, etc.

Please contact the Parish Office. (\$10.00/booth)



Lent

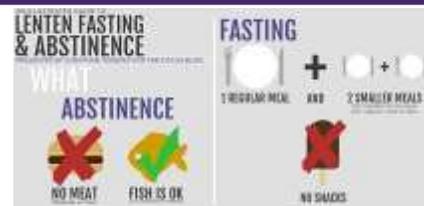
Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

Though Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are not holy days of obligation, fasting is required. Those ages 18-59 should limit themselves to no more than one meal that day.

Abstinence on Fridays during Lent

Those ages 14+ are required to abstain from eating meat every Friday during Lent.



Parish organizations will lead the **Stations of the Cross at 6PM on Fridays** during Lent.

February 20—Spanish community
February 27—Religious Ed students/ volunteers
March 6—Soc. Guadalupanas

March 13—Knights of Columbus
March 20—Altar Society
March 27—Casa de Lucy

40 CANS FOR LENT FOOD DRIVE ~ Almsgiving is one of the pillars of Lent. Please support our “40 Cans for Lent” food drive to stock our St. John of the Cross Food Pantry. All nonperishable items may be placed in the wicker baskets in the church foyer or brought to the parish office beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." (Matthew 25:35-40)



Community

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.

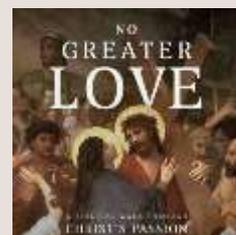


Call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 or visit their website or scan the QR code to sign up. Donors will receive a t-shirt and an Applebee's coupon and a box of Girl Scout cookies! While supplies last. Photo ID required.



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 you 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. **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.

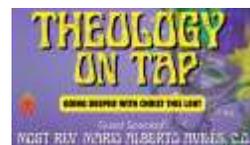


We will meet Tuesdays, from 6:15PM-7:30PM, in the parish hall starting the first Tuesday of Lent, February 24, through March 31. Soft-back book and workbook—\$26.95 + tax (*not required to participate*)

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

JOIN US FOR THEOLOGY ON TAP ~ All young adults (18-39) are invited to **Theology on Tap** with **Bishop Mario Avilés!** Our topic: Going Deeper with Christ this Lent and Beyond. It will happen on Mardi Gras, Tuesday, February 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Sal's Bronx Pizza, located at 5922 Yorktown Blvd.



Please RSVP by Monday, February 16th to the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesecc.org or to Young Catholic Adults of CC: ycacctx@gmail.com.

Texas Education Freedom Account~ Application portal opens February 4 and closes on March 17.

Education Freedom Accounts uphold our belief that parents are best positioned to choose the school that is right for their child—not their ZIP code. Whether your child is thriving where they are or you are exploring new educational possibilities, EFAs are designed to expand options and open doors for families across Texas.

Applications submitted between February 4 and March 17 will be treated equally, allowing families time to prepare and apply thoughtfully.

To support families through this process, Catholic schools across the Diocese will host EFA Application Stations on campus over the next few weeks, aiding parents with the application and required documentation.



Learn more at www.DIOCESECC.ORG/ESA or scan the QR code

Annual 5-day On-air KLUX Campaign Fundraiser ~ Monday, February 23 through Friday, February 27, with three segments each day.

Volunteers are needed in all segments.

To volunteer or get more information, contact Irene Menchaca via email at imenchaca@GoCCN.org or call her at 361-289-6437.



Dear Padre,

My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (*Code of Canon Law*, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents" (CCL 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●



Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of

mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Monday

February 16
Weekday

Jas 1:1-11
Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

February 17
Weekday

Jas 1:12-18
Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

February 18
Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

February 19
Thursday after

Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15-20

Lk 9:22-25

Friday

February 20
Friday after

Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1-9a

Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

February 21
Saturday after

Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b-14

Lk 5:27-32

Sunday

February 22
First Sunday

of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Rom 5:12-19 or
5:12, 17-19

Mt 4:1-11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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