

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

Good News!

- **January 18, 2026**
- **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**
- **Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34**



January 18, 2026
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34

ANN M. GARRIDO

Of the many names Scripture provides to help us ponder the mystery of Jesus, one of the most intriguing is the name that John the Baptist offers at the opening of today's gospel: "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29).

Scripture scholars debate what John means here. Is he alluding to the Passover lamb—that unblemished lamb whose blood the enslaved Israelites were to post over their doorways? The angel of death knew to "pass over" these homes. Perhaps John was saying that by Jesus' blood, the people would be freed from death.

Or was John thinking about the guilt offerings mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures when priests offered animal sacrifices to God as a way of seeking the removal of their sins? Leviticus mentions use of a scapegoat who would carry the sins of the people away into the desert. (See Leviticus 20-28.) Could John have understood that Jesus would bear the sins of the world?

Or did John have in mind the great constellation Aries, the ram, considered the prince of the stars of the sky, the center from whom all the other constellations were mapped in ancient times? Perhaps John was pointing out that Jesus was the center around whom heaven and earth revolve, like the ruling lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Today at Mass, when the host is elevated and you hear John's words again—"Behold the Lamb of God!"—take a moment to savor these words anew. ●

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Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9:15 AM
St. John of the Cross
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 ~
Adoration ~
Thurs. (Sp.) - 6:30PM
1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 PM
Saturday: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Sunday: 5:30PM

Please contact Fr. Patrick by phone or email if you need to make an appointment for Confession or
Anointing of the Sick.

Parish Office Hours

St. John of the Cross
Mon., Tues., Wed., and 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

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Sun.-Jan. 18 | 9:15 AM | † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish |
| Sun.-Jan. 25 | 9:15 AM | † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish |

PRAYER LIST

May He bless all who are in need of His strength, especially:

Ana Culpepper, Henry Garrett, Kenton Heider, Paula Heider, Gerald Lindsey, Melba Malik, Cheryl Marshall, Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Phillip Torres, Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver



*Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:
Theresa Laurienti and Amanda Smithwick*



Please contact the parish office for any additions or deletions.

Praying for our Military

We remember these service personnel in each
'Mass for the Families of the Parish'

Air Force: Preston Holliday, Alayah Moore, Deborah Thomas, Audrey Winstead



Army: Father Jim Craig, Magdeleena Delaney, Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald, Jacob Madrid, Eduardo Enrique Perales, Robert Ponce, Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios, Tyree Winstead

Coast Guard: Corey Bunton and Joshua Salinas

Marines: Aurora Alarcon, Hunter Frees, and Andre Rodriguez

Navy: Cory Elyasevich, Diane Martinez, and Noah Vasquez

Please pray for our
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!

Stewardship of Treasure

| PREVIOUS WEEK | 01/04/2026 | CURRENT WEEK | 01/11/2026 |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Collection | \$657.00 | Collection | \$567.00 |
| New Year's | \$167.00 | | |
| December Online Giving | \$926.00 | | |

Parish Organizations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distributions will be at 9AM
at **SJoC** on Wednesday, January 28, and at
St. Francis on Saturday, February 14.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on Thursday, February 5, and
at **St. Francis of Assisi** on Saturday, January 24.

Diocesan News

All are invited to gather as a Diocese and travel to Austin for the **Texas Rally for Life** on Saturday, January 25.
Contact Sr. Caritas with questions—361-631-4386.

Everyone is invited to attend Solemn Vespers and Mass of Installation of Bishop Mario Avilés.

Solemn Vespers: Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:30PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral, 3502 Saratoga Blvd.

The Diocese of Corpus Christi invites you to the solemn installation of His Excellency **Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O.** as the Ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi. By His Excellency **Most Reverend Joe. S. Vásquez** Archbishop of Galveston-Houston in the presence of His Eminence **Christophe Cardinal Pierre** Apostolic Nuncio to the United States Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 2:00PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral 3502 Saratoga Blvd., Corpus Christi. Reception immediately following at Maria Goretti Youth Center

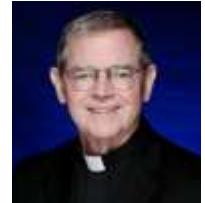


Community

The Orange Grove Area will hold their Mid-Winter Bash to raise funds for the museum's Fire Recovery Account on Saturday evening, January 24, 2026, at the Orange Grove Rifle Club. The community is invited to attend. There will be a dinner beginning at 6:00 PM and dance beginning at 8:00 PM. There will also be a live and silent auction. Tickets admit two people 21 years of age and older and each ticket is for a donation of \$100.00. Tickets can be purchased from members of the Orange Grove Area Museum Board including Ernest Henderson by calling 361-207-0383. We are still accepting sponsorships for the event as well.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



Welcome back to “Ordinary Time” in the Church’s liturgical calendar! It has been a fast and furious eight weeks since we celebrated Thanksgiving last November. We had a momentous series of an almost weekly celebration in the church and here is the quick list of ten of those for reference: Feast of Christ the King, Thanksgiving, First Sunday of Advent, my birthday, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Solemnity of Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family, Solemnity of Mary-Mother of God (January 1st), Epiphany, and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord! And this Sunday we take a breath and return to “ordinary” time. Breathe in! Breathe out!

Last Sunday all of the Christmas decorations in the church were taken down and stored for next year, and the sanctuary looks a bit bare without the evergreen trees and the Nativity display. The same is true for each of your houses as well with the Christmas tree and decorations being put away for another year. And our lives begin to return to a regular schedule of weekly events. But we are still living and celebrating our family life – in your houses and in the Church. It is the ongoing daily routine of our lives that continues to propel us slowly forward in time and space. While this time of the year is not as exciting as the Christmas Season, it is just as important and necessary to our life and growth. Our daily prayers and weekly attendance at Sunday Mass being the first on the list of ongoing ordinary family life. Then there are those weekly household projects and duties (cleaning, laundry, food shopping, paying the bills, etc.) and the major repair tasks that we put off during Christmas (HVAC maintenance, toilet & plumbing repairs, painting the house, cleaning out the garage/storage/attic, taking care of the lawn, etc.) which have once again risen to the top of the weekly “to do” list of our daily home life.

We need to approach this change of “season” not as a time to “slow down or relax,” but as a time to refocus our energies and priorities for the coming months. What are the next series of events and activities that our families and our church will be celebrating and for which we need to begin some long-term preparation? For many families there are the upcoming graduations from school and college in May, as well as Mothers’ Day, Fathers’ Day, and the summer vacation planning. For the Church there is the season of Lent, Holy Week, the Solemn Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, and the Easter Season. We will be celebrating many sacramental moments in our Church as well. There are Baptisms and Full Initiation into the Catholic Church on Easter Vigil, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, and the Sacramental Blessings of civil marriages, all in the upcoming months. It looks like a busy Sacramental Springtime!

Last September we began the “Our Living Church Capital Campaign Building Fund” to raise \$685,000.00 for necessary repairs and renovations to our parish campus. I am incredibly happy to report that through the great generosity of you, the parishioners of our church in these four short months, we have raised \$117,603.16 of that goal! The first renovation/repair projects of this campaign are for our church building, namely the exterior stucco of the church and the stained-glass windows. When we reach the first milestone donation level of \$185,000.00 of cash received on our pledges, we will be able to execute signed contracts for these church projects to begin.

“Thank you” to everyone who has made a pledge and is making their ongoing payments to fulfill their pledge. Please continue to support this important long-term building campaign. If you have made a pledge, please renew your commitment for the coming year 2026 and keep your donations coming. When I ask you the members of our parish to pledge and support an endeavor for our church, please remember I also have made a monthly pledge to “Our Living Church Campaign” which is auto deducted from my checkbook each month. If you have not made a 2026 pledge toward the “Our Living Church Capital Campaign” there are brochures available in the foyer (and hopefully in the end of your pews). As soon as we reach that milestone donation level of \$185,000.00 cash on hand, we will be able to start the renewal and beautification of our church building. Any donation in any amount (one-time donation or an ongoing pledge) moves us ever closer to our goals. Over the last twenty years we have had three major construction projects ranging from \$368,000.00 to \$611,000.00. The loan amounts for these large projects were: \$305,864.53 loan with the interior renovations of our church in 2005 (twenty years ago), \$184,351.00 loan with the Rectory/Office Construction in 2013, and the \$284,343.94 loan with the 2017 construction of the new Religious Education Building just 8 years ago. We did it before, and we can do it again! Let’s Do It!

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Patrick

Dear Padre,

I thought only priests and bishops should distribute Holy Communion at Mass. In my parish, the priest allows laypeople to help him, and I thought laypeople couldn't because our hands are not consecrated.

You're not the only person with this concern, so thank you for taking the time to write. The distribution of holy Communion has nothing to do with "consecrated hands." Ordinary ministers of Communion include bishops and priests, as you rightly identify, but also deacons and installed acolytes. Of the four ordinary ministers, only the hands of bishops and priests are consecrated. Laypeople are extraordinary ministers and are installed to help the priest so that everyone can receive holy Communion without long lines or wearying the (sometimes elderly) priest. Most extraordinary ministers of Communion approach this ministry very prayerfully.

Your question brings up the subject of the full participation of the laity in the Mass, which is part of a highly contentious theological discussion on social media. There is an unfortunate conflict between so-called "traditional Catholics" and "Vatican II Catholics" or, as they are often misrepresented, "Novus Ordo" Catholics. Some Catholics are led to believe that the "new Mass" is not authentic, even though it has been the ordinary form of the Mass for well over fifty years—that is, since the authoritative Second Vatican Council. Many good and faithful people suffer with doubt and anxiety as a result of this confusion. ●

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



THOMAS CORRIGAN/CATHOLIC

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| January 19 | January 20 | January 21 | January 22 | January 23 | January 24 | January 25 |
| Weekday | Weekday | St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr | Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children | Weekday | St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 1 Sm 15:16-23 Mk 2:18-22 | 1 Sm 16:1-13 Mk 2:23-28 | 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Mk 3:1-6 | 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Mk 3:7-12 | 1 Sm 24:3-21 Mk 3:13-19 | 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Mk 3:20-21 | Is 8:23-9:3 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17 |



FRANCISCO XAVIER ESTINICHA/CATHOLIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today's world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.

MESSAGE TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MAY 28, 2025