



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (A)



Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Peter 1:3-9 / John 20:19-31

Good News!

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (A)

Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Peter 1:3-9 / John 20:19-31

ANN M. GARRIDO

We can readily understand Thomas' insistence upon seeing things with his own eyes. Would *you* believe it if someone told *you* that a friend whose funeral you had attended was now walking through walls?

At some time or other, all of us have been tricked into believing something we later found out was untrue and remember how foolish we felt. Haven't our parents told us not to believe everything we hear? Haven't our teachers taught us to do our own research? Doubt serves a valuable purpose, and we would be naïve to disregard it.

At the same time, we know that doubt can become a way of life, overstepping its usefulness. During the COVID pandemic, for example, some refused to believe even the most knowledgeable medical voices in the nation. Like Thomas, they insisted that unless they'd "done their own research," they wouldn't believe. Such a stance ignores that unless you are a scientist working in a medical lab, even "your own research" will be based on an act of belief that what you are reading of others' research is correct. Doubt is good, but only in combination with a healthy dose of humility. In the end, the world turns on an axis of trust.

At the close of today's gospel, Jesus names as "blessed" those able to discern what is true and believe not only because of what they have seen with their own eyes but also because of what they have heard through their ears from sources worthy of their trust. ●

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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.-11	6:00PM	† James & † Jeffrey Gwosdz by Their Family † Steve Meehan by Mike & Marion Donohoe † Jim Van Blarcum by Estella Cortinas Miranda Medrano—Birthday Blessings by Family
Sun.-12	7:30AM	† Spencer Dorsey by Christy Meehan Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association
	11:00AM	† Joyce Wostal Dickey by Her Loving sister, Martha McCloskey † Guadalupe Gutierrez by Janie Beltran Mary Grace Dorsey (Special Intention) by Christy Meehan
	6:00PM	† Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, † Clemencia Gomez por Familia Gomez Martinez Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-13	8:00AM	† O. O. Wiswell (AoD) by Family The healing, the health, and the recovery of Aimee Miers by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
Tues.-14	8:00AM	† Sara Galvan (Heavenly birthday) by Gloria Pena & Family The healing, the health, and the recovery of Aimee Miers by Michael & Sharon Bartosch For couples struggling to have children
Thurs.-16	6:00PM	† Tia Paco (3 años) por Anita Bazan
	6:30PM	† Maria Ortiz—Cumpleaños celestial por Ed Ortiz Adoración
Fri.-17	8:00AM	† Marco Pena, Sr., (Heavenly birthday) by Gloria Pena and Family In memory of † Adolph & † Olive Skrobarczyk's Wedding Anniversary by Graham Family The healing, the health, and the recovery of Aimee Miers by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Sanctity of family life

Masses for April 18 & 19

Sat.-18	6:00PM	† Kathleen Delaney by Family † Uvaldo Pena, Jr., (Heavenly birthday) by Romanos Family † Jim Van Blarcum by Barbara Burnett
Sun.-19	7:30AM	† Irene T. Castaneda by Diane McBride & Family † Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Jerry Cross by His Loving Family † Steve Meehan by Kerrie Meehan Sheppard
	6:00PM	† Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, † Clemencia Gomez por Familia Gomez Martinez Las familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is offered for
Liza Ochoa's Family and vocations
by Liza Ochoa



2025 Tax statements Church Donation Records ~
If you would like a statement of your 2025 donations 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

April 18—6:00PM—Lector: Don Rokohl
EM: Sharry Stipp, Kim Rokohl, San Juanita Gaza
Head Usher: Pablo and Graciela Alaniz

April 19—7:30AM—Lector: Rick Svetlik
EM: Margie Svetlik, Laura Gwosdz, Jose Isais
Head Usher: Gerald Murray, Emanuel Alejandro

11:0AM—Lector: Karol Kocurek
EM: Ernest Henderson, Maria Galvan-Gordon,
Diana DeAnda, Volunteer
Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Albina Resendiz
EM: Paulin Becerril, Joachin Ordenez
Head Usher: Angel Isais



We are in need of more lectors, eucharistic
ministrers, 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:

Rosa Arevalo, Beatrice Barron, Diana Cantu,
Karen Elyasevich, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes,
Angelica Frees, Cindy Lopez, Antonio Medrano, and
Oscar Ortiz, Jr., Eva Soliz, Daniel & Marjorie Stehling,
James and Janice Wostal



*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 and Ricki Rodriquez Choat



Praying for our Military

**We remember these service personnel in each
'Mass for the Families of the Parish'**

Air Force: Vincent Gordon, 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.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Happy Easter!

Yes, Happy Easter! Lent goes for forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Officially the Easter Season goes on for fifty days from Easter Sunday (April 5th) until Ascension Thursday (May 24th). It is the celebrating the fifty days from Jesus' resurrection until He ascends back to heaven to the right hand of the Father. Most Christian Churches also have added the ten days from Ascension Thursday to Pentecost Sunday with the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, the Apostles, and the Disciples in the "Upper Room" where the Last Supper was celebrated. Pentecost Sunday is often referred to as the "birthday" of the Catholic Church, as it was the first day of Simon Peter's powerful Spirit-filled preaching about the Risen Christ that "some 3,000" (Acts 2:41) new disciples were baptized on that very day.



In our St. John of the Cross Church, eight persons were fully initiated into the Catholic Church on the Easter Vigil through Baptism, Confirmation, and their First Holy Communion. There was also an additional Confirmation and first Holy Communion for family members of the neophytes (newly baptized).

The Easter Season actually has more significance as it was the time that Jesus after His resurrection continued to meet and give further instructions to the Apostles and disciples.

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Acts 28:18-20)

This special time is called the "Mystagogia" - the time of the "Mysteries of the Christian Life" were explained and lived for the very first time. The Baptism Sponsors (and Confirmation Sponsors) in the first century and even in today's times were through the forty days of Lent were instructing and preparing their candidates to understand and be prepared for their Baptismal Promises. These Sponsors are actually at the celebration of these sacraments to walk with and to assist their candidate as they went through the ceremonies. The candidates are often so overwhelmed by the complexity of the ceremony with the actions, the questions, their responses, that the sponsor is right next to them to whisper to them the proper responses and to help them perform the movements and actions of the ceremony. The best modern-day image is the Maid/Matron of Honor and the Best Man at a wedding when the Bride and Groom are so excited and emotional that their minds often go blank as they try to remember all of the details of a ceremony that they have never experienced. For an example, think of them fixing the dress or the veil, holding the rings, holding the bridal bouquet, and such.

At the Baptism, adult or child, the candidate goes through the sacramental ceremony leaving their old way of life and now starting their new life as a Christian and follower of the Jesus Christ. But how does a neophyte Christian live in a new lifestyle that they have never yet lived or experienced? And this is the real time of the role of the Baptismal and Confirmation Sponsors! The Sponsor has guided them and instructed them on the "new way of life", but now the Sponsor helps them to understand and live the "new life" as a Christian, spending the next fifty days like Jesus did with the Apostles after the Resurrection until His Ascension, giving them the final instructions as their embark on this new journey of life.

This is the deepest understanding of a Sacramental Sponsor, not to just be there for the ceremony or just to purchase any needed items/gifts, but to continually help them to learn and grow as a follower of Christ for the rest of their lives! The newly baptized (neophytes) have just gone through the Mystery, and now it is their time to learn and understand the Mysteries and "how to live them" on a daily basis and to create those new good habits of Faith – daily prayers, attendance at Mass and Holy Days, and many of the sacramentals (spiritual exercises and practices that support the Catholic Life i.e. rosary, crucifixes, devotional novenas, etc.). This is the life-long spiritual commitment made by the Sacramental Sponsor – to continue to lead and support their neophyte for the rest of their lives until they meet the Lord Jesus at the pearly gates of Heaven. Just as a newly married couple has a "honeymoon" (the first month from their wedding date until the first full moon following their marriage) living and experiencing their new life together, the newly Baptized have the fifty days of living and experiencing their new life as Christians which we call the Mystagogia! If you are a Sacramental Sponsor for someone, how are you doing in that life-long spiritual commitment?

So, let us continue to pray for these new Sisters and Brothers in Christ as they begin their new journey with Christ. We need also to pray for their Sacramental Sponsors to be good and helpful examples to their neophyte Brother or Sister in Christ!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick



Congratulations to the candidates who were fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Deacon's Corner

This is the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday. I think it was Pope St. John Paul II who instituted this celebration in honor of St. Faustina, who has become in the modern church, the greatest influence about how we see God, which is as a merciful father rather than a vengeful God. For a long time, we were threatened with God's wrath if we didn't behave. Slowly as the years passed and after Vatican II, we learned that God was tender and compassionate, and we realized Jesus represented those qualities, and since he is also God, we looked backward (at the Old Testament mostly), and we decided to re-evaluate our understanding of the Lord, as a loving, caring, compassionate God. We began to see that God loves everybody, including our enemies, and that all through the Bible, there are clues about how God feels about the poor. And in the New Testament, Jesus makes that very clear. The readings for today are from Acts 2:42-47; [Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24](#); [1 Peter 1:3-9](#); [John 20:19-31](#). Notice that the First and Second Readings are both from the New Testament. This is to emphasize the post-Resurrection Church. It is a history by Luke of the type of religion that would kind of compete with Judaism. I got this quote from the Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles, New American Bible, St. Joseph Confirmation Edition: "By stressing the continuity between Judaism and Christianity, Luke argues that Christianity is deserving of the same toleration accorded Judaism by Rome. Part of Paul's defense before Roman authorities is to show that Christianity is not a disturber of the peace of the Roman Empire. Luke tells his story with the hope that Christianity will be treated as fairly." The first Christians were Jews, but as Christianity spread to non-Jews, the Jews being dispersed began to distrust the preaching of Paul and Peter, since both included Gentiles, and they stopped becoming Christians. This is what the Introduction says: "Fear on the part of the Jewish people that Christianity, particularly as

preached to the Gentiles, threatened their own cultural heritage caused them to be suspicious of Paul's gospel. The inability of Christian missionaries to allay this apprehension inevitably created a situation in which the gospel was preached more and more to the Gentiles." As you read the first and the second readings during the next 50 days, see if you can see this theme come through—that the Church is growing more and more, and that everyone is included regardless of class or race or status or nationality. One of the marks of the Church is universality. Just look on YouTube and tune in to a Mass at the Vatican with Pope Leo, and you will see thousands of "Gentiles." You will see an American pope speaking perfect Italian, Spanish, English and Latin (and who knows how many other languages). From *Aleteia*, an internet news agency, it is reported that after the Easter blessing, the pope "began to greet the crowd in multiple languages, moving gently from one to another, 10 in total, and with each new language came a shift in the Square itself, as applause broke out, not out of politeness, but out of recognition. People were not simply listening anymore; they were being addressed." Use these next 50 days evaluating the Mass readings and look for these issues, universality, commonality, the importance of community, the basic message of the Apostles that God became a human being in Jesus Christ, that he died for our sins, that he rose from the dead, that he sent his Holy Spirit, and that they and we are his witnesses. Have a great Easter season. I particularly liked the last part of today's second reading: "Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

Happy Easter! Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #40	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
4/5/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (7,292.88)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,378.00	\$ (7,014.88)	\$ 84,000.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 17,351.44	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,570.48	\$ 19,721.92	\$ 48,000.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 12,523.44	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (39.09)	\$ 11,084.35	\$ 56,000.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 22,582.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,909.39	\$ 23,791.39	\$ 188,000.00	\$ 211,791.39



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: APRIL 13, 2026 @ 6PM

St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association

St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association—If you have family buried at the St. John Cemetery or you own plots at the cemetery, please pick up a form in the church foyer to update your contact information. The Cemetery Association is working to update their records. Please return the completed forms to the parish office or place them in the collection box.

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 27 @ 6PM

Monthly processional - May 3 - Mary Villarreal



ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

April 16—18—Ms. Kathleen Garza, Ms. Priscilla Charo, Mrs. Mary Cantu, Ms. Maritza Cantu, Mrs. Terrie Silva
 April 23-25— Mrs. Luz Paiz, Mrs. Emily Hicks, Mrs. Monica Charo, Ms. Rebecca Cavazos

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 20 @ 6PM



Hostess grp # 3: Nora Romanos

Corporate Mass—April 19 @ 7:30AM

Rosary at 7:00AM

Leader: Jana Robinson Offertory: Jeri Alaniz, Jolene Hackfeld, & Diane McBride

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by Frances Matheny & Maria Beltran

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335

NEXT MEETING: MAY 5, 2026

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.

Religious Education

First Holy Communion Masses: Sunday, May 3, at 9AM and 2PM

Practice and third reconciliation Saturday, May 2, at 9AM.

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

Practice: Wed., May 6, at 6PM.

Our Sacramental prayer partners are asked to return their crosses and/or rosaries to the parish office by April 23.



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 Wednesday, April 22 and at St. Francis on Saturday, May 9.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at St. John of the Cross on Thursday, May 7 and at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, April 25.



Upcoming Parish Event



BBQ 1/2 Chicken plate fundraiser

Sunday, April 26, 11:00AM—1:00PM

Plates are \$12 and come with pinto beans and potato salad.

Tickets are on sale now!

Get yours from a Knight today!

DRIVE THRU with delivery to vehicle ONLY.



Community

The Coastal Bend Blood Center will be at St. John of the Cross on **Sunday, April 19, from 8AM—1PM.**

Spring into action. Donate Blood.



Appointments are recommended and walk-ins are welcome. Scan the QR code or call the Blood Center at 361-855-4943 to schedule your life-saving appointment.

Donors will receive a Fishing for Donors t-shirt and a Longhorn Steakhouse coupon. While supplies last.



Senior Corner-

The **St. John of the Cross Joint and the Knights of Columbus Scholarships** are now available in the church foyer, the parish office and the high school counselor's office.

The KC Scholarship deadline is Thursday, April 30, and the Joint Scholarship deadline is Monday, May 4.

Graduation Mass—Sunday, May 17, at 11AM.

Please let the parish office know if your graduating senior will participate.



Liturgy & Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request – please call the office. Any person who is sick (either homebound or in the hospital) or about to have surgery, is encouraged to receive Anointing of the Sick. As current Federal Law prohibits hospitals from the release of any patient's name. Father will not know you are in the hospital unless you call the office.

Baptisms of Infants: (0 to 5 yrs.): Please bring the child's civil birth certificate to the parish office to register the child, their parents & the Godparents for the one-hour Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class. Godparents must be able to provide Certificates for Catholic Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation, & if married, Marriage Certificate in the Catholic Church. Donation for the class and Baptism is \$30.00, for the class only is \$15.00. Date & time for the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Baptismal Class.

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confessions) is available on Thursday from 5:30 PM—6:00 PM and on Saturdays from 5:00 PM—5:30 PM and at any time by appointment with the Priest.

Quinceañeras: The honoree and their family must be registered and participating in the parish for two years prior to the year of the Quinceañera (or Quinceañero). The young person must have Baptism & Communion in the Catholic Church, & be attending the parish Religious Education Program. The family is strongly encouraged to contact the Church for **2 years** before the intended date.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made with the priest or deacon, preferably one year before the intended date, (minimum of six months in advance) to complete the necessary requirements. At least one person must be an active and registered member of this parish. No wedding date is guaranteed until ALL diocesan requirements have been fulfilled.

Blessing of Civil Marriages – If you were married before a judge, or a non-Catholic minister, and wish to be readmitted to Holy Communion, there needs to be a Blessing of your Civil Marriage. Please call the parish office and set up an appointment with Father Patrick so he can hear your particular situation and can guide you through the process. Father Patrick is always saying “Don't wait! Start the process NOW!”

Diocesan News

DIOCESAN UNVEILED MARRIAGE PREPARATION RETREATS 2026 ~ The next retreat will take place **April 25–26, 2026**, with a registration deadline of **April 13**.

The Unveiled Marriage Preparation Retreat is a two-day, overnight experience designed to help engaged couples grow together in faith, understanding, and love as they prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Through guided reflection, practical teaching, and meaningful couple dialogue, participants are invited to explore both the spiritual depth and daily realities of Catholic married life.



Couples may register by scanning the QR code

2026 Unveiled Marriage Preparation Retreat dates: April 25th & 26th, August 1st & 2nd, September 12th & 13th, October 17th & 18th



The **Andrew Dinner** will be at St. Pius X Catholic Church on **Thursday, April 16**, at 6:00 p.m.

The Andrew Dinner is an opportunity for young men earnestly seeking God's will in their lives to share a meal and an evening of fraternity with Bishop Avilés and some of the priests of the diocese.

The witness of priests in communion with the bishop is a powerful experience for those who feel they may be called to this life. Young men interested in attending are asked to speak with their pastor.

Please RSVP to Father James Vasquez in the Office of Vocations at jvasquez@diocesec.org or call (361) 882-6191 ext. 604.

Let's Brighten Our Community service retreat for high school teens will happen on **Saturday, April 18**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Saint Patrick Church, located at 3350 South Alameda in Corpus Christi.

This will be a fun opportunity to gather in faith and fellowship. Register at <https://diocesec.org/lboc>



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES ~ Bishop Mario A. Avilés, C.O. is hosting a fun celebration for our graduates on **Sunday, April 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

It will be a gathering filled with food, games, music, and more. Students will have an opportunity to meet fellow graduates and learn more about the Newman Centers and other Catholic groups to help them continue their faith journey after graduation.

There is no cost to attend. **RSVP by April 13th**. Spots are limited.



The Inaugural Corpus Christi Cathedral Gala a Family Reunion with Special Guest Speaker

The Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores Bishop of Brownsville

Friday, May 22, 2026, 7:00PM, at
the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel.

Tickets and more information at cathedralgala.com



High School Leadership Retreat ~ Applications are now available for the upcoming High School Diocesan Leadership program and retreat. The retreat will be on **June 8th and 9th** at Our Lady of Corpus Christi.

The cost is \$30 per person.

Apply at <https://form.jotform.com/communicationsdofcc/leadership-liability>



SAVE THE DATE ~ CAMP ROOTED, Diocesan camp, will be held **July 9th through July 11th** at the Spirit Center.

The cost to participate is \$75. Registration details are coming soon.

This will be an amazing experience and parish youth leaders are encouraged to bring their groups of teens to be a part of this gathering that will focus on leadership, fellowship, and faith.

Flocknote

Social Media

Live Streaming

Keep in touch with us via email & text!

Text **SJCOG** to **84576**

Or Connect with us online at:
www.stjohnog.flocknote.com



Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
Stjohnogtx](http://www.facebook.com/Stjohnogtx)

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHEDRAL:

**Sunday 9:30AM (ENG)
and 11:00 AM (SPA)**

Available at: KDF-TV Ch 47 (9:30AM only),
KLUX 89.5HD, or Diocese of CC Website

Dear Padre,

We are told that when we receive the Holy Eucharist, our venial sins are washed away. Does the same thing happen when we receive spiritual communion?

Yes, and there are many other ways that venial sins can be forgiven. First and foremost is each of the sacraments of reconciliation: baptism, Eucharist, penance, and anointing of the sick. In addition to the sacraments, an Act of Contrition will also suffice, as will a simple prayer of intercession, such as, "Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Forgiveness of venial sins is directly dependent on one thing: the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit at work in our world and in each one of us. Forgiveness is not merited; it is a gift, and, as a gift, it requires only that we ask and gratefully receive.

It is true that we are all sinful. We are also all blessed. As wonderful as forgiveness is, and there truly is no greater gift of God's love, an equally wonderful gift is gratitude. Perhaps, with every Act of Contrition that we pray, we should also offer a prayer of thanksgiving. It might help us find balance if we remind ourselves not only how we may not have measured up but also that we are blessed and graced. ●

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



MONSIEUR PRODUCTION / PEXELS

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



ALESSIA PERDOMENICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Lord shows us his wounds and says: Peace be with you. Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us,

too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, OCTOBER 1, 2025

Monday

April 13
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:23–31
Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday

April 14
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:32–37
Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday

April 15
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:17–26
Jn 3:16–21

Thursday

April 16
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:27–33
Jn 3:31–36

Friday

April 17
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:34–42
Jn 6:1–15

Saturday

April 18
Easter Weekday
Acts 6:1–7
Jn 6:16–21

Sunday

April 19
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22–33
1 Pt 1:17–21
Lk 24:13–35

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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