



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 / Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46



Good News!

July 26, 2026

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1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 / Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was a mystery he called the kingdom of God, referred to in the Gospel of Matthew as the kingdom of heaven. He was not the first to speak of it. The prophets before him spoke often of God's dream for the world. They wanted all to know what it would look like when God reigns here on earth as God already reigns in the heavens. But Jesus added to that teaching by offering vivid new images of what God's reign is like. Matthew 13 is filled with such snapshots. The kingdom of heaven will be like a mustard seed, a pearl, a measure of leaven, a hidden treasure. It will be like a sower casting out seed, a wheat harvest, a net that catches many fish.

At the end of this litany, however, Jesus offers an image of what he expects of those who have received his teaching about the Kingdom. They are to be like "the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It sounds as if Jesus' disciples are to act like hosts of a banquet, setting the table with stories from across time to feed their guests with whatever words and images would best help them grasp the mystery of this kingdom. They are to continue Jesus' work of developing new ways to illumine a mystery that is in the end too great for words. •

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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.-25 <i>St. James</i>	6:00PM	† Joe Gonzales (5th anniv.) by His wife † Dominga Guerrero (anniv.) by Bazan, Leal & Hinojosa 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 † Clemencia Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril Familias de la parroquia
Mon.-27	8:00AM	† James Joe Gwosdz by his family Healing of the Bunch family by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Healing and recovery of Brent Wiechring by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
Tues.-28	8:00AM	More vocations to the priesthood Healing of the Bunch family by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Healing and recovery of Brent Wiechring by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
Thurs.-30	6:00PM 6:30PM	madres solteras Adoración
Fri.-31	8:00AM	Healing of the Bunch family by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Healing and recovery of Brent Wiechring by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Birthday blessings for Bethany Wanoreck

Masses for August 1st & 2nd

Sat.-1 <i>St. Alphonsus</i> <i>Liguori</i>	8:00AM 6:00PM	<i>Mass is open and available</i> † Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian † Rodney W. Hackfeld by Annette Hackfeld † Jim VanBlarcum by Barbara Burnett † Durwood & † Lorenza Hatch by Saturday Morning Prayer Group
Sun.-2	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Carolyn Vanover, † Irvan Pierce, and † Tootsie Thompson (Heavenly birthday) by Carla & Dwayne Berry Healing and recovery of Brent Wiechring by Michael & Sharon Bartosch
	11:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family Living and Deceased Members of the SJoC Altar Society People of the parish
	6:00PM	† Feliciano Borrego, Jr. (Heavenly birthday) by Borrego Family † Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, y † Clemencia Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



Aug. 1—6:00PM—Lector: San Juanita Gaza
EM: Anita Bazan, Luis and Nora Romanos
Head Usher: Carlos Alanis

Aug. 2—7:30AM—Lector: Quinton Smithwick
EM: Laura Gwosdz, Luz Paiz, Margie Svetlik
Head Usher: Bart and Maria Miller

11:00AM—Lector: Diana Aguilar
EM: Dee DeLeon, Janie Flores, Diana DeAnda,
Maria Galvan-Gordon
Head Usher: Tinker Villarreal

6:00PM—Lector: Margarita Velasquez
EM: Jesus Perez, Esmeralda Castro
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:



Nathaniel Garza, Natasha Gonzalez,
Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes, Antonio Medrano,
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

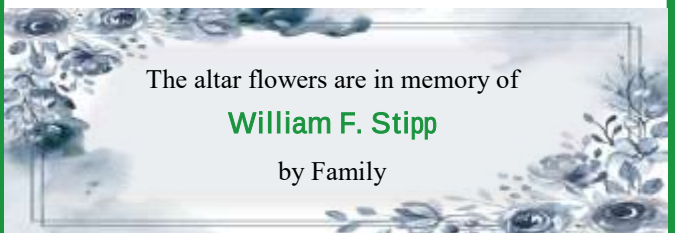
Army: Father Jim Craig, Madeleena Delaney,
Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald,
Jacob Madrid, Eduardo Perales, Robert Ponce,
Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios, and
Tyree Winstead

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!**



The altar flowers are in memory of

William F. Stipp

by Family

A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all!

A liturgical moment:

In the Roman Catholic Church, there must be exactly one main crucifix in the sanctuary visible to the congregation during Mass. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, it is placed either on the altar or near it.

Here at St. John of the Cross, the main crucifix is suspended over the altar, visible to all in the Church. Therefore, the processional cross will now be kept in the side altar server sacristy and vesting area.

I may include a liturgical moment from time to time just to keep us in line with the mind of the Church. We all need it from time to time. So, may God watch over us as we continue to be true to the mind of the Church.

All is really going well with me as I continue to unpack and transition into this community of Orange Grove. And what a wonderful community you are! Between here and the Mission of St. Francis of Assisi in Lagarto, these are wonderful communities in which good work is being accomplished! That is great!

Collaboration is the name of the game in the Church right now, I do believe. We help and support each other as we grow in our understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ! Through this witness, the kingdom of God is being realized in and around us.

May God bless us everyone as we continue to be His witnesses in this world!

Be assured of prayers!
Fr. James G. Stembler



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.

UNVEILED

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.



PLEDGEFEST 2026 HAPPENS SOON!



For more than 41 years, KLUX 89.5 HD Radio has been blessed to serve the Coastal Bend community by providing positive, uplifting, and faith-filled programming.

PledgeFest 2026 will take place on the air from Monday, August 24th through Friday, the 28th with a goal of \$55,000. With your prayers and financial support, this campaign will meet—and even exceed—this goal.

See more details, and also find out how you can volunteer. Help ensure that "Good Company" Radio remains a source of inspiration for years to come.

DIocese OF CORPUS CHRISTI
**WORLD YOUTH DAY
PILGRIMAGE**
AUGUST 1-10, 2027
OPEN TO AGES 18-39

For any young adults (18-39) who are interested in joining the diocesan World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea August 1-10, 2027, please visit <https://diocesecc.org/wyd> to register by September 30th.

For all questions or to sponsor a pilgrim, please contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry: soconnor@diocesecc.org.



Deacon's Corner

Today is the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and I want to concentrate on the reign of King Solomon, who is favored by God in today's reading but who is also "condemned" by God at the end of his reign for following other Gods. The readings are from 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130; Romans 8:28-30; and the Gospel reading is from Matthew 13:44-52. You may have noticed that we have been on Chapter 13 of Matthew for several weeks now. Chapter 13 is an important chapter of Matthew's Gospel. The message of Chapter 13 deals with the parables, the manner in which Matthew wishes to impart to us the thinking about Jesus, about how to live a truly Christian life, and about making decisions that lead us to a closer relationship with him. In today's first reading, we have a little of that in the example of Solomon. I have always wondered why the Lord, according to the Old Testament writers, had always praised Solomon, and sort of overlooked his apostasy, his straying from the true God and going over to the false gods of the foreign wives of Solomon. Read 1 Kings 11 for a rebuke of the kingship of Solomon. In the New American Bible, from which we get our readings, the heading of 1 Kings 11 is "The End of Solomon's Reign." See particularly verse 4: "When Solomon was old his wives had turned his heart to follow other gods, and his heart was not entirely with the Lord, his God, as the heart of David his father had been." David, in spite of his terrible sin of murder and adultery, repented of his sins, (Psalm 51) and the Lord favored him because of it. However, David was not allowed to build

God's temple in Jerusalem. See 1 Chronicles 22:8. "You have shed much blood, and you have waged great wars. You may not build a house for my name, because you have shed too much blood upon the earth in my sight." The two great kings of Israel had human limitations, and even though some Old Testament writers favored them, the Kingdom of God is not guaranteed if we turn away from God. Therefore, Chapter 13 of Matthew teaches us about our resolve to follow the Lord. Faithfulness and adherence to the Lord is always required, and deviations are condemned in the sense that if we turn away from God, we are lost UNLESS we repent. That is why repentance is such a great theme of the New Testament because when we stray from the Lord, we have an opportunity, because of his great mercy, to find our way back. Solomon refused. "The Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and commanded him not to do this very thing, not to follow other gods. But he did not observe what the Lord commanded." Verses 9 and 10 of Chapter 11 of First Kings. Chapter 13 of Matthew gives us a chance until the very end to reconcile with God and make amends for wasting his gifts. Matthew makes it clear that the decision to follow the Lord is ours, and a refusal to do so makes for severe consequences. Look up verses 49 and 50 of Chapter 13 and meditate on them.

God love you and keep you and be with you in your decision-making.

Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #3	COLLECTION	Totals Prior	Goal	Actual	Total Annual	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
7/19/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (491.00)	\$1,950.00	\$ 2,418.00	\$ (23.00)	\$ 5,850.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ (889.75)	\$1,675.00	\$ 1,182.45	\$ (1,382.30)	\$ 5,025.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 2,828.07	\$1,400.00	\$ 2,319.16	\$ 3,747.23	\$ 4,200.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 1,447.32	\$5,025.00	\$ 5,919.61	\$ 2,341.93	\$ 15,075.00	\$ 17,416.93



There will be a **SECOND** collection NEXT weekend to support the Capital Campaign that funds **Our Living Church Building Fund**. We can see the fruits of our generosity as the stucco repair is well underway, some of the stained-glass windows have been taken out for repair, and we can all hear with the newly installed sound system.

Your continued generosity is needed to complete the restoration of our parish buildings.

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$10,720 has been pledged.

With a projected 3,210 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$13,930 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 45% of the diocesan goal with 11% 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 30-August 1 — Paid Professional

August 6-8 — Mrs. Juanita Murray, Ms. Mary Sanchez, Ms. Rachel Pena, Mrs. Betty Posada, Mrs. Flor Vega



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 17 @ 6PM

Hostess grp # 1: Mary Villarreal

Corporate Mass—August 16 @ 7:30AM Rosary at 7:00AM Leader: Jana Robinson

Offertory: Elaine Lopez, Debra Cade, and Annette Rivera

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by Aurora B. Garcia & Belinda Ortiz



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4



CASA DE LUCY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4 @ 9AM

Religious Education

A HUGE "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!" goes to all of the volunteers who helped make our Vacation Bible School a success! We had 55 participants take a Road Trip with God and 16 youth volunteers.

Religious education begins **Wednesday, September 2. Save the Date** – Registration and orientation for Religious Education: **Wed., Aug. 26, at 6:00PM, and Sun., Aug. 30, at 12:00 PM.**

All students in junior high thru high school and a parent/guardian must attend a mandatory orientation in the parish hall to register. Parents who have children in jr. high – high school AND elementary grades and the student(s) MUST attend the orientation to register ALL of their children.

Parents who ONLY have children in elementary grades are not required to attend an orientation to register their child(ren) and can register in the Religious Ed building.



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 29** 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, August 22.**

Dear Padre,

I'm in the OCIA program. My wife and I were married civilly. She goes to a non-denominational church but is not baptized. Someone said we would have to get our marriage "convalidated." Why? And what does that mean?

Convalidation is a legal term, but it can also be understood as good pastoral practice and even more as a wise spiritual choice. Basically, from a legal point of reference, your marriage took place outside of the canonical structure of the Church.

It needs to be "regularized" and "documented" for you to move forward. Because your wife is not baptized, it cannot be a sacramental marriage, which requires baptism, but it can be made valid and recorded in official Church documentation. Such documentation is helpful, particularly if you have children and intend to raise them as Catholic. Also, if your wife ever decides to become a baptized Catholic, your marriage would automatically become a sacramental marriage when she is baptized. Nothing more is required of you. All in all, it is a good decision and a positive step in your spiritual journey. ●



BIGDAN SONJACHIN / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

God speaks to us.... [T]he first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine Word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to speak with God, not to communicate to him what he already knows, but to reveal ourselves to ourselves. Hence the need for prayer, in which we are called to live and to cultivate friendship with the Lord.

GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, JANUARY 14,
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 27
Weekday
Jer 13:1-11
Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday

July 28
Weekday
Jer 14:17-22
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday

July 29
Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
Jer 15:10, 16-21
Jn 11:19-27 or
Lk 10:38-42

Thursday

July 30
Weekday
Jer 18:1-6
Mt 13:47-53

Friday

July 31
St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Jer 26:1-9
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday

August 1
St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Jer 26:11-16, 24
Mt 14:1-12

Sunday

August 2
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:1-3
Rom 8:35, 37-39
Mt 14:13-21