



St. John of the Cross



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**Our Parish
COMMUNITY**

June 21, 2026

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:10–13 / Romans 5:12–15 / Matthew 10:26–33



Good News!

June 21, 2026

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:10–13 / Romans 5:12–15 / Matthew 10:26–33

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Secrets. The disabling fear of discovery. Trying so hard to conceal something that we do not want others to know. Often, we guard secrets closely because we believe we will be embarrassed, punished, or excluded if our secrets are made known.

Sometimes, we hold tightly to secrets because we are ashamed. We keep other secrets because of the dynamics of family life: “We do not share our family business with anyone.” All secrets can be difficult to keep—some more than others. Perhaps the most difficult secret to hold is one that we fear defines our personal integrity and authenticity. It is the fear not only of discovery but also of perception: How will I be perceived if this is made known? Will I still be accepted? Or, even more painful: Will I be rejected, and how complete will the rejection be?

The “good news” of the gospel is that “nothing is concealed that will not be revealed” (Matthew 10:26). In other words, there is nothing that can remain tucked away forever. Everything is revealed in one way or another. Gospel grace and freedom result when a person chooses to freely release whatever it is that burdens them, including closely held secrets. It is the ultimate experience of dying to self to claim eternal life. ●

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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.-20	6:00PM	† James & † Jeffrey Gwosdz by Their family † Marvin Mussman (9th anniv.) by Mussman Family † Yolanda Ochoa by Family † Jim Van Blarcum by Estella Cortinas Guadalupe & Mary Alice Perez's 65th wedding anniversary by Carlos Alanis Family
Sun.-21	7:30AM	† Damian Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia † Marvin Gwosdz by His Family † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Elaine Sherek † Amador & † Mauricia Garza by Noe & Diana Aguilar † Juan Leon-Guerrero (Heavenly birthday) by Ellie Mankin & Leon-Guerrero Families † Eloisa & † Balde Medrano by Janie Beltran † Tony Medrano III (Heavenly birthday) by Medrano & Silva Family
	6:00PM	Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-22	8:00AM	Healing for Aimee Miears by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Elderly and the weak In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Anita Bazan
Tues.-23	8:00AM	† David Gaza by Dolores Borrego Healing for Aimee Miears by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
Thurs.-25	6:00PM 6:30PM	<i>La misa está abierta y disponible.</i> Adoración
Fri.-26	8:00AM	Healing for Aimee Miears by Michael & Sharon Bartosch

Masses for June 27 & 28

Sat.-27	6:00PM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Elaine Sherek † Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Petra Perez † Donnie Calvez by Anita Bazan † Rudy G. Leal (Birthday) by Bazan, Leal, and Hinojosa Families
Sun.-28	7:30AM	† Adolph Skrobarczyk, Sr., (Anniv.,) by Graham Family † Glen, Sr., & † Laura Staley by Joe & Mary Ortiz † Peggy Staley by Joe & Mary Ortiz
	11:00AM	† Amador & † Mauricia Garza by Noe & Diana Aguilar † Lisa Ann Beltran Harris (Heavenly birthday) by Janie Beltran † Mary Helen Prieur (1st anniv.) by Bea & Lupe Garcia
	6:00PM	Familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is offered for

Enriqueta Puente
(4th anniversary)

By Her Loving Family

The altar flowers are offered in memory of

Enriqueta Puente
(4th anniversary)

by Her Loving Family

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



June 27—6:00PM—Lector: Anita Bazan
EM: San Juanita Gaza, Sharry Stipp, Luis Romanos
Head Usher: Carlos Alanis

June 28—7:30AM—Lector: Kimberly Tessanne
EM: Margie Svetlik, Maria Miller, Luz Paiz
Head Usher: Gerald Murray

11:00AM—Lector: Janie Flores
EM: Jeri Alaniz, Karol Kocurek, Dee DeLeon,
Volunteer
Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Maria Esmeralda Castro
EM: Mariela Ordonez, Joachin Ordonez
Head Usher: Jose 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:

Jeri Alaniz, Dolores Borrego, Blanca Gonzalez, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes, Antonio Medrano, and Oscar Ortiz, Jr.



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: Juan Luis Alonzo, Jr.; 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
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab
3. click on **'Active Military Prayer Request'**

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



The ongoing packing is taking longer than I thought it would! You do not know how much “Stuff” you have until you have to box it all up and move it to a new home! And then there are the numerous questions, “Will I need this in the future? This piece of clothing does not fit anymore; do I take it just in case I gain/lose weight? Does this item (chair, glasses, pot/pan) belong to me? Or to the parish?” Some of the furniture in the rectory that came from my parents’ home belongs to me, and it will be going with me, but most of the furniture and fixtures in the rectory belong to the parish and always remain for the incoming priest. A parish rectory is like a “furnished apartment” with all that the new occupant might need – bed, chairs, TV, dishes/glassware/silverware, pots & pans, etc. The priest /pastor brings with him his personal items to make it more of a home to his liking, but most everything else he might need is already in the rectory. There is usually a need for the parish to purchase a few new items to turn the generic rectory into “his new home.” And moving into a new living space requires “where and how do I hang the pictures and rearrange the furniture to make it comfortable for me.” So, please be patient as Fr. James Stembler moves into his rectory.

Oops! I just realized that I have not announced the name of your new pastor – Rev. James Stembler. Fr. Stembler will be in and out over the next few weeks to bring his personal belongings into the rectory as I start taking my things out for my relocation. His actual first day will be on Monday, July 6, 2026, and his first Mass in his new assignment will be on that same Monday morning at 8:00 AM. Currently, he is the Rector of the Corpus Christi Cathedral. He has served as Pastor at St. Elizabeth’s Church in Alice and as Pastor at St. Gertrude’s Church in Kingsville. Several parishioners here and at the mission have already told me that they know him from his previous assignments – and they said “they liked him” as their priest. From my own personal friendship with him over the last 35 years, I have found him to be a good and compassionate priest who preaches well. It is my hope and prayer that you receive him with kindness and openness as he navigates his way into his new assignment.



As I have done in my last eight transfers from one parish to another, I often just waited quietly for a while to get a feel for the new parish and the parish community. And if Fr. Stembler asks, “How have you done this in this parish before?”, the best response is “We (or Fr. Pat) did it this way - but you are our new pastor, and we want to know how You want to do it”. Every parish has had a change of pastor over the years, just take a look at the wall of pictures of your previous pastors on the wall in the parish hall. And as I am sure every person in this parish has experienced a “new pastor” either by the change of the pastor or by you changing to a new town and parish. And each new pastor usually brings their own style of pastoral leadership to the new community. And just like it might happen at your place of employment with a change of supervisors, it always takes a few weeks to adjust to the new style. And while you may have liked my style of doing things in the past, it is always better for you to keep your focus on the future of our parish and on welcoming your new pastor! And to help Fr. Stembler establish his authority and style in his new assignment, I will be following my own rule of not returning to the parish unless invited to be a substitute priest while he is away or for a special occasion.

My actual assignment at St. John of the Cross is concluded with the Sunday Evening Mass on July 5th. Fr. Stembler will arrive late on Sunday evening and he will wake up at his new assignment as the new Pastor on Monday July 6th. Over the next few weeks, I will be moving my personal things out of the rectory to my new residence in Corpus Christi. My new residence is at the St. John Vianney Residence for Priests, 6301 Kostoryz Rd., Apt #602, Corpus Christi, Texas 78415.

My pastororangegrovetx@gmail.com email address will remain active for the near future. And those who might have my current cell phone number 361-739-6853, it will also remain active for a while. And with all the kindness that I can give you, please do not call me or communicate with me regarding any displeasure or difficulty with your new pastor. He now has all of the authority and care of St. John of the Cross Church / St. Francis of Assisi, and you should turn to him with your questions. All of those needs to be addressed to your new pastor, or if you feel it is extremely serious, you contact the Vicar for Priests at the Diocese of Corpus Christi. I will have a sympathetic ear to listen, but my response will be for you “To contact your pastor with your concerns or questions, as I am no longer the Pastor of St. John of the Cross and you need to speak to him.”

Every time I have been transferred over the last 50 years of service to the diocese, it is always a time of sadness to leave the current location with its friends and memories, but it has also been a time of new adventures and new experiences. You may have some of the same experiences whenever you have moved into a new house or moved to a new city. Excitement and sadness go hand in hand at this time. I am hoping to spend more time visiting my family and doing some of “my bucket list” travels to places around the world. During this time of ups and downs of emotions, please pray for me and for my future retirement!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Deacon's Corner

We are at the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The readings are from Jeremiah 20: 10-13; Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33. I want to speak to you about fear and insecurity today. Let's see if we can get the scripture to talk to us about these two topics. I think fear and insecurity are vehicles for rash judgment and mistrust in the power of God which lead us to fear of the Lord, which is a virtue, and to trust, which is another virtue. Trusting in God and piety lead us away from fear, jealousy, envy and all those evil inclinations which destroy our spirituality and our trust in the Lord. I think the readings today address some of these issues. For example, the prophets were all killed by the people of God because they were being "convicted" by the prophetic pronouncements. Jeremiah says today: "I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.'" This kind of attitude about the words OR actions of another lead us to make judgments about them that only the Lord can make. This is called "rash judgment" as opposed to right judgment. When a person is a bad example in the church, and is dealing with matters of sin and Grace, Jesus takes mercy on him or her. It is not our job to measure our participation in the Church based on someone else's behavior; otherwise, that person may seek forgiveness, and those who judge him or her are being condemned. It is even worse when we judge that the church authority is doing nothing to

prohibit that person or persons from participating in the church ministries. We cannot allow someone else's behavior discourage us from participating in the sacramental life or ministerial life of the church. We can offer counsel or pray for those people. Didn't Jesus come into the world to reconcile the world? Aren't we his helpers? Remember the woman caught in adultery in Chapter 8 of John's Gospel! I urge you to look at the second reading and see how Paul deals with the problem of sin. Here's an excerpt: "For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many." We're all sinners, and the Lord Jesus Christ delivers us all from sin. No one is exempt except those who judge others. When we judge others, we deem ourselves free from the power of sin and doubt the power of redemption in the persons we are judging. Here's a short prayer: "Lord, help me to pray that person who may be away from you, and help me to understand his or her struggle to do the right thing. And do not allow me to criticize them to others. Amen." Let the Lord take care of the sinners and those who repent. That's not your business. Here is how Matthew says it: "Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father." And John tells the adulteress: "Does anyone condemn you. Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more." John 8:10-11. May the Lord bless you all.
Deacon Cavada



Stewardship of Treasure

Week #50	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
6/14/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (8,110.88)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,697.00	\$ (8,513.88)	\$ 105,000.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ 24,838.60	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,686.00	\$ 25,324.60	\$ 60,000.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 13,925.19	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,095.86	\$ 14,621.05	\$ 70,000.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 30,652.91	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,478.86	\$ 31,431.77	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 266,431.77



The second collection is for our **Vacation Bible School**. This year's theme is Let's go on the road with God. Your support in helping our youth know how to carry God with them in all they do is truly appreciated!



2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$7,475 has been pledged.

With a projected 3,855 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$11,330 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 50% of the diocesan goal with 9% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA. Your continued support of the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal is truly appreciated!



Parish Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: JULY 6 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 24 @ 6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

June 25-27—Mrs. Karol Kocurek, Mrs. Odilia Salinas, Mrs. Angela De Los Santos, Ms. Felicia Pacheco
July 2-4—Paid Professional



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 22 @ 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: JULY 7, 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 a Driscoll Children's Hospital Oncology Department. Contact the parish office or Bertha Forbes for more information. Our Looming Ladies had 180 beanies blessed this past weekend which will be donated to Driscoll Children's Hospital.



The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM at **SJoC** on on **Wednesday, June 24** and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, July 11.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Tuesday, July 7** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, June 27.**

Community



Join us in saying, “farewell,” to Father Patrick as he gains his

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

in retiring after 50 years of service to the Diocese of Corpus Christi with a potluck luncheon on Sunday, June 28, after the 11AM Mass, in the parish hall. The Knights of Columbus will provide sliced brisket, and each parish organization will contribute to the celebration. Parishioners are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share with our parish family. Please see the sign-up sheets in the church foyer.



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!



Donors must use the link to complete the QuickPass process on the day of your donation ONLY: bit.ly/cbbcPASS.

AGAPE RANCH—Dream Big Bed Build— June 27, 2026, 8AM—1PM, Corpus Christi



Many children in foster care have been wounded by trauma of their past. Agape Ranch reflects the heart of Christ by surrounding children and aged-out young adults from foster care with unconditional love, steady support, and intentional community. Through lasting relationships and a dedicated network of support, a space is created for deep healing and builds a legacy of hope that changes generations.

Agape Ranch has taken the initiative to provide a bed, a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. Through the Agape Ranch Bed Build events, we are able to build beds that support vulnerable children and their families with a safe sleeping space.

Our 2026 goal is to build one hundred twin and twenty-five toddler size beds that will serve our community through requests from our partnering child serving agencies. Agape Ranch will provide all lumber and supplies while our volunteers bring their willingness to help and valuable time. For more information or to register, visit: <https://www.agaperanch.org/bedbuild>.



Conquistando Las NACIONES para CRISTO RETIRO

de sanacion interior

Centro de cursillos 1200 Lantana, Corpus Christi, Tx 78407
24—26 Julio 2026

Communicate a los siguientes nuevos telefonicos:
361-207-0395 361-354-0153 361-446-0221

Para hombres mujeres
mayores de 18 anos

Entrada Viernes 7-9pm

LLevar articulos
personales y cobijas

Religious Education

Catechists and classroom aides are needed! ~ As the office staff prepare for the 2026-2027 year of religious education, they are faced with the possibility that some grades of religious education cannot be offered next year since there are not enough teachers for every grade level, as TWO adults are required for EVERY classroom (one teacher to prepare and present weekly lessons and one classroom aide to assist the teacher in classroom management).

Committed Catholics who have received all of their sacraments and are living out these sacraments daily are needed to teach our youth the traditions of the Catholic Church.

All volunteers MUST be Safe Environment certified through the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

If you feel God’s call to serve in this ministry, please call the parish office to find out more about how you can help our religious education program. (361-384-2795).

The future of our religious education program really depends upon YOU!.

Save the dates: Registration for the 2026-27 religious education program will take place on Wednesday, August 26, and Sunday, August 30.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS VBS



JULY 20 -24
5:30PM—8:00PM
GRADES KINDER—FIFTH

PICK UP A
REGISTRATION
FORM IN THE
CHURCH FOYER OR
PARISH OFFICE.

A meal will be
provided each day.

Diocesan News

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:

September 17-20

Women's:

July 30—August 2
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.

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.



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

Social Media



Facebook:

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

For the past year or so, I have been trying to pray on a regular basis, but I am constantly distracted. My mind wanders so easily. Do you have any suggestions?

Distractions in prayer are an inescapable part of the human condition and the results of our imagination. Even great saints experienced distractions in prayer. Some of their suggestions may help. For example, when St. Thérèse of Lisieux struggled with prayer, she would recite an Our Father or Hail Mary or read from the gospels. Praying as an act of faith or returning to God's presence and love can turn our focus away from other concerns, but, even then, distractions may still arise.

When we become aware of distractions, we should calmly renew our focus and continue our prayer. Saint Teresa of Ávila wrote in *The Interior Castle*, "We should not be distressed by reason of our thoughts, nor allow ourselves to be worried by them.... [Thoughts are] inevitable. Do not let [them] disturb or grieve you." No matter how often distractions return or how long they last, they are not sinful; rather, they are opportunities to show God that we are sincere about praying.

Saint Alphonsus, another great teacher of prayer, reminds us that prayer is necessary, beneficial, and always possible. He advises us to hang in there, because the devil would like nothing better than for us to stop praying. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28
Weekday	Weekday	The Nativity	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Thirteenth
2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18	2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36	of St. John the Baptist	2 Kgs 24:8-17	2 Kgs 25:1-12	Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19	Sunday in
Mt 7:1-5	Mt 7:6, 12-14	Is 49:1-6	Mt 7:21-29	Mt 8:1-4	Mt 8:5-17	Ordinary Time
		Acts 13:22-26				2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a
		Lk 1:57-66, 80				Rom 6:3-4, 8-11
						Mt 10:37-42



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

It is wonderful to think that, when we consider our individual calling...each of us can say with confidence: "Despite my weakness, the Lord is not ashamed of my humanity. Instead, he comes to dwell within me. He accompanies me with his Spirit; he enlightens me and makes me an instrument of his love for others, for society, and for the world."

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025