



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:10–11 / Romans 8:18–23 / Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9



Good News!

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:10–11 / Romans 8:18–23 / Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. •

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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. James 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	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian † James & † Jeffrey Gwosdz by their family Liza Ochoa's family and vocations by Liza Ochoa
Sun.-12	7:30AM	† Adan & † Olivia Ortiz by Joe & Mary Ortiz † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association
	11:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Margie Leon-Guerrero (Heavenly birthday) by Ellie Mankin † Mario Ramirez by Janie Beltran † George Rios by Jesus Rios Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family
	6:00PM	† Elena Centeno & † Martin Becerril por Familia de Pauline Becerril † Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, & † Clemenica Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril Las familias de la parroquia
Mon.-13	8:00AM	† Consuelo Gamez (Heavenly birthday) by Erasmo & Luz Paiz Liza Ochoa's family & souls in purgatory by Liza Ochoa
Tues.-14	8:00AM	† Nora Nuñez (4th anniv.) by Janie Flores
Thurs.-16	6:00PM	<i>La misa está abierta y disponible.</i>
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	6:30PM	Adoración
Fri.- 17	8:00AM	Fr. Michael Brendan Ashe (anniversary of ordination) by Nell Gwosdz

Masses for July 18th & 19th

Sat.-18	6:00PM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Feliciano Borrego, Jr., by Dolores Borrego † Jim VanBlarcum by Estella Cortinas
Sun.-19	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian † Adolph Skrobarczyk, Jr., by Joe & Mary Ortiz Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Delfina Beltran by Janie Beltran † Lorenza & † Jesus Maria Garcia by Janie Beltran † Reynaldo V. Ramon (Heavenly birthday) by Bea & Lupe Garcia Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family In thanksgiving for my children by Anita Bazan
	6:00PM	† Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, & † Clemenica Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril Familias de la parroquia



The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Praxesdis Jimenez

Happy Father's Day

By Raquel S. Jimenez & Family



The altar flowers are in memory of

Margie Leon-Guerrero

by Ellie Mankin

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



July 18—6:00PM—Lector: Anita Bazan

EM: Luis and Nora Romanos, San Juanita Gaza

Head Usher: Carlos Alanis

July 19—7:30AM—Lector: Ed Ortiz

EM: Laura Gwosdz, Jose Isais, Margie Svetlik

Head Usher: Bart and Maria Miller

11:0AM—Lector: Dee DeLeon

EM: Diana DeAnda, Janie Flores, Karol Kocurek, Volunteer

Head Usher: Tinker Villarreal

6:00PM—Lector: Maria Albina Ordonez

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:



Sal Cantu, Eva Culpepper, Nathaniel Garza, Natasha Gonzalez, Blanca Gonzalez, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes, Antonio Medrano, Oscar Ortiz, Jr., and Sissy Thomas

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:



Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk

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

Greetings to all of you!

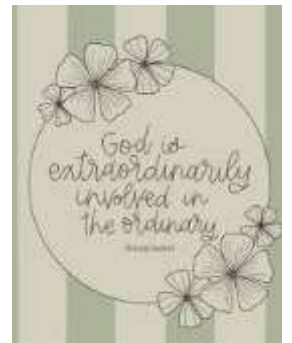


As I have been telling people, it is so good to be back in Jim Wells County. When this millennium began, I was serving the people at St. Elizabeth Church in Alice. Now, 26 years later, I am in this beautiful community of Orange Grove serving the people of St. John of the Cross and the mission of St. Francis of Assisi in Lagarto. What an honor it is to be here with you! God has crossed our paths for a reason, and I am looking forward to serving you and learning from you as my time here on this planet continues to unfold.

“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.
Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer.”

Some of you might remember this song of Nat King Cole’s. The first time I heard it, I was watching a cartoon and singing it while following a bouncing ball. Remember those cartoons! The song always reminded me that summer was the time to relax. No school, no major responsibilities to fulfill, just time to enjoy the world around us.

As you know, we are in the second half of the longest season of the Church year – Ordinary Time. We always think of God and the living out of our faith in the major seasons of the year, such as Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter. However, in the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer”, God is still present with us. Our faith can strengthen and wonderful things are happening. The Gospel is being shared; good evangelization is taking place. The Word is getting out to people. Even in the ordinary, humdrum, everyday times of life, God is at work.



I walked around the parish property this morning – about a twenty-two-minute walk – and yes, it was hot!!! But I realized that it is indeed a blessing to be here, and I am so happy to be here among you. I am ready to see how the good Lord is going to use me to help us continue to grow as St. John of the Cross parish, and St. Francis of Assisi mission. I will keep an open mind and heart to service and always know what a blessing it is to be here.

Now, one question! Does anyone have an orange tree in their yard?

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler

Deacon's Corner

Today, July 12, 2026, we celebrate the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings are from Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14; Romans 8:18-23; and the Gospel of Matthew 13:1-23. Today's Gospel is the famous parable of the sower. Read it carefully and see where you fit in the parable, i.e., what kind of "ground" have you been at various times in your life. When I was a kid, back in the late 50's and early 60's, I went to a Catholic high school, taught by the Benedictines, and they used to give us silent retreats. They would make a short introduction and let us roam about the campus and meditate on ourselves. We would be supplied all kinds of reading materials, pamphlets, prayers, lives of the saints, bibles, inspiring stories. Those are the best retreats I have ever had. The rule was: concentrate on yourself! Let's look at this idea of self-introspection in terms of the parable of the sower. The reading gives us a glimpse of the final result of the spreading of the seed by the sower. The seed is the Word of God. How does that come to us? I think we must have an experience of God or sense a calling or we seem to be out of options and so we are compelled to try God. It doesn't matter to the Lord how we come; it just matters that when we do come we are prepared to admit that we haven't fared very well without Him. The sower has been busy all our lives. He keeps spreading the seeds. We are the ground. Notice how the gospel writer gives us an answer of the effect of the seed based on the *type* of ground that receives the seeds. I

quote it here: "...some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." When we're the "path", we have a surface attraction for the Lord that is not deep, we don't cultivate and evil returns. Rocky ground means that sometimes we receive the Word but don't want to change. We think we can accommodate the Lord and some evil. We may think that God loves me as I am and that's enough. Part of that statement is true and part is false. Rich soil is when we have removed all the weeds, treated the soil, prepared it for reception of the Word, and its further promulgation by living a life full of faith and giving witness, taking care that the weeds don't come back and destroy the work we have done. My dear brothers and sisters, if we look back, we will notice that we have been all these types of soils, and for those of us who have successfully abandoned a life of sin, we are aware of the care that we must give our soul (spiritual selves). Look at the Psalm response for today: "The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest." Good ground takes time and effort to develop. And if you want to know something? We must never stop trying to improve our spiritual well-being.

Deacon Cavada

Diocesan News



The Diocesan Marriage Formation Retreat Weekend – "Unveiled" will be held at **Pax Christi Liturgical Retreat Center** (4601 Calallen Dr, Corpus Christi, TX) starting 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, August 1st** until **Sunday, August 2nd** concluding at 2:00 p.m.

The cost to register is \$300 per couple. ***The deadline to register is Monday, July 27.***

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.

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #1	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
7/5/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ -	\$1,950.00	\$ 1,467.00	\$ (483.00)	\$ 1,950.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ -	\$1,675.00	\$ 1,111.25	\$ (563.75)	\$ 1,675.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ -	\$1,400.00	\$ 3,559.16	\$ 2,159.16	\$ 1,400.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ -	\$5,025.00	\$ 6,137.41	\$ 1,112.41	\$ 5,025.00	\$ 6,137.41

There will be a second collection next week for our **religious education program**. Your donation ensures that our religious education teachers have the supplies needed to form the faith of our youth, including new textbooks, online sources, pens, crayons, etc. Your generosity in supporting our religious education program is truly appreciated!



Parish Organizations

There is a real need for more collection counters who meet on Monday mornings. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help.

PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 3 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 24 @ 6PM

Monthly processional: August 2 – San Juanita Gaza

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

July 16-18—Mrs. Margie Svetlik, Ms. Kathy Mussman, Mrs. Shanna Dunn, Mrs. Kati Pesek, Mrs. Samantha Everett

July 23-25—Mrs. Anita Bazan, Mrs. Glenda Rodriguez, Mrs. Lestly Martinez Conchas, Mrs. Maria Albina Resendiz



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 17 @ 6PM



Hostess grp # 1: Mary Villarreal

Corporate Mass—July 19 @ 7:30AM Rosary at 7:00AM Leader: Norma Cornejo

Offertory: Norma Cornejo, Jennifer and Jessica Alejandro

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by Diana McBride & Jolene Hackfeld

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4, 2026



CASA DE LUCY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4 @ 9AM

Religious Education



Let's go on a Road trip with God ! Join us for a faith-filled fun week of bible stories, games, arts and crafts.

VBS July 20-24 5:30PM—8:00PM

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade. A meal will be provided each evening.

Save the date for religious education orientation and registration: Wed., August 26, and Sun., August 30. Classes begin Wed., September 2.

Works of Mercy

Looming Ladies meet in the parish hall on Mondays at 9AM to knit hats for patients a Driscoll Children's Hospital Oncology Department.

The next bread and pastries distribution will be at 9AM
at **SJoC** on on **Wednesday, July 22** and at
St. Francis on **Saturday, August 8.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on **Thursday, August 6**
and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, July 25.**

Community

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



Dear Padre,

I look at what's going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn't a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what's happening in our world today. Judges' twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity's need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, "Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God." It's easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, "Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin." Don't lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God's kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18–20.) ●



GUSTAVO FRAZAO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Mission is not so much about "departing," but instead "remaining" in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.



HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 13
Weekday
Is 1:10–17
Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

July 14
St. Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin
Is 7:1–9
Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

July 15
St. Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor of
the Church
Is 10:5–7, 13b–16
Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

July 16
Weekday
Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19
Mt 11:28–30

Friday

July 17
Weekday
Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8
Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

July 18
Weekday
Mi 2:1–5
Mt 12:14–21

Sunday

July 19
Sixteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Wis 12:13, 16–19
Rom 8:26–27
Mt 13:24–30 or
13:24–30