



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord (A)

Acts 1:1-11 / Ephesians 1:17-23 / Matthew 28:16-20



Good News!

May 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord (A)

Acts 1:1-11 / Ephesians 1:17-23 / Matthew 28:16-20

MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●

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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

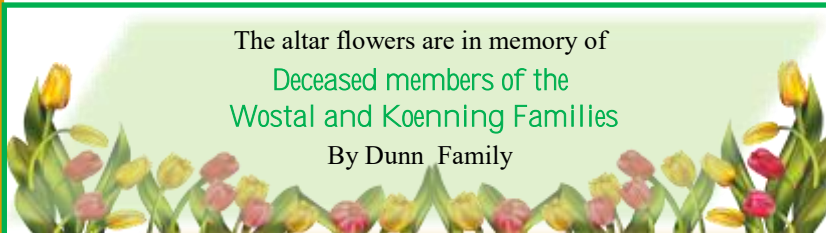
MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| Sat.-16 | 6:00PM | † Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Dalia & Carolina Borrego † Steve Meehan by Christy Meehan Original Members of the Saturday Morning Prayer Grp by Saturday Morning Prayer Group Birthday blessings for Kit Silva by Dad & Mom |
| Sun.-17 | 7:30AM | † Tino & † Eva Mendoza by Mary & Joe Ortiz † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas |
| | 11:00AM | † Father Maria Susai by Anita Bazan 2026 Graduates Momo Ortiz's family & Family of Liza Ochoa by Liza Ochoa |
| | 6:00PM | † Jose Rosario Becerril (2 ann.) por Maria Ordoñez Las familias de la parroquia |
| Mon.-18 | 8:00AM | † Enriqueta Puente by Her Loving Family |
| Tues.-19 | 8:00AM | † Ray Garza (birthday) by Bazan Family |
| Thurs.-21 | 6:00PM | La misa está abierta y disponible. |
| St. Christopher | 6:30PM | Adoración |
| Magallanes | | |
| Fri.- 22 | 8:00AM | Those suffering from depression |
| St. Rita of Cascia | | |

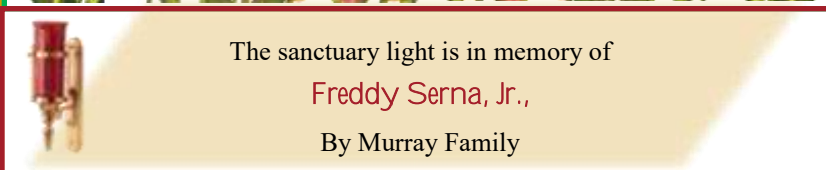
Masses for May 30 & 31

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| Sat.-23 | 6:00PM | † David Gaza by Nephews: Jose & Armando Borrego † James & † Jeffrey Gwosdz by Their Family Liza Ochoa family & vocations by Liza Ochoa Congratulations to Jayson Matthew Rodrigues, class of 2026, May God guide you with blessings by Raquel S. Jimenez & Family |
| Sun.-24 | 7:30AM | † Damien Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia † Modesto, † Hector, and † Noel Ortiz by Joe & Mary Ortiz |
| | 11:00AM | † Diana Acuna (Heavenly birthday) by Her Loving Husband and Family † Robert Rivera by Janie Beltran |
| | 6:00PM | † Humberto Reyes y † Jose Alvares por Familia Familias de la parroquia |

The altar flowers are in memory of
Deceased members of the
Wostal and Koening Families
By Dunn Family



The sanctuary light is in memory of
Freddy Serna, Jr.,
By Murray Family



The parish office will be closed on Monday, May 25,
in observance of Memorial Day. The office will resume
regular hours on Tuesday, May 26, at 8:30AM.



Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



May 23—6:00PM—Lector: Raquel S. Jimenez
EM: Luis and Nora Romanos, Anita Bazan
Head Usher: Carlos Alaniz

May 24—7:30AM—Lector: Ed Ortiz
EM: Laura Gwosdz, Jose Isais, Margie Svetlik
Head Usher: Bart and Maria Miller

11:00AM—Lector: Dee DeLeon
EM: Jeri Alaniz, Diana DeAnda, Janie Flores,
Karol Kocurek
Head Usher: Tinker Villarreal

6:00PM—Lector: Gabriella Becerril
EM: Joachin Ordonez, Jesus Perez
Head Usher: Paulin Becerril

Please let the parish office know if you can help as we need
more lectors, eucharistic ministers, and ushers for all Masses.

PRAYER LIST

We continue to pray for the needs of those in our parish:

Israel Cavazos, Jr., Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes,
Antonio Medrano, Oscar Ortiz, Jr., and Maria Rivera



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:

**Mama Cecilia, Ricki Rodriguez Choat,
and Celina Garcia**



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, Audry Winstead

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, Aubrey McCown,
Andrew Saenz, Robert Silva, and Noah Vasquez



St. John of the Cross will send care packages to our
parishioners serving in the military and honor our veterans.
Items requested include travel-size body wash, shampoo and
deodorant, as well as chocolate-FREE snacks, reading
material, puzzle books, and prayer cards. Please bring donated
items to the church foyer or to the office by June 18 so the
packages can be delivered by July 4, 2026.

Please contact the parish office to provide a mailing address
for your service member or veteran.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

It has been an exciting few days! Hold on to the story.

Late Thursday evening I received a phone call from my sister – I thought it was just a regular check-in type call from my little sister who lives in Manassas, Virginia – but it wasn't. She was on a 14-day cruise through the Panama Canal. On the tenth day they stopped in Los Angeles, CA, where she had a medical emergency on the cruise ship - short of breath and chest pain. Since the medical team on the ship determined it to be beyond their Capabilities, they transferred her by an ambulance to a hospital in San Pedro, CA, for testing and observation. And then the ship sailed away to its next stop on the cruise. Now she was alone in a hospital with no family or friends and not sure what was happening. Her husband in Virginia couldn't travel by air by himself, and her daughter had just given birth a few months earlier to baby Benjamin and couldn't travel to help her. So, she called her brother - the priest - to rescue her! Early Friday morning I took a flight to Long Beach, California, arriving late Friday night and visited her in the hospital. What was a "heart attack", turned out to be a severe cardiac event, but not a heart attack and which she had already recovered from and she was ready to be discharged. So Saturday we boarded a flight to Washington Dulles Airport to take her home to Virginia and her husband Roger. With layovers and time differences, we arrived at 11: 30 PM. Due to the lack of flights, I had to wait till Monday to fly back to Texas. Getting up at 3:30 AM to catch the Uber to the airport, I was able to get to the 5:30 AM flight to return to Corpus Christi. So in essence, I flew across the United States twice in three days! But I was able to deliver my little sister in good condition and good health to my brother-in-law. What a good brother am I!

There was an urgency in getting back for the Monday evening Parish Pastoral Council meeting to share the latest updates on the signed contracts and the preparations for the beginning of the stucco work and the stained glass windows. The two companies are ready to begin in the next few weeks once they can coordinate an actual start date. I will be talking to the two project leaders this coming week. I re-emphasized to the Parish Council members the necessity for them, the Parish Finance Council and the Building Fund Capital Campaign Committee, to take a more pro-active role in their roles in those positions. The members of these councils are the lead advisors to the Pastor of the Parish and they need to be present and support for the good of the parish, because ...

Having attained the age of seventy years old, in March of this year, I petitioned Bishop Avilés for retirement from active ministry in a parish, and he granted me retirement effective July 1, 2026. I have served the Diocese of Corpus Christi faithfully for over fifty years as a seminarian and as a priest and it is time for me to take a step back from the administration of a parish. Being a priest to celebrate the Sacraments and to lead others to Christ through teaching and preaching is the most wonderful part of my life! To see the many movements of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of so many people over the years has brought me real joy and peace. But the reality of my brother's diagnosis with Alzheimer's, my sister's failing health, and my simply getting old, reminded me that I also have a need to self-care in my later years. And it will always happen, "that this is the time for the next generation of Catholic faithful to step-up and take on the role of continuing the Catholic Faith in the world". That is the center of our celebration of Confirmation last night! Fifteen young adults who stood in our parish church to proclaim that they are ready to take up the challenge to live their life in Christ for the future of our parish and our Catholic Church. May everyone in the parish take up that mantra – "It is my Church and my parish and I must stand up and continue to do my part!".

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Patrick



Deacon's Corner

This Sunday, we are celebrating the Ascension of the Lord. In many countries of the world this feast day is celebrated on Ascension Thursday, which is 40 days after Easter. I think I mentioned that last time. This is a mystery that is known as a “Theological Mystery.” A theological mystery is an event or a belief that is either described or not described in the Scripture and/or a belief that has come down to us from the Tradition of the Church. Tradition with a capital “T” means that those beliefs are accepted as doctrinal even if they are incapable of proof. I like to think that our interpretation of a theological mystery is as open to our imagination as we want to make of it, and that any decision we make about the nature of the mystery is acceptable. The Ascension is one of those events. We would have to assume that when Jesus ascends into heaven, that heaven is a “place.” Heaven is not a physical place, but a situation in which God is present and evil is not. See the Catechism articles 659-667, for a definition of what the Ascension symbolizes, to wit: “Jesus’ final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, *symbolized* (emphasis supplied) by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God’s right hand.” There are many theological mysteries for which there are no explanations, and whatever our imagination creates is okay, as long as we recognize that these mysteries express a truth without rational explanation. For example, God is a spirit, so how can he have “a right hand” or “a throne?” We imagine heaven as a place whose streets are gold, and little Cherubs flying around. These images are intended to make us consider that heaven is a perfect place, completely full of happiness and goodness; and, however you get to that belief is fair. See 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, especially verse 9: “...eye

has not seen and ear has not heard...what God has prepared for those who love him, this God revealed to us through the Spirit.” Today’s second reading gives us a little perspective to understanding the nature of the Ascension. Paul says: “May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of **wisdom** and **revelation** resulting in **knowledge** of him. May the **eyes of your hearts be enlightened**, that you may know what is the **hope that belongs to his call**, what are the **riches of glory in his inheritance** among the holy ones, and what is the **surpassing greatness of his power** for us who believe....” All these words in bold type help us to imagine what heaven must be like. The Ascension accomplishes this article of faith because it reassures us of the Hope that the Lord wants us to experience in this life and fulfill in the next. The Ascension is the final teaching of the Lord Jesus, making us understand that the work he started has to continue, so we are commissioned: “All power 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age....” Try to imagine that the Ascension is the beginning of the homework the Church that has been assigned to us after the Resurrection, and until he comes again. The work never ends! And from what I see of the World, we have our work cut out for us. Happy Easter! Next week we’ll celebrate the seventh week of Easter, and on May 22, 2026, we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. I hope you have had a good and productive Easter season, that is, when you think about what you have to do and you begin to work on it.

God bless you, Deacon Cavada



Stewardship of Treasure

| Week #45 | COLLECTION | Totals Prior Week - | Goal | Actual | Total Annual Over / (under) | YTD Goal | TOTAL OFFERTORY |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 5/10/2026 | Envelope Collection | \$ (6,967.88) | \$ 2,100.00 | \$ 3,107.00 | \$ (5,960.88) | \$ 94,500.00 | |
| | Loose Collection | \$ 23,851.95 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 906.00 | \$ 23,557.95 | \$ 54,000.00 | |
| | On-Line Collection | \$ 11,170.04 | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 3,344.66 | \$ 13,114.70 | \$ 63,000.00 | |
| | TOTAL Collection | \$ 28,054.11 | \$ 4,700.00 | \$ 7,357.66 | \$ 30,711.77 | \$ 211,500.00 | \$ 242,211.77 |



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.



Today's **SECOND** collection is for our **Religious Education Fund** that supports our **Vacation Bible School**. With your generous donations, we will be able to purchase supplies to provide a fun, faith-filled VBS. This year's theme is Let's go on a Road Trip—on the go with God.

There is a **SPECIAL** collection this weekend for the **Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign**. Through websites, social networks, television, radio, and print, the **Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC)** helps the Church spread the Gospel message through the media locally and nationally. Half of all donations to the CCC collected in your diocese *stay* in your diocese to support your local communications needs, such as radio and television programming and diocesan publications.



Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 1 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: MAY 18 @ 6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

May 21-23—Mrs. Anita Suarez, Mrs. Patricia Bernal, Mrs. Lesley Rodriguez, Mrs. Kristina Lott, Ms. Maria Diaz

May 28-30— Ms. Diana Deanda, Mrs. Gloria Pena, Mrs. Hortencia Cantu, Mrs. Lsabel Ortiz, Mrs. Beatrice Esparza

Save the date: Officer Installation and Honorary member Mass and dinner—June 8.



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 15 @ 6PM

Hostess grp # 4: Isabel Alanis



Corporate Mass—May 17 @ 7:30AM Rosary at 7:00AM

Leader: Isabel Alanis

Offertory: Aurora B. Garcia, Diana DeAnda, and Amanda Sanchez

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by Luz Paiz and Kathleen Garza

May is the month of our Blessed Mother Mary— All are invited to a presentation on the Apparitions of Mary on Saturday, May 23, from 8:30-1:00PM, in our parish hall. The sisters from the Pax Christi Institute will lead the presentation. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the church foyer or call the parish office to let us know you plan to attend so that we can have enough materials and food prepared for the workshop.

Come join us as we learn how Mary still speaks to each of us today!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: JUNE 2, 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.

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, May 27** and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, June 27**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, June 4** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, May 23**.

Religious Education

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all of our religious education teachers and helpers! Thanks to you, our youth are growing in their faith! As we end this year's religious education program, we are already in the planning stages for next year's program. We need at least five teachers to cover all grade levels. If you feel called to help grow our youth's faith, please contact the parish office. Your help is needed!



Save the Date ~ **Vacation Bible School**—July 20—24, 5:30PM—8:00PM
Let's go on a Road Trip—on the go with God. Registration begins June 1.

Senior Corner

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

Congratulations to our

St. John of the Cross Scholarship recipients:

Altar Society—Linden Rodriguez

Sociedad Guadalupanas—Alejandra Aguilar

Knight of Columbus—Aiden Medrano



CONNECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Newman Connection is the bridge helping students stay connected to their faith after high school.

Powered by partnerships with dioceses, parishes, high schools, and campus ministries, this mission is made possible thanks to generous donors and ministry partners working together through the Faith Forward Movement.

Scan QR Code

www.newmanconnection.org

Community

Journey to Damascus (JTD) is a 3-day Christian weekend for those who want to deepen their relationship with God, strengthen their faith, and experience true Christian brother/sisterhood. It is open to all denominations and centers on renewal through prayer, reflection, and community.

JTD is for those seeking a stronger foundation in Christ and deeper unity with other believers.

It is for those who:

- *want to grow spiritually,
- * need time away from distractions to reconnect with God,
- * value community, faith, and encouragement.

The weekend is full physically, emotionally, and spiritually, so pilgrims should set aside outside responsibilities and come ready to be present.

The upcoming 2026 Weekend Schedule is

Men's

Women's

June 18-21

July 30—August 2

September 17-20

October 15-18

Weekends are held at OLCC Campus on Lantana and the Weekend Fees are \$225 (assistance is available for those with need).

More information can be found at

www.journeytodamascus.org or
contact Bud Coldwell @ (361) 779-1971.



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

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

Celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ



Reception of the Bishop into his Cathedral and
consecration of the new altar

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Mass begins at 6PM with procession to follow.
This will be a truly historic moment in our
diocese.

Please save the date.

We look forward to celebrating with you united
as the Body of Christ.

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>



Father Walsh's Summer Camp—designed for
adults 10 yrs. and up with a special ability, blind,
deaf, or hard of hearing.

June 9 –11

9:00AM—2:00PM

Check-in & Breakfast: 9:00AM

St. John Paul High School

Register at

<https://catholiccharities-cc.org/summercamp>



Registration ends May 15

Father Walsh's VBS—a fun-filled day of adventure
and faith, designed for children ages 4-13 with a special
ability, blind, deaf, or hard of hearing.

June 12

9:00AM—2:00PM

Check-in & Breakfast: 9:00AM

St. John Paul High School

Register at

<https://catholiccharities-cc.org/vbs>



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.

World Youth Day—Seoul, South Korea—All young adults (18-39 years old) are invited to join the Diocese of Corpus Christi on pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea for World Youth Day with Pope Leo XIV!

There will be an **Info Night on Saturday, June 27th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Parish Hall (7522 Everhart Rd., Corpus Christi)**. Full package, cost, and pilgrimage leaders will be presented. Please check diocesan social media for updates coming soon!

To help sponsor a young adult pilgrim from your parish, please contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesecc.org.



Flocknote

Keep in touch with us via email & text!

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

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

Social Media



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/

Stjohnogtx

Live Streaming

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,

I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●



BILLION PHOTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?...

Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.

ADDRESS TO MEETING
ON FRATERNITY, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



Monday

May 18
Easter Weekday
Acts 19:1-8
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday

May 19
Easter Weekday
Acts 20:17-27
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday

May 20
Easter Weekday
Acts 20:28-38
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday

May 21
Easter Weekday
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Jn 17:20-26

Friday

May 22
Easter Weekday
Acts 25:13b-21
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday

May 23
Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Jn 21:20-25

Sunday

May 24
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Jn 20:19-23

MARCO IACOBELLI EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK