



# St. John of the Cross



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## Our Parish COMMUNITY

• May 24, 2026

• Pentecost Sunday (A)

• Acts 2:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 / John 20:19-23



## Good News!

May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday (A)

Acts 2:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 / John 20:19-23

ANN M. GARRIDO

**When reading aloud today's passage from Acts of the Apostles, do you stumble over the names of the peoples gathered as I do? "Parthians, Medes, and Elamites." Where is "Cappadocia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia"? And why were all these peoples in Jerusalem in the first place?**

It might help to know that Pentecost did not originate as a Christian feast. There are three pilgrimage festivals that drew Jews from across the Mediterranean region to Jerusalem. Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and God's protection during the exodus from Egypt. Two are in the spring: Passover, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, recalling the night the Jews were freed from enslavement in Egypt; and Shavuot, or *Pentecost* in Greek, remembering the giving of God's law on Mount Sinai.

The scene described in Acts echoes the story at Mount Sinai. The peoples who gathered outside the house in Jerusalem represent the breadth and diversity of peoples known at that time, and not just at that time. Some of the civilizations mentioned had not existed for hundreds of years. The book of Acts wants us to know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was an event of such significance that somehow *all* were mysteriously present—not just those of times gone by, but even we who live in such faraway, hard-to-pronounce places as Islamabad or Albuquerque. Today, we celebrate a gift that transcends time and geography. A gift that continues to draw all of us together in wonder and awe. ●

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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

<b>Sat.-23</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	† 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
<b>Sun.-24</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	† Damien Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia † Modesto, † Hector, and † Noel Ortiz by Joe & Mary Ortiz
	<b>11:00AM</b>	† Diana Acuna (Heavenly birthday) by Her Loving Husband and Family † Robert Rivera by Janie Beltran
	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Humberto Reyes y † Jose Alvarez por Familia Las familias de la parroquia
<b>Mon.-25</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>No Mass. Communion Service ONLY.</b>
<i>The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</i>		
<b>Tues.-26</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>No Mass. Communion Service ONLY.</b>
<i>St. Philip Neri</i>		
<b>Thurs.-28</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>No hay Misa. Únicamente Servicio de Comunión.</b>
	<b>6:30PM</b>	Adoración
<b>Fri.-29</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>No Mass. Communion Service ONLY.</b>
<i>Masses for May 30 &amp; 31</i>		
<b>Sat.-30</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Oscar Borrego † Jim Van Blarcum by Estella Cortinas
<b>Sun.-31</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>	† Dcn. Jim Culpepper (Heavenly birthday) by Family † Mae Gwosdz by Her Family † Charles Skrobarczyk by Joe & Mary Ortiz † Laura Staley (Anniv.) by Graham Family
	<b>11:00AM</b>	† Delfina Beltran (12 Heavenly anniv.) by Janie Beltran † Dcn. Jim Culpepper (Heavenly birthday) by Family
	<b>6:00PM</b>	† Dcn. Jim Culpepper (Cumpleaños celestial) por familia Familias de la parroquia



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.



After serving the Diocese of Corpus Christi for 53 years, Fr. Patrick Donohoe is gaining his

**FREEDOM** and **INDEPENDENCE.**

Join us in a potluck luncheon in the parish hall after the 11AM Mass.

More details to come.

## Ministry Schedule for Mass

### Ministry Schedule



**May 30—6:00PM—Lector:** Don Rokohl  
**EM:** San Juanita Gaza, Kim Rokohl, Sharry Stipp  
**Head Usher:** Pablo and Graciela Alaniz

**May 31—7:30AM—Lector:** Kimberly Tessanne  
**EM:** Maria Miller, Luz Paiz, Volunteer  
**Head Usher:** Gerald Murray, Lucille Klaevemann

**11:00AM—Lector:** Ernest Henderson  
**EM:** Diana Aguilar, Maria Galvan-Gordon, Karol Kocurek, Volunteer  
**Head Usher:** Lonnie Rodriguez

**6:00PM—Lector:** Jesus Perez  
**EM:** Alvina Resendez, Paulin Becerril  
**Head Usher:** Angel Isais

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

Please pray for our **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!**

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

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

# A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



The big question everyone keeps asking me, “Who is coming as our next pastor?” is still unanswered and will not be announced until mid-June. As I have said repeatedly, “Please continue to pray for your next pastor that he may be a knowledgeable, pastoral, and spiritual leader for our parish community. May he be blessed with the necessary administrative skills to oversee our parish and its upcoming projects”! I have been personally praying for this - that all of the good work I have done over these last eight years continues.

Way back in December I planned a quick vacation for the end of January with a friend of mine. As that date approached, we had to cancel that vacation time and rescheduled it for the last two weekends in May, and that was all done before my decision to retire. Therefore, while I am gone this weekend and next weekend, it isn't because of retirement, it is just my regular vacation for each year. I'll be back on Monday June 1, 2026, for the Parish Pastoral Council meeting. This week I had meetings with both the Capital Campaign Committee and the Master Plan Committee to coordinate and assess their continued work for our parish's good. My quarterly meeting with the Parish Finance Council will occur in the first weeks of June.

The “Our Living Church Capital Building Fund Campaign” began last September 2026 to coordinate and raise the special building fund monies for the seven critical maintenance projects needed for the future of our parish. The Parish Master Plan Committee has been meeting regularly to assess these special needs of the parish and to find realistic estimated binds for the project's cost and completion. Those seven projects are: 1) the church exterior stucco, 2) the stained-glass repairs, 3) the new parish hall roof, 4) the religious education building's electrical box, 6) repaving of the parish parking lot, and 7) upgrade our church sound system. The overall total projected expense is \$660,000.00 to be raised over the next seven years. While this may seem daunting, the total is actually less than the 2005 church renovation, the 2012 parish office / rectory construction, and the 2018 religious education building construction. All of those projects also had successful building fund campaigns to pay for the completion of those major projects, so, I am confident that our current Capital Campaign will be successful in making these critical repairs a reality. Remember that your pledge to the Our Living Church Campaign is a pledge towards yourself and the improvements for your parish church. Please continue to support the building fund through your OLCCC pledge donations or through your monthly contribution to the Building fund collection on the first Sunday of each month.

The Master Plan Committee was formed around three years ago to assess the major repair needs of the parish and to begin the process of determining realistic actual costs and possible contractors. I want to thank Mary Villarreal, the Chairperson, and the committee members Rick Svetlik, Kathleen Garza, Karol Kocurek, and Chad Evans who have met monthly to do this necessary work. Their hard work over these last two and one-half years has been instrumental in creating all of the background and supportive documentation that is needed when we must submit proposals and bids to the Diocesan Building Commission, and the Diocesan Finance Council for projects costing over \$20,000.00 dollars. Those seven projects, as listed above, were presented to Bishop Mulvey last year and were given approval to move forward with capital campaign to raise the necessary funds. That is when the Capital Campaign for our parish was created. The seven projects are independent of each other and will be contracted and started as the necessary funds are available from the restricted Capital Campaign Fund. The first two projects – the exterior stucco work of the church and the stained-glass window repair – have been fully contracted, and we are awaiting the start date for each project in the next few weeks. Since the Master Plan Committee was charged with the creation of the list of projects and the estimated cost and possible contractors, its mission has been completed and has been disbanded. A most sincere “Thank You” to the members and their hard work. The work that they compiled for the stucco work and the windows was in proper order presented and approved by the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council for submission to the Diocese and the Bishop's signature. The rest of their work and documentation for the remaining projects will be handed over to the Parish Pastoral Council for later approval and processing as the funds are available.

Keep your eyes open as these repair projects start and you see the equipment and possible scaffolding begin to surround the church building. See you on the first of June.

Love and prayers,  
Fr. Patrick

## Deacon's Corner

Today we celebrate the end of the Easter season and we enter into Ordinary Time until Advent, on November 29, 2026. During Ordinary Time you will see the miracles of Jesus, and his confrontations with the various characters in the New Testament. All activity will lead to his arrest, trial, condemnation, and death. This year we will be reading (and hopefully studying), the Gospel of Matthew. You will note differences with the other Gospels, but the truth will emerge, and we should be learning that we do not read the Bible either as a history book or as a document whose words are to be taken literally. In other words, we do not read the Gospels to determine what the facts are, but what the Truth is! The most obvious example of this is the two renditions of the birth of Jesus according to Luke and according to Matthew. The "facts" are different, but the Truth is the same: God became a human being in Jesus. We have several sets of readings, but I am including only the day mass readings: Acts 2:1-11 (Luke's version of the coming of the Spirit); Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 (the gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to Paul); and, the Gospel from John 20:19-23 (John's version of the Pentecost). Matthew does not have an account of the Pentecost. Neither does Mark. How do we know about the coming of the Holy Spirit? I think that people begin to experience a sense of change in their lives, and they attributed that to the Holy Spirit's presence. Paul explains it in the second reading. As people came to accept the Lord Jesus and his teachings through his agents, they began to change their attitudes and actions, and they

attributed that to God. Isn't that the way we feel when we begin to treat people differently? Do we feel satisfied by helping out someone or by having material things? St. Luke, in Acts says: "...we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." Think about that a minute. The Lord communicates with us in our language, in our own way, in our own world, and when we listen, we surmise that it might be because of the Holy Spirit. Remember the Scriptures came from the Tradition, and so to express how we heard the Lord in "our own tongues" we acknowledged his presence, and since he is a Spirit, it must be the Holy Spirit, God himself! The Sacrament of Confirmation re-affirms His presence and His influence; and, we acknowledge his influence over us when we make decisions that we hope and pray will please God. For example, husband and wife are having difficulties. You submit to your spouse. Instead of feeling defeated, you feel victorious. You have a problem with anger. All of a sudden you realize that everyone around you is miserable. Something makes you evaluate your behavior, and you decide to change your moody self. You see the difference in the attitude of your victims, AND YOU LIKE IT! That's the Spirit of God moving within you. That's what St. Paul says in the second reading: "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." The Holy Spirit teaches us to pray, to study, to obey the command of Jesus to go out to the whole world and evangelize. I hope you had a good and meaningful celebration of the Pentecost and that you live a "life in the Spirit." God bless you all. Deacon Cavada



# Stewardship of Treasure

Week #45	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
5/17/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (5,960.88)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,890.00	\$ (6,170.88)	\$ 96,600.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 23,557.95	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,443.00	\$ 24,800.95	\$ 55,200.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 13,114.70	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,817.86	\$ 13,532.56	\$ 64,400.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 30,711.77	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 6,150.86	\$ 32,162.63	\$ 216,200.00	\$ 248,362.63



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.



**2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal** ~ The BSA goal for St. John is \$22,629, of which \$6,450 has been pledged. With an projected \$4,385 recurring gifts, St. John has reached 48% of the diocesan BSA goal for 2026. Thank you to the 8% of St. John parishioners who are participating in the 2026 BSA.

Working together through the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal, we sustain the programs, pastoral services, schools, vocations, outreach, and care for retired clergy that serve every parish and community across our Diocese of Corpus Christi.

## Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 1 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 24 @ 6PM

### ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

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

June 4-6—Paid Professional



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—June 21 @ 7:30AM

Rosary at 7:00AM

Leader: Anita Bazan

Offertory: Esmeralda Castro, Maria Conchas, Luz Paiz

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by Diana DeAnda & Angie Alanis

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: JUNE 2, 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.

## 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, June 10** 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, June 27.**

# Religious Education

We are planning for next year's religious education program and 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.  
Grades kinder thru fifth.

## Community

The Coastal Bend Blood Center Mobile Bank will be at St. John on Sunday, June 21, from 8AM—1PM.



All donors will receive a t-shirt and a Blue Bell Ice Cream voucher, and all donors between June 1—21, could be a winner of a \$1000 Southwest Airlines Gift card and a \$500 AirBnB Gift card or a \$500 Southwest Gift card.

Appointments are highly recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.

Scan the QR code to schedule your life-saving donation today!



**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: June 18-21 and September 17-20

Women's: July 30—August 2 and 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](http://www.journeytodamascus.org) or contact Bud Coldwell @ (361) 779-1971.



**America will celebrate her 250th birthday this summer!** ~ St. John of the Cross would like to extend sincere thanks to military service members actively serving as well as those veterans who have served.



Care packages will be organized and delivered to our parishioners serving in the military. 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.

We will have Mass celebrated for our veterans and active service members on July 4, at 8AM.

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

## 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

## 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 beings at 6PM with procession to follow.



**High School Leadership Retreat** ~ Applications are now available for the upcoming High School Diocesan Leadership program and retreat. The retreat will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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>

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:soconnor@diocesecc.org).



## EMBRACING THE COMMISSION

### A DAY OF FORMATION FOR PARISH SCHOOL, CATECHETICAL, AND MINISTRY LEADERS

Pastors, deacons, parish staff, catechetical leaders, faith formation leaders, and all ministry leaders are invited to join us for a day of formation and renewal focused on the Church's call to evangelization and missionary discipleship.

Topics will include:

The Great Commission and the Evangelical Sequence, Sent: Engaging Inactive Parishioners, G.O.S.P.E.L.: An Introduction to the Kerygma, and Resources for Embracing the Great Commission

This free seminar will be hosted by the Augustine Institute in partnership with the Diocese of Corpus Christi and will take place on **Tuesday, June 30** from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church.



LEARN MORE  
& REGISTER



**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.

**Save the Date: Celebration of Charity Give from the Heart Guest speaker: Bishop Mario Avilés**

Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi invites you to **Celebration of Charity** - an inspiring evening celebrating compassion in action and the strength of our community.

The event will take place on **Thursday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilliard Center, 1901 N. Shoreline Blvd.** in Corpus Christi. Guests will enjoy a beautiful evening of fellowship, stories of impact, and a renewed call to serve with love and purpose.

## Flocknote

Keep in touch with us via email & text!

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

Or Connect with us online at:  
[www.stjohnog.flocknote.com](http://www.stjohnog.flocknote.com)

## Social Media



**Facebook:**

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

[Stjohnogtx](https://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 a senior Catholic woman. All my life, I have waited for the Church to welcome women as priests. I have volunteered with numerous faiths over the years and have worked with pastors and rabbis who are women. Why does the Catholic Church not recognize that women have callings to the priesthood?*

My answer will probably not be acceptable to you, and it might even make you a little more frustrated and perhaps even discouraged. The understanding of the Church is that the call to priesthood is not based on merit. If it were based on merit, and that was the single important criterion, your question might be phrased in a different way. I will let you imagine what that might be!

The tradition, practice, and discipline of the Church continues to insist that the call to ordained priesthood requires the respondent to be male. Any explanation beyond this simple statement would be strained and of little use. We are aware of the traditions that are practiced in other Christian denominations. We are probably aware of the Roman Catholic theology of priesthood that is offered in support of the practice. We can probably offer example after example in support or in disagreement of the practice. None of it matters when it comes up against the hard truth of the tradition, practice, and discipline: the priesthood requires a baptized male for validity. ●

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



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*At Pentecost, the apostles spoke the languages of those they met, and the confusion of Babel was finally resolved by the harmony brought about by the Spirit. Whenever God's "breath" unites our hearts*

*and makes us view others as our brothers and sisters, differences no longer become an occasion for division and conflict.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

### Monday

May 25

*The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church*

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or  
Acts 1:12-14  
Jn 19:25-34

### Tuesday

May 26

*St. Philip Neri, Priest*  
1 Pt 1:10-16  
Mk 10:28-31

### Wednesday

May 27

*Weekday*  
1 Pt 1:18-25  
Mk 10:32-45

### Thursday

May 28

*Weekday*  
1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12  
Mk 10:46-52

### Friday

May 29

*Weekday*  
1 Pt 4:7-13  
Mk 11:11-26

### Saturday

May 30

*Weekday*  
Jude 17, 20b-25  
Mk 11:27-33

### Sunday

May 31

*The Most Holy Trinity*  
Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9  
2 Cor 13:11-13  
Jn 3:16-18