

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

- January 25, 2026
- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
- Isaiah 8:23–9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17 / Matthew 4:12–23 or 4:12–17



Good News!

January 25, 2026
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 8:23–9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17 / Matthew 4:12–23 or 4:12–17

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus’ words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on “repent,” or is the emphasis on the announcement, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees” (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: “for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●

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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. 25	9:15 AM	† Jesse Robles (birthday) by Palmira Robles-Cardona † Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Sun.-Feb. 1	9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler Altar and Rosary Society on their Communion Sunday 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



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!

Please call the parish office or use the online form to submit names & branch of service.

Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	01/11/2026	CURRENT WEEK	01/18/2026
Collection	\$567.00	Collection	\$715.00
		Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$200.00

Today's SECOND collection supports the **Church in Latin America**. Years of economic and political hardship in Venezuela have created poverty that prevents young people from learning their Catholic faith. To counter this phenomenon, this collection provides training of three priests and 73 catechists in parish ministries that help adolescents encounter Christ in prayer, read Scripture and use digital media as tools of evangelization. This fund helps Catholics in the United States share their faith with their brothers and sisters in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Parish Organizations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 3, 2026

Religious Education

There will be a **MANDATORY** parent meeting for parents and all students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on Wednesday, February 4, at 5:30PM in the church. This includes those in the second grade class as well as all those in the sacramental prep classes.

Works of Mercy

Loom Kitting ~ Starting Monday, January 26, parishioners are invited to meet in the SJOC parish hall at 9AM to knit hats for patients at Driscoll Children's Hospital Oncology Department. Contact the parish office or Bertha Forbes for more information.



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, February 28.**

Diocesan News

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*



A Note From Our Pastor

Father Patrick was called away and was unable to complete his letter for this week's bulletin.

So, instead, Father wanted to share that Bishop Mulvey is asking each parish in the Diocese of Corpus Christi to request financial help with the renovations of the Corpus Christi Cathedral and that envelopes are available in the church foyer.



*Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD
Bishop of Corpus Christi*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, I come to you with a message of hope, of renewal, and of the enduring unity of our faith. Since 1940, our Cathedral has stood as the spiritual heart for our diocesan family. It is a place where we have gathered to celebrate the sacraments, to pray for one another, and to strengthen our bond as the Body of Christ. It has witnessed our joys and carried our sorrows. It has welcomed generations of believers, and it will continue to welcome generations yet to come.

After years of faithful service, our Cathedral now stands in need of significant renovation and restoration. This is more than a project of repair—it is an opportunity for renewal; one that mirrors the renewal that Christ continually works within each of us. As we strengthen the flooring of our Cathedral, we also strengthen the foundation of our shared faith. As we renew the walls, we renew the bonds of our faithful community. As we restore its beauty, we give witness to the beauty of the Gospel living in our midst.

This endeavor is not the work of a few. It is a calling for our entire diocese: Every parish, every family, and every person of faith who calls the Diocese of Corpus Christi home. Our Cathedral does not belong only to those who worship there regularly. It belongs to all of us, because it stands as a symbol of our unity, our history, and our mission as one Church.

I ask each of you to prayerfully consider joining me in supporting this important work. Your partnership will help ensure that our Cathedral remains a beacon of faith, hope, and love for many years to come. Together, we can build something that reflects the strength of our communion and the depth of our commitment to one another and our mission in Christ to serve.

Let this season of restoration be a sign of our trust in God's providence and our belief in the future of our Church. Let it remind us that when we stand together as one body, united in purpose and in love, we can accomplish far more than we ever could alone.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us and guide us in this work of renewal. And may Almighty God bless you and your families for the love and generosity you continue to show His Church.

Sincerely grateful in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "+ Wm. Michael Mulvey".

Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD
Apostolic Administrator of Corpus Christi

Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOLIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
<i>Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<i>2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mk 3:22-30</i>	<i>2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 Mk 3:31-35</i>	<i>2 Sm 7:4-17 Mk 4:1-20</i>	<i>2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29 Mk 4:21-25</i>	<i>2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Mk 4:26-34</i>	<i>2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Mk 4:35-41</i>	<i>Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a</i>

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

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025

CATHOLIC