



St. John of the Cross



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 18:25-28 / Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 / Matthew 21:28-32



Good News!

September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 18:25-28 / Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 / Matthew 21:28-32

ANN M. GARRIDO

Most parents can resonate with today's gospel. Who hasn't had a child promise to do their chores and then neglect to do them? Or a child who threw a fit when asked to help but then pitched in after all?

Jesus' parables intend to give clues about a mystery he called the kingdom of God—a revelation about what the world will look like when God's dreams for it are realized. We get a good hint that this parable is meant to be about the kingdom of God because it speaks of a vineyard, and Jesus often compared God's kingdom to a vineyard. Vineyards throughout the ancient world were associated with joy and abundance, but they also required much tending. They needed workers, and that is what God has called us to be for the kingdom.

Jesus observed that those who professed to support God's coming kingdom often seemed to do little to help bring it about whereas those who historically had been viewed as resistant to God's ways were more receptive to John the Baptist's preaching—and, we can imagine, Jesus' message as well. They were the ones who proved in the end more willing to lend a hand.

The vineyard of which Jesus spoke still requires workers. It still requires people willing to collaborate with God in gathering the abundant harvest that will mark a season of great joy. We can imagine that, like any parent, God's greatest delight would be to have children who say "yes" and then follow through on their word! ●

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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.-26	6:00PM	† Noe Alaniz by Anita Bazan † Oscar Garcia, Sr., Family † Luis Romanos, Sr., by Luis & Nora Romanos † Jim VanBlarcum by Estella Cortinas
Sun.-27	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Patricia Kelso † Marvin & † Mae Gwosdz by Their Family † Irma G. Ortiz (5th anniv.) by Luis, Adrian, and Jaime Ortiz
	11:00AM	† Jason Benavides by Janie Beltran † Senaido DeLeon by Anita Bazan Living Members of the Schneider Family by the Schneider Family
	6:00PM	† Angelica Loera Ibarra, † Celestina Loera, y † Esteban Loera por Family Chavez Loera Los feligreses de la parroquia
Mon.-28	8:00AM	† James Jake Wostal by Kathy McCown
Tues.-29	8:00AM	Liza Ochoa's Family / Momo Ortiz's family by Liza Ochoa
Thurs.-1	6:00PM 6:30PM	Militares activos y veteranos Adoración
Fri.- 2	8:00AM	Liza Ochoa's Family / Souls in purgatory by Liza Ochoa

Masses for October 3rd & 4th

Sat.-3	8:00AM	† Gary Graham by Janet Graham
	6:00PM	† Pablo Alaniz, Sr., by Lupe & Angie Alejandro † Michael Garcia by Luis & Nora Romanos † Lalo Ortiz, Jr., (15th anniv.) by Anna Winterbottom
Sun.-4	7:30AM	† Marrian Baldeschwiler by Patricia Kelso Dcn. Culpepper and Dcn. Breland by the St. John Saturday Morning Prayer Group Birthday blessings for Aubrey Adams Newell on her 30th birthday by her mom
	11:00AM	† Martha McCloskey by Scotty & Pam Herschap † Michael Rivera, Sr., (10th 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 Los feligreses de la parroquia

Sanctuary light and altar flowers ~ The sanctuary light and / or the altar flowers may be sponsored in honor of or for the repose of the soul of a loved one, or in celebration of special occasions like birthdays or wedding anniversaries. The sanctuary light is \$20 / weekend. The altar flowers are \$80/ weekend. Please contact the office for more information.



Are you looking for a way to enhance your family's Catholic faith. Well, let's GATHER together!

Starting October 4, from 9:15-10:45AM, in the parish hall, all are invited to

join **Gather** — A Family Ministry—encouraging community, growing in God's word, and supporting families. 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



Oct. 3—6:00PM—Lector: Raquel S. Jimenez
EM: Sharry Stipp, Anita Bazan, Kim Rokohl
Head Usher: Pablo and Graciela Alaniz

Oct. 4—7:30AM—Lector: Rick Svetlik
EM: Margie Svetlik, Laura Gwosdz, Jose Isais
Head Usher: Gerald Murray, Emanuel Alejandro

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

6:00PM—Lector: Maria Graciela 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:

Diana Deanda, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes,
Roel Galván, 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:

Isabela Fuentes and 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 soon say goodbye to September!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church has some interesting information concerning Sacred Scripture:



134. All Sacred Scripture is but one book, and this one book is Christ, “because all divine Scripture speaks of Christ, and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in Christ” (Hugh of St. Victor).

135. “The Sacred Scriptures contain the Word of God and, because they are inspired they are truly the Word of God” (Dei Verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Vatican Council II).

136. God is the author of Sacred Scripture because he inspired its human authors; he acts in them and by means of them. He thus gives assurance that their writings teach without error his saving truth.

137. Interpretation of the inspired Scripture must be attentive above all to what God wants to reveal through the sacred authors for our salvation. What comes from the Spirit is not fully “understood except by the Spirit’s action” (Origen).

138. The Church accepts and venerates as inspired the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New.

139. The four Gospels occupy a central place because Christ Jesus is their center.

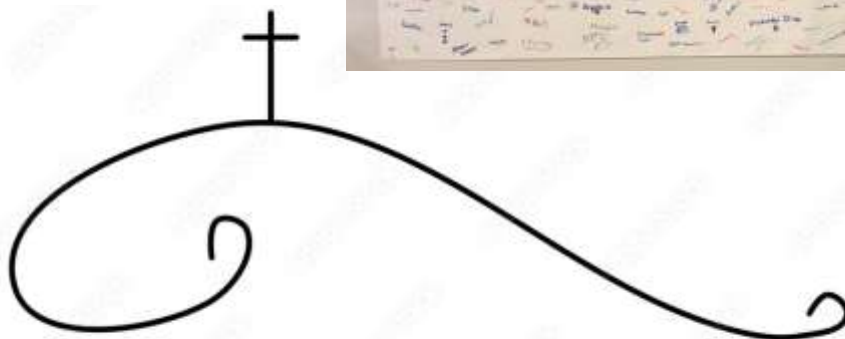
140. The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God’s plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God.

141. “The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she venerated the Body of the Lord” (Dei Verbum): both nourish and govern the whole Christian life. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Words cannot adequately express enough thanks to all of you who helped in any way with the Installation Mass celebration and luncheon last Sunday. It was a truly wonderful occasion and a beautiful celebration. You know how to throw a party in Orange Grove! To all of you, a heart-filled thank you - muchas gracias! How beautiful it is to be among you! May God bless all of you abundantly!

God bless us everyone!

Fr. Stembler



Deacon's Corner

This week is the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings are from Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 25: 4-5, 5-7, 8-9; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21: 28-32. Today is about repentance, i.e., changing your mind about continuing on a destructive journey, or coming to a realization that your decisions about your life have not led you anywhere. You have no satisfaction, no joy, no order, but most importantly no peace of mind. The first reading from chapter 18 of Ezekiel tells us that how we live depends on us, not on the Lord! That is a hard statement to understand. Repentance means that what I recognize about myself as capable of doing and then do not doing it, is my fault and responsibility. Ezekiel asks: "Is it my fault your life is a mess or yours?" Ezekiel is the Prophet that assigns personal responsibility for our sins. In other words, it is not God's judgement which convicts, it is our own judgment about the decisions we make, without considering the Good, but opting for Evil. Matthew's point today is that we must evaluate between doing the right thing and doing the wrong thing. And Jesus tells the Pharisees about the repentance that John the Baptism preached. They rejected him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes didn't. "Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him." And guess what? They're getting into Heaven before you. What is the "evil" that the Pharisees are doing? They're refusing to examine their positions or worse, they are giving lip service to their obligations, like avoiding temptation, and St. Paul in several of his letters (Colossians, Galatians, First Corinthians, and Philippians) tries to describe the process of what to avoid in order to understand repentance. In order to avoid any bad behavior we must admit it to ourselves, and St. Paul ties that process to the Cross of Christ, which means submission. We cannot begin to repent until we examine ourselves, and when we find something unworthy of the Lord's presence, we change it. The first son's first inclination in today's Gospel is to not do what he's supposed to

do, and the Pharisees recognize that, but then upon reflection, the first son changes his mind. Jesus is telling them (and us) that once we see our obligation to change and we refuse, we're lost if we persist on that road. The beauty of God's mercy is that we have another chance to do the right thing. That is the main purpose of the sacramental life of the Church. If you haven't figured it out by now, repentance is a life-long process, and we are constantly in need of sacramental graces to help us out on our journey. Mediate on this: you know what to do, you know that you need a change, you know that some of the decisions you have made about your life were wrong, you know how to change or at least you suspect it. As a Catholic what is your best avenue? Sacramental life. Confession and communion immediately. Develop a habit of prayer, that you stick to. Take personal responsibility for your actions. Thank God for his mercy. Years ago, I recorded a song based on Psalm 25. *Enseñame, Señor, Tus Caminos* ("... teach me your paths"). I think we need to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit to help us see ourselves, and make changes as He reveals them to us. That normally means the abandonment of habits, including diet, that make us both spiritually and physically unstable. Take a good look at the advice that Paul gives to the Philippians: "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." Jesus "humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." We have to learn to identify our crosses and bear them as best we can. But understand that the Lord is not the one who "gives" us crosses to bear, and we cannot refuse to lift those crosses off our shoulders just in order to suffer properly. He doesn't want suffering for the sake of suffering. He wants us to live in the Resurrection. But you can't get there unless you understand the Cross first. Got it? Meditate on it. God loves you.
Deacon Cavada



Stewardship of Treasure

CURRENT WEEK	9/20/2026	Have you considered giving online? It's quick and easy.
Envelope Collection	\$910.00	Just Scan the QR code and you'll be linked to the St. John online giving webpage.
Loose Collection	\$2,106.00	
Our Living Church	\$168.00	
Disaster Relief	\$895.00	



2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal ~ The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$12,790 has been pledged. With a projected \$1,590 recurring gift, SJoC has a total of \$14,380 expected pledge & recurring gifts. That is 64% of the diocesan goal with 12% 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: OCTOBER 5 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 28 @ 6PM

ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

October 1-3— Paid profesional

October 8-10—Mrs. Maria Galvan-Gordon, Jana Robinson, Nora Romanos



SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 19 @ 6PM

Hostess grp # 2: Jennifer Alejandro



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: OCTOBER 6

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

October is Respect Life Month. Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as **Respect Life Sunday**. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

Our Knight of Columbus are hosting a diaper drive in honor of **Respect Life Month**. Please donate newborn/ infant to toddler-size diapers to be donated to the **Corpus Christi Hope House**. **Corpus Christi Hope House** provides 24/7 emergency shelter, transitional housing, support, food, clothing, baby items, counseling, education, medical and other assistance to families, pregnant and single mothers, their dependent children and newborn babies who seek an escape from homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, poverty or a crisis pregnancy situation. We provide homeless prevention services, life-skills and parenting classes and other assistance to all members of the South Texas Coastal Bend area.

Altar Servers

St. John of the Cross Altar Server Ministry sends a very heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our Seventh Annual Appeal! Your generosity has ensured our ministry will be able to continue our scholarship awards!

Religious Education

Students will not be allowed to walk to the front of the church to be picked up after their Religious Education class. Parents must pick their children up from the designated areas.

Thank you, **Bunch family**, for providing the meal for our jr high—high school religious education students. They really enjoyed the chili cheese dogs!

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, September 30**, and at **St. Francis** on **Saturday, October 10**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at **St. John of the Cross** on **Thursday, October 1** and at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, October 24**.

The St. John Food Pantry is in need of spaghetti sauce, spam / treet canned meat, jelly, XL and Medium disposable briefs with tape.

Dear Padre,

Why must I choose practicing Catholics as my baby's godparents?

The Church is clear about the qualifications of godparents: at least sixteen years old; leading lives of faith; confirmed and having already received Communion, among others.

(See the *Code of Canon Law*, 872–874.) “Godparent” isn’t simply an honorary title we bestow on someone.

It’s an important role in a child’s faith life. Parents and godparents introduce us to Jesus and teach us to pray. We talk to Jesus on our own and learn more about him through Scripture. Our parents take us to church. We watch their example and that of our godparents. It is the gradual process of being introduced to Jesus by those who know him that leads us to trust him and have faith in him. At baptism, a godparent lights a candle from the Easter candle and holds it for the child as the presider says, “Receive the light of Christ.” That is how faith comes to us: a gift from God, but through other people. Parents and godparents must have the bright flame of faith in their own hearts if they hope to pass it to the child.

It is permitted to have only one godparent, fulfilling the requirements previously mentioned, and a special “witness” who is a person of faith but is not Catholic. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org



MARIUS MURESAN / LUNPLASH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 28	September 29	September 30	October 1	October 2	October 3	October 4
Weekday	Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church	The Holy Guardian Angels	Weekday	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jb 1:6–22 Lk 9:46–50	Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12ab Jn 1:47–51	Jb 9:1–12, 14–16 Lk 9:57–62	Jb 19:21–27 Lk 10:1–12	Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5 Mt 18:1–5, 10	Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17 Lk 10:17–24	Is 5:1–7 Phil 4:6–9 Mt 21:33–43



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Jesus taught us that in discerning how to help our neighbor, we must imitate the example of the Good Samaritan, who selflessly gave of his time and resources to someone whom he had never previously met.... When we help those in need, especially those who cannot repay us, we become the Lord's instruments.

MESSAGE TO FADICA NETWORK, ROME, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

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