



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 / Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 / Matthew 15:21-28



Good News!

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 / Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 / Matthew 15:21-28

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today's gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for "the lost sheep" of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

"Faith in what?" one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●

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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.-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 † Martha McCloskey by Friends † 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
Mon.-17	8:00AM	Unborn babies
Tues.-18	8:00AM	Unwed mothers
Thurs.-20 <i>St. Bernard</i>	6:00PM	enfermeros y personal de primera respuesta
	6:30PM	Adoración
Fri.- 21 <i>St. Pius X</i>	6:00PM	Liza Ochoa's family / souls in purgatory by Liza Ochoa

Masses for August 22nd & 23rd

Sat.-22	6:00PM	† Marian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Margarita Guerrero (anniv.) by Bazan, Leal, and Hinojosa Families † Jim Van Blarcum by Estella Cortinas
Sun.-23	7:30AM	† Damian Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia People of the parish
	11:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Maria Adian † David Gaza by San Juanita Gaza † Francisca & † Cornelio Perez by Janie Beltran Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family
	6:00PM	Las almas de purgatoria por Gabriela Becerril



The sanctuary light is offered for

*Liza Ochoa's family &
Momo Ortiz's Family*

By Liza Ochoa



Gather — A Family Ministry—encouraging community, growing in God's word, and supporting families, will begin meeting the first Sunday of each month, starting October 4, from 9:15-10:45.

If you are interested in assisting this ministry with childcare, please contact the parish office.

Scan the QR code to register and for more details.



Ministry Schedule for Mass

Ministry Schedule



Aug. 22 —6:00PM—Lector: Anita Bazan

EM: San Juanita Gaza, Sharry Stipp, Volunteer

Head Usher: Carlos Alanis

Aug. 23—7:30AM—Lector: Kimberly Tessanne

EM: Margie Svetlik, Maria Miller, Luz Paiz

Head Usher: Gerald Murray

11:0AM—Lector: Janie Flores

EM: Diana DeAnda, Karol Kocurek, Dee DeLeon, Volunteer

Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Gabriela Becerril

EM: Paulin Becerril, Joachin Ordenez

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:



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

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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Following up the bulletin article last week, the Masses that are already in the intention schedule will remain. The single intention which the Church directs for Masses will begin with the upcoming new liturgical year which begins with the Saturday evening Vigil Mass on Saturday, November 28th, 2026. The two multi-intentional Masses will be decided in the next few weeks and will be consistent each week. They will begin following November 28, 2026. Many thanks for your patience and understanding with this as we follow the mind and heart of the Church with Mass intentions here at St. John of the Cross and St. Francis of Assisi Mission. The office staff is aware of all this, and they, and I, should be able to help with any questions that may arise. May God bless us all as we begin!



According to #45 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the instruction we are to follow as to how we celebrate Mass presently in the United States, states the following: “Sacred Silence also, as part of the celebration, is to be observed at the designated times. Its purpose, however, depends on the time it occurs in each part of the celebration. Thus, within the Act of Penitence and again after the invitation to pray, all recollect themselves; but at the conclusion of a reading or the homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise and pray to God in their hearts.

Even before the celebration itself, it is commendable that silence be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose (prepare) themselves to carry out the sacred action in a devout and fitting manner. “

How often do I remember being told when I was young that once I entered a church, I was to be quiet. The only time I said, or sang, anything was when the community all joined together or I had a role in the service, such as a reader, or a soloist, etc. Over my time as a priest, things have changed. Many people have the custom of praying out loud before Mass. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with prayer; however, the truth be told, I may have my own prayers to offer to God, or maybe I just want to sit in quiet reflection and prepare myself to join the community in the celebration of Mass. Is there anything wrong with that?

One person’s prayer is not better or worse than another person’s. All our prayers, whatever, they may be, are communication with God which is always the goal of prayer. One prayer is not better than another.

The custom here at St. John of the Cross and at St. Francis of Assisi is to pray the Rosary out loud before Mass and, in my experience, these out loud prayers have finished around five minutes before the beginning of Mass. This custom may continue; however, I am asking that we respect the General Instruction of how we celebrate Mass as Roman Catholics at this time, so I would ask that the Rosary be begun at such a time so that there is at least ten (10) minutes of quiet time before Mass begins in order to follow the mind of the Church, and people are given the opportunity to prepare for the celebration of Mass as God is calling them to do so.

This would be before the celebration of any, and all Masses. After the celebration of Mass, I would ask that inside of the church, including the sacristy, vestibule, etc., quiet be observed for all those who would like to spend time in prayer after Mass before leaving the church. Outside is fine for socializing and greeting people – a very holy thing in and of itself. However, before and after Mass inside the church, please maintain quiet.

At other times, such as cleaning the Church, designated prayer gatherings, etc., out loud public prayer is certainly welcome and fitting. But before and after Mass, let us follow the mind and heart of the Church.

God bless us everyone!

Fr. James G. Stembler

Deacon's Corner

This is the 20th week in Ordinary Time and is celebrated in place of the Assumption of Mary, which is August 15th. This is so because the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, which we celebrate every Sunday takes precedence over holy days of obligation except for the Incarnation. December 25th is celebrated even if it falls on a Saturday or any other day that is not a Sunday. If December 25th is a Sunday, then we celebrate the Holy Day rather than the Sunday. I think that may be the only exception to all the Holy Days. A Sunday in Ordinary Time can be displaced by certain solemnities of the Lord. In addition to Christmas, for example, the solemnities of the Epiphany, the Ascension, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate Conception. But not on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, or the Easter season, the Solemnities do not surpass the importance of those Sundays. I don't know why I'm talking about this except to let you know how important the doctrine of the Resurrection is to us, while recognizing the other important solemn celebrations in the liturgical year. I suppose we ought to fashion our prayer life during these special times to commemorate these special feasts so that we may be aware of the richness of our Catholic faith. The readings for both are included in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "daily readings" section. We have the following scriptures that I want to commend to you: **Vigil Mass** for the Assumption: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Psalm 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28. **Mass during the day:** Revelation 11: 19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB; Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56. The readings for the Mass for the 20th Sunday, which we will celebrate this week are from: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; and the Gospel for this Sunday: Matthew 15:21-28. For the Assumption I want to recommend the Letter of Pope Pius XII to you, known as "*Munificentissimus Deus*". Munificence means more than normal, more than generous, exceedingly generous. It was released on November 1, 1950, which is All Saints Day, and which signifies that Mary is the Queen of All Saints. The letter of Pius XII declares the doctrine of faith known as the Assumption of Mary, that at the death of the Blessed Mother, she was assumed into heaven, body and soul because she was without sin (declared by Pope Pius IX). The faithful had believed for a long time that Mary should be considered to have entered Heaven without having to undergo the corruption due to sin, since she was the sinless vessel for the entry of Jesus into the world. Pius XII wrote it this way: "12. But those whom 'the Holy Spirit has placed as bishops to rule the Church of God' gave an almost unanimous affirmative response to both these

questions. This 'outstanding agreement of the Catholic prelates and the faithful,' affirming that the bodily Assumption of God's Mother into heaven can be defined as a dogma of faith, since it shows us the concordant teaching of the Church's ordinary doctrinal authority and the concordant faith of the Christian people which the same doctrinal authority sustains and directs, thus by itself and in an entirely certain and infallible way, manifests this privilege as a truth revealed by God and contained in that divine deposit which Christ has delivered to his Spouse to be guarded faithfully and to be taught infallibly. Certainly this teaching authority of the Church, not by any merely human effort but under the protection of the Spirit of Truth, and therefore absolutely without error, carries out the commission entrusted to it, that of preserving the revealed truths pure and entire throughout every age, in such a way that it presents them undefiled, adding nothing to them and taking nothing away from them. For, as the (first) Vatican Council teaches, 'the Holy Spirit was not promised to the successors of Peter in such a way that, by his revelation, they might manifest new doctrine, but so that, by his assistance, they might guard as sacred and might faithfully propose the revelation delivered through the apostles, or the deposit of faith.' Thus, from the universal agreement of the Church's ordinary teaching authority we have a certain and firm proof, demonstrating that the Blessed Virgin Mary's bodily Assumption into heaven--which surely no faculty of the human mind could know by its own natural powers, as far as the heavenly glorification of the virginal body of the loving Mother of God is concerned--is a truth that has been revealed by God and consequently something that must be firmly and faithfully believed by all children of the Church. For, as the Vatican Council asserts, 'all those things are to be believed by divine and Catholic faith which are contained in the written Word of God or in Tradition, and which are proposed by the Church, either in solemn judgment or in its ordinary and universal teaching office, as divinely revealed truths which must be believed.' " This is heavy reading today. The readings for the Sunday call for Faith of all peoples, even in the first reading for the 20th Sunday. Isaiah says: "...my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Because Jesus came for all the world, his Blessed Mother is mother for the whole world." Don't leave the Blessed Virgin Mary out of your life. Remember that before the Assumption was declared, the people already believed that she should be declared special, and Pope Pius XII did what the people believed for centuries. I have included all the readings for the Assumption, the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and the Letter of Pope Pius XII, if you're interested. God love you. Deacon Cavada

Stewardship of Treasure

CURRENT WEEK	08/09/2026
Envelope Collection	\$1,210.05
Loose Collection	\$1,006.00
Summer Electric Fund	\$663.00
Altar Server Fund	\$1,277.00
Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$130.00

[2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal](#)

The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$10,645 has been pledged.

With a projected \$2,085 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$12,730 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

September Month Procession Leader: Diana McBride



ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

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

August 27-29—Mrs. Anna Winterbottom, Mrs. Margie Franco, Mrs. Jill Ortiz, Mrs. Janey Flores, Mrs. Delilah DeLaPaz

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

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



CASA DE LUCY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 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 – Registration and orientation for Religious Education:

Wed., Aug. 26, at 6:00PM, and Sun., Aug. 30, at 12:00 PM.

Religious education begins Wednesday, September 2.

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 26](#), 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](#).



Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi

The Jubilee Year of Saint Francis is a special holy year proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, running from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027. It marks the 800th anniversary of the death (the Transitus) of Saint Francis of Assisi, inviting the faithful worldwide to focus on spiritual renewal, peace, simplicity, and care for creation.

Prayer to St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Peace

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognize true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us
so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen.



St. John of the Cross Catholic Church
200 S. Metz, Orange Grove, TX

ANNUAL GUADALUPANA SOCIETY
BINGO FUNDRAISER

Sunday, September 27, 2026
Parish Hall

Doors open at 11:45am for Concession Stand.
BINGO starts at 12:45pm

Participate in our Sweets Auction & 50/50 Raffle

6 On Bingo Book: \$35.00 for 20 games
Plus FREE door prize ticket with book purchase

"Cash and Credit Cards accepted"

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul

II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin's evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn't written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 24:15–23	Ez 28:1–10	Ez 34:1–11	Ez 36:23–28	Ez 37:1–14	Ez 43:1–7ab	Is 22:19–23
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Mt 20:1–16	Mt 22:1–14	Mt 22:34–40	Mt 23:1–12	Rom 11:33–36
						Mt 16:13–20

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ's own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior's prayer for the unity of all.

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

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