



St. John of the Cross

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 / Romans 8:26-27 / Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30



Good News!

July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 / Romans 8:26-27 / Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

MIGUEL DULICK

Jesus loved parables. “He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]’” (Matthew 13:34-35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn’t force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: “Whoever has ears ought to hear” (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it’s his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn’t God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it’s difficult to tell the difference. Those who are “wheat” should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be “weeds.” The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God’s own time. ●

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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.-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, y † Clemenica Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril Familias de la parroquia
Mon.-20	8:00AM	† Martin E. Landa (Heavenly birthday) by Ed Ortiz
Tues.-21	8:00AM	Liza Ochoa's family / souls in purgatory by Liza Ochoa
Thurs.-23	6:00PM	† David Gaza por San Juanita Gaza
	6:30PM	Adoración
Fri.-24	8:00AM	† Monica Terrell (2nd anniv.) by Michael & Sharon Bartosch

Masses for July 25th & 26th

Sat.-25 <i>St. James</i>	6:00PM	† Joe Gonzales (5th anniv.) by His wife † Dominga Guerrero (anniv.) by Bazan, Leal & Hincosa Families Birthday blessings for Antonio Medrano, Jr., Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk, and Tony Silva by David & Terrie Silva
Sun.-26	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Dcn. Jim Culpepper (2nd anniv.) by Family † Damian Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia
	11:00AM	† Diana Gonzalez Aguilar by Janie Beltran † Marrian Baldeschwiler by Owen & Kim Gallagher † Dcn. Jim Culpepper (2nd anniv.) by Family † Carmen Ybanez (15th anniv.) by Family Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family
	6:00PM	† Dcn. Jim Culpepper (2nd anniv.) por familia † Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, y † Clemenica Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril Familias de la parroquia

The altar flowers are in memory of

Joe Gonzales
(5th anniv.)

by Joe Gonzales, Jr.

The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Nora Nuñez
(4th anniv.)

By Janie Flores

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



July 25—6:00PM—Lector: Don Rokohl

EM: San Juanita Gaza, Kim Rokohl, Sharry Stipp

Head Usher: Pablo and Graciela Alaniz

July 26—7:30AM—Lector: Kimberly Tessanne

EM: Maria Miller, Luz Paiz, Quinton Smithwick

Head Usher: Gerald Murray

11:0AM—Lector: Jeri Alaniz

EM: Dee DeLeon, Maria Galvan-Gordon,

Karol Kocurek, Volunteer

Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Beatriz Diaz

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:



Sal Cantu, Nathaniel Garza, Natasha 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.

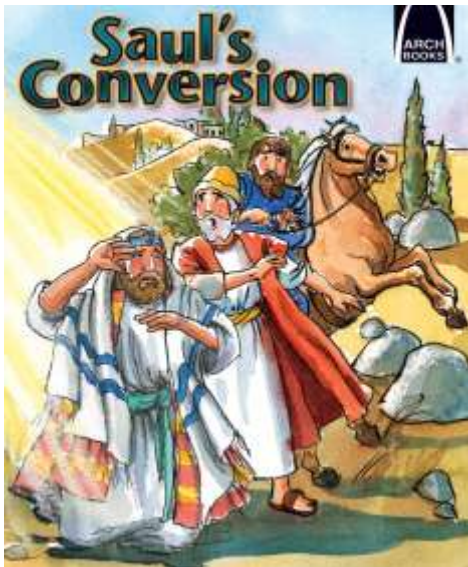
1. Go to www.st-johnog.org
2. hover mouse on **ABOUT** tab
3. click on **'Active Military Prayer Request'**



A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all on this, the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Gospel for this Saturday Vigil/Sunday is a parable which is difficult for several people. Jesus tells a story that deals with the subject of final judgement. That is not something that is in our job description as creations of God. Final judgement is for God to make, and we are to leave that to Him. Using the image in the parable, in the garden that God plants, there are weeds, but we are not the ones that are to be pulling them up and disposing of them. That is something that God will do in the end times. It is not our responsibility to do it now. Because in God's garden, weeds can change to wheat.



The most obvious example of this is St. Paul. As Saul, he persecuted and killed Christians because he did not agree with what they believed. We first meet him in the Acts of the Apostles watching the cloaks of those who are stoning the Deacon Stephen. If anyone or any group had taken it into their own hands to kill him, to get rid of him, look what would have happened! We would be without one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church. Saul was knocked off his horse, called by Jesus, and became an Apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote several letters to communities, some of which he founded, and spread the Word of God across the Mediterranean Sea area from the Middle East into Greece, and eventually to the city of Rome. This “weed” changed into “wheat” by the grace of God.

Therefore, who are we to get rid of weeds? We cannot make final judgements on people because through the grace of God, people can change. Why would we substitute our own final judgement about people as if God's grace cannot work on them? Something to think about...

We are called by God to pray for one another, to support and help one another, but not make final judgements about one another. God is greater than any of us, and God is working in the lives of all of us. Good things are happening, and they can't happen if we make final judgements of one another – if we substitute our own will for the will of God who created all things, including people who are different than us. May we continue to pray for one another so that the will of God will work out in all of us.

God bless!
Fr. James G. Stembler



Deacon's Corner

Today is the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings are from Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 (85 in Spanish); Romans 8:26-27; and the Gospel from Matthew 13:24-43 (Long reading). The first reading today talks about mercy. The Book of Wisdom is not part of the King James Version of the Bible. The Church has accepted the Book of Wisdom, even though it was written in Greek, and not part of the Jewish writings at the beginning. The Book was added later, but was contained in the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament, known as the *Septuagint*. Both Catholic and Greek Churches include it in the Bible. It is important because it talks about God's mercy as being more important than any other description of God's justice. I love this quote: "But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins." That is the responsorial verse today: "Lord, you are good and forgiving." Look carefully at the last stanza: "You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity. Turn toward me, and have pity on me; give your strength to your servant." What's this strength? Kindness and fidelity! If we are to imitate God, we must be kind and faithful. Isn't that what Jesus' second

commandment is all about? Lord let me count the many times I have violated this commandment! Paul's letter to the Romans inspires us to learn how to pray, and that is, to allow the Spirit of God to guide us. Meditate on these words: "...the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will." For the space I have left, I want to talk about the parables in today's Gospel. Luke has 24 parables, and Matthew has 23. Mark has 8 and John has none. Think about the mercy of God and his justice, and see where you end up. I think the parable of the seed in today's Gospel tells us that while mercy from God is available to all of us, especially the poor, the ignorant, the downtrodden, there is a certain expectation that we respond to God's mercy by not only imitating it, but *practicing* it! That is why he allows the weeds to grow with the wheat. We have an opportunity to defeat evil, and if we do, we *become* wheat. If at the end we haven't learned how to defeat evil, we know what to expect. Meditate on the last verses of today's reading: "The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear." Verses 41-43.

God love you. 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.***

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

The upcoming 2026 Weekend Schedule is Men's: September 17-20 Women's: July 30—August and 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.



Stewardship of Treasure

Week #2	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
7/12/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (483.00)	\$1,950.00	\$ 1,942.00	\$ (491.00)	\$ 3,900.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ (563.75)	\$1,675.00	\$ 1,349.00	\$ (889.75)	\$ 3,350.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 2,159.16	\$1,400.00	\$ 2,068.91	\$ 2,828.07	\$ 2,800.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 1,112.41	\$5,025.00	\$ 5,359.91	\$ 1,447.32	\$ 10,050.00	\$ 11,497.32

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$8,480 has been pledged.

With a projected 3,625 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$12,105 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 53% of the diocesan goal with 10% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA. Your continued support of the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal is truly appreciated!

Parish Organizations

Needed: more collection counters & bookkeepers 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 23-25—Mrs. Anita Bazan, Mrs. Glenda Rodriguez, Mrs. Lestly Martinez Conchas, Mrs. Maria Albina Resendiz

July 30-August 1 — Paid Professional



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.

Vacation Bible School

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. Para hombres mujeres mayores de 18 anos



Dear Padre,

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●

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



VASYUCHENKO NIKITA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

While unity attracts, division scatters....

Therefore, in order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ's love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples' feet: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY,
ROME, JANUARY 7, 2026



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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 20

Weekday

Mi 6:1-4, 6-8

Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday

July 21

Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday

July 22

St. Mary Magdalene

Sg 3:1-4b or

2 Cor 5:14-17

Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday

July 23

Weekday

Jer 2:1-3, 7-8,

12-13

Mt 13:10-17

Friday

July 24

Weekday

Jer 3:14-17

Mt 13:18-23

Saturday

July 25

St. James, Apostle

2 Cor 4:7-15

Mt 20:20-28

Sunday

July 26

Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 13:44-52

or 13:44-46

Father Patrick K. Donohoe, you will be missed!

Catechists and classroom aides are needed!

There is a real possibility that some grades of religious education cannot be offered during the 2026-2027 year because 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 August 26 and August 30.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS VBS



GRADES:
KINDER –FIFTH

JULY 20–24,
5:30PM–8:00 PM

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

A meal will be
provided each day.

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!”