



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 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:7-9 / Romans 12:1-2 / Matthew 16:21-27



Good News!

August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:7-9 / Romans 12:1-2 / Matthew 16:21-27

MIGUEL DULICK

Would it surprise you to know that Jesus uses the same Greek verb to chase Peter away—"Get behind me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:23) that he used to call him in the first place—"Come after me" (Matthew 4:19)? Pity the translator who must assign opposite meanings to the same word! Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter when he called him, and now he changes it to Satan for his demotion. But, as harsh as the rebuke is, maybe we could say Jesus does want Peter behind him, but not *too* far behind. In fact, immediately after dealing with Peter, Jesus issues a general call, using the same "trigger" word: "Whoever wishes to *come after* me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

The cross! That's how the controversy started, when Peter "took Jesus aside" (literally, "collared" him) to forbid even the thought of any passion or any cross. (See Matthew 16:22.)

How am I tempted as Peter was to avoid any talk of a cross? I don't even want to admit I'm a sinner, much less that there is a cross for me. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, has some advice for all of us who think like Satan: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God," and "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). Everything for Jesus. ●

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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.-29	6:00PM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Luis Romanos by Shelly McDonald † Praxedis & Raquel S. Jimenez's Wedding Anniversary by Raquel S. Jimenez
Sun.-30	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian † Omar Vidal (Heavenly birthday) by Janie Beltran
	11:00AM	† Victoria & † Tomasita Barajas by Janie Beltran Healing of Sissy Thomas by Family People of the Parish
	6:00PM	† Jose Rosario Becerril por Maria Ordoñez Las almas del purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril
Mon.-31	8:00AM	Nurses & first responders
Tues.-1	8:00AM	Unwed mothers
Thurs.-3	6:00PM	† Maria Jimenez por Dolores Borrego y Familia
	6:30PM	Adoración
Fri.-4	6:00PM	† Ray Garza (Birthday) by Bazan Family † Joe Pena by Family

Masses for September 5th & 6th

Sat.-5	8:00AM	† Gary Graham by Janet Graham Liza Ochoa's family / souls in purgatory by Liza Ochoa
	6:00PM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Larry & Marie Adian † Magdalena Romanos by Shelly McDonald
Sun.-6	7:30AM	† Larry Bruns (2nd anniv.) by His Loving Family † Mae Gwosdz by Her Family † David Samuel Sepeda (Heavenly birthday) by Liza Ochoa
	11:00AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Janet Sikes † Sylvia Monguia & Eva Rios by Jesus Rios † Roger Villarreal (16th anniv.) by Family Living and Deceased Members of the St. John of the Cross Altar Society
	6:00PM	† Elena Centeno y † Martin Becerril por Paulin Becerril y familia Las almas de purgatorio por Gabriela Becerril



The sanctuary light is offered in memory of

Joe Pena

by Family

The altar flowers are in memory of

Gloria LG Shirley

By Ellie Mankin



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



Sept. 5 —6:00PM—Lector: Kim Rokohl
EM: Don Rokohl, Sharry Stipp, Anita Bazan
Head Usher: Mike Schroedter

Sept. 6 —7:30AM—Lector: Quinton Smithwick
EM: Maria Miller, Luz Paiz, Laura Gwosdz
Head Usher: Gerald Murray, Emmanuel Alejandro

11:00AM—Lector: Mitch Hippensteal
EM: Maria Galvan-Gordon, Dee DeLeon,
Diana DeAnda, Ernest Henderson
Head Usher: Lonnie Rodriguez

6:00PM—Lector: Lizbeth Chavez
EM: Jesus Perez, Esmeralda Castro
Head Usher: Angel Isaïs

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:



Roberto Alvarado, Roel Galván,
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 you! As I write this, I am preparing to leave for Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the National Council of Catholic Women Convention. As you read this, I am either enjoying the final night of the Convention, or on my way back to Orange Grove.

Catechism Corner: A little something from the official Catechism of the Catholic Church for our review as this is the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, hence, it is our understanding of the faith that God has given us:



44. Man is by nature and vocation a religious being. Coming from God, going toward God, man lives a fully human life only if he freely lives by his bond with God.

Do note, that “man” in this usage does not mean, “sex male,” but means man as in “human being.” One of the weaknesses of the English language is that there is only one word that means both, “sex male” and “human being.” In the majority of other world languages, there are two words.

I’ll give you another item from the Catechism since I have room to do so.

45. Man is made to live in communion with God in whom he finds happiness: “When I am completely united to you, there will be no more sorrow or trials; entirely full of you, my life will be complete” (From the Confessions of St. Augustine).

St. Augustine is a saint who searched for many years to discover the meaning of life. He tried many different religions and finally found the meaning of life in the reading of Scripture and became a follower of Christ. He then became a bishop. A wonderful human being.

God bless us everyone!

Fr. Stembler

Please join us at an official Installation Mass for

The Very Reverend James G. Stembler

on Sunday, September 20, 2026,

at the 11AM Mass

at St. John of the Cross Catholic Church.



Bishop Mario Avilés will formally present Father James G. Stembler to our parish.

All are invited to a potluck luncheon in the St. John parish hall immediately after Mass.

The Knights of Columbus will provide spaghetti. Please bring a side or dessert.

We have been blessed to have Father Stembler assigned as our pastor. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues to transition to his new pastoral leadership and shepherd our community.



We want to recognize and congratulate

Jose Isaís

on being accepted by our Most Rev. Bishop Mario Avilés into the Permanent Diaconate Program.

Let us all continue to pray for him on his journey.

Thank you for your, “Yes”

Deacon's Corner

Today is the Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time. The readings are from Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Romans 12:1-2; and the Gospel is from Matthew 16:21-27. Today's first reading describes an intimacy with the Lord that is rarely seen in the Old Testament. The first verse...“you duped me, Lord...” is very similar to the sentiment expressed in Hosea 2:14. It's a great idea that means, essentially, that God is the one who romances us. And if we let ourselves be seduced, we learn to fall in love with God—very much like our human relationships that start with allurements, and if we respond there is a good chance that we will fall in love with the object of our affection. The Lord is always the pursuer, and if we allow ourselves to be courted, there is a good chance we will fall in love with the Lord. If we fall in love with the Lord, his part is to love us. That was his promise all along. That was what the Covenant of the Old Testament was about—“I will be your God and you will be my people.” Jesus reveals in the New Testament that God is love; therefore, his allurements are a sense of satisfaction, peace, right order in our lives, and that brings fulfillment. Think about what that means, because the Lord is seeking a commitment from us. Sometimes in our human relationships we are afraid to love because we are not ready to be committed. We know that if we admit that we love God, we'll have to change, and we are reluctant to change our lives. St. Augustine

says: “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” This famous quote means that we are never complete until we have the love of God in our hearts. If he becomes important to us, then we are truly fulfilled. That is the sentiment of the Psalm today: “...my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.” Paul puts it this way in Romans today: “be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” And today, Matthew teaches that to follow Jesus may cost us. We must be aware of the pitfalls in our lives. Jesus tells us in Matthew that if we do not pick up our crosses and follow him, we cannot be his disciples. There is an obligation in this love relationship with God, just like our obligations in our human love relationships. Love has to be a two-way street. God gives us peace, and we render him honor and glory and thanksgiving. In the marriage relationship we sacrifice for each other, a succession of acts of submission for the good of the spouses. In the God-relationship, we submit to our suffering, and we make sacrifices to honor him and give him thanks, despite all the difficulties of life, and despite, especially, our own short comings. In a marriage we struggle to please our spouse, and in the relationship with God we struggle to benefit from his Grace. God bless you all this week, and pray that your love relationships are fruitful and beneficial.
Deacon Cavada

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

Stewardship of Treasure

CURRENT WEEK	08/23/2026
Envelope Collection	\$1,011.00
Loose Collection	\$1,762.00
Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$175.00

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$11,870 has been pledged. With a projected \$2,060 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$13,930 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 62% 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: SEPTEMBER 28 @ 6PM

September Month Procession Leader: **Diana McBride**



ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

September 3-5 —Paid Professional

September 10-12— Mrs. Dee DeLeon, Ms. Gloria Contreras, Mrs. Anna Marie Saenz, Mrs. Angela Facundo, Ms. Beatriz Jimenez

The Altar Society is planning a fall raffle fundraiser and is asking for donations to be used as prizes. Please contact the parish office if you can donate a gift card or make a cash donation to be used to purchase prizes. Deadline for prizes is September 14.

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 19 @ 6PM

Hostess grp # 2: **Jennifer Alejandro**

Corporate Mass—September 20 @ 7:30AM

Rosary at 7:00AM

Leader: **Isabel Alanis**

Offertory: **Dee DeLeon, Angie Facundo, & Gloria Pena**

Roses provided to Our Lady of Guadalupe—by **Norma Cornejo & Jana Robinson**



ANNUAL GUADALUPANA SOCIETY BINGO FUNDRAISER

Sunday, September 27, 2026 Parish Hall

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335



NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 1



CASA DE LUCY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9AM

Altar Servers

Calling all youth of our parish interested in serving the Lord during Mass!

The **Altar Server Ministry** will hold a second (and final) **New Server Orientation** for the 2026/27 school year on **Sunday, September 13**, at 1:30 PM in the church. This is for any youth of our parish wishing to become an altar server who is at least in the 3rd grade and has received FHC. The next opportunity to join will be next summer. Please contact the parish office for more information and to preregister.

Religious Education

Save the Dates — Registration and orientation for Religious Education: **Sun., Aug. 30, after the 11AM Mass.**

—Religious education classes begin **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 **Wednesday, September 9**, 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, September 26.**

Dear Padre,

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, and (4) by a legitimate authority. According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there, and thus is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law. As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism. Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences. ●



MIND AND / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World



War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself.... Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one's own dominion.

ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORE, ROME, JANUARY 9, 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

August 31
Weekday
1 Cor 2:1-5
Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

September 1
Weekday
1 Cor 2:10b-16
Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

September 2
Weekday
1 Cor 3:1-9
Lk 4:38-44

Thursday

September 3
St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor of
the Church
1 Cor 3:18-23
Lk 5:1-11

Friday

September 4
Weekday
1 Cor 4:1-5
Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

September 5
Weekday
1 Cor 4:6b-15
Lk 6:1-5

Sunday

September 6
Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Ez 33:7-9
Rom 13:8-10
Mt 18:15-20



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"

