



St. John of the Cross



Parish Office Phone:
361-384-2795

Pastor:
Rev. James Stembler

Bulletin Email
saintjohn0006@gmail.com

Parish Office Email:
saintjohn0003@gmail.com

Pastor's Email
pastorsjoc@gmail.com

Church Website:
www.st-johnog.org

Mailing Address — P.O. Box 329, Orange Grove, TX 78372

Physical Address — 200 S. Metz, Orange Grove, TX 78372

**Our Parish
COMMUNITY**

August 2, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:1-3 / Romans 8:35, 37-39 / Matthew 14:13-21



Good News!

August 2, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:1-3 / Romans 8:35, 37-39 / Matthew 14:13-21

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Even when the apostles think they have anticipated what is needed, they often come up short. Not a lack of preparation or a lack of talent, but something is missing, nonetheless. In the gospel, they announce to Jesus that there is not enough food to eat. The crowds are too massive. They are too far away from the resources they need. But Jesus is not concerned. He sees what they are incapable of seeing. He believes in ways they cannot even begin to comprehend.

In blessing the limited amount of food they scrounge up for him, Jesus reveals to them an abundance they were unable to see. Not only is there enough for all who have assembled, there is more than enough, beyond their wildest imaginings.

How did the apostles understand what they experienced this day? How did they react to the miraculous, overflowing abundance where there was once scarcity? How could there be something where there was nothing?

The real lesson of the gospel is not necessarily the miraculous. Rather, the real lesson of the gospel is found in the invitation to see, to hope, to anticipate that with God all is possible. Even when it seems like a dead end. Even when nothing adds up. Even when you come up short. ●

© 2026 Liguori Publications. Imprints: Priest Fr. Kevin Zabel, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

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.-1 <i>St. Alphonsus</i> <i>Liguori</i>	8:00AM 6:00PM	† Gary Graham by Janet Graham † Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian † Rodney W. Hackfeld by Annette Hackfeld † Durwood & † Lorenza Hatch by Saturday Morning Prayer Group † Jim VanBlarcum by Barbara Burnett
Sun.-2	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Carolyn Vanover, † Irvan Pierce, and † Tootsie Thompson (Heavenly birthday) by Carla & Dewayne 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 † Ignacio Gonzales por Familia Conchas † Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, y † Clemencia Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril
Mon.-3	8:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Owen & Kim Gallagher † Fr. Chris Meyers by friends
Tues.-4	8:00AM	Liza Ochoa's family & vocations by Liza Ochoa
Thurs.-6 Transfiguración del Señor	6:00PM 6:30PM	enfermeros y personal de primera respuesta Adoración
Fri.-7	8:00AM	† Jeffrey Gwosdz (53rd anniv.) by his family

Masses for August 8th & 9th

Sat.-8	6:00PM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † David Gaza by Ben, Ceasar, & Sam Gaza † James & † Jeffrey Gwosdz by their family In thanksgiving for parishioner support by Altar Server Ministry
Sun.-9	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Owen & Kim Gallagher In thanksgiving for supportive parents by Altar Server Ministry Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Cemetery Association Families of the parish
	11:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian All Current & Former Altar Servers by Altar Server Ministry Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family Otto Siegmund Family by Annette Hackfeld
	6:00PM	† Elena Centeno y † Martin Becerril por Paulin Becerril y familia † Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Diaz, † Jovita Vega, y † Clemencia Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Todas las familias de los monaguillos de San Juan de la Cruz por ministerio de monaguillos Por las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril

Gather — A Family Ministry—encouraging community, growing in God's word, and supporting families. We will meet the first Sunday of each month, starting October 4, from 9:15-10:45. Scan the QR code to register and for more details.



Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



Aug. 8—6:00PM—Lector: Raquel S. Jimenez
EM: Sharry Stipp, Don and Kim Rokohl
Head Usher: Pablo and Graciela Alaniz

Aug. 9—7:30AM—Lector: Rick Svetlik
EM: Margie Svetlik, Laura Gwosdz, Jose Isais
Head Usher: Gerald Murray, Emmanuel Alejandro

11:0AM—Lector: Karol Kocurek
EM: Dee DeLeon, Janie Flores, Diana DeAnda,
Volunteer
Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Jose Ordenez
EM: Paulin Becerril, Joachin Ordenez
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:



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!**

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 as we begin the month of August! Can you believe it is August already?

At the end of the month, I will be away at the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I will leave Orange Grove on Monday afternoon, August 24th, and return to Orange Grove on Sunday, August 30th, in the early afternoon. I should be available for Confessions and the Sunday evening Mass that evening.



I have been involved with the National Council of Catholic Women for every year of my priesthood except the first. I began as the Chaplain for the Altar and Rosary Society at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, then I became the Moderator for Corpus Christi Area of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, then I became the Moderator for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, then I was asked to be the Moderator of the Province of Galveston-Houston Catholic Women, then I became the National Chair of Spiritual Advisors, as we are now known as, for two terms, and now I continue to be the Province of Galveston-Houston Council of Catholic Women. For several years, I was the Spiritual Advisor for the Friends of NCCW for WUCWO which stands for the World Union of Catholic Women Organizations.

My time with NCCW has truly been a gift. As I have often said, I am blessed among women!

Within the Diocese of Corpus Christi, the Council of Catholic Women has been through difficulties. Right now, it does not really exist as an organization. The reasons depend on who you speak with. I would like to see it resurrect somehow. The Council throughout the country has been through several changes. It is experiencing growth pains. However, there are Catholic Women in the United States – that is the only criteria necessary to be a member. Not only Catholic women's organizations are members, but now individual members can be members. A while ago, the Orange Grove women were very much involved with Council. Maybe that can come about again, and growth will continue.

I will bring back information that I receive at the Convention, and we will see how God is calling us here in the Diocese of Corpus Christi to resurrect the DCCW. Perhaps the women here are being called to start something! You never know! Like the Gospel this past Monday indicated, important things start with trivial things – a mustard bush begins as a tiny, little seed. Important things can begin in small places like Orange Grove! There is no telling what God is bringing forth!

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler

Flocknote

Keep in touch with us via email & text!

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

Or Connect with us online at:
www.stjohnnog.flocknote.com

Social Media



Facebook:

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

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

Deacon's Corner

This is the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The first reading is Isaiah 55:1-3; the Responsorial Psalm is Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 (144 in Spanish); the second reading is Romans 8:35, 37-39 and the Gospel is Matthew 14:13-21. For the first reading I want you to meditate on this: Have you noticed that where rivers or streams flow, the vegetation on the banks are always green—sometimes even when the rain has been lacking for a significant amount of time? It's as if vegetation knows that water gives life, and so the vegetation strives to get close to the water. Consider that the "water" in our lives is the Lord! Sometimes, the farther the water is from the vegetation the dryer and browner it becomes, and we notice that the closer to the water the greener it becomes. Next time you take a drive down the countryside look at this phenomenon. I love how the reading starts: "All you who are thirsty, come to the water!" And then the readings end with: "Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant...." The use of the word "heedfully" recalls for me the words of Jesus—"all of you who have ears ought to hear." That's all of us! He is inviting us to listen to Him! Why do we hesitate? Some of the reasons are addressed by the Evangelists in the parables, especially of the seed and the fertility of the ground on which it falls. Those thoughts are contained in the parables of the good ground and the description of the kingdom of heaven. The bottom line is: If you are close to the Lord, it will go well with you. If not, you take your destiny into your own hands. The Lord is available to you. Are you available to Him? Look at yourself. See if you are, or to what extent you are not. Today we have the multiplication of the loaves and fishes according to Matthew. I think that this is the only miracle that is in all four Gospels, together with the Resurrection of the Lord, of course. See Mark

6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; and, of course, John 6:1-15 (the famous discourse on the Bread of Life, which is a theology of the Eucharist). The Responsorial Psalm in most cases supports an aspect of the First Reading, and on a few occasions the Psalm gives us insight into both Testaments, the Old Testament reading and the New Testament reading. I think that is the case for today's readings: "The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs." So, the Psalm supports the idea that God sustains us and is kind and merciful, and he loves us without conditions. Paul concludes that nothing and no one "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." In a simple statement we can say that today's readings give us the assurance that God gives us life and sustains it simply because he loves us. We are reluctant to acknowledge this truth, I think, because we are afraid or hesitant to even think about responding to God's love. Because? We'll have to change, and we don't want to change our ways and our attitudes! One last thought before I close. I've always wondered why, after the disciples "helped" Jesus administer the miracle of the loaves and fishes, they still did not understand who he was. They kept waiting for "signs" and "the kingdom." When he was arrested, scourged, and given the Cross to bear, they ran away. Does that happen to us? I think so. Our faith needs constant care and re-evaluation. As we grow deeper in love with the Lord, we discover new ways to love him--kind of what happens in a good marriage. I asked a priest once if in the exercise of his vocation his love for Jesus grows as the years pass by like love grows in a marriage. I will have been married 57 years on August 16, 2026. I have discovered that as the years pass, I love my wife more and more. He answered, "yes." God love you.

Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #4	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	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

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

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

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

August 13-15—Mrs. Natalie David, Mrs. Kristin Richter, Mrs. Mary Lou Leon Guerrero, Mrs. Nicole Raska, Mrs. Belinda Quintana

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

Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

CASA DE LUCY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 4 @ 9AM

Casa 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.



Religious Education



Save the Date – Religious education begins **Wednesday, September 2.**

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 **Wednesday, August 12,** 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,

Jesus gave his disciples both bread and wine and said, "Do this in memory of me." But our priest decided that we cannot receive from the cup at Communion. Does he have the right to deny his parishioners the Precious Blood?

"The diocesan bishop may lay down norms for the distribution of Communion under both kinds for his own diocese, which must be observed" (*Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, 24). (Also see *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 283.) After the COVID-19 pandemic, many parishes did not resume Communion under both kinds. Some opted instead to make the Precious Blood available only on major solemnities. However, "Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds" (*GIRM* 281). "It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do...partake of the chalice (cf. no. 283), so that even by means of the signs Communion may stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated" (*GIRM* 85). Still, pastors "should instruct the Christian faithful...that Christ, whole and entire, and the true Sacrament, is received even under only one species, and hence...those who receive under only one species are not deprived of any grace that is necessary for salvation" (*GIRM* 282). ●



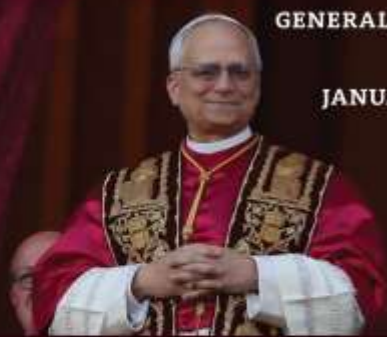
ARTINI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[Friendship with the Lord] is achieved first of all in liturgical and community prayer, in which we do not decide what to hear from the Word of God, but it is he himself who speaks to us through the Church; it is then achieved in personal prayer.... Only when we speak with God can we also speak about him.

GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME,
JANUARY 14, 2026



The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione-Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

August 3
Weekday
Jer 28:1-17
Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday

August 4
St. John Vianney,
Priest
Jer 30:1-2, 12-15,
18-22
Mt 14:22-36 or
Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday

August 5
Weekday
Jer 31:1-7
Mt 15:21-28

Thursday

August 6
The Transfiguration
of the Lord
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Pt 1:16-19
Mt 17:1-9

Friday

August 7
Weekday
Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
Mt 16:24-28

Saturday

August 8
St. Dominic, Priest
Hb 1:12-2:4
Mt 17:14-20

Sunday

August 9
Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a
Rom 9:1-5
Mt 14:22-33