



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 9, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a / Romans 9:1-5 / Matthew 14:22-33



Good News!

August 9, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a / Romans 9:1-5 / Matthew 14:22-33

MIGUEL DULICK

In the first reading, Elijah is ready for anything—a whirlwind, an earthquake, a fire—because “the Lord will pass by” (1 Kings 19:11). But God comes tiptoeing, with a tiny whisper. Elijah, a giant of a prophet, covers his face like a child and wraps himself in the word of the Lord. Ordinarily, at this point, a homily would move on to the gospel. But in the second reading, from Romans, we are brought up short. Paul, a giant himself, would love a reassuring whisper from God. He is in utter agony, for the doubtful salvation of “my own brothers,” the Jews. Such is his distress that he wishes he could offer himself in exchange, even to the extent of being “accursed and separated from Christ” (literally, “anathema”) for “my kin.” (See Romans 9:3.) His anguish is heartbreaking, especially since it seems to be a prayer he has repeated over and over. Paul was no doubt thinking of Moses, who dramatically offered his own life to save the Israelites from God’s judgment after the golden calf: “[Lord,] if you would only forgive their sin! But if you will not, then blot me out of the book that you have written” (Exodus 32:32). Paul’s faith told him that Christ had opened the door of salvation to everyone, and even rejection by the chosen people could not close it. In fact, it confirmed its universal promise. A paradox perhaps, much like when Jesus walked on water, as we hear about in today’s gospel. ●

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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.-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
Mon.-10 St. Lawrence	8:00AM	† Eileen Heim by Schneider Family The lonely and depressed
Tues.-11 St. Clare	8:00AM	† Maria Corina Bazan by Bazan Family † Tia Salome & † Tio Felix by Anita Bazan
Thurs.-13	6:00PM	† Johnny & † Nora Vaughn por Anita Bazan Veteranos y militares activos
	6:30PM	Adoración
Fri.- 14 St. Maximilian Kolbe	8:00AM	† Regina Gwosdz (43rd ann.) by Nell Gwosdz & family Liza Ochoa's family / souls in purgatory by Liza Ochoa
	6:00PM	Vigil Mass for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses for August 15th & 16th

Sat.-15	8:00AM	<i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
	6:00PM	† Manual Alejandro (10th anniv.) & † Jose Alejandro by Lupe & Angie Alejandro † Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian † Dominga Guerrero (birthday) by Bazan, Leal & Hinojosa families † Smitty Resendez by Jana Robinson
Sun.-16	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Owen & Kim Gallagher † Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family † Monica Terrell (heavenly birthday) by Michael & Sharon Bartosch Living and Deceased Members of the Sociedad Guadalupanas
	11:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Guadalupe, Sr., & † Juanita Ochoa by Family † Diana Villarreal (1st anniv.) by Family Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family For those suffering with cancer or any other serious disease by Saturday Morning Prayer Group
	6:00PM	† Antonio Martinez, † Teresa Dias, † Jovita Vega, y † Clemencia Gomez por Jose Luis Martinez Las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril Los feligreses de la parroquia

Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



Aug. 15 —6:00PM—Lector: Pablo Alaniz
EM: Luis and Nora Romanos, Anita Bazan
Head Usher: San Juanita Gaza, Raquel S. Jimenez

Aug. 16 —7:30AM—Lector: Ed Ortiz
EM: Maria Miller, Laura Gwosdz,
Quinton Smithwick
Head Usher: Bart Miller

11:00AM—Lector: Ernest Henderson
EM: Don and Kim Rokohl, Diana Aguilar,
Volunteer
Head Usher: Tinker Villarreal

6:00PM—Lector: Manuel Rodriguez
EM: Maria Graciela Ordenez, Albina Resendez
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:



Blanca 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



The altar flowers are in memory of

Dunn & Myers Families

by Dunn Family



A Note From Our Pastor

Greetings to one and all! I trust all of you are doing well as the summer vacation time is winding down and school will begin this coming Wednesday.



The 1983 Code of Canon Law, the code that the Church is following at this time in its history, has several Canons; to be accurate it is Canons 945-958, concerning Mass intentions. These Canons protect the faithful from exploitation; they preserve the dignity of the priesthood; and they maintain proper stewardship among all Catholics. Basically, they are:

- *only one intention per Mass. In our Diocese, the permission has been given that two regularly designated Masses each week – the same two Masses each week – are multi-intentional Masses.**
- *The suggested offering – the Canons no longer refer to this as a “stipend” but an “offering,” – for an intention in our Province or area of the United States is \$5.00 per Mass. If someone requests a Mass, but they cannot pay the offering of \$5.00, the Mass is still offered.**
- *A priest receives only \$5.00 per day for the Mass intention offered. If it is a multi-intentional Mass, he only receives \$5.00 per day. The exceptions to this are: Mother’s Day Novena, Father’s Day Novena, and All Souls’ Day Novena. Also, on Christmas Day, the priest may be given \$5.00 per every Mass he offers.**
- *Priests are not spiritual merchants selling prayers. Your prayers are heard by God as are mine. God does not hear my prayers more than yours. The Church has never taught that! When you pray for an intention at Mass, it is our faith that God hears and is aware of your intention. My praying for it does not mean that God listens to it more.**

These Canons are not bureaucratic obstacles – they SHOULD NOT be seen as this at all! They are safeguards for something precious. PRAYER! They protect the faithful who trust their intentions are heard by God – which He does – and that they will be honored – which God does. THAT IS OUR FAITH, ISN’T IT!?! When a grieving family requests a Mass for their loved one, they are placing profound trust in the Church. Canon Law ensures that trust is never betrayed. The intention will be offered. The obligation will be fulfilled. We trust God, don’t we? And if we do trust God, that is seen and understood in how we trust the Church.

May God bless us everyone as we come to understand the teachings of our Church and follow the mind of the Church.

Fr. James G. Stembler

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

Deacon's Corner

This is the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings today are from 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Romans 9:1-5; and the Gospel of Matthew: Matthew 14:22-33. Today's readings speak to us about God's call. I want to develop that theme throughout if I can. I may throw in a short meditation here and there, but mostly I want to talk about God's call to us. I want you to understand one thing I learned when I was studying for the diaconate. God calls us in the same way. However you imagine he talked to Moses and the Patriarchs, the Prophets, the Blessed Mother, and St. Paul is the same way he talks to us. His Spirit communicates with our spirits. Think about how we make decisions for the good, and for evil. (Just a little meditation now on habitual sin here). When we get in the habit of sinning and ignoring God, we are lost. When we decide to repent, it is God who is calling us, and when we respond, we are found again. Let's go back to good and evil. Take a look at what Elijah says: "...there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave." Think about how God calls us in a whisper, when we are ready to listen. He doesn't shout over noises in your spirit; he waits until your spirit is ready to hear his Spirit. That means that when we're looking for the Lord, we must not look for Him in the wrong place. God is everywhere, and he can be found anywhere, but his best whisper, his strongest whisper, his most effective whisper, comes through the Church. That is why the sacrament of reconciliation is so important! As a lawyer I work with couples a lot. Where there is reconciliation with God, there is better reconciliation chances between the parties; otherwise, hatred and rejection can reign in the lives of many couples who are divorced, most especially when they do not have access to the sacrament of reconciliation,

or having access, they don't see it as beneficial for peace of the spirit. I say again, this sacrament is the best whisper God has to offer. He invites us to take advantage of it. The Prophets, the Patriarchs, the Blessed Mother and St. Paul (to name a few) are *instruments* of reconciliation. St. Francis of Assisi tells us: "Make me an instrument of your peace." They and the entire communion of saints are not the whisper, but they lead us to the whisper. The first two lines of today's responsorial Psalm tells us: "I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD — for he proclaims peace." That's the lure that brings us to Jesus! When we've had enough of turmoil in life, when there is no one else that can fill that emptiness, when we long for peace so much that we'll try anything, we'll settle for Jesus. And He is ready when you are! Now for the Gospel. I love this reading because it tells us that sometimes when we think we're on the right track we are distracted, and we lose sight of the goal. When Peter takes his "eyes" off Jesus, he sinks. Something similar happens to us when we come to the Lord with motives, not with an untainted decision. We are distracted by the things around us, and we lose sight of the prize. But when we recognize that distancing taking place, and we call out to the Lord, Matthew tells us, He comes immediately. "Peter...saw how strong the wind was (and) he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' *Immediately* Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'" In Ordinary Time we see mostly the miracles and parables of Jesus. Try to put yourself in the story and see how the Lord works in you. How do we measure up when we compare with the characters in the stories or the parables? How do the stories, parables and healings help us get closer to Jesus? That is really all the Lord wants. God love you. Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

Week #5	COLLECTION	Totals Prior Week -	Goal	Actual	Total Annual Over / (under)	YTD Goal	TOTAL OFFERTORY
8/2/2026	Envelope Collection	\$ (722.00)	\$1,950.00	\$ 1,710.00	\$ (962.00)	\$ 9,750.00	
	Loose Collection	\$ (1,780.46)	\$1,675.00	\$ 1,708.00	\$ (1,747.46)	\$ 8,375.00	
	On-Line Collection	\$ 4,495.34	\$1,400.00	\$ (1,194.09)	\$ 1,901.25	\$ 7,000.00	
	TOTAL Collection	\$ 1,992.88	\$5,025.00	\$ 2,223.91	\$ (808.21)	\$ 25,125.00	\$ 24,316.79

This weekend our parish will celebrate the youth volunteers that make up our **Altar Server Ministry!** Our Servers will receive recognition for their dedication to serving at the Altar at each Mass. We will also have our annual Altar Server Fund appeal at that time. Our Ministry has been blessed to continue to thrive; SJC has 31 active Altar Servers! This growth requires that we also continue to grow our Altar Server Fund—that is where our generous parishioners come in! Your support has allowed us to rectify the issue of old worn out vestments (and our Servers are grateful!) but now we are focusing on building our fund for the other reason it was established—our scholarship awards. Every graduating Altar Server is awarded a scholarship based on years of service at St. John of the Cross. Our Servers need your support to ensure the continued success of our fund and our scholarship awards. You can donate by using any envelope marked “Altar Server Fund” or through the parish’s online giving page. Your continued support of our youth ministry is truly appreciated!

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: SEPTEMBER 14 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 24 @ 6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

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

August 20-22—Mrs. Maria Miller, Mrs. Toni Serna and Natalie, Mrs. Kimberly Ramirez, Reina Garcia



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: SEPTEMBER 1



CASA DE LUCY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9AM

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 on **Wednesday, August 12,** and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, September 12.**



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, September 3** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, August 22.**

Dear Padre,

I am in my third year of sobriety. Can I still become a eucharistic minister if I do not partake in Christ's blood?

Yes. Your personal sobriety practice has nothing to do with your eligibility for service as a minister of the Eucharist. Some would even argue that your commitment to sobriety is a powerful witness of your commitment to living a responsible and mature Catholic life. Instead of an obstacle to ministry, it is a shining example and witness of the power of God's grace at work in your life.

Practically, since ministers of the Cup are often required to consume any remaining Precious Blood after holy Communion is distributed, it might be a good personal practice to make sure there are enough ministers present to perform this necessary step in ablution. If everyone is informed in advance, it contributes to the shared sense of reverence and respect that is required of a eucharistic minister. ●

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



MARINA C. / CATHOLIC

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We live immersed in a culture of speed, immediacy, and haste—a culture of “discard” and indifference that prevents us from pausing along the way and drawing near to acknowledge the needs and suffering that surround us. In the parable, when the Samaritan saw the wounded man, he did not “pass by.” Instead, he looked upon him with an open and attentive gaze—the very gaze of Jesus.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK,
ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026



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Monday

August 10
St. Lawrence, Deacon
and Martyr
2 Cor 9:6–10
Jn 12:24–26

Tuesday

August 11
St. Clare, Virgin
Ez 2:8–3:4
Mt 18:1–5, 10,
12–14

Wednesday

August 12
Weekday
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22
Mt 18:15–20

Thursday

August 13
Weekday
Ez 12:1–12
Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday

August 14
St. Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63
or 16:59–63
Mt 19:3–12

Saturday

August 15
The Assumption of
the Blessed Virgin
Mary
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a,
10ab
1 Cor 15:20–27
Lk 1:39–56

Sunday

August 16
Twentieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6–7
Rom 11:13–15,
29–32
Mt 15:21–28